

SCMEA



SC MUSICIAN

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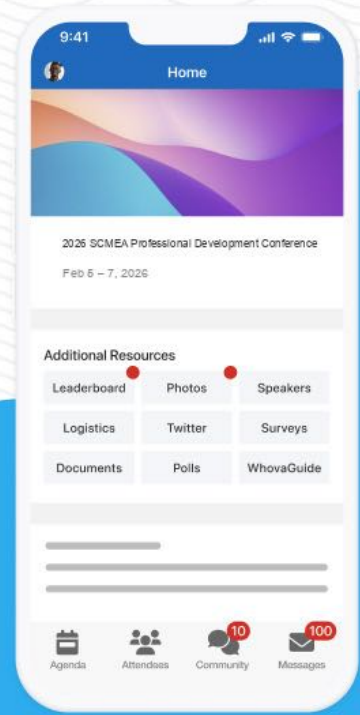




2026 SCMEA Professional Development Conference

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October 11, 2025

November 15, 2025

February 21, 2026

March 21, 2026

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Music, Keyboard | B.S.

Music, Vocal | B.S.

Music, K-12 Teacher Certification, Choral | B.S.

Music, K-12 Teacher Certification, Instrumental | B.S.

Music, K-12 Teacher Certification, Keyboard | B.S.



Schedule an Audition

Amy Blackwood, Audition Coordinator

864-388-8662 | ablackwood@lander.edu

Additional Info: Dr. Reed Gallo, Dept. Chair | 864-388-8345 | rgallo@lander.edu



Greenwood, S.C. | www.lander.edu/music

President's Message

Dear SCMEA Colleagues,

Welcome to a new year! I know you have been busy teaching your students and preparing for concerts and performances. It's truly amazing what we accomplish as music educators through our programs. I am so proud of each of you and your continued commitment to our profession.

I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2026 South Carolina Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference, to be held February 5–7, 2026, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. As we gather under the banner of music education and excellence, I'm filled with excitement for the transformative experiences and valuable insights that await us throughout the weekend.

Our Professional Development Conference is more than just a gathering of colleagues—it's a celebration of our shared commitment to nurturing the next generation of musicians and music enthusiasts. It's a place where ideas converge, collaborations flourish, and creativity knows no bounds. By attending the diverse range of sessions, workshops, and panel discussions, you'll have the opportunity to explore the latest trends, best practices, and emerging technologies shaping the future of music education. And to top it all off, you'll enjoy an inspiring lineup of performances spanning multiple genres and age groups.

We are proud to announce our keynote speaker, Mickey Smith Jr. There are two words that best describe Mickey: Educator and Encourager. The Louisiana native is an eight-time Teacher of the Year and recipient of the prestigious GRAMMY Music Educator Award. Mickey inspires audiences across North America with his motivational blend of music and message. In addition to being an international keynote speaker and presenter, he is also a full-time teacher at The King's Academy in West Palm Beach, Florida. Mickey seamlessly combines the roles of educator and entertainer to create a one-of-a-kind experience that entertains, educates, and elevates all who listen. His powerful message will resonate deeply with educators—especially those of us in the classroom every day.

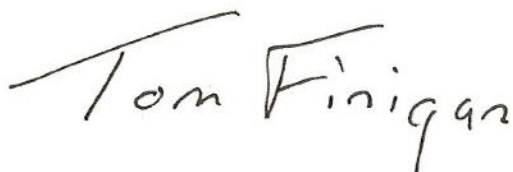
I strongly encourage each of you to actively participate in this year's conference—engage with your peers, embrace the wealth of knowledge around you, and take time to recharge before the busy spring season of concerts, assessments, and festivals. Through these shared experiences, we can continue to elevate the standard of music education and inspire our students to reach new levels of excellence.

Be sure to explore the exhibits and vendor displays as well. Our partners play a vital role in supporting our educational mission, and their innovative products and resources can greatly enhance your teaching and learning.

Bravo to all of you for the outstanding music programs you lead across South Carolina. As we reach the midpoint of the year, please remember the importance of rejuvenation. Connecting with colleagues at our conference is the perfect way to recharge and refocus for the months ahead. Music education in our state thrives because of your dedication, skill, and passion. I know many of you balance multiple roles—as parents, volunteers, mentors, and community leaders. The work you do makes a difference in the lives of countless students and families. Please allow SCMEA to support you in making your classroom experience as rewarding and stress-free as possible, so you can continue enjoying all the passions in your life.

It is an honor to serve as your President, and I look forward to seeing you in Columbia this February. Wishing you a New Year filled with health, happiness, laughter, and—most importantly—MUSIC!

Musically,



Tommy Finigan
SCMEA President

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

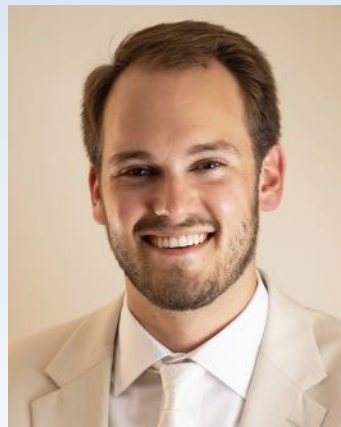
As music educators, we understand deeply the power our art holds—its ability to inspire curiosity, strengthen communities, and transform lives in ways few other disciplines can. Every rehearsal, every lesson, and every performance we lead contributes to this powerful and enduring impact. It is this shared mission that brings us together each year, and it is with great anticipation that we look forward to this year's South Carolina Music Education Association Conference.

Held February 5–7, the conference offers us a much-needed space to reconnect with colleagues from across the state, celebrate our collective achievements, and gather new insights to elevate our work. Throughout the weekend, you will find opportunities to engage with distinguished clinicians, participate in hands-on workshops, and attend sessions that address both longstanding challenges and emerging trends in music education. Whether you are seeking strategies to strengthen your curriculum, expand your conducting skills, integrate technology meaningfully, or simply find renewed inspiration, the conference is designed to meet you where you are and support your continued growth.

We are especially honored to welcome Mickey Smith as our featured guest this year. His message challenges us to consider the evolving role of music education in a rapidly changing world and reminds us of our responsibility to nurture not only musicians, but thoughtful, resilient, and compassionate young people. In addition, the exhibit hall will once again showcase a wide range of publishers, instrument representatives, and educational resources. These exhibitors bring valuable tools and materials that can enrich our programs and spark new ideas to take back to our students.

I encourage you to make the most of this time—to network with fellow educators, exchange ideas that push our profession forward, and recharge your creative spirit. Together, let us reaffirm our commitment to providing every student in South Carolina with access to meaningful, high-quality music education.

See you at the conference!



Jake Henjes, *SC Musician Editor*

BAND

Dear South Carolina Band Directors,

As we conclude another incredible marching season, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication, leadership, and commitment to excellence. The countless hours spent designing, teaching, rehearsing, and supporting our marching programs are what make the South Carolina band community so strong. Whether your ensemble performed for evaluation, competition, or exhibition, your efforts have inspired students, entertained audiences, and elevated the art of marching band across our state.



I would also like to congratulate the 2025 South Carolina State Marching Band Champions in each classification. These outstanding programs represent the very best of what our state has to offer in musicianship, performance, and teamwork:

- 1A – Ninety Six High School
- 2A – Pendleton High School
- 3A – D.W. Daniel High School
- 4A – Catawba Ridge High School
- 5A – Nation Ford High School
- 6A – Wando High School
- Traditional High Step 1A/2A – Keenan High School
- Traditional High Step 3A/4A - Wilson High School

To each champion, congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. Your performances demonstrated remarkable artistry, precision, and heart—qualities that reflect the highest standards of our profession.

As we look ahead, I'm excited for the many opportunities that await our students in the coming months. Region Band and All-State Band auditions will soon be underway, offering young musicians the chance to challenge themselves and grow through these prestigious events. We are also preparing for the All-State Jazz Band and Jazz Performance Assessment (JPA), which continue to showcase the tremendous talent and creativity found in jazz programs across South Carolina.

This year, we are especially proud to announce the debut of the Middle School All-State Jazz Band, an exciting new ensemble that will provide our younger students with an opportunity to explore and perform this uniquely American art form. We look forward to seeing how this addition will strengthen our state's jazz education community and inspire a new generation of performers.

