

SCMEA Orchestra Division  
September 10, 2005

Sarah Fitzgerald, orchestra division president, brought the meeting to order at 2:00pm at the USC String Project building in Columbia, SC.

**Greetings**

- Ann Cheeks, a representative from the SCMEA board, thanked everyone for their attendance and expressed support for our division. She encouraged attendance at the SCMEA conference in Charleston to be held in February. We need more exhibitors for the conference to help cover costs. She also asked if the division could charge \$.50 extra per audition fee for honor performance groups. This money would go to the board at the end of the year to help cover convention costs as we lost \$10,000 on last year's conference. She encouraged involvement in MENC's National Anthem Project. More information can be found at [nationalanthemproject.org](http://nationalanthemproject.org). She brought attention to the front pages of the *South Carolina Musician*. There are many student award opportunities and few are taking advantage of these scholarships. Our arts representative at the State Department, Deb Hoffman, is ill and Scot Hockman is the new Education Associate for the Arts. You can find contact information at [myschools.com](http://myschools.com) or on the Government Relations Report provided at the meeting.
- Make sure to sign attendance sheets and update information if needed and extra handbooks are available.
- Sandy Goldie invited all ASTA members to stay for a meeting after this meeting. ASTA needs someone to sit on the board to represent South Carolina's orchestra directors. If interested see Sandy Goldie.

**Introduction Of New Board Members**

- Sarah Fitzgerald introduced new members of the board: Sarah Fitzgerald-President, Chris Selby-President Elect, Susan Baier-Past President/Vice-President, Amy Strahm-Secretary, Sharon Doyle-Treasurer, Ginger Greer-Concert Festival Chair, Sarah Wright-Solo and Ensemble Chair, Melissa Martin & Chris Gladman-All State Chairs, Johanna Pollock-Region Chair, Paul Buyer-All State Taping/Web Site Chair, Alison Mann- Member At Large.

**Officer Reports**

- *Treasurer's Report (Sharon Doyle)*: Two financial reports were presented, the 2004/2005 Financial Statement presented to the board for tax purposes and the 2005/2006 Proposed Budget. We are losing money on concert festival, but All State makes up that difference. We have a strong account balance. No new fees need to be added. We could supply the \$.50 per audition fee without increasing charges to our students. We still have non-profit status so we do not want a large net income.

- *President Elect (Chris Selby)*: There are three presenters for the conference in February: Bert Ligon on jazz strings (the jazz professor at USC), Janet Farrar-Royce on fiddling, Andy Preston on electric bass in the classroom. The Make-And-Take and other traditional sessions will also be available. Congratulations to the Richland District Orchestra who will play at the general session and to Dorman High School who will perform Mozart's *Requiem* at the performance session with the Choral Division.
- *Concert Festival (Ginger Greer)*: Two dates have been proposed, March 29-31 or April 5-7. These dates are not set in stone. Find a date that works for your region that does not conflict with any other SCMEA date and get it approved by Ginger. This date change needs to be made by the first semester
  - Region One: March 29-31
  - Region Two: Ginger Greer
  - Region Three: March 29-31, Johanna Pollock
  - Region Four: April 5-6.
- *Solo and Ensemble (Sarah Wright)*: Names are needed for site chairs. Send an e-mail as soon as chairs are assigned to [fiddlefritz@yahoo.com](mailto:fiddlefritz@yahoo.com). An audience is typically allowed in the judging room if the judge is comfortable with the situation. Chris Selby added that in California students who receive a superior go to a stage for a public performance.
  - Pickens, Oconee, Anderson: Joyce Parvin (March 10-11)
  - Charleston: Pam Heine (March 10-11)
  - Greenville:
  - Florence:
  - Lexington 1&2: Kristy Lineberger (March 3-4)
  - Lexington 5: Colleen Marcou (March 10-11)
  - Myrtle Beach:
  - Richland 1&2: Jolene Walter
  - Spartanburg 6, Rock Hill: Susan Baier (March 3-4)
  - Spartanburg 7: Paul Buyer (March 3-4)
- *All State (Melissa Martin)*: It will be at Converse College in Spartanburg, SC with all rehearsals at Spartanburg High School. Neil Casey is the junior conductor and Mark Cedel from the University of Georgia the senior conductor.
- *Region Orchestra (Johanna Pollock)*: Make sure dates are approved before setting dates with conductors. Make sure proper procedures are followed when setting up venues and dates.
  - Region One: Denise Burcham at Boiling Springs
  - Region Two: Dianne Atkin at Clemson, November 18-19
  - Region Three: Johanna Pollock at Airport High School
  - Region Four: Jean Epting in Florence

- *All State Taping (Paul Buyer)*: Students can audition early if there is a conflict at the discretion of the taping site chair. The students must not communicate the scale or information about the sight-reading to others (it is to his/her disadvantage.) Quality tape machines need to be secured for the audition and a back-up system needs to be available in case of an emergency.  
     Region One: Susan Baier at Dorman High School, October 1  
     Region Two: Catherine Crowe  
     Region Three: Chris Selby at Spring Valley  
     Region Four: Janet Elshazly
- *Approval of Minutes (Amy Strahm)*: A change was noted for the February 19, 2005 minutes. What was recorded as the “Furman Cello Choir” needs to be changed to the “South Carolina Cello Choir.” Colleen Marcou motioned to accept the minutes with the aforementioned correction. Sandy Goldie seconded.

