

SCMEA Orchestra Division
February 7, 2009

Chris Selby, orchestra division president, called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

Thank You

- Amy Strahm (Conference): Thank you for putting together this wonderful conference! We are always looking for ideas on how to improve. Please communicate with Amy any suggestions you have.
- Paul Buyer (All-State Auditions): Thank you for handling the all-state auditions, especially with the new online advances.
- Susan Baier, Melissa Martin, Chris Cordé, (All-State Weekend): Thank you to all of you. Thank you also to Stacey Burnette for coordinating the All-State solo competition.
- Johanna Pollock (Region Orchestra): Thank you to Johanna for all of her work in coordinating Region Orchestra.
- Ginger Greer (Concert Festival): Thank you to Ginger for all of her work in coordinating Concert Festival.
- Christine Hallett (Solo and Ensemble): Thank you to Christine for all of her work in coordinating Solo and Ensemble.
- Sarah Fitzgerald (Webmaster): Thank you to Sarah for putting countless hours into our beautiful, new website.

Selby opened the floor for announcements

- Kathy Robinson: asked for nominations for teacher/director of the year. She also mentioned that from an ASTA presidential grant, SC ASTA chapter was able to host the first annual SC violin choir, sponsored in part by ASTA and Bernhardt. It took place on Jan. 31, 2009. We had a lot of clinicians and featured a teacher ensemble. This year's event was a big success-we're looking forward to next year's event. Keep your eyes open for details about next year's event.
- Tracy Lehman (sp?) spends her time researching music advocacy, how to build good programs, how to get parents involved. She's been on a "national crusade" to help get parents and administrators support our programs. In addition to having many advocacy handouts and instructional tools, she demonstrated to the membership how to show a parent how to check for the quality of an instrument. (Check for tap tones on the four corners of the instrument: they should all be the same pitch-f below middle C). If the four tones are not even, instrument will not resonate well. This information can help tell parents about the quality of instruments. She also mentioned using www.supportmusic.com. This is a great resource to get facts about the benefits of music education-encouraged us to put facts on our signature, websites, etc. Tracy passed out cards-she'll do inservices if we ask her to-she's here to help.
- Chris Selby commented that in higher-level meetings (i.e. state administration), music advocacy is huge, "hot topic" issue right now. Pressure for music advocacy-we will start hearing lots more of this. Tracy has spent years fighting for our programs. Encouraged us to talk to our representatives-make sure our voices are heard.

Officer Reports

Approval of Minutes, Stacey Burnette:

- Chris Selby asked if there were any objections to the minutes. Two misspellings: Susan Wines and Andrea Kemper. Sarah Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the minutes, Freddie Grace seconded the motion. The September 2008 meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report, Sharon Doyle

- The current balance as of 2/9/09 is \$40940.51. 50% of all-state registrations are missing-please check with your districts. She received checks with no names-teacher or student. We've got to make sure that cover sheets are filled out completely. Send your forms and checks to people on the form. Put your students names on there-send copies of requisition (PO forms) to her so she'll know student and teacher names.

SCMEA In-Service Conference, Amy Strahm

- Amy thanked everyone for coming to this year's conference, especially with statewide budgetary concerns. Because of the great turnout, we ran out of some session handouts. As soon as she can, Sarah Fitzgerald will put these on the web site.

Concert Festival, Ginger Greer

- 4017 students total this year participating in concert festival (this is 200 more than last year). There only two less groups than last year. Number of performing groups: Region 1-38, Region 2- 16, Region 3-45, Region 4-23. Concert Festival Chairs and Dates: Region 1: Tammy King (Chapman HS), Region 2: Ann Matthews (Greenville HS), Region 3: Chris Selby (Keenan HS), Region 4: Pamela Hind (WandoHS). Sightreading should be much better this year-she's using a different vendor. A change for future concert