On behalf of the South Carolina Band Directors Association, thank you again for everything you do for your students and for music education in our state. I look forward to celebrating continued success with you as we move into the next season of our musical journey.

With gratitude and pride,

Adam Sheuch, *President*

PIANO

Greetings, SC musicians! I hope your fall has treated you well and you are looking forward to the Conference.

It is my joy to see the growth the Piano Division is experiencing. We welcomed three new schools to the festival this fall. I can't wait to hear who will perform in the Honors Recital. You have taken the expansion of Virtual Honors Recital to heart. I have seen some schools entering completely virtually and some schools split some in-person and some virtual.

This year, our Fall Piano Festival will be held on December 11th for the Upper State at Shandon Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, and on December 12th for the Lowcountry at James Island Charter High School in Charleston, SC. I am so excited to announce that David Kiser will be our Masterclass Clinician at the University of South Carolina Recital Hall.

Our mission in 2025-2026 is to continue connecting with as many Piano teachers and programs across the state as possible so they have all the support they need to thrive. We are constantly seeking out feedback and listening to what you have to say, so please do not hesitate to reach out.

If you're interested in learning more about the SCMEA Piano Division or sharing ideas with us, feel free to contact me at kristine.peters@scmea.net.

Regards,



Kristine Peters, *President*

CHORAL

Dear Choral Division Members,

We hope that you have had a great start to your 2025-2026 school year and are gearing up for a busy spring. We had a wonderful Choral Arts Seminar in September, have had successful Middle and High School Region Choir experiences, tremendous Middle School Clinics and successful High School All State Auditions. I had the pleasure to attend the Lowcountry Middle School Region Choir event in October so I know first hand the great experiences that our students are having across the state. I want to say a personal THANK YOU to our Committee Chairpersons, Event Coordinators, Choral Division Leadership, and all of the teachers who work to make these events possible. Your work to share the choral arts with our students is inspiring!

As we move into 2026, we turn our attention to our next conference on February 5-7th, 2026. Our headliner Dr. Andrew Crane from Brigham Young University will present sessions on building community in our choir programs and conducting choirs with a vocal pedagogy concentration. This will include the expertise of Dr Jami Rhodes from East Carolina University as well. Additionally, we will be inspired by seven great performance ensembles from across our state! Be sure to check out registration information for the conference and don't miss the early registration discount! There are also room blocks available through scmea.net for reduced price hotels, but you have to act fast as those book quickly!

Winter and spring also bring All State Choir weekend, Choral Performance Assessments across the state, and Spring Middle School Clinics. There are SO many great opportunities to get involved and participate with the Choral Division! Make sure you are keeping up with registration deadlines and submissions. Please encourage new teachers in your area to get involved and help build the future of music education in our state as well.

As always, please check out choraldivision.org for the most up to date information about events across the state. If I can be of service to you in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out. We look forward to seeing you all at an event soon!



William Bennett, *President*

ELEMENTARY

Dear Elementary Division Members,

Thank you to everyone who attended our Fall Workshop at AC Moore Elementary School! We had a wonderful turnout and an informative session presented by Suzanne Logue from JW Pepper.

On behalf of the Honor Choir Chairs, Denise Thomas and Seth Phillips, I am excited to share that we received a total of 482 completed entries for the 2026 Elementary Honor Choir. Thank you to everyone who submitted entries and to our judges, who each scored over 80 auditions! Congratulations to the 236 students who were selected to participate in this year's choir.

Looking ahead, the Professional Development Conference is just around the corner in February 2026, and we have an incredible lineup of sessions planned. We are thrilled to welcome Sandy Lantz and Gretchen Wahlberg, who will present three sessions, as well as Graham Hepburn from Quaver, who will lead a session. Be sure not to miss the General Session on Friday, featuring an Orff-inspired performance of David Covell's book *Run Wild*, by students from The Rudolph Gordon School, directed by our very own Elementary Division President Elect, Kristin Bence.

Please make sure to register and attend the conference, which will be held February 5–7, 2026, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, SC. Wishing you a joyful holiday season, and I look forward to seeing everyone in February!

Musically yours,



Seth Phillips, *President*

ORCHESTRA

Dear Orchestra Division Members,

As we reach the midpoint of our academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a successful and inspiring first semester it has been. Each of you continue to lead with excellence in your classrooms, shaping the next generation of string musicians across South Carolina. Your dedication, creativity, and resilience are truly making a difference—not only in the lives of your students but in the future of music education in our state.

I am especially proud of the remarkable work that has gone into planning this year's SCMEA In-Service Conference. Our Conference Chair, Joanne Mosquera, has done an outstanding job curating sessions and performances that both inspire and equip us as educators. Her leadership, along with the efforts of our many volunteers, ensures this conference continues to be a highlight of our professional year. Please join me in congratulating and celebrating our performing ensembles who will represent our division with distinction:

Opening Session:
Sumter High School Honors Orchestra - Erik Hines

Exhibit Hall Grand Opening:
Fairfield Central High School Orchestra - Naiesha Wise

Laing Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra - Margaret Selby

Blythewood High School Orchestra - Julie Russell

McCracken Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra - Allison Key

*Spartanburg Philharmonic Youth Orchestras -
Susan Wines & Dr. Joshua Miller*

We look forward to hearing these fabulous young musicians share their artistry and passion. Their performances are a reflection of the tireless dedication of their teachers and the strong tradition of excellence within our orchestra programs.

I also want to express my deepest appreciation to our Executive Board for their continued commitment and hard work. Together, we are moving our division forward in a positive and purposeful way—building opportunities for growth, collaboration, and success for all orchestra educators and students across South Carolina.

As we continue into the year, may we be reminded that music has the power to transform, to connect, and to heal. Every rehearsal, every note, every moment we share with our students contributes to something far greater than ourselves. Let us continue to nurture that spark of musical discovery and keep our passion for teaching alive and vibrant.

With sincere gratitude,

Tammie Burrows, *President*





Keynote *Speaker*

Mickey Smith

Educator. Encourager.

Those are just two of the words that describe the Southwest Louisiana native Mickey Smith Jr. In the course of his career, Mickey has grown multiple band programs in Louisiana, Texas, and Florida by over 500%, encompassing over half of their school populations. Upon moving to Florida his program had 100% of the school population! Currently, Mickey teaches band to 4th through 8th grade students at The King's Academy. There the program has seen increased interest and growth with the new Beginning Band, Intermediate Band, Concert Band, and Jr. Jazz Band. His beginning band has a retention rate of 100%! Throughout his nearly two-decade career, he has developed and grown not only band programs, but most importantly, he has helped young people realize what they are capable of through music. This 8-time Teacher of the Year and GRAMMY Music Educator Award Recipient believes in promoting education and the educators across the globe who make it possible. Mickey Smith Jr. has shared his unique combination of message and music with thousands of students as a teacher, all-state conductor, and clinician. In addition, he has taken his systems of joy for teaching to hundreds of educational conferences, school district meetings, and leadership development stages across North America sharing his "Keep On Going" approach. Mickey has extensive experience teaching in Title I, urban, suburban, rural, public, as well as private schools. Throughout the years, Mickey's classrooms have been filled with students from a variety of backgrounds. There are some who have experienced trauma and adverse circumstances, but they have all been provided with the opportunity to find greater meaning and purpose through music. Mickey's classroom experience encourages students to do more than make music, but also to "discover their personal sound." In addition to teaching, he empowers educators to build genuine relationships with students in order to discover the unique sound of every child in their class. Throughout Mickey's career, he has experienced firsthand that every child is just one sound away from achieving success. Mickey was that very student that benefited because someone believed in who he could be. He believes that modern day teaching is a relationship-based approach, and that more than ever teaching cannot simply be about the subject matter, but also about showing students that they matter. In Mickey Smith Jr.'s classroom, his mission is to engage, educate, and empower every learner to excellence through music, so that every child feels loved, valued, and wanted. Mickey enjoys being a part of the Palm Beach community. West Palm Beach is now home to Mickey, Eugenia, and their two children, William and Mikayla. You can learn more about Mickey Smith Jr. by visiting his website, mickeysmithjr.com.

