

THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSIC EDUCATOR

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 1

SUMMER/FALL 2015



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE NORTH CAROLINA
MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION



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Voice: January 23*; February 6*, 13*; April 1

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Volume 66 - Number 1 - Summer/Fall 2015

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President: Richard Holmes

rholmes@ncmea.net

Immediate Past President:

Sonja Z.M. Williams

szmwilliams@ncmea.net

President-Elect:

James Daugherty

jdaugherty@ncmea.net

Recording Secretary:

Susan Trivette

recording_secretary@ncmea.net

Member-at-Large:

Theresa Kennedy

member-at-large1@ncmea.net

Member-at-Large:

Jonathan Matthews

member-at-large2@ncmea.net

SECTION CHAIRS

Band: Alice Aldredge

band_chair@ncmea.net

Band Section Delegate:

Brent Harris

band_delegate@ncmea.net

Collegiate NAfME: Rosalee Bailey

collegiate_president@ncmea.net

Elementary: Jazzmone Sutton

elementary_section@ncmea.net

High School Choral: Ed Yasick

hschoral_chair@ncmea.net

Higher Education: Gloria Knight

higher_education@ncmea.net

Jazz Education: David Wortman

jazz_chair@ncmea.net

Jazz Section Delegate:

Josh Cvijanovic

jazz_delegate@ncmea.net

Middle School Choral:

Stephanie Peo

mschoral_chair@ncmea.net

Orchestra: Margot Holloman

orchestra_chair@ncmea.net

Orchestra Section Delegate:

Donald Walter

orchestra_delegate@ncmea.net

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

District 1: James Markey

district1@ncmea.net

District 2: Patty Fayssoux

district2@ncmea.net

District 3: Wendy Cooper

district3@ncmea.net

District 4: Helen Sigler

district4@ncmea.net

District 5: Janet Berry

district5@ncmea.net

District 6: Monica Adams

district6@ncmea.net

District 7: Alice McIntyre

district7@ncmea.net

District 8: Brian Barfield

district8@ncmea.net

District 9: Jonathan Chesson

district9@ncmea.net

District 10: Pauline Reimers

district10@ncmea.net

District 11: Angela Mangum

district11@ncmea.net

District 12: Altrovise Terry

district12@ncmea.net

District 13: Mary Sumner

district13@ncmea.net

District 14: Gregory Shreckengost

district14@ncmea.net

District 15: Jenifer Hutson

district15@ncmea.net

Non-Voting Members

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advocacy: Jonathan R. Drye

advocacy_committee@ncmea.net

Constitution: Maribeth Yoder-White

constitution_committee@ncmea.net

Finance: Sonja Z.M. Williams

szmwilliams@ncmea.net

Membership: James Daugherty

jdaugherty@ncmea.net

Publications: Kim Justen

journal_editor@ncmea.net

COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Exceptional Children &

General Music: Rue S. Lee-Holmes

expectionalchildren_generalmusic@ncmea.net

Government Relations:

Christie M. Lynch Ebert

christie.lynchebert@dpi.nc.gov

Assistant Conference Chair:

Libby Brown

conference_assistant@ncmea.net

Professional Development

Conference Chair:

Barbara Geer

conference_chair@ncmea.net

Mentoring: Beth Ulffers

mentoring_program@ncmea.net

Multi-Cultural Awareness:

Kiyoshi Carter

multi_cultural_awareness@ncmea.net

Music In Our Schools Month

Angela Mangum

district11@ncmea.net

Music Program Leaders:

Janae Copeland

music_program_leader@ncmea.net

Research: Suzi Mills

research_chair@ncmea.net

Retired Membership: David S. Albert

retired_membership@ncmea.net

Student Activities: James Daugherty

jdaugherty@ncmea.net

Teacher Education: Cindy Wagoner

teacher_education@ncmea.net

Technology Chairs:

Amy Koo

technology_chair@ncmea.net

Tri-M: Windy Fullagar

tri-m@ncmea.net

Young Professionals: Lisa Qualls

young_professionals@ncmea.net

AWARD, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRS

Awards: Jane Williams

award_chair@ncmea.net

Honor Administrator

Music Education Advocate

NCMEA Hall of Fame Award

Grants:

NCMEA Mini Grant:

Sonja Z.M. Williams

szmwilliams@ncmea.net

NCMEA Summer Professional

Development Grant:

Christie M. Lynch Ebert

christie.lynchebert@dpi.nc.gov

Scholarships: John Corey III

scholarship_chair@ncmea.net

Bill McCloud Scholarship

Barbara Bair Scholarship

Ruth Jewell Scholarship

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Collegiate NAfME Advisor:

Jane McKinney

collegiate_advisor@ncmea.net

Editor: Kim Justen

journal_editor@ncmea.net

Executive Director: Pat Hall

pthall@ncmea.net

Historian: Dr. John Henry, Jr.

historian@ncmea.net

Music Industry Representative:

Barry Carroll, Jr.

music_industry_rep@ncmea.net

Representative from the State

Department of Public Instruction:

Christie M. Lynch Ebert

christie.lynchebert@dpi.nc.gov

NCMEA OFFICE

Executive Director

Pat Hall

pthall@ncmea.net

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Updated 7/2/2015



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- Jim Widner

*Leader of the Jim Widner Big Band and
Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis*



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NCMEA FEATURE ARTICLE ROTATION SCHEDULE:

Summer /Fall: Deadline, May 1 (Arrives in August)
Elementary • Orchestra • Advocacy

Conference: Deadline, August 10 (Arrives in October)
Items Pertaining to Conference

Winter: Deadline, December 1 (Arrives in March)
Research • Choral (HS and MS) • Band

Spring: Deadline, February 15 (Arrives in May)
Technology • Jazz • Higher Education

Interested in submitting a Feature Article? Contact the appropriate
Section Chair – contact information is on the Board list found
in every issue of the NC Music Educator.

See www.ncmea.net for additional Journal information.

THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSIC EDUCATOR

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journal_editor@ncmea.net

Mailed to active, retired and student members of
the North Carolina Music Educators Association,
a state affiliate of the Music Educators National
Conference, as part of their membership dues.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back! I trust everyone was able to relax and recharge for the new school year. It is hard to believe the time to begin planning for the new school year is here! If you are a first year teacher you may be asking: Where do I begin? Who can help me? What am I going to teach this year?

NCMEA can help. Go to ncmea.net to find information concerning the NCMEA mentor program, or connect with your NCMEA District President or Section Chair (found in the front of the journal). They can tell you of others who may be able to assist you. You may also contact me at rholmes@ncmea.net.

NCMEA is in a transition. Your leadership is working to strengthen our advocacy efforts, provide assistance to the Analysis of Student Work process, streamline our association's operations and continue to grow our membership. NCMEA is where all music educators belong! We are in the beginning stages for many things, but I am excited about our Association's future!

Highlights from the April 2015 NCMEA Board Meeting

- Several Advocacy items were shared: HB 138 (Arts Education as a Graduation Requirement) was introduced and passed the House. The bill was referred to the Senate Rules Committee.
- Christie Lynch-Ebert made a presentation on Comprehensive Arts Education to the State School Board.
- ESEA Reauthorization: Currently in the Every Child Achieves Act 2015 includes language stating music is a core subject. This is the first time music has been listed specifically.
- The conference mobile app will have improved functionality by being able to track CEU credits, tied to attendee login.
- Pat would like to work with All-State Chairs to help secure discounted room rates for our large events by working with local Convention & Visitors Bureaus.
- Website integration will be taking place soon. Once complete, the redesigned website will have more functionality.
- The Board approved the 2015 - 2016 budget.

**RICHARD
HOLMES**



- NCMEA is in the final stages of approving an Advocacy Position Statement. The position statement is scheduled for NCMEA Board action in August.
 - Final membership campaign report: Goal: 125, Actual: 146 with 279 hot leads remaining.
 - New member drawing for free registration and 2 nights lodging for the NAFME Conference in Nashville, TN.
Ashley Creebs – Chorus teacher at Pine Lake Preparatory
Colson Stewart – Band Director in Cherokee County
 - There will only be a Monday evening General Session at the 2015 Professional Development Conference, and District meetings will be from 8:30 - 8:55 am on Monday.
- As we all begin a new school year with excitement and anticipation, I would encourage everyone to consider the following:

- Talk with other music colleagues at your school and school system about being a member of NCMEA/NAfME. NCMEA is where all Music Educators Belong!
- Consider having several of your high school band students apply to be a part of the 2017 All-American Marching Band. Information is scheduled to be available on the NAFME website on November 1, 2015.
- Attend the NCMEA Professional Development Conference in November. Pre-registration ends in October.
- Participate in as many student events as possible!
- Consider nominating someone for one of our Awards: Music Education Advocate, Honor Administrator and NCMEA Hall of Fame, deadline March 15.

- Provide information to your students for our Scholarships: Barbara Bair, Ruth Jewell and the Bill McCloud Scholarships, deadline March 15.
- Apply for one of our Grants: Mini Grant and Summer Professional Development, deadline March 15.
- Consider having several of your students apply to participate in the 2016 All-National Honor Ensembles (Band, Chorus, Orchestra and Jazz). At printing deadline for this article, the deadline for 2016 was not published, but anticipate it being in May 2016.