festivals: a graded list of music is currently being updated and once finished, will be placed on the website. This will be a wonderful resource for you to use. At future concert festival events, teachers will be required to play at least one piece from that list. The list will be updated before this is mandated. Chris Selby: Rules will also be updated-“heated” committee meetings this weekend let us see the need for these rules to be updated and revised. Ginger Greer: You are always welcome to go to a different region-you’re not locked into going to your region’s event. If you want your trophy or plaque personalized, bring \$10 to concert festival, give it to your event chairperson, and they will give it to Ginger. You’ll be getting an email from Paul-concert festival form must be filled out and sent to your site chair by March 13. There is currently about \$3000 still out. Even though it may difficult dealing with districts financially, we’ve known about concert festival for a long time. It makes the paperwork very difficult when 25% of this year’s participants haven’t turned in money. To aid in this problem, a late fee will be implemented next year. Please see Ginger to see if you want to check if your district has paid or not. Question: some of our accounts were frozen during mid-year, which couldn’t have been avoided. Ginger Greer: I understand the problem-just try to have all paperwork and fees requested at the beginning of each school year. Everyone knows within the first few weeks of school whether or not you’ll be going to concert festival-get it done early. A teacher commented that she only has 9 total students in 8th grade orchestra. Can the minimum rule be broken (currently 9 minimum)? Her concern was what if two students were to get sick-would she not be allowed to participate. Chris Selby: If two kids don’t show up, that’s not your fault-you can’t be held responsible for that. It sounds like Solo and Ensemble might be a more appropriate event for your program. Ginger Greer: if you fill out that you’re playing grade 4 and 5 (both boxes checked on form)-you’ll be sight-reading at the highest level.

Solo and Ensemble, Christine Hallett

- Christine is not here-no report.
- Ann Buttimer: S/E comment: if you could send her an email if you’re in Spartanburg districts 3-6, she’ll send forms for solo and ensemble, which must be filled out specifically. Phillip Pagal: Richland 1 and 2: he’ll be sending out a registration form to all teachers in these regions. Sarah Fitzgerald: Charleston 4: a solo and ensemble excel online registration form-possibly coming soon. Correction from last meeting: solo and ensemble for Region 2 will take place March 6-7 at Bryson MS. Johanna Pollock: Please come with your students to solo and ensemble. If you can’t be there, please send a substitute. Not having appropriate supervision of your students makes things very hard at the event. Also, students MUST have original music-no copies. Soloists who have accompanists must have some sort of accompaniment music. Phillip Pagal: SMART music accompaniment will be available soon in Richland 1 and 2. Question: can we not require teachers to be there? Chris Selby: there’s nothing set in stone about that-we will separate rules out and redo them. Ann Buttimer: as a site chair, if you’re not there with your child(ren), they will not be able to play. It was mentioned that younger students who are not as prepared as older students should maybe not participate. She mentioned that in some cases, it is seen as a waste of time for the judges to listen to. Dottie Hanlin: children should absolutely be able to perform-their hard work should be recognized. Chris Selby: elementary school students are the ones who use the solo and ensemble festival the most (they’re not the ones who are going to concert festival)-they walk away with a medal and a sense of accomplishment. John Kvasnicka: will there be a committee who will pull about these rules? Chris Selby: Christine Hallett will be looking at these with me and the executive board. If you have issues with these, come to the committee meetings Friday morning at Convention next year.

Region Orchestra, Johanna Pollock

- Next year’s region orchestra location and hosts: Region 1: Susan Baier (Dorman HS): audition, Charis (sp?) Burger (Byrnes HS): event host, Region 2: Brian Gencarelli/Kathy Robinson: auditions, Matt Spears (Anderson): host, Region 3: Colleen Marcou (Irmo HS): audition, Johanna Pollock: event host (Lexington HS), Region 4: Andrea Kemper (James Island): audition, Paul Buyer (Summerville) event host. Rosa Kelly: what makes Florence in the lowcountry? We are closer to the midlands area are we not? Chris Selby: it is a numbers equalizer: making the regions even.

All-State Orchestra, Melissa Martin and Chris Cordé

- Chris Corde: check out www.bandlink.org to see if students are involved.
- Melissa Martin: Wienawski concerto parts sent out-correct bowings will be posted on the website. Starting at measure 50-ending place will be on the web site (grades 11-12). Susan Baier: Ann Buttimer is doing the teacher job list. It’s almost complete and will be emailed out. If you can’t do something that weekend, email her and let her know so she can change it. We’re looking forward to hosting this year’s event-thank you for sending in registrations, t-shirt and meal money.

