

SCMEA Piano Division Membership Meeting & First-Annual Luncheon

February 7, 2026, at 12 PM - USC School of Music Room 220

Members & Guests Present:

Officers - Kristine Peters, Andrea Quinn, Bill Gesin, Laura Cameron

General Members - Candace McLeod, Patrick Boyle, Lorraine White, Chuck Bateman, Kenneth Perkins, Colleen Guseman, Maurice Middleton

I. Welcome and Call to Order at 11:51am

- A. Krissy greeted the membership and we shared a luncheon from Apple spice with the members.

II. Laura made a motion to approve Meeting Minutes from September 6, 2025, Andrea seconded the motion and all were in favor- [HERE](#)

- A. Made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded and all were in favor.

III. Treasurer's Report: [HERE](#) Charles Bateman made a motion to accept the report, Laura seconded the motion and all were in favor.

IV. Old Business:

A. Piano Festival Data, Updates and Reminders

1. 2026 FALL Festival Data Points:

- a) **Growth since 2025:** 120 participating students
- b) **Number of participating schools:** Nine (4 new schools)
- c) **Addition of the Virtual Festival:** 36 students from three schools; two new

2. SPRING Festival

- a) **Lowcountry:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026 - James Island Charter HS
- b) **Upstate:** Thursday, April 23, 2026 - Shandon UMC
- c) **Virtual Festival:** Submissions Date Discussion

3. Spring Festival Reminders:

- a) **Spring Piano Festival Registration Due:** March 4, 2026
- b) **SCMEA Piano Division Online Registration- [HERE](#)**

B. Conference Highlights & Sessions- Thank you to all for a great conference!

1. SCMEA Choral Division & USC School of Music

2. Session Presenters: William Harvey, Laura Cameron, Kirstine Peters, Candace McLeod, Maurice Middleton, Heather Simon, and Dr. Eungjung Choi

3. Masterclass Clinician: David Kiser

4. 2026 SCMEA Piano Fall Honors Recital performers and their teachers!

5. SCMEA Piano Division Membership Meeting & First-Annual Luncheon- Sponsor- Fox Music, Setup- Laura Cameron, Andrea Quinn

6. Candace asked why the upstate site fell through-it was due to lack of enrollment, and some schools chose to do virtual. We are working towards increasing the interest in the upstate area.

V. Special Voting:

- A. Virtual deadline April 22, and this creates a very short turn-around for the recital/masterclass in May. A proposal was put forth by the board to change the virtual submission date to April 17th so that results are available to teachers in a more timely manner

to prepare for the masterclass/recital. Candace moved that we accept the proposal to change the virtual deadline to Apr 17, 2026 . Andrea seconded the motion and all were in favor.

B. Future President (Five-year term)

1. Nominations from the floor–there were none. Maurice was nominated by the board, but he declined the nomination at this time. Andrea nominated Candace, but she declined the nomination at this time.
2. Election–as we did not have any accepted nominations at the meeting, Andrea made a motion to table this topic until the fall meeting, Candace seconded, and all were in favor.

C. Multicultural chair added to the officers

1. Requirements
 - a) Two Year Term
 - b) To work directly with the SCMEA Executive Multicultural Committee and report back to the piano division
2. Discussion regarding the position ensued. Andrea made a motion to add the position and description to the added to the bylaws, Candace seconded the motion and all were in favor.

VI. New Business:

A. Preview: SCMEA Conference 2027

1. **Dates:** February 4-6, 2027
2. **Sessions & Clinicians:** Dan Mack from KOI, Grant Writing for Piano Labs, etc.

B. Honors Recital Participant Selection Guidelines- Discussion regarding recital student selection criteria in order to ensure fairness and accountability while choosing the best from each school.

1. Candace feels that the recital is an opportunity for the best to be showcased, but she recognizes that it is important to recognize students from all schools.
2. Lorraine loves that it gives her students the opportunity to work towards something bigger and to be inspired by the accomplishments of others, so both the festival and the recital are very important to her.
3. Andrea feels that it is an opportunity to showcase the best students equally at both magnet versus public schools, she recognizes that the best students from each school should be showcased.
4. Bill feels that the judge's comments were very meaningful for students, and opportunities for recital should be available to high scoring students with equity for both magnet and public schools.
5. Patrick feels that the festival is a deadlined opportunity to inspire students to prepare for the event, the event also motivates students to be prepared for the concerts at school, comments/feedback from judges is important to his students. Regarding the recital, he does think the honors recital is about showcasing the best of the best regardless of the school they come from, and if that means dividing between age groups (elementary, middle, and high school). Patrick also suggested having performers on Friday and Saturday rather than just on Saturday.
6. Chuck feels that the student should be selected for the best of the best based on their levels, and he feels that the virtual aspect is really important to him and his students.

7. Maurice believes that exposure is the most important thing about both the festival and the masterclass/recital so that his students have these opportunities that are not available to his students any other way.
8. Laura feels that exposure to the events is the most important.
9. Colleen feels it is important for the students and also the teacher to receive the judges comments, give the kids the opportunity to get this type of feedback and opportunity to improve themselves personally as they take this valuable criticism from the judges and have exposure to the performance at the recital.
10. Kenneth feels that the festivals are an opportunity for students to be exposed to a level of caliber that they didn't understand before through judges comments, scores, and seeing/hearing the other students. The masterclass is so important for the teacher to learn.
11. Following discussion, Colleen made a motion to separate into two recitals, Andrea seconded the motion and all were in favor.
12. Bill made the motion to table the discussion of how to separate the levels until the next meeting. Chuck seconded the motion and all were in favor.

C. Membership Needs--suspend for next meeting.

1. Additional Events?

VII. RAFFLE From Our Sponsor! (2 Fox Music hats--Lorraine & Maurice, 2 \$25 gift cards to Fox Music--Colleen & Patrick)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Cameron