Thank you for all that you do for the students in our schools. Please remember when you are not having the best day, you are making a positive impact on your students. Best Wishes! Be safe and God Bless!

SAVE THE DATE! NCMEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

**NOVEMBER
7 – 10, 2015**

**Downtown Winston-Salem NC
Benton Convention Center
Embassy Suites/Marriott
Winston-Salem
Stevens Center**



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For more information, contact Dr. Rachel Copeland, Coordinator of Graduate Recruitment, at skibar@ecu.edu or **252-328-6342**, or visit ecu.edu/music.

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Have you been to the NEW NCMEA website? I hope you find it more streamlined and easy to navigate. One of the cool things about the new website is that it's integrated with the NAFME membership database. Now you will be able to login and renew your membership right on the NCMEA website. You also are able to update your membership account. So if you move to a new school, change your address or just your e-mail, you can login in and make the changes right on the database.

The new home page will change daily with upcoming events, and news and updates. We would also like to share *your* story. If you are presenting a special music program, know of an NCMEA member that has received an award or special recognition, please submit the story and I'll include it on the home page. I also recommend checking

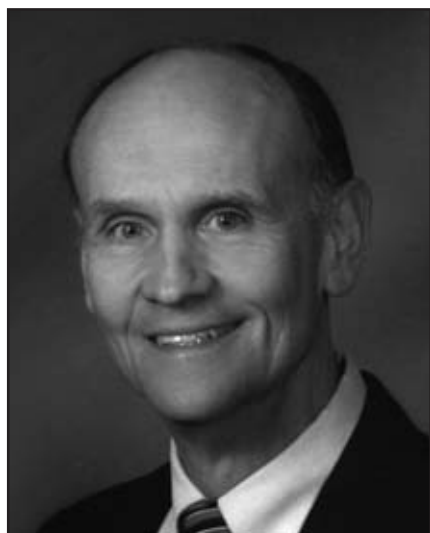
PAT HALL



out the Member Resources section of the website where you can find NCMEA Board meeting minutes, notices on professional development opportunities and archives of this *Journal*.

The new website is the place to go to for all 2015 NCMEA Professional Development Conference information. More than 200 sessions, clinics and concerts will be offered November 7 – 10 in Winston-Salem. Early Registration opens August 17 on the NCMEA website. Bring your smartphones, iPads and tablets; we will be using the Conference Mobile App again this year. Two great new features will be added this year: an attendee profile and an upgrade to track your continuing education credits (CEU's).

We are very excited to announce that NAFME President Glenn Nierman will be at our Conference on Monday and Tuesday, leading sessions for the Research/Higher Ed/Teacher Ed and Collegiate sections. Dr. Nierman is a member of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln School of Music faculty, where he teaches graduate classes in research and curriculum development, as well as a non-major popular music guitar class. Dr. Nierman



GLENN NIERMAN

has authored many journal articles, made numerous presentations at NAFME Conferences, and given addresses at World Congresses of the International Society of Music Education (ISME) around the world. He has authored chapters in NAFME's *Benchmarks in Action* and *Spotlight on Assessment* publications.

I want to give a big thanks to NCMEA Board member and webmaster Justin Barrett for all his work on moving and adding all the content on the new website. He has also set up some very cool features such as searchable and sortable databases and web forms to make it easier for you to get the information you need on NCMEA programs and events. When you see him at Conference give him a big thank you and a cup of coffee!

Have a great beginning of the new school year and we'll see you in November!



NCMEA/NAFME Membership Dues

Increase as of July 1, 2015

Type	NAFME	NCMEA	TOTAL
Active Membership	\$93	\$40	\$133
Introductory	\$47	\$21.50	\$68.50
Retired Membership	\$47	\$15	\$62
Collegiate Membership	\$28	\$13	\$41

FUTURE DATES FOR NCMEA CONFERENCE

November 7 – 10, 2015
November 5 – 8, 2016
November 11 – 14, 2017
November 10 – 13, 2018
November 9 – 12, 2019
November 7 – 10, 2020

SOUTHEAST HONORS STRING FESTIVAL & STRING TEACHERS CONFERENCE

January 22 – 24, 2016

The 6th Annual Southeast Honors String Festival hosted at UNCG is an intensive three-day festival for students in Grades 9-12, as well as middle and high school orchestra directors.

The festival Honors Orchestra provides an opportunity for advanced string students to further the development of their performance skills through rehearsals, sectionals, performances, and master classes. **Doug Droste, Artistic Director of the Muncie (IN) Symphony and Director of Orchestras at Ball State University**, will serve as guest clinician. Students will participate in sessions with UNCG music faculty, and attend a special concert presented by the UNCG String Area. Brochures and applications will be available in October 2015. **Student applications, including CD audition recordings, are due no later than December 8, 2015.** Those selected for participation will be notified of their acceptance by December 16, 2015. The clinic fee for each selected student is \$50, which includes the festival fee, and lunch and dinner on Friday in the UNCG Dining Hall. The String Festival will conclude with a concert by the Honors String Orchestra on Sunday, January 24. Based on the audition CD students will be selected for a complimentary private lesson with UNCG string faculty members, scheduled as part of the Festival.