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SCMEA

2026 CONFERENCE

11:00am - 12:00pm Location: Spires Boardroom

SCMEA Board Meeting

12:00pm - 2:00pm Location: Lobby

Registration Opens

2:30pm - 3:15pm Location: Ballrooms B & C

Opening Session

Susan Smith & Sumter High School Orchestra
Erik Hines - Conductor

3:30pm - 4:00pm Location: Downstairs Pre Function

Exhibit Hall Grand Opening Reception

4:00pm - 6:00pm Exhibit Hall

Exhibit Hall Opens

-----3:30pm-----

O

3:30pm-4:00pm Location: Exhibit Hall Entrance

Fairfield Central High School Orchestra

Naiesha Wise - Director

4:45pm-5:45pm Location: Carolina A & B

Expanding Participation in School Music

Through Modern Band

Bryan Powell

C

4:45pm-5:45pm Location: Richland A

Presidents' Reading Session

William Bennett, Maurice Burgess, & Millie Shiflett

4:45pm-5:45pm Location: Richland B & C

The Heart of the Classroom:

Building Culture that Connects and Inspires

Marlin Ketter

E

4:45pm-6:00pm Location: Lexington

Elementary Division Business Meeting

Ginny Capps, Seth Phillips, & Kristin Bence

4:45pm-5:15pm Location: Congaree

3rd Annual Reading Session: Brand New Orchestra

Repertoire for the Developing Orchestra

Susan Wines

Tentative Schedule as of November 2025

Thursday, February 5, 2026

B

5:30pm-6:30pm

Location: Alumni Center

Charleston Southern University

Marshall Forrester & Nicholas Holland - Directors

O

5:45pm - 6:45pm

Location: Congaree

Cultivating the Bow Arm to Improve Tone and Musicianship

David Pope

B

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Location: Richland B/C

Team Teaching and Co-Directing

Alex Helms & Megan Cooper

C

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Location: Richland A

A Place to Belong: Building Community in our Choirs

Dr. Andrew Crane

B

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Carolina A

SCDBA Concert Committee Meeting

B

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Carolina B

SCBDA Solo & Ensemble Committee Meeting

C

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Richland A

Middle School Choral Clinics Committee Meeting

B

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Richland B & C

SCBDA All-State Committee

C

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Lexington A

Choral Division Solo & Ensemble Committee Meeting

C

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Lexington B

Middle/High School CPA Committee

C

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Congaree

All State Chorus Committee Meeting

B

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Lincoln

SCBDA Jazz Committee

B

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Alumni Center

SCBDA Marching Band Committee

Friday

February 6, 2026

Tentative Schedule as of November 2025

-----8:00am-----

A

8:00am - 9:00am Location: Carolina A
Authentic Engagement in Multi-Cultural Music Education
William Jung

H

8:00am - 9:00am Location: Carolina B
FMES: Meet Your Fellow Music Educators
David Cudd

B

8:00am - 9:00am Location: Richland A
What does that knob do? A Music Educator's Guide to the Audio Gear in your Room.
Chris Hathcock

C

8:00am - 9:00am Location: Richland B & C
Vocal Technique in the Choral Rehearsal Part 1
Dr. Andrew Crane & Dr. Jami Rhodes-Galloway

E

8:00am - 9:00am Location: Lexington
Be a Unicorn: Crafting a Magical Elementary Music Experience for Teacher and Students
Allison Kummerfeldt

O

8:00am - 9:00am Location: Congaree
Sight Reading Session featuring C. Alan Publications
Bradd Parton

H

8:00am - 9:00am Location: Lincoln
Dear Future: Leading Boldly through Music Education
Timothy McMurray

-----8:30am-----

B

8:30am - 9:30am Location: Alumni Center 1C
SCBDA Awards Committee

-----9:00am-----

Exhibit Hall Opens

B

9:00am - 10:00am Location: Alumni Center
Goose Creek High School Percussion Ensemble
Josh Bohl - Director

-----9:15am-----

H

9:15am - 10:15am Location: Carolina B
FMES: Preparing for Careers in Music Education
David Cudd

P

9:15am - 10:15am Location: Carolina A
More than a Music Degree: Creating Habit, Opportunities, and Connections to Prepare for your Future
Marc Decker

B

9:15am - 10:15am Location: Richland B & C
Setting the TONE for the Rehearsal: Developing Individual and Ensemble Fundamentals in your Band
Jeff King

E

9:15am - 10:15am Location: Lexington
Mixing it UP with Children's Lit
Sandy Lantz, Gretchen Wahlberg

9:15am - 10:15am

Location: Congaree

O

Speeding Up the Learning Process by Creating Confident Sight Readers
David Pope

9:15am - 10:15am

Location: USC Recital hall

C

Choral Concerts
- Walhalla Middle School Ladies Chorale
- River Bluff High School Bel Canto

-----10:30am-----

10:30am - 12:00pm

Location: Ballroom A, B, & C

General Session

A

- SCMEA Awards Presentation
- The Rudolph Gordon Performing Ensemble
Keynote Speaker - Mickey Smith

-----12:00pm-----

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Location: Alumni Center

B

Palmetto Concert Band
Cormac Cannon

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Location: Richland A

Co

Collegiate Luncheon and Business Meeting
Jonathan Hall

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Location: Carolina A

H

Higher Education Business Meeting

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Location: Lincoln

SCMEA Awards Luncheon
Tom Finigan

B

12:45pm - 1:15pm Location: Exhibit Hall Pre-Function
Dorman Trombone Ensemble
William Shaw - Director

-----1:00pm-----

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Location: Ballroom C

P

Jumpstarting Jazz in the Piano Lab: Practical Tools for Teaching Improvisation, Lead Sheets, and Ensemble
William Harvey

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Location: Carolina A

H

Stop Doing Everything: A Leadership Program that Works for You
Christopher Schletter

G

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Location: Congaree

12 Ways to Improve your Guitar Class
Michael Christiansen

Co

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Location: Richland A

Score Study Speedrun: Score Preparation for the Busy Director
Payden Nichols

B

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Location: Richland B & C

Jazz Artist Session: Bethany Robinson
Pecknel Music

E

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Location: Lexington

Ukulele-Easy as 1, 2, 3
Sandy Lantz & Gretchen Wahlberg

- E C** 1:00pm - 2:00pm Location: Congaree
The Singing Lane: Voices in Motion
 Suzanne Logue, JW Pepper

- C** 1:00pm - 2:00pm Location: USC Recital Hall
Winthrop Chorale
 Jeremy Mims

- B** 1:15pm - 1:45pm Location: Alumni Center
Fort-e Brass Quintet
 Cameron Watkins

- O** 1:30pm - 2:00pm Location: Ballroom A
Laing Middle School Orchestra
 Margaret Selby & Dominik Fields - Directors

- B** 1:45pm - 2:15pm Location: Exhibit Hall Pre-Function
Converse College Clarinet Choir
 Karen Hill - Director

- B** 2:00pm - 3:00pm Location: Alumni Center
Hillcrest Middle School Wildcat Winds
 Christian Scott & Jason Ray - Directors

- G** 2:15pm - 3:15pm Location: Ballroom C
Classical Guitar Duo Showcase
 Campbell McEntire & James West

- P** 2:15pm - 3:15pm Location: Carolina A
Teaching Class Piano-Panel Discussion
 Kristine Peters, Heather Simon, Maurice Middleton & Candace McLeod

- H** 2:15pm - 3:15pm Location: Carolina B
FMES: Considering a Career in Music Education: Is this the Job for Me?
 David Cudd

- B** 3:15pm Location: Richland A
Arranging for Percussion
 Matthew Kilby, John Willmarth & Omar Carmenates

- C** 2:15pm - 3:15pm Location: Richland B & C
Game On! Purpose-Driven Games for Building Musical Skills
 Katelyn Ohler

- E** 2:15pm - 3:15pm Location: Lexington
Singing Games with a Twist
 Nigel Crosten & QUAVER

- O** 2:15pm - 3:15pm Location: Congaree
How to Maximize your Sight Reading Preparation at CPA
 Christine Arroyo, Susan Wines, & Erik Hines

- C** 2:15pm - 3:15pm Location: Lincoln
Programming, Planning, and Performing Masterworks for High School Chorus
 Dr. Thomas Ardrey

