Dear SCMEA Colleagues,

You are cordially invited to nominate your sophomore, junior or senior music students to participate in the Future Music Educators Symposium, a conference within the SCMEA Conference, on February 3, 2017. The purpose of the FME Symposium is to attract our promising future music teachers, help them become aware of career opportunities in music and music education, and introduce them to the extraordinary community of music teachers (and learners) within the South Carolina Music Educators Association. As mentors and teachers, you are the greatest influence on inspiring your students to consider careers in music education, even more than their parents or other mentors. With this in mind, the FME Symposium is designed to build upon the foundation you have given your students to prepare for careers in music.

The Future Music Educators Symposium will feature sessions presented by master teachers on the value and benefits of pursuing a career in music education, workshops by college professors on how to prepare for auditions and scholarships, a session with current collegiate students on what to expect and how to prepare for their college experience, attendance at an SCMEA conference session, time to visit the exhibits and college booths, and an awards presentation at our General Session on Friday morning. In February 2016, we piloted the symposium with just a few students to get started. Each student highly recommended continuing this program, and found it to be an extremely valuable experience. One student said, “It opened my eyes to the bigger picture of what my music teacher does, and what music education is all about!”

You may nominate up to two students who demonstrate interest and potential as a music teacher. Our goal is to have 16 of our finest students participate in the Future Music Educators Symposium in February, so I encourage you to nominate your outstanding students to explore and consider careers in music education through this one-day experience.

Visit our SCMEA website for details on how to complete our online nomination and student application for the Future Music Educators Symposium at [www.scmea.net](http://www.scmea.net).

Cordially,

Dr. David L. Perry

Director, Future Music Educators Symposium

Past-President, SCMEA Higher Education Division