Doug Droste
Guest Conductor
Festival Honors Orchestra
Ball State University
Muncie Symphony Orchestra

The **String Teachers Conference** features clinics on topics including string pedagogy, instrument repair, and effective rehearsal techniques, presented by members of the UNCG Music faculty and guests. The fee for all participating string directors and private teachers is \$65, which includes the festival fee, refreshments, and parking. **Participants may earn 1.5 units of North Carolina Certificate Renewal Credit.** The String Teachers Conference is a terrific opportunity to grow and develop as teachers and musicians under the guidance and inspiration of our outstanding clinicians.



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA
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For details & applications, please write or call:

Dr. Kevin M. Gerald
Southeast Honors String Festival
UNCG School of Music, Theatre and Dance
Post Office Box 26170
Greensboro, North Carolina 27402-6170
toll-free: (800) 999-2869 or (336) 334-5299
e-mail: kevin_geraldi@uncg.edu

SCHEDULE FOR 2015 SOUTHEAST HONORS STRING FESTIVAL

Friday, January 22	5:00 PM	Students arrive for registration, rehearsals, sectionals and seating auditions Teachers Conference begins
Saturday, January 23	All Day	Students rehearse & attend clinics; Teachers Conference continues
	7:30 PM	Attend UNCG String Area Concert
Sunday, January 24	Morning	Students rehearse & attend clinics; Teachers Conference continues
	2:00 PM	Honors Orchestra Concert

STRINGFESTIVAL.UNCG.EDU

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

WELCOME TO OUR NEW SECTION

There are so many events throughout the year and so many people to thank, we've decided to create this section for all the thank you messages that would normally appear in the individual

section updates. This will allow more space for update articles, while giving us a dedicated area to thank those who have given of their time to make our festivals, conferences, and more be the best they can be.

NCMEA would like to thank the following people for the hard work they put into our recent events:

ALL-STATE CHORAL FESTIVAL

Jeremy Truhel, who worked many hours to make sure that All-State was a success. Our wonderful clinicians Laura Sam, Chris Peterson, Marc Foster, and John Byun were a pleasure to work with and our students learned so much from them.

NCMEA CONFERENCE

Rosalee Bailey, for her leadership in planning the Collegiate events for Conference and to the other officers, Jaquan Wiley, Vice – President; Brandon Winbush, corresponding secretary; and Janine Naprud, recording secretary.

NCBA BOARD

Phillip Riggs, for serving as the NCBA Mentor Committee Chair since the committee's inception. Thanks, Phillip, for all you did to serve this committee.

Deborah Phillips, for serving as NC Honors Band Treasurer. Deborah is retiring and will step down after the NCBA Fall meeting in November. We have been fortunate to have Deborah in this role for thirty years and appreciate her organization and professionalism.

Ruth Petersen, for all of her work maintaining and updating our webpage.



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WHO: Tri-M Student Members and Advisors

WHEN: Sunday, October 25 and Monday, October 26th
during the 2015 NAfME National In-Service
Conference

WHERE: The Gaylord Opryland, Nashville, TN

NAfME and Tri-M leadership, as well as NAfME Collegiate Members, will share with students how they can prepare for their futures in music. Attendees will also have the opportunity to experience what it's like to be a college music major as they spend a day at Belmont University and explore their various music programs.

Stay tuned for more information:

www.NAfME.org/Tri-M



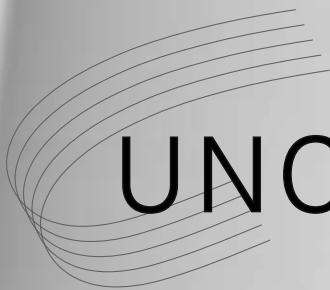
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HONOR SOCIETY

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Saturday, Feb. 13

Friday, Jan. 8

Saturday, Feb. 27

Saturday, Jan. 30

Saturday, March 19

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ARTS DAY 2015

NCMEA was a Grand Sponsor of Arts Day 2015, a combined conference and state legislative visit organized by Arts North Carolina. More than 300 arts advocates from all over North Carolina were in Raleigh to meet with their State Senators and Representatives.

The Martin GT Middle School Honors Chorus, directed by Danny Yancey, performed for attendees on

Conference Day. On the back porch of the Legislative Building, visitors were greeted by the enjoyable sounds of the East Cary Middle School Drum Band under the direction of Christopher Branam.