- 2:45pm - 3:45pm Location: Exhibit Hall
Cookie Break

- A** 3:00pm - 3:30pm Location: Exhibit Hall Pre Function
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Step Sing
 Joshua Wald

- B** 3:00pm - 3:30pm Location: Alumni Center
Silver Bluff High School Saxophone Quartet
 Anthony Granquist

- A** 3:30pm - 4:30pm Location: Carolina A
Making Music with Blind and Visually Impaired Learners
 Carrie Page

- H** 3:30pm - 4:30pm Location: Carolina B
FMES: Real Life as a College Music Major
 David Cudd

- B** 3:30pm - 4:30pm Location: Richland A
LEVEL UP Music Method: A Pathway to Band Mastery
 Mickey Smith

- P** 3:30pm - 4:30pm Location: Richland B & C
Essential and Enjoyable Teaching Tips for Beginner Group Piano Students
 Dr. Eunjung Choi

- E** 3:30pm - 4:30pm Location: Lexington
Music and Literacy: Strengthening Connections
 Erin Ellington & Kelley Wilson

- O** 3:30pm - 4:30pm Location: Congaree
50 Things I do in my Orchestra that might Work for You
 Aaron Yackley

- B** 3:30pm - 4:30pm Location: Lincoln
You've got Toes, I've got Heels: What is the Difference between Corps and Traditional (Show) Styles in Marching Band
 Michael McClain & Donald Lee

- C** 3:45pm - 4:45pm Location: UofSC Recital Hall
East Edisto Middle School In bocca al lupo
Souh Florence Chamber Singers

- B** 3:45pm - 4:45pm Location: Alumni Center
Lucy Beckham High School Symphonic Band
 Leslie Phillips - Director

- O** 4:45pm - 5:45pm Location: Congaree
Flipping your Daily Rehearsals to Increase Student Engagement and Ownership
 David Pope

- B** 4:45pm - 5:45pm Location: Lincoln
ASBDA Meeting - Suzanne Reed

Receptions: 5:45pm - 7:00pm

Converse University Richland A	Furman University Richland B & C	Winthrop University Lexington B	USC Alumni Reception Alumni Center	Newberry College Carolina A & B	Charleston Southern University Lexington A	JAZZ SOCIAL 8pm - 10:00pm Ballroom A
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Saturday

February 8, 2026

Tentative Schedule as of November 2025

-----8:00am-----

H 8:00am - 9:00am Location: Carolina
Virtual Music Education Round Table: ABC Institute
Jennifer Coffey & Jody Webb

C 8:00am - 9:00am Location: Richland A
**The Good, The Bad, and the (In)Appropriate:
Evaluating Repertoire for your Choral Ensemble**
Alicia Walker

B 8:00am - 9:00am Location: Richland B & C
**More than a Rehearsal:
A Music Teachers Guide to Acing Observations**
Kamil Cooper, Troy Cato

E 8:00am - 9:00am Location: Lexington
Rotations that Rock: Music Centers for Every Learner
Melinda Mauter, Emily May-Berry

A 8:00am - 9:00am Location: Lincoln
Administrator Round Table
Jason Walsh

O 8:20am - 9:00am Location: Ballroom A
Blythewood High School Orchestra
Julie Russell - Director

B 8:30am - 9:30am Location: Alumni Center
D.W. Daniel High School Jazz Orchestra
Chaz Paxton - Director

-----9:00am-----

P 9:00am - 11:30am Location: USC Recital Hall
Piano Master Class and Honor's Recital

G 9:15am - 9:45am Location: Ballroom A
Guitar Reading Session
Chris Essig

Co 9:15am - 10:15am Location: Carolina
**The Seven Year Itch: Surviving the Beginning Years as an
"Educator in Title 1 Schools."**
Amanda Irby & Matthew Rubenstein

C 9:15am - 10:15am Location: Richland A
Vocal Technique in the Choral Rehearsal Part 2
Dr. Andrew Crane & Dr. Jami Rhodes-Galloway

9:15am - 10:15am Location: Richland B & C
B **FIX IT NOW!: Developing Ensemble Skills for Effective
Rehearsals and Successful Performance**
Robert Sheldon

9:15am - 10:15am Location: Lexington
E **Kids with Autism CAN!**
Sandy Lantz & Gretchen Wahlberg

9:15am - 10:15am Location: Congaree
O **Building a Better Program:
Completing an Ensemble Audit**
Angela Rex & Susan Wines

9:15am - 10:15am Location: Lincoln
H **Research Presentations**
Mandi Schlegel

9:45am - 10:15am Location: Lincoln
B **Carolina Forest High School Clarinet Choir**
Mark Roddy

-----10:00am-----

10:00am - 10:30am Location: Exhibit Hall Pre-function
B **Anderson University Brass Quintet**
Chris Imhoff

10:30am - 11:30am Location: Carolina
G **Classroom Guitar- A Complete 2 Year Curriculum for
Middle and High School**
Alan Hirsh

10:30am - 11:30am Location: Richland A
B **What Could Possibly Go Wrong?**
Robert Sheldon

10:30am - 11:30am Location: Richland B & C
C **SCNATS**

10:30am - 11:30am Location: Lexington
E **What's New at QuaverMusic?**
Graham Hepburn - QUAVER

10:30am - 11:30am Location: Congaree
C **In the Middle Lane**
JWPepper - Suzanne Logue

10:30am - 11:30am Location: Lincoln
C **Cultivating Tomorrow's Leaders in the Chorus Classroom**
Carol Earnhardt

10:30am - 11:30am Location: Alumni Center
B **Cario Middle School Symphonic Band**
Christian Gordon & Kalyn Todd - Directors

-----11:00am-----

O 11:30am - 12:00pm Location: Ballroom A
McCracken Middle School Orchestra
 Allison Key & Jennifer Diehn

B 11:45am - 12:15pm Location: Alumni Center
Clover High School Trombone Collective
 Aaron Milner

-----12:00pm-----

B 12:00pm - 1:00pm Location: Carolina
The Opening Act: A Director's Clinic for Launching Successful Beginner Band Students through a 'Fast Start Saturday'
 Pecknel - Amanda Irby

B 12:00pm - 1:00pm Location: Richland A
Finding Success at a Title 1 School: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities
 Lee Newman

C 12:00pm - 1:00pm Location: Richland B & C
You're Not a Soprano
 Katie Hardwick

E 12:00pm - 1:00pm Location: Lexington
In Tune with Emotions: Creating a Self-Regulating Music Space
 Katelin Hawkins

O 12:15pm - 1:00pm Location: Ballroom A
Spartanburg Philharmonic Youth Orchestra
 Dr. Joshua Miller & Susan Wines

-----12:30pm-----

B 12:30pm - 1:30pm Location: Alumni Center
Northwestern High School Symphonic Band
 Scot McGuire & Daniel Gullledge

-----1:00pm-----

B 1:00pm - 1:30pm Location: Exhibit Hall Pre-function
SCGS Woodwinds
 Lauren Vaughn

C 1:15pm - 2:15pm Location: USC Recital Hall
- Beech Springs Middle School
- Byrnes High School

B 1:15pm - 2:15pm Location: Richland B & C
Teaching Jazz Improvisations using the SCBDA All State Jazz Etudes
 Bert Ligon

E 1:15pm - 2:15pm Location: Lexington
Rockin' in the Classroom: Using Elementary General Instruments with Modern Band Approaches
 Julia Turner, Ashley Cobb

O 1:15pm - 2:15pm Location: Congaree
Ordinary Items for the EXTRAordinary Orchestra Classroom
 Joanne Mosquera

H 1:15pm - 2:15pm Location: Carolina
It's About Time!
 Matthew Mailman

B 1:45pm - 2:15pm Location: Alumni Center
Socastee High School Sax Quintet
 William Jung

C 2:30pm - 3:30pm Location: Richland B & C
Classroom Management in the Music Classroom
 David Nagelkirk

O 2:30pm - 3:15pm Location: Congaree A & B
Developing Students' Listening Skills to Improve Intonation and Ensemble Playing
 David Pope

B 2:30pm - 3:30pm Location: Alumni Center
Intercollegiate Honor Band

P 2:30pm - 3:30pm Location: Lincoln
Business Meetings
- Piano Division Meeting
- Guitar Division Meeting

