

SCMEA

South Carolina MUSICIAN

Vol. LXXI

Spring 2018

No. 3



Featured Article:

*Increasing Student Engagement
in Culturally Diverse Music
Classrooms*

Page 7

&

*SCMEA18 Conference
Highlights*



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Contents

President's Message	Page 4
Division News	
Band	Page 5
Choral	Page 5
Elementary	Page 6
Orchestra	Page 7
Piano	Page 7
Increasing Student Engagement in Culturally Diverse Music Classrooms	Pages 9-11
Conference Highlights	
Awards	Pages 12-14
General Session	Page 15
Past Presidents	Page 16
Research Poster Session	Page 16
Exhibits	Page 17
Clinics & Sessions	Page 18
Jazz Social	Page 19
Performances	Page 20
Reunions & Friends	Page 21
SCMEA Executive Board	Pages 26-27

Advertisements

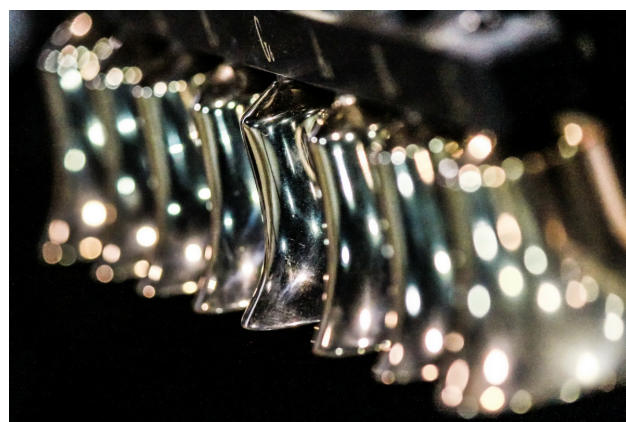
Lung Trainers	Page 2
Just Orlando Tours	Page 8
Charleston Southern University	Page 8
Allen University	Page 22
NAfME National Conference	Page 23
Collegiate Advocacy Summit	Page 24
NAfME Webinar	Page 28

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President's Message

Martin Dickey, *SCMEA President*

What a tremendous conference we had in Columbia! The Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center was a hub of professional development where we could all immerse ourselves in music making and expand our teaching repertoire. Sharon Doyle and the division leaders did an exceptional job organizing the sessions and providing an abundance of opportunities. Every division and committee had events at conference and I applaud their efforts in bringing in the best artists and educators. Please make sure you provide feedback on the conference so we can continue to provide sessions that are relevant to your needs. Your opinion matters and your experience is important to our success. Thank you to William Bennett, Chris Selby and all of the teachers that worked with John Clanton to create an amazing performance of the Mozart Requiem at our general session. What a talented group of young musicians collaborating with a conductor that is a product of South Carolina. BRAVO!



Many of you have shared your frustrations with the registration process at our conference. I hear you loud and clear and trust that we are making every effort to improve this situation. We have had discussions with NAFME leaders and I am confident they are working to resolve the concerns. Many state associations have expressed the same frustrations and I hope to have a more detailed answer after we meet in June at our national summit in Washington, DC.

As you look toward the end of another school year, I want you to take time and reflect on you and your student's accomplishments. Often we look at what our students won (achievement), when we should really be looking at how far our students have grown (success). Achievement is about reaching a goal or winning some prize, whereas Success is about succeeding in an attempt or bettering one's self. Look at where you and your students started and how far you have come together. Celebrate the successes you have attained in making your student's better musicians, better problem solvers, and better people. Music does indeed change lives and you are the catalyst for positive changes in many lives.

To Your Continued Success!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Dickey". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Martin Dickey
SCMEA President

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Band Division

Leah Cordé, SCBDA President



It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the 2017-18 school year! As we enter the “final stretch”, I hope you were able to attend our SCMEA Professional Development Conference and have your batteries recharged! The clinics presented were incredibly informative and the concert performances were inspiring. It was an exceptional treat to have Wycliffe Gordon perform with the SCMEA Director’s Band, and equally as exciting to feature some of our most talented individuals in our Master Recital Competition as well as our inaugural All-State Jazz Combo. Kudos to all involved, especially our President-Elect, Dr. David O’Shields, who did a phenomenal job organizing our Division’s event.