Other members of the NCMEA delegation included: President-Elect James Daugherty, board members John Corey, John Henry and Angela



Mangum, along with Sharon Allen and Executive Director Pat Hall.

Here's a quick look at some of the fun!



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January 30, 2016
February 13, 2016
February 27, 2016

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Director of Bands
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Symphonic Band Grades 11 & 12



Dr. Russel Mikkelsen
Director of Bands
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio



UNCG

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February 18 – 20, 2016

Two Superb Invitational Honor Bands

Each student should be an outstanding performer and must be recommended by his or her band director. To apply, students must submit an application and a recording of several minutes of playing on either cassette tape or compact disc. **The deadline for the receipt of your application is Thursday, January 14, 2016.** Students from every state are eligible, making membership in both bands competitive and highly select—equal to fine All-State bands. Students selected for membership **must** arrive on the evening of Thursday, February 18, for the first rehearsal. Out-of-town students must be accompanied by their band director or by a designated parent chaperone. Students, directors, and parent chaperones will need to arrange for their own housing in Greensboro area hotels. A list of nearby hotels with conference rates will be available. Local residents may opt to commute. The fee for each honor band student selected is \$60, which includes the clinic fee, as well as lunch and dinner on Friday in the UNCG Dining Hall.

Schedule for Honor Bands

Thursday, February 18

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Students arrive for Honor Band rehearsals
Conductors Conference begins

Friday, February 19

All Day

Students rehearse and attend clinics
Conductors Conference continues

7:30 PM

UNCG Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble Concert

Saturday, February 20

Morning

Students rehearse and attend clinics
Conductors Conference continues

2:00 PM

Honor Band Concerts in Aycock Auditorium

Special Performances and Clinics

UNCG Wind Ensemble

Friday, February 20, 2016

7:30 PM, Aycock Auditorium

Clinics on every instrument for Honor Band members on Friday afternoon

27th Annual

CAROLINA CONDUCTORS CONFERENCE

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

www.cbf-ccc.org

February 18 – 20, 2016

Conducting Workshop with Dr. Eric Wilson

Earn NC Certificate Renewal Credit

The 27th Carolina Conductors Conference will focus on technical, gestural, and musical aspects of conducting, led by **Dr. Eric Wilson, Director of Bands at Baylor University**. Dr. Wilson will present sessions and coach conductors with the Directors Band. **Dr. John R. Locke, Dr. Kevin M. Gerald, Dr. Damon Talley, and Dr. Russel Mikkelsen** will also make presentations on a variety of topics related to conducting and rehearsing. Apply early – the limited number of positions for active conductors will be filled in the order in which applications are received. **All participants are strongly encouraged to bring their band instrument and perform in the Director's Band.** The fee for all conducting conference participants is **\$80**, which includes lunch and dinner on Friday. **Participants may earn one unit of North Carolina Certificate Renewal Credit.** The Carolina Conductors Conference is a great opportunity to grow and develop as a conductor and musician under the guidance of our outstanding clinicians.

Comments from Recent Participants

"I have not been to a better workshop session anywhere."

"The entire experience is first-rate."

"Well organized and effective. The conductors were able to participate whether on or off the podium."

"I am once again going away with new insights, understanding, and enthusiasm."

"The clinicians are tops in the field."

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ELEMENTARY SECTION

By JAZZMONE SUTTON, Chair

Welcome back, everyone!

Summer is a chance to take a break and renew. Travel plans, enjoying local sights, the comfort of home or maybe even working a second job has kept us busy this summer. Now it's time to hit the ground running with a new school year.

Returning to the classroom brings a variety of emotions. A new year brings excitement, passion, anticipation, and perhaps fear, or uncertainty. We all relate to these feelings in a new season. It is in these moments we choose one of two things: what we've always done, or something new. As educators, we're constantly holding to proven practices that are effective and yet evolving to keep up with our changing world. It is a balance we master annually. Whether starting new or challenging an existing ensemble, exploring a new teaching method or refining ways to make music relevant to our students, we must challenge ourselves to grow professionally.

If you are looking for a new experience, check out our featured article, *Ukulele Teachers Don't Fret*, by Monica Adams, music teacher at J.V. Washam Elementary School in Cornelius, and NCMEA District 6 President. In her article, she explains her experience of beginning and maintaining a ukulele ensemble.

Another opportunity to experience and explore is through our 2015 NCMEA Professional Development conference. The Elementary board has been working diligently since April to plan an informative and resourceful conference. With the suggestions from previous conferences and discussions, we're providing a variety of sessions and clinicians including:

- Rob Amchin, Orff-focused sessions
- Wendy Valerio, Gordon-focused sessions
- Andy Beck, choral reading sessions
- ASW process and assessment sessions
- Networking session with the board and district representatives, also features various raffle items. Bring contact information (name, school, and current email address) for non-NCMEA music educators and receive extra raffle entries

JAZZMONE
SUTTON



- Elementary Business Meeting unveils new resources and information
- Various sessions encourage you to bring your own ukulele, recorder, or drum.