All-State Auditions, Paul Buyer

- Thank you for helping out with coverage (some teachers were sick). We had 89 sponsors show up, and it takes approximately 78 teachers to run the audition event-thank you to everyone! If you have suggestions,

please email Paul. If you want a different job, he'll listen to your suggestions, and take them into consideration for next year. Region orchestra music will be the same as far as all-state goes. Passwords will be sent out to all teachers to access the website: please respect this as a confidential email. Some people are sending the wrong amounts of money-don't send the \$30 registration fee for audition fee (\$5). Five people sent cash-please don't do this. It was asked if we can delete any audition manager programs/icons off of our computer. Paul Buyer: you can delete the audition manager icon off of your desktop-we don't need it anymore. You can also delete anything with an .amd extension. Kathy Robinson: we need to have a procedure in place to notify alternates. It means the world to a child to be nominated. Is a system in place for this year's event for contacting alternates? Is there a late fee for these kids? Paul Buyer: yes, it is taking place for this year's event. We wave the late registration fee for someone who is called in as an alternate. Chris Selby: it's never going to be perfect-someone is always not going to show-up-some things are unavoidable. Ginger Greer: in the band world, alternates are taken-they don't pay a state fee-they are simply there to be called on if needed. Chris Selby: that would be up to a sponsor, whether or not they want to take one more child.

Webmaster, Sarah Fitzgerald

- She is excited about this new opportunity-she's working on two things currently: 1. putting up a form for available jobs, and 2. putting up an online discussion board.

New Business

- Website and SCMEA manuals will be online (up to a year or 2): going paperless.
- A question was posed to Paul Buyer: when will region material be posted? Paul Buyer: music rotation is flawed-he's trying to sift through and figure out what hasn't been used. Brian Gencarelli has done a great job with the bass excerpts. Ann Buttimer: is on the violin excerpt committee that's providing Buyer with violin excerpts. Paul Buyer: having committees to help with collecting excerpts is great, but he'll want to be the "funnel point" so that everything looks the same, before it is posted online. Viola excerpt committee consists currently of Christian Williams, Jennifer Diehn will help with cello excerpts. Chris Selby: at this year's all-state, excerpt committees need to get 2009 region excerpts to Paul before the weekend is over. Jennifer Diehn: there's got to be a way for mistakes not to be made. Chris Selby: that'll be up to the committee: to insure that excerpt is the correct material, and that there are no mistakes. Ann Buttimer asked what version of Finale Paul Buyer uses. He answered with Finale 2008. Committee members: it's your job to report any edit mistakes that may exist before they are put online.
- Susan Baier introduced her son, Michael Baier, who is graduating from USC, and who will be looking for employment next school year. Paul Buyer offered to let Michael shadow him at Summerville HS.
- Chris Selby: Janice Hutton presented Bob Jones University's new proposal for all-state (see copy of proposal at the end of the minutes). BJU has agreed to give over the whole campus. They've offered to cater meals, and they have lots of options of on-campus housing. Paul Buyer: one concern with this is that bus drivers can only be on the clock for a maximum of 16 hours. Time constraints pose an issue with meeting rehearsal times. Ann Buttimer appreciates BJU wanting to host, but would they be willing to host it every year? Janice Hutton: yes-BJU would be willing to host it every year. Chris Selby: all-state band goes to Furman every year. Freddie Grace: people deal with vans so they don't have to worry about the bus time issue. Jennifer Diehn: nurses have to go on trips for which they have to pay for salaries-having two days instead of three would help with the cost. Chris Selby: his concern with the new schedule proposal: there are three less hours of rehearsals-we could start earlier (we need to accommodate for travel-otherwise this new proposal is negated). He asked Janice Hutton to try to find a couple more hours of rehearsal time on Friday. He mentioned that region band students are expected to play all day (chops won't be ruined). Susan Baier: is it a problem to get in conductors? Briand Gencarelli: they could come in Thursday night-shouldn't be a problem.