From the outside looking in, many people believe that marching season is the busiest time of the year for us. “Now that band is over, what are you going to do?” many will ask. We all know that could not be further from the truth! Not only do our students achieve their greatest musical growth in the spring, but our SCBDA calendar is packed with events as well! Region Band, All-State Band, All-State Jazz, Concert Performance Assessment, Jazz Performance Assessment, Winter Ensembles Championships, Solo & Ensemble...it’s enough to keep you running! As stressful as this time of the year can be, I encourage you to “keep your eyes on the prize” and focus on WHY you have decided to teach band.

At the end of the day, the results of the aforementioned events are not the most important aspect of what we do- it is the journey and preparation for these events that matter the most. That is where the learning and growth occur, for students and teachers alike. It is important to have goals and to strive to be your absolute best, and to push your students to do the same, but never forget we are creating art, which should be a joyous and inspirational journey for us all. Shaping the youth of our country is a much greater responsibility than any placement or rating your groups will receive. We are indeed fighting the good fight every day.

Along those lines, we are very fortunate that, although small, our state is truly at the forefront of music education. The experiences we are able to provide the band students in South Carolina are second to none. Guest artists and clinicians that come to our state are always impressed with the musical ability of our young musicians and this is a tribute to all of the good teaching going on across our state. Our association is committed to offering you top-notch events for your students to participate in and professional growth opportunities and support for you as well! I hope you will take advantage of all that SCBDA has to offer you and your students. Music is indeed instrumental to success!

I wish you and your students all the best as you complete the school year and I hope that it is your best year yet!

Choral Division

Gregory Pittman, President



Why? Because the world needs us right now.

As I write this letter, we’re just over a week

after our 2018 SCMEA Professional Development Conference. Our Choral Division clinicians, Dr. Eric Nelson and Dr. Jeffery Redding, created the perfect blend of technique and inspiration in their sessions. They dovetailed so beautifully together, we couldn’t have planned it more perfectly if we had tried. And Dr. Nelson summed up the two days perfectly.

This year, the Choral Division has been trying to answer the question, “Why?” Why do we do the things we do? Why do we do them the way we do them? As I’ve said before, the answers to those questions are almost certainly different now than they were years ago. But as we come away from the conference, we understand the big picture more clearly. We—all of us across all of our SCMEA divisions—do what we do because the world needs us.

Violence, division, antipathy. These maladies surround us every minute of every day. Perhaps it has become cliché to quote Leonard Bernstein, but I don’t know of a more appropriate notion to hang on to right now. “This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before.”

We do what we do because the world needs us right now.

Elementary Division

Todd Monsell, *President*

It was a pleasure to see so many of you, fellow SC elementary music educators, at our 2018 Professional Development Conference from Feb. 8-10 in Columbia.

We enjoyed fantastic sessions from Dr. John Feierabend (formerly of Hartt School of Music, now director of Feierabend Association for Music Education) and Dr. Wendy Valerio (USC). With his unique combination of the Gordon and Zoltan Kodaly methods, John led four sessions, with two covering his First Steps in Music curriculum (movement development and vocal development) and two sessions covering his Conversational Solfege curriculum (rhythmic literacy and melodic literacy). John had us singing, moving, reading and decoding as we benefited from his many years of expertise in early music education. If you were unable to attend John's sessions, an excellent selection of his handouts and articles can be found here: <https://www.feierabendmusic.org/resources/>. I hope you find them helpful!

Wendy's session, entitled Music Fluency and Music Literacy for the Whole Child, rescheduled from the canceled Fall Workshop, was full of energy. Indeed, we used our whole selves as we danced, sang, and Orff-ed our way through class-ready songs like "Hey! It's Time for Music Class", "Oh My, No More Pie" and several others. Wendy's handouts helpfully showed the teaching sequence for her method and included assessments that can be



used to check for the fluency that we all desire from our students. If you would like a copy of Wendy's handout, please feel free to email me (contact info below).