Rollo Dillworth serves as Honors Chorus clinician for the 2015 Elementary Honors Chorus. We are excited to welcome the international clinician to North Carolina and our conference. The audition piece is Wayne Bisbee's *"The Wind."* It can be ordered from sbmp.com, catalogue number 589 or JW Pepper, Inc. Students are asked to sing measures 3-12 of the selected piece.

There is a new audition process for Honors Chorus; visit the Honors Chorus webpage, located in the Elementary Section of the NCMEA website for more information. Please consider auditioning your students for this remarkable experience. If you have questions, contact Frederick Angoco II, Honors Chorus Chair at ncelementaryhonors@gmail.com

NCMEA also offers financial support opportunities to help teachers in their classroom endeavors. I want to take a moment to congratulate the NCMEA mini grant recipient Rebecca (Becky) Horn, Ed. V. Baldwin Elementary, who received funding to implement Dancing Drum's "Drumming Up Character" program with her third through fifth grade students. Through this grant, Becky was able to purchase tubanos, agogo bells, and maracas. Congratulations Becky! Best wishes on creating interactive lessons that will build music skills and character.

NCMEA also offers grant funding for summer professional development. Pamela Myhil, Cape Fear Elementary, received the 2015 Summer Professional

Development grant. Through this grant an Orff Schwerk Level II Course was offered at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington over the summer. This two week AOSA-certified course was taught by Daniel Johnson, UNC-Wilmington, and Connie McKoy, UNC-Greensboro. For the second year in a row the grant offered an AOSA course to NCMEA members at no cost. What a fantastic opportunity for so many teachers around our state.

NCMEA and the Elementary section work hard to provide various resources and financial support for music teachers throughout the state. Please consider applying for one of these grants in the future. Additional information pertaining to these grants can be found on the NCMEA website. Deadline for grants is March 15.

The Elementary section could not be the wonderful resource it is without the dedicated help of our board members and district representatives. Special thanks to all of those who put in their time and hard work to make the Elementary section such a success. If you would like to become a district representative or help on the board, please contact me, Jazzmone Sutton, at elementary_section@ncmea.net.

I hope your year will be filled with new and inspirational experiences with your students, staff and community. Continue to create wonderful music throughout the state of North Carolina. Best wishes.

NCMEA Board Meeting Minutes

Posted on the
NCMEA
website

www.ncmea.net

in the
Member Resources
Section

UKULELE TEACHERS DON'T FRET!

By **MONICA E. ADAMS**, *District 6 President*

What's not to like about it? It has a happy sound, it's portable, it comes in bright colors, little hands can hold it comfortably, and it adds a "cool factor" to music classes. The ukulele has come into vogue in recent years and you don't have to look very far to see why music teachers want to make them a part of their own programs.

J.V. Washam Elementary School in Cornelius, NC received a grant for thirty ukuleles from the school's PTO earlier this year. As the new music teacher, I wanted to breathe new life into the program by introducing the ukulele. With a background in classical guitar and voice I realized that making music fun, and inspiring young children to want to play an instrument, was the first thing on my To Do list. In middle and high school there is plenty of time for more serious music making. Now is the time to open up young eyes, hearts, minds, and ears to what musical fun can be had.

Having played the ukulele before the age of seven, I know it's a segue into guitar and other stringed instruments. Besides that, in middle school how cool would it be to go into that social situation and make some friends because you are the kid that plays the guitar or ukulele well? Let's face it. I've never heard of a kid making friends in middle school by blowing everyone away playing the recorder! Right?

Students at our school play ukuleles in grades 2-5. They meet for 55 minutes once a week. Typically, I design a lesson to incorporate our North Carolina essential standards along with the skills and theory needed to play the song. After that I plug in the fun! I tell them it's like baking a cake. First we add in the basic ingredients, then we bake the layers, and make the frosting. When we're all done, we put it together and then add the sprinkles and light it on fire!

Of course I have their interest now and we're all engaged. We stand up and move when we play the ukulele. We sing in 2 parts and the ukuleles play in 2 parts. We add percussion parts created by the children and write them down. On the rare occasion that a child cannot handle the ukulele, I differentiate their instruction by having them play a percussion instrument or help me conduct. To support the visual learners, I place colored dots on the frets to indicate chord shapes. C is a yellow dot on the fret three string one, F is two colored green dots etc.