Old Business

- The OPA award (see website for proposal): only one change since the September 2008 meeting: no application fee. If people earned this award, they shouldn't have to pay for the trophy. Brian Gencarelli hasn't gotten any suggestions about changes-before all-state in two weeks, feel free to crunch numbers and see if you are close to receiving this award.
- There was **much** discussion about this topic (not all comments were able to be recorded). Catherine Crowe: this award "boxes us in"-we are being forced to take a certain grade level. Brian Gencarelli: no one sent me anything-if you want to write something, send it in via email so that the proposal can be changed. Paul Buyer: teachers who are building new programs have a hard time even taking kids to concert festival. Dottie Hanlin: it's an incentive-younger students can look forward to potentially getting this award in the future. Brian Gencarelli: level of grading was intended to be some sort of standard. The graded list of music is old, outdated and needs revision (which has been previously discussed). This is not an absolute. Bands who have won this award are listed on the back as an example. 16% of high school bands got this award,

14% of middle school bands got this award. Ann Buttimer: poses two questions: 1. Is a 9th grade campus a middle or high school? Brian Gencarelli: 9th grade is junior high. Chris Selby: if you want to take 9th grade group and call them a junior high group, that's an option that can be drafted into proposal. Amy Strahm: take ourselves as teachers out of proposal-think of just the students being able to achieve-we shouldn't compare this to concert festival. This is different-we have to put these caps on it-we have to pick one group. Brian Gencarelli: you take your kids to events like concert festival, then apply for the award. If you take grade 3 one year, great, if you don't, you won't get it that year. It's not all or nothing for the middle school groups. Dottie Hanlin: if you don't play grade 3 music, you don't get a superior subconsciously. We haven't separated the fact the music level and grade level are two different things: 6th grade plays grade 1.5- they sound great-but they don't get an OPA. **We need to all send our comments to him.** Chris Selby: it sounds like we may need a fourth reading of this. Brian Gencarelli: another option would be postponing the 3rd reading until the next September meeting. He would love people to send him written proofs of what their programs can do. (ie this many made region, this many made concert festival)-will probably be a 2011 thing-not in the next year. Freddie Grace: only concern is from the standpoint of smaller programs: schools that have 2000 kids can have two separate orchestras: same number of schools in each classification-it's easier to get the award in the higher classifications. Could we have some flexibility for 1A or 2A schools to allow them to do grade level 4 music? Brian Gencarelli: he's got 2300 students in his school and 23 kids in one of his groups. Freddie Grace: your problem is fixable, but at a 1A school-they're never going to get up to numbers of other schools. Paul Buyer: what's the proof of work or value? A reflection of what's going on in school or outside of school. Comment: because of schedule, high school class consists of grades 9-12. Comment: each school is trying to do their best-her school might not get there, and that's ok-just because we don't get this award doesn't mean I'm not a good teacher. Susan Baier: it's a way of encouraging our administrators-why are groups getting this award and we're not? What is going to really elevate the program? We could be better, but I need assistance from you (talking to the administration of your school)-this award could be a real bonus. Chris Selby: urged to take arguments to administrators (ie-you can't play grade 5 on 4x4 schedule). Brian Gencarelli: find him on the website-email him suggestions by all-state. He also mentioned that's he taking over all-state orchestra position next year. You're going to get an email from me (through Paul)-he's going to make a ballot, post it on the website, so that all-state conductors can be decided in an easier fashion than in previous years.

- Selby: current slate of officers for next year:
 - President: Amy Strahm
 - President-Elect: Marsha Gross
 - Vice-President: Chris Selby
 - Treasurer: Sharon Doyle
 - Secretary: Jennifer Diehn
 - Region Chair: Phillip Pagal
 - All-State Orchestra Chair: Brian Gencarelli, Patrick Murch
 - All-State Auditions: Paul Buyer, Johanna Pollock
 - Concert Festival: Ginger Greer
 - Solo and Ensemble: Christine Hallett
 - Webmaster: Sarah Fitzgerald
 - Member-at-Large: Christy Lewis
 - Member-at-Large: TBA
- Chris Selby: email him if you would like to add nominations to this list. New slate of officers will be voted on at all-state.
- John Kvasnicka: Moved that we adjourn the meeting. Seconded by many.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacey M. Burnette

See membership present and new all-state schedule proposal below.