Our 2018 SC Elementary

Honor Choir was a special one indeed--2018 marked the 20th anniversary of this very special ensemble. We were honored to welcome back the amazing Henry Leck (founder and Director Emeritus of the Indianapolis Children's Choir) to conduct the ensemble for the third time (he also conducted the 1st and 10th)! We were also thrilled that for the first time ever all rehearsals and the performance took place at First Baptist Church, Columbia. The church provided a stunning backdrop for our concert Saturday morning. Wonderful acoustics, excellent sight lines, and flawless sound made for an outstanding concert as our roughly 276 young singers sang their hearts out for family, friends, and teachers. If you missed it, the repertoire was as follows:

Et exultavit ~ Vivaldi

I Believe in the Sun ~ Ned Ginsburg

Little David, Play on Your Harp ~ Spiritual, arr. Dilworth
Mango Walk! ~ Jamaican folk song, arr. Berg

Will You Teach Me? ~ Allen Pote

Ac-cent-tchu-ate the Positive ~ Arr. Hirokawa

After the concert, we celebrated our honor choir history by presenting plaques to SC Elementary Honor Choir Founders Ann Cheek and Patti Croft, plus the one teacher who has placed students in all 20 Honor Choirs--Beverly Parler-Rice! I can't say enough about these outstanding women and the wonderful things they've done for young singers in our state. Take a bow, ladies!

It seems hard to believe, but I'm already starting to think about planning for Fall Workshop and the 2019 conference. If you know of a talented music educator/clinician that would put on a great session for our membership, I'm happy to hear your ideas! I'm just an email or phone call away, so please don't be shy about reaching out.

One more thank you to all of the fantastic folks that make Elementary Division possible--our Past-President Donna Barrick, President-Elect Tamara Willing Silva, Treasurer Mandy Rushe, Honor Choir Chairperson Mary Anne Tillman, and Logistics Chair Meredith Trobaugh. These women are so passionate about music education and we are truly lucky to have them working on behalf of the students and teachers in our state. They rock!

I hope you all have a wonderful end to your school year and get to relax a bit this summer. Mark your calendars for our Fall Workshop on Saturday, September 8!

Orchestra Division

Christopher R. Selby, *President*



What a year! Thanks to the hard work of our incredible officers and members, we had some incredible events, and our Or-

chestra Division feels like it is moving forward and improving with each meeting.

This past February, we had a great Conference, thanks to the work of President-elect Ginger Greer and our Executive Director Sharon Doyle. Our clinicians included **Kirt Mosier**, acclaimed composer and educator, who shared best practices and classroom management techniques, techniques for inspiring young musicians, conducting skills and leading a reading session with new music from Neil A. Kjos Music Company. **Terry Shade**, co-author of *String Basics: Steps to Success for String Orchestra*, shared her insight into how the foundational skills of string performance can be taught in invigorating and stimulating ways. **Jim Palmer** also presented sessions on orchestra bowing and conducting. **Allison Key** and **Jennifer Diehn** shared a list of tried and true greatest hits of middle and high school repertoire, and we had a panel including **Brent Wilson**, **Anna Joiner**, and **Dottie Hanlin** who shared Tips for Successful Cooperating Student Teacher Relationships, Tips for the Traveling Itinerant Teacher, and Tips for Preparing Seniors for their College Music Program Experience.

All-State Orchestra was held this year on the beautiful campus of Anderson University. Our All-State Chair, Colleen Marcou lined up an All-Star cast of conductors with

Andrew Dabczynski for the Junior All-State Orchestra, Jeffrey Bishop for the Senior All-State Orchestra, and Dale Clevenger for the Senior Honors Orchestra. While the students were rehearsing at All-State, the bylaws committee was busy drafting new and amended bylaws to better serve our organization. The Executive Board will hold a special meeting in May to review the work of the bylaws committee. At the September Meeting this fall at 1:30PM on September 8, The new Articles that were introduced at the All-State meeting will see a vote, and the newly proposed amendments will be presented to the membership for discussion and review.

As we move forward with the amendments to the bylaws, please communicate your wishes, questions and concerns to the Executive Board and the bylaws committee. And as your President (again), I will do my best to listen to all concerns and steer this ship in the a direction that is best for all orchestra teachers and students.

Piano Division

Anthony Lenti, *President*

It is hard to believe that this is my final Piano Division column for the South Carolina Musician! When I accepted Marianne Holland's invitation to become President of the Piano Division so many years ago I could not have imagined I would serve nearly 30 years. They have been very good years that I will treasure in my memory. A few of the readers of this column have been with me from the beginning. Thank you Marianne Holland and Jean Cann for your unwavering support and friendship.