-----3:30pm-----

E 3:30pm - 4:30pm Location: Ballrooms A, B & C
Elementary Honor Choir

B 3:30pm - 5:30pm Location: Alumni Center
SCBDA Business Meeting

C 3:30pm - 5:30pm Location: Richland B & C
Choral Division Business Meeting

O 3:30pm - 5:30pm Location: Congaree A & B
Orchestra Division Business Meeting

-----6:00pm-----

B 6:00pm - 8:15pm Location: Alumni Center
Master Recital Competition & Honors Jazz Combo

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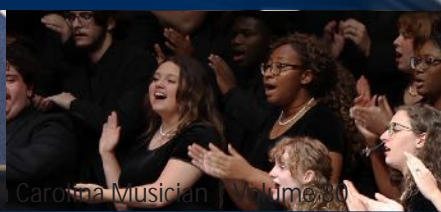
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South Carolina Musician | Volume 80



Sumter High Honors Orchestra
Sumter, SC
Thursday, February 5, 2026
2:30pm, Ballrooms B & C



The Sumter High Honors Orchestra offers an unparalleled experience where students cultivate their musical talents and develop vital skills in leadership, discipline, and teamwork. This is a launchpad for young musicians to explore diverse musical styles, from timeless classical pieces to dynamic modern works, and to reach new heights of artistic achievement. Every day, our students immerse themselves in rigorous rehearsals, preparing for an array of prestigious performances and events. With dedicated sectional sessions, each part of the ensemble reaches its full potential, ensuring every concert is a showcase of talent and unity. These students enjoy once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, such as performing at acclaimed festivals and traveling to share their music with new audiences, all of which foster incredible memories and a lifelong passion for music. This is the ensembles 2nd performance at the South Carolina Music Educators Association, the first occurring in 2018.



Fairfield Central High School Orchestra
Winnsboro, SC
Thursday, February 5, 2026
3:30pm, Exhibit Hall Pre-function



The Fairfield Central High School Orchestra, located in Winnsboro, South Carolina, is an ensemble of talented students in grades 9–12 specializing in string performance. The orchestra offers beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes, providing opportunities for all students to grow and develop their skills on string instruments. Under the direction of Ms. Naiesha Wise, the orchestra has grown steadily in both size and musicianship, with a strong emphasis on technical proficiency, musical expression, and collaboration.

The FCHS Concert Orchestra has consistently earned the highest honors, including Superior with Distinction ratings for the past three years at the Midlands Region 3 Concert Performance Assessment. The ensemble has also achieved first-place Superior wins at the national level competitions. Students are frequently recognized as top performers at the South Carolina Region Orchestra and Solo & Ensemble Festival, where they continue to represent Fairfield County with excellence.

In recent years, the orchestra has expanded its visibility, performing for school, district, and state ceremonies, community celebrations, and special events that highlight the role of the arts in Fairfield County. Students have also participated in honor ensembles, workshops, and statewide leadership opportunities, showcasing the orchestra’s commitment to access, diversity, and excellence in music education.

Together, the Fairfield Central High School Orchestra and its director are making a meaningful impact, enriching both the school and the broader Fairfield County community through music.



Charleston Southern University
Charleston, SC
Friday, February 6, 2026
5:30pm, Alumni Center



The Wind Ensemble at Charleston Southern is the select wind and percussion ensemble of the University. The ensemble performs the finest literature available for winds and percussion both as a large group and in smaller combinations, from the Renaissance through the 21st century. The CSU Wind Ensemble has performed for the S.C. Music Educators Association Conference, the Southern Division of the College Band Directors National Association, and the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, at New York's Carnegie Hall and Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, as well as embarking upon multiple international performance tours of Europe and the United Kingdom. Membership in the 2025-26 Wind Ensemble includes 55 students from all regions of South Carolina, as well as eight states from Minnesota to Florida, and New Hampshire to Colorado, and also Brazil.



Goose Creek High School Percussion Ensemble
Goose Creek, SC
Friday, February 6, 2026
9:00am, USC Recital Hall



The Goose Creek High School Percussion Ensemble has been under the direction of Mr. Josh Bohl since the Fall of 2021. Since 2021, the Goose Creek High School Percussion Ensemble has tripled in size, from 8 percussionists to now 25. The Percussion Ensemble gives two percussion concerts each year, as well as a solo recital program in late Spring. In addition to school performances, the ensemble has performed annually at the SC Day of Percussion since 2022, as well as the SC Solo & Ensemble Festival since 2021. Many students of this ensemble have also been selected annually for the SC Region Honor Bands and the BCSD All County Honor Bands.



Walhalla Middle School
Walhalla, SC
Friday, February 6, 2026
9:15am, USC Recital Hall



Since 2019, the choral program at Walhalla Middle School has flourished under the direction of Nolan Black and the tutelage of Mr. John Fallon, growing from just a few singers to more than 150 students across several ensembles. The program is built on the belief that middle school students are capable of performing high-quality, challenging literature, and that teaching to the top lifts every student to a higher level of musicianship.

The featured ensemble, Walhalla Middle Ladies Chorale, represents the program's most advanced treble singers. These students are selected for their vocal ability, dedication, and leadership within the choir. Under their guidance, the ensemble has consistently earned Superior with Distinction ratings at Choral Performance Assessment and numerous Superior ratings at SC Solo & Ensemble. Members of the Ladies Chorale have been well-represented in Upstate and Northern SC Region choirs, SC ACDA Honor Choir, Southern ACDA Honor Choir, and National ACDA Honor Choir. In addition to performances at SCMEA, the ensemble has recently been invited to perform in the nation's capital next year, further highlighting its growing reputation for excellence.

Known for their expressive performances and commitment to musical artistry, the Walhalla Middle Ladies Chorale strives to bring precision, beauty, and heart to every piece they perform.



River Bluff High School Bel Canto
Lexington, SC
Friday, February 6, 2026
9:45am, USC Recital Hall



Bel Canto is one of six ensembles in the River Bluff High School choral program. The choir is composed of advanced treble voices in the ninth through twelfth grades and consistently earns Superior with Distinction ratings at the South Carolina Choral Performance Assessment and at choral festivals throughout the southeast. Bel Canto members routinely earn selection to district and state honor choirs, and have performed in esteemed halls such as the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Carnegie Hall. River Bluff High School's Bel Canto also had the honor of performing as a featured choir in the 2024 Southern Division American Choral Directors Association conference in Louisville, Kentucky. River Bluff High School Choral Program is highly honored to represent its school and Lexington School District One in this conference performance.



The Rudolph Gordon Elementary Performing Ensemble
Simpsonville, SC
Friday, February 6, 2026
10:30am, Ballrooms B & C



This is the very first auditioned Orff Performing Ensemble at Rudolph Gordon School. We had 72 fourth and fifth graders sign up to audition for this group. From those, 46 students were selected based on their singing, body percussion, sense of beat, ostinato skills, and stage presence.

Over the past ten years, we have held many grade-level performances and informances that have helped us build our musicianship skills. However, in the past four years, we have shifted from performing pre-written concerts to presenting more Orff-Schulwerk–inspired performances. In these, the students are the primary creators and have significant input in what is performed.

What you see today is largely student-created—whether it be the movement, the form, the rhythms, or the visual art. We will be bringing the children’s literature book called *Run Wild* by David Covell to life through performance. The purpose of this ensemble is to provide a high-level musical experience, to showcase selections from *Music for Children* volumes, *Spielbuch für Xylophon*, and *Rhythmische Übung* by Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman, and most importantly, to demonstrate how a group of young children can come together to perform beautiful music.



Palmetto Concert Band
 Columbia, SC
 Friday, February 6, 2026
 12:00pm, Alumni Center Ballroom

The Palmetto Concert Band was founded in 1999 by James K. Copenhaver and William J. Moody. The ensemble is comprised of professional and semi-professional musicians from throughout South Carolina as well as North Carolina and Georgia. A large majority of the ensemble’s members are alumni of the University of South Carolina School of Music, and more than half of its members are public school band directors. These experienced performers, who receive no compensation for participating, choose to play with the ensemble because of their passion for making music and performing outstanding repertoire composed or transcribed for wind band.