Membership present at this meeting:

Atkins, Diane	Crowe, Catherine	Greer, Ginger
Baier, Susan	Dey, Kathryn	Gross, Marsha
Balawender, Bonnie	Dial, Cortney	Hanlin, Dottie
Burnette, Stacey	Diehn, Jennifer	Hutton, Janice
Buttimer, Ann	Doyle, Sharon	Kelly, Rosa
Buyer, Paul	Fitzgerald, Sarah	Kvasnicka, John
Chaffin, Ann	Gencarelli, Brian	Le, Kimberly
Counes, Adrienne	Grace, Freddie	Martin, Melissa

Mayo, Michael
McGee, Ray
Munro, Cheryl
Pagal, Phillip
Parvin, Joyce
Rex, Angela

Robinson, Kathleen
Rose, Sara
Selby, Christopher
Selby, Margaret
Speas, Pam
Strahm, Amy

Tipton, Helen
Turner, Heather
Versprille, Linda
Williams, Christian
Wines, Susan

Proposal for new All-State Orchestra Schedule
Presented on Saturday, February 7, 2009
By Janice Hutton

Dear SCMEA Orchestra Division Members,

With budget cut backs across the state of SC, I would like to propose that the All-State Orchestra event be reduced to a two day event to help cut the expense of stretching the event over three days. This change would lessen the cost of lodging expenses, food, bus driver fees, etc. As well as eliminate being away on Sunday. If the event begins on Friday at 2:30 and ends with the final concert late on Saturday afternoon, we would still have approximately the same amount of rehearsal time. Providing pre-pay/ordered meals for Friday dinner and Saturday lunch, on the site location also shortens the allotted time for travel and eating at local restaurants. A social can be scheduled after the last rehearsal on Friday night if desired. The one hour dress rehearsal that is currently scheduled on Sunday to give each group the opportunity to rehearse on the concert stage could be built into the regular schedule if the rehearsals are held at the concert site.

Upon acceptance of this proposal for All-State Orchestra to be a two day event, the administrators of Bob Jones University, in Greenville, SC have graciously offered the campus and facilities to the SCMEA Orchestra Division as the host site. The offer for All-State Orchestra to be hosted on campus will be free of charge. There would be no problem handling all three orchestras at one location and the groups would be able to take turns rehearsing in the concert hall. There are enough music stands, chairs, large rehearsal rooms and smaller rooms for sectionals, if needed, eating areas and ample seating and parking for the concert.

Although there are many eating places in the Greenville area near BJU, the Campus Snack Shop is willing to cater our dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday. Please see the sample menu attached. They are also willing to provide any type of meal that we request. Current pricing is comparable to what our students have paid in the past. However, since this may be a two year out event, prices at this time are not guaranteed.

Bob Jones Audio Services Department can also provide in-house recording for the CDs if that would be a benefit to the organization. The University produces many professional recordings from campus. A sample CD is available upon request.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration in looking over the proposed schedule and trust that this change would be to the benefit of our students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

Your suggestions and advice are welcomed and encouraged!

Thank you,
Janice Hutton

Proposal for new All – State Orchestra Schedule
First reading Saturday, February 7, 2009

Friday

1:30 – 2:30 Registration

2:30 – 4:00 Rehearsal

4:00 – 4:15 Break

4:15 – 5:45 Rehearsal

5:45 – 7:00 Dinner on site

7:00 – 9:00 Rehearsal (break as needed by each director)

9:00 – 9:15 Announcements/dismissal

9:30 – 10:15 Social (optional)

TOTAL rehearsal time on Friday – 5 hours

Saturday

8:30 – 10:30 Rehearsal (group I in concert hall, groups II and III in rehearsal rooms)

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 12:15 Rehearsal (group II in concert hall groups I and III in rehearsal rooms)

12:15 – 1:15 lunch on site

1:15 – 3:15 Rehearsal (group III in concert hall groups I and II in rehearsal rooms)

3:15 – 4:15 Change for concert

4:30 - Concert

TOTAL rehearsal time on Saturday – 5 ½ hours