As you know, the Piano Divi-

sion will welcome Dr. Karen Buckland of Presbyterian College as the new President. Karen was elected by unanimous vote of the membership and will begin her leadership this spring. I have known Karen for many years. She has been an adjudicator countless times for the Festival and has presented clinics at the Conference. You have seen the long list of accomplishments in her resume. Beyond these impressive credentials, Karen is a caring teacher and a good friend. I expect you will greatly enjoy working with her in the future.

Now a few words about the 2018 SCMEA In-Service Conference. The planning folks on the SCMEA Board came up with a great variety of valuable sessions. Thanks to all those who made the Conference go so smoothly, especially those behind the scenes who hustled to get pianos where they needed to be, found microphones and projectors, and in general juggled miraculously a huge array of activities.

I am sure you found Scott Price's masterclass as helpful and inspiring as I did. It was a delight to see this master teacher work so gently with the students, guiding them to an enriched understanding of their repertory. Please share with Dr. Buckland your thoughts on future Conference presentations. Perhaps a masterclass can be a regular part of our Conference events.

As always the Honors Recital was a delight! So much musical playing and variety of repertory. Congratulations to all the performers and teachers. A word of thanks also to the parents for their support of their children's musical activities.

We are about ready to make plans for Piano Division activities for the coming year. I will be working with Dr. Buckland to familiarize her with SCMEA procedures. I encourage you to share with Karen your thoughts on ways the organization can be of service to our members.

Let me conclude by thanking you all for your support and friendship. It has been an honor and joy to serve the good folks of the Piano Division.



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Strategies for Increasing Student Engagement in Culturally Diverse Music Classrooms

by: Dr. Denisse Santos-Stanbery

Recently at a music conference after a full day of attending concerts and clinics, a few of us were enjoying some much needed down time at a local restaurant. As people came and went, a young lady stopped by our table to say hello to some of the people with whom I was dining. As we struck up a conversation, she told me that she was in her first year of teaching and was very frustrated because she felt that she could not relate to any of her students and that they didn't listen to her. She was already in search of a new job for the following school year. I inquired about her students, and she described the little town where she worked and all of the Mexican students that attended her school. She could not pinpoint why she and her students seemed so disconnected, and sighed in frustration, "Maybe it's because I'm White."

Over 70% of teachers in the United States are White and from a suburban background (Abrahams & Schmidt, 2006). Most are trained to teach how they were taught, and many expect to teach in schools similar to where they attended (Santos-Stanbery, 2017). But the reality is that schools are becoming increasingly diverse, and many even mono-cultural with what most Americans would describe as "minority" populations. The fastest growing population in the US is that which identifies as Latino (Nieto, 2012). As diversity within the US population increases, the result is an increased number of students of color in classrooms matched with teachers who end up ineffectively relating with students of different cultures than themselves, have negative experiences while teaching – many in their early years, and end up leaving their jobs for seemingly greener pastures; some leaving the profession altogether.

Strategies for Culturally Relevant Teaching

It is impossible to address all of the concerns related to teaching students of various cultures within one journal article. However, it is possible to begin the conversation that can lead to actions to

help culturally diverse students and their teachers succeed. Based on my recent research, the following are five strategies that can be used for increasing student engagement for culturally diverse students.

Avoid Stereotypes. We all have our assumptions, and we are sometimes right. However, when teaching students of color, avoid stereotypes at all costs. For example, although it is easy to look at brown faces in our classrooms and assume that because they all speak or understand Spanish they have many other similarities, this is not always true. Students from different Latin American countries react and learn in different ways. For example, Mexican students may tend to be reserved and seemingly shy, while Puerto Rican students may tend to be much more emotive and outgoing. For Latino students, speaking the same language does not guarantee a similar background or upbringing. More importantly, not all Mexican students will be shy and not all Puerto Rican students will be outgoing. Getting to know students individually, regardless of their background and culture, will help teachers effectively work with diverse students, regardless of how similar they may look.

