

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm by Veronica Biscocho

Dr. Booker, site host at ASU:

Once the director of orchestral activities at ASU has been selected they will take over WRO hosting at ASU

Kenny Tysor, Western Region Chairperson:

Has been putting together governing documents specifically for the Western Region Orchestra to cover holes left by state documents

Hope is to have a meeting in the spring to vote on bylaw changes. Meeting time will be determined by survey after MPA. This will be a zoom meeting.

Why do we need these documents: Clarification of how events are run IN WRITING

Created governing body made up of event chairs to help make decisions more nimbly ("Board of Directors")

Committee for revision of All State Orchestra date (from November to a Spring date.)

Questions committee are trying to answer: Can this be combined with All State Band weekend?

Question: Is there a way we can address inaccessibility of NCMEA Orchestra website?

- Can we create a listserv/opt-in mailing instead of "inherited" email addresses that are not accurate/up to date
- Amanda Tant has an ongoing spreadsheet but that may not be 100% accurate either

Amanda Tant, Auditions Chair

Thank you to everyone who judged virtual auditions!

Score releases are late because of the way scores are collected and processed. Instead of using Google forms in the future (pending future virtual auditions), formatting will be changed to facilitate collection and distribution of scores to individual teachers/programs.

Discussion: what do future auditions look like? Virtual vs. in person?

Virtual

- Pros: We don't have to spend a whole Saturday at auditions, no travel logistics, no judges lunch (saves money), arguably more prepared students submitting videos, less issues if you have a judge not be able to attend at the last second, etc.
- Cons: Video submission quality can vary, tech issues can be stressful, sight-reading is more difficult, judges may not collaborate the same way as in person, etc.

- Other pros: students can be in “their element” and reduces performance anxiety, eliminates conflicts with other musical events, more students have the opportunity to prepare
 - Other cons: for students who audition for music schools, an in-person audition provides a valuable practice experience for future auditions.
- Suggestions: what about having students audition “in person” with their director? Director records, can facilitate sight reading, etc.--“hybrid” option
- String numbers were up from last year, down from pre-COVID. Winds/brass/percussion was an issue. We REALLY need to reach out to band directors in the future :)
- Barbara Bell: some students are NOT auditioning because it’s virtual. Hybrid kind of covers both bases--virtual and in person without the specific time/date/travel logistics
- Hybrid not always feasible for those with lots of students/not their own room/etc. It puts a lot more work on the director.
- Sightreading: CSYO would send a sight reading excerpt and it was due within 15 minutes of being sent.
- Band district: Monday-excerpt would go out and due with scales and solo at the end of the week
- What is the purpose/goal of sight reading? What about adding an etude for more technical ability? Would sight reading be a good addition to the seating audition--maybe clarifies who’s a stronger reader/section leader
- Whatever audition decision is made, must be in line with Eastern Region so that All State is equal
- Sight reading really is the test of quality--otherwise we’re splitting hairs as judges
- **INFORMAL POLL**
 - **In person-5**
 - **Virtual-16**
 - **Virtual-sight reading--YES!**
- Change to rubric: can we include tone quality?
- Clinic Reflection
 - Things that didn’t work: time frame is tight. Director’s need to be present at transitions to encourage punctuality

- Things that worked: Send a picture of check to receive music for registration, no seating auditions at the clinic, technology judging process felt good,
- Looking forward to having “normal” strings section numbers next year rather than 85 person cap on Schaefer stage
- Students need to pack up instruments before sectionals to keep instruments safe in between the buildings

WRO 2023 will be at UNCG February 24-26, 2023

Typically we start on Friday evening, Saturday rehearsal with sponsoring school concert that evening, Sunday afternoon concert.

Reminder 2020 Vote: Clinic fee was voted to increase to \$35 per student. This was not implemented in 2022 but will happen in 2023.

Reminder 2020 Vote: Sectional coach pay would be a maximum of \$480

Audition fee will be \$5-\$10 next year, virtual or in-person

Reminder 2020 Vote: Scott Weiss was voted to be the Honors Clinician 2021, Melisse Brunet was voted to be Honors Clinician 2022. Matt Wilson was voted to be Repertory Clinician for 2023

Nominations for future Honors Clinicians:

Scott Weiss - Director of Orchestras at USC, did All State Band a few years ago. Conducted several groups at Mid-West. Outstanding clinician.

Melisse Brunet - Former Appalachian State Orchestra director. Currently in Iowa. Strong string player, fine clinician.

Kurt Moser - Conducted ASTA All-State. Had kids very engaged. Composer and clinician.

Cornelia Laemli Orff - Kingsport Symphony

Steven Mulligan - Assistant conductor of Winston Salem Orchestra and Youth Orchestra conductor. Currently at Atlanta Symphony

Christopher Lee - Assistant conductor at Charlotte Symphony

2023: Honors Clinician for 2023 at UNCG

2024: Kurt Moser for 2024 at ASU

Alternates: Scott Weiss, Melisse Brunet, Cornelia Laemli Orff

We will keep Matt Wilson for Repertory 2023

We need to nominate for 2024:

Amanda Turner nominates Stephen Taperek: JM Alexander and North Meck teacher. Co Director of Youth Orchestras of Charlotte Sinfonia Strings. Great personality and his kids love him. He is a violist.

Sandra Rathbone nominates Kyoshi Carter: Band director at Northern Guilford. Conducts Greensboro City Band. Really musical. Kids love him. Teaches phrasing well. He would love to do this.

Karen Collins nominates Heather Lofdahl: Greensboro Symphony Youth Orchestra director, works with a range of students, great at working with phrasing, also a violist. Did Winston Salem/Forsyth County middle school clinic and did an outstanding job.

Nominations close for 2024

Kenny Tysor: I think we should stay with keeping teachers in the Western Region because we work with our kids and it is an honor to be able to do this event.

Stephen Taperek will be Repertory Orchestra Conductor for 2024

Greg Murphy is on site for MPA 2022 and available to answer questions.

Amanda Turner: As an NCMEA event, can MPA be masks required despite the county hosting it being mask optional? NCMEA Choral section is mandating masks for their events.

Greg: Our county is mask optional. I will check on this, but optional for now.