The Uke-Can-Rock-It-Band is an afterschool performing ukulele club composed of students in grades 2-5. I hand-picked students who showed the greatest interest in being a part of the group. Some of the prerequisites for membership were the following: 1) Rehearsals are for 1 hour and 45 minutes once a week. I know what



MONICA E. ADAMS

you are saying: that is crazy! Keep in mind I was the new music teacher and needed to put on a concert in six weeks. 2) Students needed to purchase a ukulele for home practice. I recommended a soprano ukulele I thought was good quality for a decent price and partnered with a reputable music store. 3) I had an initial meeting with all of the parents to explain the program and the expectations. Parental support of the child while practicing at home was highly encouraged and I outlined what that looked like on my website as well. Attendance for rehearsals has been steady.

To make rehearsals work, this is the breakdown.

- 15 minutes: Unpack and free play on all instruments in the classroom
- 5 minutes: Tuning
- 30 minutes: Song(s) to practice
- 5 minutes: bathroom break or snack
- 30 minutes: Pairing a lower grade student with a higher grader for intensive practice. During this time I supervise them while I work with the other members of the band who just want to sing only or play percussion.
- 20 minutes: Come back together and make music! During this time I also have the older students who were "teachers" present their student and explain how they were able to help them be successful.

Some of my favorite moments are when I catch the students stopping to listen to the sounds they hear. Enjoying music now and for a lifetime is the gift I want to give them. The ukulele program is the vehicle I am using to tie up all of the joy in a neat happy package!



UKULELE STUDENTS

ORCHESTRA SECTION

SIDE BY SIDE: UTILIZING LOCAL PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS TO INSPIRE STUDENTS

By **ELIZABETH K. HUGHES**, *Orchestra Director,
Lakewood Montessori Magnet Middle School*

I'm always looking for ways to engage and inspire my students in the classroom. Frequently, I read articles in journals and online looking for new ideas that may work with my orchestra students. Through conversations with fellow strings teachers, I am amazed by the creative ideas that work on all levels!

A friend and colleague in Pennsylvania recently shared a video of her middle school string orchestra students performing "*Kashmir*." I was hooked after the second measure. Her students played with such precision, carefully executing precise intonation, all while enjoying a classic work. Not the normal Bach or Mozart, but Led Zeppelin! After listening to the work many times, I thought about how the students at my school could pull off this piece. We needed Bonham!

I only had to look out the school's window to find what we needed to make the work happen. I called Durham resident Stephen Coffman, who is also a Durham Public Schools (DPS) employee and UNC graduate for help. Stephen is the drummer in the Durham-based band, The Beast. He and his fellow bandmates, Pierce Freelon, Mark Wells, Eric Hirsh, and Peter

Kimosh are part of the Durham Arts Council's Creative Arts in the Public & Private Schools program, which aims to bring local artists, poets, actors, and musicians into the schools. Most artists engage in events ranging from hour-long performances in schools to week-long residencies where mosaics are created, plays are performed, and poetry is developed. I asked Stephen if he could bring the band over to work up "*Kashmir*," and his response was an immediate yes.

Collaborating with The Beast was a joy. We planned for two rehearsals prior to the show, and the students were able to see and hear how a professional group works. They were able to ask questions about life as professional musicians. I cannot adequately describe the energy in the rehearsal room or the feelings of excitement from my students after our first run-through. The Beast collaboration tied together so many educational components, all while engaging our larger community. In addition to our strings students working on "*Kashmir*," our band students performed an original work entitled "*My People*" under the direction of our band director, Matthew Farnsworth.

Videos of both performances can be viewed at:

Kashmir - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1F8UEPUakXBQ0hvdVNEYTA1RzQ/view?usp=sharing>

My People - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1F8UEPUakXBcUZJenl4a1kxekk/view?usp=sharing>

This was not the first time this year our orchestra students in DPS had the opportunity to work with professionals. Each March, we host the DPS Honors Strings Festival where our very best students come together over a two-day period to work with guest clinicians and conductors. We recently invited Jennifer Curtis to come in and work with the high school students. A Chapel Hill native, she is a Juilliard graduate and member of the International Contemporary Ensemble. Not knowing what to expect, the students rehearsed and performed at Duke University's Baldwin Auditorium with Curtis as their guide. She stepped into the orchestra, without her music, and encouraged the students to improvise on an original composition. The results were astounding as it was an incredible experience for the performers and audience alike.

Finding professionals may be within reach...often closer than you may think. From Carolina beach music to bluegrass, from roots to rock, our state boasts impressive ensembles of all genres. While expense may be an issue, consider charging admission to make the work happen. The dividends are immeasurable.