Get to Know Students' Likes and Dislikes. Part of getting to know students individually is getting to know their "likes" and "dislikes." In teaching a music class, rather than always choosing repertoire based on what music you think is important for your students to learn, or even music you like, find out what music your students like and incorporate some of their favorites into your curriculum. It is sometimes difficult to put aside our own "likes" and focus on what students enjoy, but this gesture goes a long way in increasing student engagement. You may want to have the best band or choir that performs the best literature, but that may not be your students' interests. Consider incorporating alternative forms and styles of music. If your students like mariachi, perhaps find an arrangement to perform,

"The reality is that schools are becoming increasingly diverse..."

or compose one with the class. If they like African Drumming or Traditional Drumline music, consider incorporating a Drumming piece into your next concert. Find out what students enjoy, and build it into your curriculum. You can program a balance of music that appeals to a variety of people, and that students will look forward to performing with enthusiasm.

Become Familiar with Students' Language and Culture. It may not seem like a big deal, but to students, their teacher making an effort to get to know their language and culture is a big deal. Asking students about their cultures and customs can help to build bridges between teacher and student worlds. A teacher showing interest in students' language and culture can often be interpreted as showing an interest in students personally. Teachers demonstrating caring for students by wanting to know about their lives and customs can build stronger relationships, often resulting in increased student engagement. Beyond the classroom, parents and other adults in the community can serve as resources for getting to know the language and culture. Attending concerts and festivals of students' culture can help teachers to better connect with communities. Students can also be used as resources for learning their language, as well as interpreting for others in the classroom who are emerging bilinguals. Learning a few words in students' home language, conversational as well as content specific, and incorporating them in the classroom shows teachers taking an interest in their students and can lead to increased student engagement.

Fair is Not Always Equal. Although we want to maintain a high standard for all of our students, it is important that we are sensitive to individual issues and situations. Sometimes this requires some creativity on teachers' part to ensure that students are able to learn and grow musically, regardless of their situations. For example, if Lucy has to go home and help take care of her younger siblings while her mother works, and they live in a small apartment, she may not have time nor be able to practice her instrument every evening. In fact, she may not even be able to attend the concert. In addition, because of tight finances, Lucy's single mother may not be able to pay required fees. Some situations are difficult and will require us to coordinate with students and their families to find workable solutions to enabling

“It is our job as teachers to help remove barriers and facilitate learning and success for all of our students...”

students' success. Teachers must ask themselves two essential questions: What does inclusion and equitable opportunity look like for students of color in my music program? What can I do to “even the playing field” for all? It is our job as teachers to help remove barriers and facilitate learning and success for all of our students, regardless of their situations. Teachers showing understanding and empathy while helping students work through difficult situations demonstrates caring and can lead to increased student engagement.

Get to Know Students' Cultural Norms. There are some things about all cultures that are constant and inevitable. Knowing these nuances will help teachers better prepare for teaching environments with students of any particular culture. For example, in some cultures women are not as highly regarded as men, and some students show difficulty taking instruction from a woman. That is not said to offend anyone, it is simply the truth. This, by the way, is part of what the young teacher in the opening scenario was experiencing. Women who teach in situations like this need to be aware of this, and must work to build relationships with students and their families that surpass cultural norms and result in student engagement in the classroom. In some cultures, students like to incorporate movement into their daily lives, while others are more reserved. Teachers who work with students who like to move and dance would do well to know that about their students when planning lessons. Every culture has



their nuances and social norms. Taking the time to become familiar with these norms will help teachers design lessons that are engaging and meaningful for their students.

Conclusion

Teaching students of a different culture than one's own can be a positive learning experience for all. Making concerted efforts to engage students and showing caring for their musical and overall success can lead to increased student participation, increased learning, and increased teacher job satisfaction. In addition to one's own teaching, consideration can be given to bringing in guests that are from the same background and ethnicity as students and can serve as role models.

As the population of students of color in classrooms increases, teachers who want to continue to be successful in their field must learn to teach and relate to diverse student populations in culturally relevant ways. Rather than "job-hopping" to try to find greener pastures, teachers can work together with culturally diverse students and their families to discover ways of teaching and learning that can lead to increased engagement in the classroom, as well as greater musical and academic success.

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Author Biography



Denisse Santos-Stanbery is a middle school band director in Charleston County. Dr. Santos-Stanbery has 21 years of teaching experience in a variety of settings, and holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Education

from Boston University, a Master of Music Education from VanderCook College of Music, and a Bachelor of Music Education from Andrews University. She currently resides in Charleston with her husband, Seth. To continue the conversation, or to discuss particulars of your teaching situation, please contact Dr. Santos-Stanbery at denissestanbery@gmail.com.