### **New Business**

- New teachers were introduced and welcomed.
- There is a concern about Bob Jones University’s location not being a central enough location for auditions for the All-State solo. Potential site facility requirements include a performance hall and warm-up room. The audition is the first Saturday in September and normally lasts through Saturday Morning. Typically 13-18 students audition. A proposal needs to be written for a potential site change.
- **All State Scale Proposal:**  
 Paul Buyer presented a proposal to include minor scales in the required junior region scales. Each instrument would have five to six scales. The idea is to remove the scales that we never ask students to play. The scales were presented in a handout.  
*The floor was opened for discussion:*
  - Martha Brons: I spend too much time teaching minor scales when they are not selected for the audition.
  - Sharon Doyle: If the junior students are exposed to the minor scales, wouldn’t it make it easier for the seniors who are getting to that stage?
  - Martha Brons: Why are we doing it in the first place?
  - Paul Buyer: Jack Bowman wanted the minor scales for senior 15 years ago.
  - Chris Selby: I like the idea of changing the scales. You can substitute the easier scales with those that have more to teach in them.
- Sarah Fitzgerald encouraged everyone to attend conference this year. The registration fee is \$75. Freddie Grace asked if anyone has looked at the convention center in Columbia. Sarah Fitzgerald responded that it is too small. Sharon Doyle said the only other option is to take it out of state.

## Old Business

- **Live Audition Proposal:**

- Third and final reading (Chris Selby): We propose that we move towards live auditions for both Region and All-State orchestras. The Region auditions will remain the same with each region hosting the separate auditions. Students accepted into the Region orchestra will travel to USC Columbia for live auditions for All-State orchestra. Auditions will take place on the first Saturday after the first week of school for all eligible students in January. Gail Barnes and USC will host and organize the auditions. It is the intention that the Up-State will host All-State orchestra every year, the Mid-State will host the All-State auditions every year, and the Low-Country will host Conference every year.
- A green sheet was provided with the specifics and reasoning for the proposal.  
*The floor was opened for discussion:*
- Sandy Goldie: What do we do with students who have a conflict? Are all sponsors required to be at the site?
- Chris Selby: If you have a student auditioning you are required to be there. For conflicts, students have to make choices.
- Sandy Goldie: This requires students to audition twice.
- Charis Burger: You would have to be there with your students all day if a bus is taken.
- Chris Selby: A parent may have to take the responsibility to bring a student to the audition.
- Jennifer Diehn: Is there a commitment to audition for All-State?
- Chris Selby: There is no commitment; you can choose audition for Region only. This option was always the case. You cannot do it backwards and attend All-State without attending Region. You can elect to not go to All-State, but you cannot be a no-show without notification.
- Jay Pinner: Will the option to have the faculty split sponsorship still be available?
- Chris Selby: Within reason, it must be the one to ten ratio.
- Johanna Pollock: How many teachers will it take to audition?
- Susan Baier: There would be no scale; just the excerpts.
- Johanna Pollock: Two tier would be 24 judges and three tier would be 36.
- Rosa Kelly: Would there be two registration fees?
- Chris Selby: Yes, \$5 for each, We are looking at a reduction in the All-State event fee.
- Charis Burger: Could you do the live auditions at Region?
- Marsha Gross: I am still concerned about conflicts with state school functions. Can there be a video tape option?
- Chris Selby: This option can be considered. The students will have to learn to make choices.
- Ryan McGee: I am worried about adding another date. There is a concern about sponsorship.
- Sarah Fitzgerald: Remember the one sponsor to ten students ratio.
- Freddie Grace: You would still need around 45 teachers to work the event.
- Chris Selby: Dr. Barnes said college students will be support staff.

