

SCMEA Orchestra Division  
February 28, 2004

Susan Baier, orchestra division president, brought the meeting to order at 2:00pm at Carolina Forest Education Center in Myrtle Beach, SC.

**I. Welcome**

Susan Baier thanked Lynn Auman for her work on All State this year.

Thank you to the parents and for everyone being so flexible with the weather conditions.

Paul Buyer sent around the membership list and asked everyone to check his/her name and instrument. He is currently trying to remove former members from the list. Please cross off those who are not members and give reason for membership termination.

**II. Officer's Reports**

President Elect: Sarah Fitzgerald thanked the membership for a successful conference. She has received suggestions for next year and looks forward to another great convention.

Secretary: A motion was made by Norman Neff to accept the minutes from the February 7, 2004 meeting. Sarah Fitzgerald seconded the motion.

Treasurer: Paul Buyer spoke on behalf of Sharon Doyle. All conference expenses have been covered at this time. She asks that all Solo and Ensemble and Concert Festival chairpersons to keep budgets within reason.

Festival Chairpersons:

Concert Festival: Angela Rex spoke on behalf of Jacob Dakon. Jacob Dakon has sightreading for Concert Festival. If you have any questions please contact him via e-mail (jdakon@rock-hill.k12.sc.us) Trophies are on their way.

Solo and Ensemble Festival: Angela Rex stated that personal checks will be turned in this week. Forms from either S/E or Concert Festival need to be turned back into Angela Rex or Jacob Dakon respectively. Do not copy a form for each S/E event. Get a school check; do not send cash or individual personal checks. Site chairmen need to see Angela Rex to get S/E materials. If you would like to be a judge for Concert Festival or S/E please add your name to a list. We are trying to schedule events at different times so we can use each other as judges.

All State: Chris Corde proclaimed All State's location to be Spartanburg in the year 2006. Thomas Joiner offered to host All State for the 2005 year at Furman University free of charge on February 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Tom Joiner will ask faculty to do sectionals. Nominations were taken for Senior and Junior All State conductors and back-ups.

The following were nominated:

Carlton McCreery

Robert Moody

Willisam Hayden

Kevin Bartram

Bill Scott  
James Anderson  
Tony Hildreth  
Alex Spainhour  
Mark Cedel  
Mauel Alvarez  
Kathleen Brungard  
Jerry Flint

The top four nominees are Kathleen Brungard (both jr. and sr.), Alex Spainhour (both jr. and sr.) Robert Moody (sr. only), and James Anderson (sr. only)

Region Chair: Chris Selby has a list of conductors for site chairs. His e-mail is [cselby@rnh.richland2.org](mailto:cselby@rnh.richland2.org). Please feel free to e-mail him for a “how to” on region procedures.

### **III. Final Reading and Vote**

Susan Baier read the final reading of Section 6 and Section 8 from the agenda for changes in chairpersons. A motion to accept was made by Colleen Marcou and seconded by Norman Neff

### **IV. New Business**

If you are interested in a job as a music teacher at Christ Church Episcopal School see Susan Baier for more information.

The All State Committee has been talking about adjusting All State. The floor was opened for discussion by Susan Baier and the following were comments made by members present:

*Chris Corde-* Susan Johnson wanted more kids to be involved. In the past we had senior full and senior string with a “second best” orchestra. We could divide the orchestras by grades 6-8, 9-10, and 11-12, creating three All State orchestras. This concept would add an All State group by grade, not instrumentation. 6-8 could be a string orchestra with the other two as full orchestras. This idea could also close the gap for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders who may have felt it difficult to get into the senior All State Orchestra.

*Martha Bronze-* Stated that the string orchestra should be the upper level group.  
*Gene Epton-* The band division utilized this concept a few years ago. It has worked for them. The only problem is that there are not as many numbers in the upper levels.

*Chris Selby-* Presented visual representation signifying students who made region, made All State, and did not make either. He used this data to justify the numbers would be there to support three different groups.

*Sandy Goldie:* She supports the new proposal. She suggests that data could help alleviate the “margin of error.”

*John Kvasnicka-* The bass numbers do not work as well. He suggested reducing the bass numbers for All State.

*Paul Buyer-* Is our all state audition piece too hard for basses?

*Lois Akins-* Georgia went to this same scenario and it has worked very well.

*Chris Selby-* Our kids lose their drive by 12<sup>th</sup> grade, this would keep things fresh.

*Gene Epton-* He addressed the bass issue stating basses could play in both the Region and All State

*Paul Buyer-* He suggested making the 11-12 grade orchestra full only.

*Colleen Marcou-* She brought up the problem with three region orchestras. Some regions cannot support 3 region orchestras. Where would we house these orchestras?

*Lynn Auman-* They are on a 4 by 4 block and they lose the older kids who could audition for the 11&12 orchestra due to scheduling conflicts.

*Melissa Martin-* 9-12 grades could audition on the same selections, just compare the 9-10 and 11-12 as two different orchestras.

*Angela Rex-* She suggests lowering the music for the 6-8 grader audition to let more 6<sup>th</sup> graders participate. 11-12 grade should remain the same.

*Chris Selby-* We should evaluate the musical selections we currently use and adjust to the different levels.

*Susan Johnson-* She likes the younger full orchestra idea. Maybe we could perform some string orchestra and some full orchestra literature and float the winds and brass. It is important for young students to experience playing with winds and brass.

*Catherine Crowe-* Do we really have enough students who deserve to make this many orchestras? Would this lower the performance quality? Would region orchestra be patterned after All State.

*Paul Buyer-* The top orchestra would always have to have the soloist. We would have to be careful not to have the other orchestras programmed with more difficult music.

*Dianne Pinner-* She supported the idea of swapping winds and brass between orchestras.

*Anne Ezell-* Suggested that the numbers in 11-12 grades are lost due to the discouragement of the 9-10 grade that fail to make it into Senior All State.

*Lynn Auman-* The top players could form a top chambers orchestra.

*Sandy Goldie-* We need to figure out how to keep region the same, but still add an all state level orchestra.

*Colleen Marcou-* Expressed hosting concerns for a 3 orchestra region.

*Chris Selby-* Smaller orchestras would cause the students to take more ownership in their performance.

*Johanna Pollock-* If the numbers are not there to support 3 orchestras could we go back to 2 regions, east and west?

*Susan Baier-* We need to keep the dialogue open, this includes the debate of live verses tape auditions.

*Catherine Crowe-* She didn't like two sets of results being based on the same audition. If we went to live auditions we could base auditions on excerpts from the All State music itself. An invitation to the live audition would be extended to all members of the lower strings, to the entire region first violin section, and the first six second violins. The results of this audition would be used for seating.

If you would like to add to any ideas or comments about the All State orchestras please contact Chris Corde, Chris Selby, Susan Johnson, Sandy Goldie, or Rosa Kelly.

Any ideas or comments you have about taped versus live auditions need to be directed to Catherine Crowe, Sarah Rose, Sarah Fitzgerald, and Jennifer Diehn. *We want to reflect what you want and what is best for our students.*

## **V. Old Business**

The South Carolina Education and Economic Development Act is back at the house committee for work. Remember to talk about it and communicate with your legislators.

Sarah Fitzgerald- She liked auditions in the morning and suggested we do this in the future. She also liked the initial meeting when we all arrived.

Paul Buyer- He needed to give the All State patches to Junior winds and any teacher who had not received their for their string student. He pointed out additional visual representation of the numbers coming from each region.

John Kvasnicka made a motion to close the meeting. Colleen Marcou seconded.