SCMEA

Deborah Smith Hoffman Mentor Award



Dr. Wendy Valerio

Wendy Valerio is Professor of Music, Director of Student Teaching, and Director of the Children's Music Development Center at University of South Carolina School of Music. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses, supervises elementary music education interns, and conducts early childhood music development research. Her work is published in scholarly journals and by GIA Publications.

SCMEA

Outstanding Young Music Educator Award



Kelsey Gunter

The purpose of Outstanding Young Music Educator Award is to recognize, honor, and encourage an SCMEA member who has been in the service of teaching from four to seven years for excellence in music education. The recipient of the 2018 SCMEA *Outstanding Young Music Educator Award* is Mrs. Kelsey McIntyre Gunter.

Kelsey Gunter attended James F. Byrnes High School. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a degree in Music Education. She is currently in her fifth year as the band director at River Oaks Middle School in Summerville, SC. She is now pursuing a Masters degree in Music education at North Greenville University.

SCMEA

Honor Administrator Award



Dr. Charles Epps, Jr.

The Council of Former Presidents of the South Carolina Music Educators Association will annually recommend to the Executive Board one or more candidates for the Honor Administrator Award. A PK-12 administrator selected for this award should actively support the arts, especially music by financial assistance with programs in local schools. A college administrator should actively support the arts, especially music by financial assistance with programs, cultural events and tours by performing groups. This years 2018 SCMEA *Honor Administrator Award* recipient is Dr. Charles (Chuck) Epps, Jr.

2018 Conference Highlights - Awards

Dr. Marianne Holland is this year's recipient of a special award given by the South Carolina Music Educators Association Board of Directors for Outstanding Service to the Association. Dr. Holland is retiring after 50 years of dedicated service to SCMEA. Not only has she served our Board admirably, but has done much to improve the quality of music education in South Carolina.

The first person to graduate from the University of South Carolina with a Master of Music Education Degree in 1968, Marianne Holland then began her career as a teacher and choral director in Columbia in the school districts of Richland One at Hand Middle School and Dreher High School, and in Richland Two at Spring Valley High School. During her four decades of teaching in Columbia, Dr. Holland received numerous honors including: "Choral Director of the Year" (1963), "Outstanding Young Educator for the City of Columbia" (1968), "Teacher of the Year" in Richland One (1970), and "Teacher of the Year" in Richland Two (1977-1978). While at Spring Valley, the SV Fine Arts Department won the prestigious Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award (1987), the highest award given in the arts by the Governor, with special commendation to Marianne Holland in the arts in education category. That same year she earned her doctorate from USC.

Dr. Holland has served our Association proudly, as President of the South Carolina Music Educators Association (1969-1971), the South Carolina Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (1977-1979), and was one of the first non-collegiate teachers and first South Carolinian to be elected President of the Southern Division of the Music Educators National Conference (now NAFME). She is a member of the SCMEA Hall of Fame. Dr. Holland currently serves as Dean of Graduate Music Education Studies at North Greenville University.

2018 SCMEA Special Award 50 years of Service Dr. Marianne Holland



2018 Future Music Educator Symposium Participants



2018 Conference Highlights Awards

2018 US Army All-American Marching Band Participants



James Turner - band director, Matthew Binford - student, Martin Dickey - SCMEA President



Todd McKinney - student, Martin Dickey - director and SCMEA President

Not pictured: Thomas Fitzpatrick, color guard - Fort Mill HS - Mr. John Pruitt, director

NafME All-National Orchestra Participants



Pictured: Martin Dickey - SCMEA President, Madi Adams - student, Dr. Christopher Selby - orchestra director

Not pictured:

Ariana Blevins - student - Charleston School of the Arts - Dr. Christopher Selby, director

George Jennings - student - North Myrtle Beach HS - Mr. Huadong Lu, director

Simeon Radev - student - Hammond School - Dr. Janine Parnell, director

NafME All-National Choir Participants



Pictured: Erick Figueras - choral director, Jordan Taylor - mixed choir, Martin Dickey - SCMEA President



Pictured: Erick Figueras - choral director, Kaylee Worthington - mixed choir, Martin Dickey - SCMEA President