- Colleen Marcou: Eliminating the auditions for seating reduces the number of teachers who need to be there.
  - Ryan McGee: At what point is that a legal agreement? If you have a child that does both Region and All-State and another teacher sponsors that child who needs to be notified?
  - Chris Selby: A letter needs to go to the principal with his/her approval.
  - Johanna Pollock: Let the local chair know.
  - Sharon Doyle: Your principal signed the form with the understanding that you would chaperone his/her students so let the principal know immediately if that is not the case.
  - Johanna Pollock: When we get the application there is normally a list that makes it clear to the president that lets everyone know what is going on with sponsorship. This information also needs to be sent to the local chair.
  - Chris Selby: By not doing the chair tests at the event you cut down on needing extra staff at the beginning of All-State. More teachers can sponsor other students if needed.
  - Gail Barnes: I don't think the auditions will take all day. If the auditions start at 8am or 9am we finish by 2pm or 3pm.
  - Jay Pinner: Don't put too many names down as principal sponsors and then figure out who is needed after the fact.
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- Chris Selby made a motion to accept the Live Audition Proposal as stated. Johanna Pollock seconded.
  - A ballot vote was cast.
  - Results of vote: The Live Audition Proposal was voted to pass by 49 to 4.
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- Sarah Fitzgerald commented that in the last minutes we considered creating a committee to create a list of music to provide conductors for All-State. Who was on that committee? Melissa Martin will be in charge of forming this committee. Who has the list of possible region conductors? Sarah Fitzgerald needs this list.
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- Cello Choir is next weekend with David Ying as the clinician. Brochures are available.
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- Gail Barnes announced that there is a new text edited and partly written by Greg Barnes on viola pedagogy, *Playing and Teaching the Viola*. The String Project building will not exist next year, there needs to be a new location for the fall meeting. Colleen Marcou offered to have it at Harvison High School in Columbia.
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- **Three-tiered All State Proposal:**  
Third and final reading: We propose that the current All-State configuration be modified into three orchestras; the structure being: All-State String Orchestra; Grade 6-8 (10 years or older,) Junior All-State Orchestra (Full); Grade 9-10 (13 years or older,) and Senior All-State Orchestra (Full); Grade 11-12 (15 or older.)
  - A purple form was distributed with details and read by Chris Selby.

*The floor was opened for discussion:*

- Susan Johnson: I am concerned with the 6-8<sup>th</sup> group being called a string orchestra. We had talked about giving these students the opportunity to play in a full orchestra setting for a couple of pieces. This experience would differentiate it from region.
- Chris Selby: If it passed we can look into that. The senior group could perform three full pieces, the junior 2 full pieces, and the strings group two string pieces and one full.
- Susan Johnson: My second concern is in the naming of the groups. What about Junior, Senior Youth and Senior something?
- Chris Selby: I had to make the proposal concise. If this proposal is approved the details can be voted on later.
- Ginger Greer: Can we have a suggested range of age to give the opportunity of choice for students who needs to be in a top level ensemble?
- Paul Buyer: The only fair way to do it by grade or age. We cannot base decision on arbitrary decisions.
- Marsha Gross: What about the Suzuki student with years of experience?
- Sandy Goldie: We are not talking about a huge difference in level.
- Paul Buyer: We talked about middle level being a grade 5.
- Chris Selby: I see the middle group being very close to the top group.
- Ginger Greer: Are the auditions different for each group?
- Chris Selby: The first audition stays the same. Then there are three different sets of music.
- Charis Burger: The middle of the road students in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades get bumped out.
- Chris Selby: No, they have more opportunity.
- Marsha Gross: There are more kids auditioning for the junior than the senior.
- Chris Selby: Yes, the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students all audition for junior because they have a better shot.
- Norman Neff: Are there enough kids left to fill a 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra without the 9<sup>th</sup> graders?
- Paul Buyer: There are 7<sup>th</sup> graders who would have more of a chance and younger students can be encouraged to audition.
- Norman Neff: They would make it into All-State, but not in Region. Here is a problem.
- Chris Selby: This would have to be done by region and by doing live audition you can do what ever you want to do. You could do a region for just 6-8<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Sandy Goldie: You will probably have to put the 9<sup>th</sup> graders with the upper kids.
- Sarah Fitzgerald: Could 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders have a different audition?
- Chris Selby: I would like to leave region alone if possible.
- Brian Gencarelli: If a 9<sup>th</sup> grader is in the top level in region, would the lever be lower at All-State going into the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra?
- Chris Selby: No, the younger orchestra is not necessarily a worse orchestra.
- Sandy Goldie: We have to believe that the two groups are going to be equal. We want both groups to be top groups.

- Paul Buyer: Which orchestra will do the concerto?
  - Sharon Doyle: The orchestra will depend on who wins the audition.
  - Paul Buyer: Will we know what repertoire will be accepted before we choose the soloist so that the orchestra is prepared to do a concerto?
  - Chris Selby: We do not know our soloist until later, but there is time to plan. It does not matter which group the soloist plays with.
  - Christian Williams: If the soloist wins and he/she is in the younger group, the perception will be that it is the better orchestra.
  - Chris Selby: It will take a couple of years to build the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade group. It will have to sink into region.
  - Teresa Russ: Will there be separate auditions for the different groups?
  - Chris Selby: Yes.
  - Teresa Russ: What if a student wants to switch groups?
  - Chris Selby: They will not have that option.
  - Sandy Goldie: We have to convince the students that the grouping is an age level thing, not a playing level thing. In 2 or 3 years the students will adapt.
- Paul Buyer made a motion to accept the Three Tier Proposal as written. Brian Gencarelli seconded.
  - A ballot vote was cast.
  - Results of vote: The Three Tier Proposal was voted to pass by 42 to 9.
- “Pathways to Success” was passed. In South Carolina students will have to do pathways to careers. This information was passed out on a pink sheet. A “Where We Stand” brochure is available to take back to your principals. You must make it clear that the arts are important.
- New Member drawing for Embassy Suite room: Katherine Pollock won the free room for convention. Congratulations!
  - Amy Strahm motioned to close meeting. Jennifer Diehn seconded.

Respectfully Submitted:

Amy E. Strahm