The Palmetto Concert Band performs annually for the University of South Carolina Band Clinic in February, at its Memorial Day Concert honoring members and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, and on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

In addition to performing a season of free concerts in the Columbia area, the ensemble has also been featured on the international stage. Based upon a recording of its premier performance at the Koger Center for the Arts in February 1999, the ensemble was invited to perform the finale concert at the 1999 Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, Illinois. The Palmetto Concert Band is proud to have been given this honor two additional times with performances at the Midwest Clinic in December 2008 and December 2016. Other featured performances include the South Carolina Music Educators Convention in Charleston, SC in February 2005 and Columbia, SC in February 2017, and the North Carolina Music Educators Convention in Winston-Salem, NC in November 2011. In March 2010, the ensemble performed at the American Bandmasters Association’s 76th Annual Convention and gave the finale concert at the 2016 National Band Association Convention, both in Charleston, SC.



Dorman High School Trombone Ensemble
Roebuck, SC
Friday, February 6, 2026
12:45pm, Exhibit Hall Pre-function

The Dorman Trombone Ensemble, directed by William Shaw, has been a featured performing group at Dorman High School for the past four years. Made up of talented trombone students in grades 10 through 12, the ensemble also highlights the school's top tuba player each year. In addition to school performances, the group shares their music with the broader Spartanburg community through annual outreach events. Rehearsals take place once a week outside of school hours and students are expected to come prepared by practicing independently. The ensemble is known for its strong musicianship, commitment, and contributions to Dorman's vibrant music program.



Winthrop University Chorale
Rock Hill, SC
Friday, February 6, 2026
1:00pm, USC Recital Hall



The Chorale, the principal touring choir in the Department of Music, consists of 50 outstanding undergraduate and graduate students, more than half of whom are music majors and minors. One of the oldest student organizations in Winthrop's history, the group has included male singers since 1977, after an 88-year history as a women's chorus. The Chorale has given invitational performances at state and Southern Division conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and the South Carolina Music Educators Association.



Fort-e Brass Quintet
North Charleston, SC
Friday, February 6, 2026
1:15pm, Alumni Center



The Fort-e Brass Quintet is one of the chamber ensembles at Fort Dorchester High School in North Charleston, South Carolina. The Brass Quintet is under the direction of Cameron M. Watkins and Justin Henke. Fort-e Brass Quintet formed in 2025 and this will be the first performance at the South Carolina Music Educators Conference. Fort-e Brass is comprised of Teagan Evans and Kameron Friday (Trumpet), Michael Bonselaar (French Horn), Maddox Schwede (Trombone) and Trevor Pye (Tuba). The Fort-e Brass Quintet would like to thank their parents for their unwavering support as well as recent alumni Chris Perez for being a part of the submission process.

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Laing Middle School Orchestra
Mount Pleasant, SC
Friday, February 6, 2026
1:30pm, Ballroom A

The Laing Middle School Advanced 8th Grade Orchestra is comprised of 8th grade students who auditioned and were accepted into this newly offered orchestra class. All of these students began instruction on their instrument in either the 5th or 6th grade.

The orchestra program of Laing Middle School for Science and Technology is made of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and has grown from 42 students in 2012 to over 200 students in 2017. They offer six orchestra classes that meet daily for 45 minutes. The Laing Middle School Orchestras have built a tradition of excellence, consistently earning Superior ratings at SCMEA Concert Performance Assessment and other festivals for over a decade. They continue to strive for higher levels of achievement and have earned the SCMEA Outstanding Performance award for the past two years.

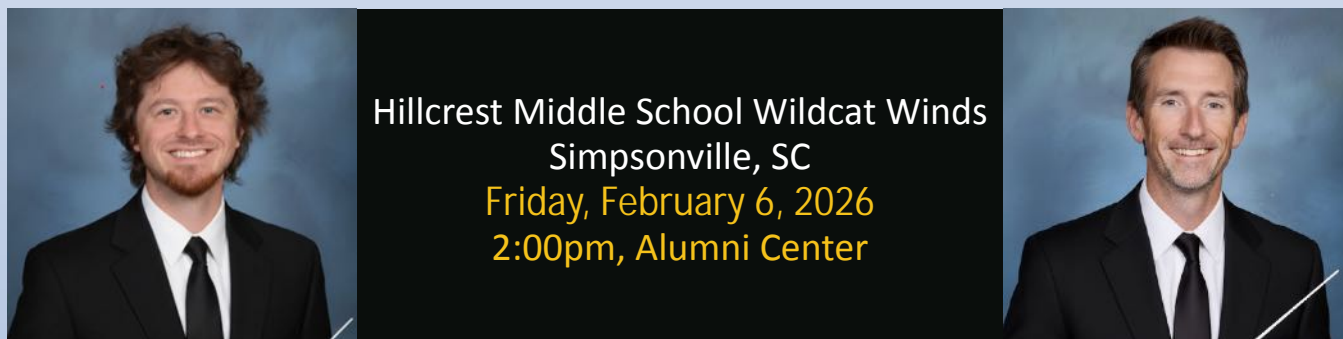


Converse College Clarinet Choir
Spartanburg, SC
Friday, February 6, 2026
1:45pm, Exhibit Hall Pre-function



The Converse Clarinet Choir performs every semester, both on and off campus, and is comprised of Converse music majors, alumni, and select community members. The ensemble repertoire is diverse, ranging from standard and contemporary classical compositions to occasional pieces from the popular realm. The Converse Clarinet Choir has also been fortunate to have new pieces written and arranged specifically for the ensemble, including contributions from our talented members. We are thrilled to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the Converse University Clarinet Choir. Thank you to the South Carolina Band Directors Association for the invitation to share our musical offerings at SCMEA.

The Petrie School of Music at Converse University is a beacon for passionate musicians and a standard-bearer for artistic excellence. As a founding member of the National Association of Schools of Music, the Petrie School of Music's mission is to prepare students for sustainable careers in music through quality academics, innovative interdisciplinary opportunities, and expressive artistry. Converse's approach ensures that each student receives a customized education that promotes successful careers through experiential learning.



Founded in 2018, the Wildcat Winds serve as Hillcrest Middle School’s premier performing ensemble, featuring 7th and 8th grade students who demonstrate outstanding instrumental proficiency. Membership in the ensemble is determined through a competitive audition process held at the start of the school year, and members rehearse twice weekly before school. Since its inception, the Wildcat Winds have earned numerous accolades, including student placements in the SCBDA All-State and Region Bands, Superior with Distinction ratings at the SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment in Grade III literature, Superior ratings at Festival Disney, and Gold and Silver Mickey caption awards at Festival Disney.



James & Campbell Guitar Duo
Friday, February 6, 2026
2:15pm, Ballroom C

The “James & Campbell Guitar Duo” aims to promote and expand classical guitar repertoire, specifically catering towards repertoire for two guitars. The Duo is made up of guitarist/composer James West and guitarist Campbell McEntire, both of whom are pursuing graduate degrees at the University of South Carolina School of Music. James West has composed new repertoire for multiple guitars, including music for guitar duo and quartet. His brand new Duo Sonata will be performed at this showcase. Both Campbell and James are experienced performers across multiple genres and styles, and they love having the opportunity to showcase the vast repertoire that the classical guitar has to offer.



Silver Bluff High School Saxophone Ensemble
 Aiken, SC
 Friday, February 6, 2026
 3:00pm, Alumni Center



The Silver Bluff High School Saxophone Ensemble is an active student-led group of musicians. The Saxophone Ensemble performs exciting music at many school and community events throughout the year. With an eclectic style and captivating energy, the Silver Bluff Saxophone Ensemble creates unique performances blending many genres and eras of music.

Students meet outside of school to select music and rehearse for events which include recitals, concerts, Quinceañeras, Flag Dedications, ceremonies, and National Anthem performances. Members of the ensemble have been selected to Region and All-State Bands and have received Superior Ratings at the SCBDA Solo and Ensemble Performance Assessment. The Silver Bluff Saxophone Ensemble is excited to perform at the SCMEA Professional Development Conference!



East Edisto Middle School Choir: In Bocca Al Lupo
Summerville, SC
Friday, February 6, 2026
3:45pm, USC Recital Hall



In bocca al lupo is the varsity cambiata baritone ensemble as part of The Wolfpack Singers of East Edisto Middle School in Summerville, SC. The ensemble is a consistently superior and superior with distinction at assessments. Members of the ensemble have performed in district honor choir, are members of our district gifted and talented arts program, have been superior soloists at SCMEA Solo & Ensemble, have performed at Walt Disney World, and give back to the community through events such as The Summerville Italian Feast, Dreamfest, and other schoolwide and community events.