Not pictured: Elizabeth Marsac, Mixed Choir - South Florence HS - Erick Figueras, director

2018 Conference Highlights - General Session
Collaborative Performance with South Carolina Orchestra and Choral Students
Mozart Requiem, conducted by John Clanton

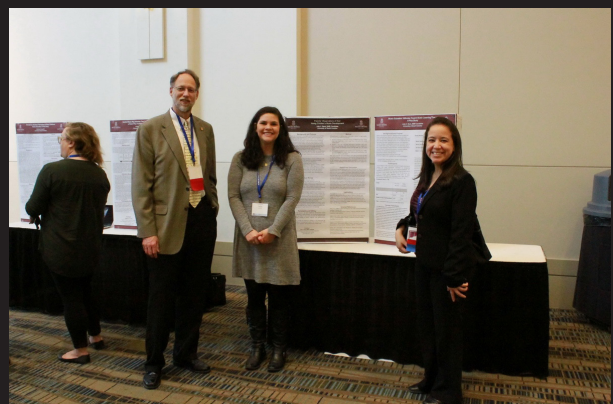


2018 Conference Highlights Past Presidents of SCMEA



Patti Foy, Lisa Rayner, Jackie McNeill, Glenn Price, Frances Maddox, Patti Croft, Bill Ackerman, Marianne Holland, Phil McIntyre, Lynn Grimsley, Chris Selby, Jane Morlan, Mark Britt

Research Poster Session



2018 Conference Highlights Exhibit Hall



Thank you,
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2018 Conference Highlights Clinics & Sessions

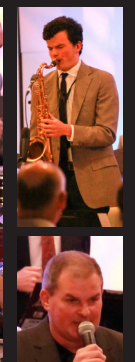
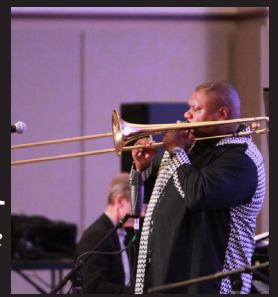


2018 Conference Highlights
Jazz Social

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Performances by:
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2018 Conference Highlights Performances



2018 Conference Highlights Reunions, Colleagues, & Friends





A Marching Band at Allen University

Allen University today unveiled another vital element in the institution's steady resurgence. A show-stopping marching band directed by an eminent band master is the latest initiative. The Allen "Band of Gold" will take the field fall semester 2018 with Eddie Ellis directing.

The band will be historic, both in degree and size. It will be the first marching band program at Allen in over a half century. The 2018 edition is also expected to march 100 members. Reacting to his appointment, Ellis said, "I am delighted to become a part of the Allen University family and work with President Ernest McNealey in creating an exceptional marching band program that will help to grow Allen and instill spirit throughout Allen and beyond."

As Director of bands at Morris Brown College (Atlanta) for more than a decade, Ellis conducted the symphonic band and the Marching Wolverines, Ellis' symphonic unit was the first African-American band to be featured at the Georgia Music Educators Association 2001 In-Service meeting. He also was the Director of Bands when the "Marching Wolverines" had a featured role in the (2002) film "Drumline", which "brought show-style marching bands to the big screen for the first time."

Ellis most recently served an 11-year-stint as Director of Bands at South Carolina State University, where he conducted the Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and the Marching 101 Band. Honors included, Hosting the South Carolina Collegiate Honor Band in 2010, three appearances in the Honda Battle of the Bands competition. Invited to perform for the "Bands of America Grand Nationals" marching finals. Ellis is also recognized as a "Palmetto Patriot" which is the highest award the Lt. Governor of South Carolina can bestow on a private citizen. Ellis holds a Bachelor of Arts in music from Morris Brown College and a Master of Music in Education from Georgia State University, Atlanta, Ga. He has also studied at Florida State University, the Cincinnati Conservatory and The University of Texas at Austin.

Mr. Ellis will join a host of talented musicians/professors engaged in public performances and leading student groups. The "Band of Gold" will add to the existing roster of student performers comprised of a wind ensemble, chamber ensemble, a concert choir, a jazz band, and a gospel choir. You or your students may contact Mr. Ellis at eeellis@allenuniversity.edu

Allen University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate degrees. Contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Allen University

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