South Florence Chamber Singers
Florence, SC
Friday, February 6, 2026
4:15pm, USC Recital Hall



The South Florence High School Chamber Singers is comprised of 40 auditioned 10-12th grade vocal students enrolled in the Florence One Center for the Arts magnet program. The students rehearse daily for 90 minutes as a part of their curricular choir, and maintain a rigorous performance schedule through the academic year. Although only four years old, in the past three years, the South Florence Chamber Singers have been invited to perform the SCACDA conference Ecumenical Service in 2023, the SCACDA Conference as and is now making their first appearance at an SCMEA Conference.



Lucy Beckham High School Symphonic Band
 Mt. Pleasant, SC
 Friday, February 6, 2026
 3:45pm, Alumni Center



Lucy Garrett Beckham High School opened in the fall of 2020 in Mount Pleasant. The concert band was started, and in good hands, but performances and activities were limited by the circumstances of the time. Ms. Phillips was hired in the spring of 2021, and as the limitations were lifted activities were planned and the concert program and jazz program got moving. The Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Band have all received straight superiors for every performance thus far. Each year, the Beckham Band program has placed numerous students in All-State Band, All-State Orchestra, and All State Jazz. Multiple students have been featured in the Master Recital, as well as the Honors Jazz Combo at the SCMEA Conference. In the fall of 2022, the marching band was started. The marching band competed in AAA, making finals and receiving a superior rating. The following year, the band would compete in AAAA, and as of 2024, the band was moved up to AAAAA, making finals each year and regularly receiving superior ratings. Most recently, the Lucy Beckham Marching Band placed 5th in 5A at the State Marching Championships this past October. The Lucy Beckham Band Program has received the SCBDA Outstanding Performance Award for the last 4 years.

The Symphonic band performing today is a mixed level band of 9th-12th graders. The 10th-12th graders meet as a class, and a few select 9th graders are chosen to complete the chosen instrumentation. This group is the premiere performing group for Beckham High School and in its very short existence has shown to already be a top performing ensemble in the state of South Carolina. In addition to performing at the 2026 SCMEA Conference, the Lucy Beckham Concert program has been invited to Washington D.C. to perform as a part of the Presidents Cup National Concert Band Competition in Spring 2027.

The Lucy Beckham Symphonic Band, along with their school and parents are excited to present their concert, titled "Celebration" at the 2026 SCMEA Professional Development Conference.



Blythewood High School Orchestra
 Blythewood, SC
 Saturday, February 7, 2026
 8:00am, Ballroom A



The Blythewood High School Chamber Orchestra is known for diversifying and creating uniquely elaborate concert experiences in tandem with the ensemble’s annual theme: “Professionalism in Music.” This Orchestra boasts over 40 of the top musicians who auditioned to obtain their position in the section. Being a part of this group provides the students with the opportunity to earn honors credits and perform the highest level repertoire. The students in the Chamber Orchestra participate in a multitude of orchestra-related events and activities that embody the orchestra’s motto: “Music Beyond These Walls.” These include Richland Two District Honors Orchestra, SCMEA Region Orchestra, All-State Orchestra, Solo & Ensemble, and they routinely earn superior ratings at SCMEA Concert Performance Assessments. On the individual level, members can contribute to the program by obtaining leadership roles within the orchestra’s leadership team or participating in Blythewood String Society, which is a small chamber ensemble that performs at district, state, and private events. The program even holds the honor of being the first performance at the Richland Two Performing Arts Center.

The Chamber Orchestra collaborates with other programs to enrich the students through different experiences and the development of life skills to inform future ambitions and goals. The Orchestra Mentor Project (OMP) is a collaboration between Chamber Orchestra students and Blythewood Middle School orchestra students in which the high school students teach private lessons to an assigned middle school student. These chamber musicians have also performed a side-by-side concert with the University of South Carolina String Project Intermezzo ensemble, giving the students the chance to connect and play with fellow musicians who share their passion. The most recent collaboration has been with Blythewood High School’s Bengal Biodiesel program, allowing the orchestra to contribute to the fusion of science and arts. All of these collaborations between the BHS Chamber Orchestra and other organizations have expanded the horizon of the students’ learning, demonstrating the wide reach of music.

The Chamber Orchestra has many future collaborations and events to look forward to. They plan to perform at a community park, host more specially-themed concerts, and benefit from a newly formed Artist-in-Residence partnership with pianist Andy Armstrong and other world-renowned musicians.



D.W. Daniel High School Jazz Orchestra
Pickens, SC
Saturday, February 7, 2026
8:30am, Alumni Center



The D.W. Daniel High School “Zero Hour” Jazz Orchestra is one part of the curriculum in the D.W. Daniel High School band program. The jazz orchestra meets each day before school from 7:45 - 8:30am and membership is open to any student in the band program. The ensemble was a featured performer at the 2021 SCMEA Conference and takes part in the Essentially Ellington program. The D.W. Daniel Jazz Orchestra has frequently maintained a presence in the SCBDA All-State Jazz Band, placing at least one student in the All-State Jazz Band for 26 of the last 28 years and has placed the most students in the All-State Jazz Band for the last 3 years. The D.W. Daniel Jazz Orchestra is committed to performance of a variety of jazz styles using both jazz standards and contemporary works.



Carolina Forest High School Clarinet Choir
 Myrtle Beach, SC
 Saturday, February 7, 2026
 9:45pm, Alumni Center



The Carolina Forest High School Clarinet Choir is a distinguished chamber ensemble celebrated for its rich, blended sound and commitment to showcasing the clarinet family's full potential. Drawing from the talented instrumental music program at Carolina Forest, known for its emphasis on excellence in performance, this ensemble offers an intimate setting for advanced clarinetists to hone their musicality and technical mastery.

Moving beyond the traditional band setting, the Clarinet Choir explores a diverse repertoire that spans classical transcriptions, contemporary works, and original compositions specifically written for the unique combination of E-flat, B-flat, bass, and contra-bass clarinets. This spectrum of instruments allows the choir to achieve a dynamic range and tonal color often likened to that of an orchestra's string section, creating a truly immersive and expressive musical experience for the audience.

Members of the Clarinet Choir are dedicated students who display a high level of musicianship and commitment, often participating in other CFHS ensembles like the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, and achieving recognition at the All-County, All-Region, and All-State levels. The choir regularly performs at school and community events, demonstrating the students' passion for chamber music and their desire to contribute to the rich fine arts tradition of Carolina Forest High School.

Whether performing a delicate, flowing chorale or a lively, intricate fugue, the Carolina Forest High School Clarinet Choir inspires with its precision, artistry, and the unified voice of its exceptional clarinetists.



Anderson University Brass Quintet
Anderson, SC
Saturday, February 7, 2026
10:00am, Exhibit Hall Pre-function



The Anderson University Brass Quintet is one of the premiere chamber ensembles within the South Carolina School of the Arts at Anderson University. This group performs at various university functions, concerts, in addition to freelancing outside of the university setting. This version of the quintet features Nathan Freeman and Heidi Bearden on trumpets, Caleb Holliday on French Horn, Cooper Snowdon trombone, and Jose Maduro (AU Alumnus) on tuba.



	<p>Cario Middle School Symphonic Band Mt. Pleasant, SC Saturday, February 7, 2026 10:30am, Alumni Center</p>	
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The Cario Symphonic Band is the premier ensemble at Thomas C. Cario Middle School, consisting of 57 outstanding 8th grade musicians. Under the motto “Excellence through Music”—the belief that students can learn to be excellent in all they do through the study, preparation, and performance of music—the Symphonic Band is committed to the highest standards of artistry, discipline, and growth.

For more than 20 years, the ensemble has consistently earned Superior with Distinction ratings at regional concert festivals. During this same period, the Cario Band Program has been recognized annually with the state’s highest honor, the Outstanding Performance Award. The Symphonic Band last performed at the South Carolina Music Educators Association (SCMEA) In-Service Conference in 2005, and the ensemble is excited to make its return this year.

Members of the Symphonic Band are also highly active outside the classroom, participating in Region 4 and South Carolina All-State Honor Bands, Solo & Ensemble Festival, Jazz Band, and the nationally recognized Wando High School Marching Band. Recent guest clinicians working with the ensemble include Britni Hummel and Andrew F. Poor, who have provided valuable perspectives to help students further their musical development.

The Cario Symphonic Band is proud to represent the Mt. Pleasant community and remains dedicated to fostering teamwork, leadership, and a lifelong love of music through performance.



McCracken Middle School Orchestra
Spartanburg, SC
Saturday, February 7, 2026
11:30am, Ballroom A



McCracken Middle School is located in Spartanburg County in Spartanburg School District Seven. The McCracken Middle School Orchestra is a vibrant and growing program with over 170 talented musicians. Each year students participate in Region and All-State Orchestra, and Solo & Ensemble Festival. The 7th and 8th grade ensembles consistently earn Superior ratings at Concert Performance Assessment, and the program has proudly received the Outstanding Performance Award for the past three consecutive years.

Beyond SCMEA events, the orchestras love sharing their music with the community—performing at school assemblies, the local airport’s holiday concert series, and assisted living communities in the area. Through every performance, our goal is to spread the joy of music, connect with our audience, and continue the tradition of excellence that defines McCracken Middle School and the orchestra program.



Clover High School Trombone Collective
Clover, SC
Saturday, February 7, 2026
11:45am, Alumni Center



Founded in Fall 2024, the Clover High School Trombone Collective is a dynamic ensemble designed to explore diverse repertoire across multiple musical genres. Created to provide students with the unique opportunity to perform in a smaller, more intimate setting, the Collective challenges its members to develop their musicianship and ensemble skills. The group has performed at various local and community events, concerts, and festivals throughout York County, enriching the area's music scene creating memorable experiences for all.



Spartanburg Philharmonic Youth Orchestra
Spartanburg, SC
Saturday, February 7, 2026
12:15pm, Ballroom A



The Spartanburg Philharmonic Youth Orchestra was founded in 2019 to bring together the best young players from across the Upstate as a core education program of the Spartanburg Philharmonic. SPYO has 3 ensembles: Symphony (full symphonic orchestra) under the direction of Susan Wines, Prelude Honors (intermediate advanced string chamber ensemble), and Prelude (strings-only ensemble) under the direction of Dr. Joshua Miller. We provide a place where musically inclined students from across the upstate of South Carolina learn to master their instruments and collaborate with others to produce three high-quality performances each year.



<p>Northwestern High School Symphonic Band Rock Hill, SC Saturday, February 7, 2026 12:30pm, Alumni Center</p>			
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The Northwestern High School Symphonic Band of Rock Hill, South Carolina, serves as the premier concert ensemble within the distinguished Northwestern High School Band program. Recognized for its artistry, musicianship, and commitment to musical excellence, the ensemble continues a proud legacy of achievement that has brought regional, national, and international acclaim to the Northwestern Bands.

Under the direction of Scot McGuire and Daniel Gulledge, the Symphonic Band performs advanced literature for wind ensemble and concert band, showcasing both technical mastery and expressive depth. Students in the ensemble are consistently selected for the South Carolina Region and All-State Bands, South Carolina All-State Jazz Band, South Carolina All-State Orchestra, and the Music for All National Honor Band, reflecting a culture of dedication and leadership in musicianship.

The Northwestern Band program includes two concert ensembles, the award-winning Purple Regiment marching band, jazz band, percussion ensembles, and a robust chamber music program. The ensembles have earned widespread recognition for performances across the country and abroad, including an invited musical tribute performance at the Pearl Harbor Memorial in Honolulu, Hawaii, and participation in the London New Year’s Day Parade in London, England. Continuing this tradition of excellence, the Symphonic Band has been named an invited featured performer at Carnegie Hall in March 2026, representing both Northwestern High School and the state of South Carolina on one of the world’s most prestigious stages.

Through its performances, educational philosophy, and enduring legacy, the Northwestern High School Symphonic Band continues to inspire audiences and elevate the standard of scholastic music performance in South Carolina and beyond.



South Carolina Governor's School Woodwind Choir
 Greenville, SC
 Saturday, February 7, 2026
 1:00pm, Exhibit Hall Pre-function



With a mission to serve South Carolina's artistically gifted high school students, the Music Department offers a nationally recognized curriculum that provides pre-professional instruction in an environment of artistic and academic excellence. Students receive private lessons in orchestral instruments, piano, and voice, and participate in a wide array of musical experiences including large ensembles, opera and musical theatre workshops, chamber music, jazz ensembles, seminars, master classes, special topics courses, music theory, and music history.

Woodwind students are active and engaged performers, regularly featured in solo and chamber music recitals, as well as guest artist master classes. They perform with the Wind Ensemble, Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra, and Jazz Orchestra, gaining valuable experience in a variety of musical settings. In addition, students frequently collaborate with other artistic disciplines on campus, fostering interdisciplinary creativity. Students in the woodwind studio have earned recognition in state, regional, and national competitions, including the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), Honor Band of America, and the SCBDA Master Recital. Many participate annually in South Carolina All-State and All-Region Bands and the All-State Orchestra. In addition, woodwind students have been featured as concerto competition winners with the Greenville County Youth Orchestra and Carolina Youth Symphony.

Graduates of the Music Department have been awarded scholarships to prestigious colleges, conservatories, and universities across the country and around the world. Alumni have gone on to successful careers as performers with national and international ensembles, on Broadway, national television, and European stages. Many are now educators, teaching at universities, conservatories, and in public schools, while others have applied their artistic training to a wide range of professional fields, continuing to enrich the world through their creative perspective.



Beech Springs Middle School
 Duncan, SC
 Saturday, February 7, 2026
 1:15pm, USC Recital Hall



The Beech Springs Middle School Combined Choirs is a non-auditioned ensemble of all choral students in grades 6-8. This program is only in its second year as a middle school choral program, after transitioning from a 5-6 intermediate general music program. In facilitating this transition, Mrs. Shiflett established a successful after school choral program that rehearsed two days every week. Students under her direction helped to establish a culture of choral excellence through their work both during and after school, auditioned for and attended SCMEA Choral Clinics, SCMEA Elementary Honor Choir, SC ACDA All-State Honor Choirs, ACDA Southern Division Honor Choirs, and ACDA National Honor Choirs. In their last year as an intermediate school program, the Beech Springs After School Choir attended CPA as one of the only intermediate choral programs, and achieved straight superiors on stage and in sight reading. In their first year as a middle school choral program, Beech Springs Choirs attended CPA as the Combined Choirs ensemble, and achieved Superior with Distinction. The program the ensemble will perform has been designed to showcase what all students, regardless of grade level or placement, can achieve in their middle school choral experience.



James F. Byrnes High School Choir
Duncan, SC
Saturday, February 7, 2026
1:45pm, USC Recital Hall



The James F. Byrnes High School Chorale is an auditioned ensemble of approximately 40 dedicated student musicians in grades 10 through 12. Based in Duncan, South Carolina, this ensemble is a cornerstone for the emerging and dynamic choral programs within Spartanburg District Five.

The Byrnes Chorale has quickly distinguished itself through exceptional musicality, including precise articulation, expressive dynamic contrast, and a vibrant, energetic sound. Chorale performs a diverse repertoire spanning classical masterworks, contemporary choral literature, spirituals, and multicultural selections, reflecting both vocal versatility and a commitment to cultural awareness.

In addition to formal assessments, Chorale actively engages in regional festivals, school and community performances, and collaborative projects with composers. The ensemble is especially honored to premiere a newly commissioned work by composer Ryan Main at this year's SCMEA Conference.

The James F. Byrnes High School Chorale is proud to represent the students, staff, and community of Spartanburg District Five, and is deeply honored to perform at the 2026 SCMEA Conference.



Socastee High School Saxophone Quintet
Myrtle Beach, SC
Saturday, February 7, 2026
1:45pm, Alumni Center



The Socastee High sax ensemble was founded in 2025 by then junior, Jordan Bray. They have performed at our spring concerts as well as community events. The ensemble received a perfect score at the 2025 SC Solo and Ensemble Adjudication. The goal of the ensemble is to explore and promote saxophone specific literature.

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