To read more about The Beast, please visit www.thebeastmusic.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Elizabeth "Betsy" K. Hughes is a Pitt County native and ECU graduate with undergraduate and graduate degrees in music. Currently a resident of Durham, she is an employee of the Durham Public School system, serving Lakewood Montessori Magnet Middle and Morehead Montessori Magnet Elementary Schools. This is her 14th year as a public school teacher. In addition to her work in the public schools, she serves on the summer teaching faculty for the NC, VA and PA Suzuki Institutes.

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**Scholarships are available
to students from all majors.**

By JONATHAN DRYE, *Chair*

You've been hearing a lot about advocacy lately in this publication and in the monthly NCMEA e-newsletters. I am pleased to announce that at the April 2015 board meeting, the NCMEA Board of Directors unanimously approved the following advocacy position statement.

NCMEA Advocacy Position Statement

The mission of the North Carolina Music Educators Association is to promote music as a fundamental component of education and to provide opportunities for lifelong learning by supporting teachers, students and communities in developing and fostering excellence in music.

We know that music has a demonstrable positive impact on learning, enabling better education,

making schools better, and keeping students engaged. Music benefits North Carolina and our nation beyond school by making better employees, better citizens and teaches cooperation, discipline, creativity, and innovation – just what we need for today's 21st century learners.

NCMEA Objective

Every child will receive a comprehensive, sequential music education delivered by exemplary music educators.

- Music education should be offered in all K-12 public schools in North Carolina.
- NCMEA is in favor of passage of HB138: An act directing the State Board of Education to require one arts credit for graduation. (March 2015)

- NCMEA believes in fair teacher compensation and continuation of Career Status for Teachers.
- NCMEA supports evaluation through NCDPI Professional Teaching Standards.
- NCMEA will support the continued research and evaluation of the National Core Arts Standards.
- NCMEA may align with other statewide music, arts and education related organizations in their advocacy efforts.
- Provide NCMEA members with information via the NCMEA website on advocacy issues.
- Encourage NCMEA members to invite local and state elected officials to NCMEA sponsored student events.
- Encourage NCMEA members to Share Your Story (NafME) for use in visits to State Legislators and US Congress.



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By DAVID WORTMAN, *Chair*



April found the All-State Jazz Band at the NC School of Science and Math. It was a great success! Jim Warrick and Ken Watters were motivational clinicians.

The band was unbelievable! Thanks to Phillip Riggs for serving as site host. Thanks to Matt Liner for coordinating the director's reading band.

Here's a recap of what's going on with the Jazz Section:

- A new Jazz Section Constitution was adopted at the All-State spring meeting. It is posted on the jazz section website.
- Jazz MPAs in each of the three jazz regions were held in May, and there were multiple jazz festivals and clinics this spring. It is so exciting to see the growth of jazz education opportunities.
- Our slate of performers and clinicians for Conference is taking shape.
- Our new Jazz Section Chair-Elect is Keith Grush. He will take the reins in November 2016. He will also manage the jazz section website. Other new Board members elected are:
 - Matt Liner - MS Jazz Audition Chair
 - Carson Williams - HS Jazz Audition Chair
 - Joquin Fuller - MS All-State Clinic Chair
 - Carson Williams - HS All-State Clinic Chair
 - Josh Cvijanovic - Jazz Delegate

Thank you for your support of the Jazz Section!



Photo credit: David Harwood



2015 NCMEA Professional Development Conference NEW Exhibit Hall Hours

Lower Level Benton Convention Center

Sunday	November 8	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Monday	November 9	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Visit more than 100 exhibitors and industry representatives including instrument dealers, music publishers, travel and tour operators, and uniform suppliers, as well as representatives from college and university music departments.

NORTH CAROLINA BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION

By ALICE ALDREDGE, *Chair*

Hopefully your body and mind are well-rested and ready for the exciting school year ahead. The start of a new school year affords us the opportunity to start fresh, research some new strategies and tweak classroom procedures in an effort to maximize student performance. With ASW and other important deadlines, we must establish routines to help us become more efficient and organized. These new habits foster more effective teaching and music making in your classroom. As you start out this school year, I hope you will develop good habits of routinely checking our NCBA website for important deadlines and information for you and your students.

If this is your first year as a band director in North Carolina, be sure to take full advantage of the resources surrounding you in the experienced teachers in your area. Networking is invaluable to your success as a new director. Start the year off right by planning to attend county, district, and state events. Most of our districts have a fall meeting and offer a new teacher orientation. The state has a mentoring program available to our membership as well; learn more at the NCBA website or contact your respective district chair.

The NCMEA Professional Development Conference is November 7 - 10, and is packed with clinics, concerts, and informational meetings. All performers, exhibitors and clinicians will be featured in the *Music Educators Journal* later this fall. Download the NCMEA conference app for more information on your smart device. Our fall business meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon. There will be reports from each committee chair about upcoming state events.

We will recognize Award of Excellence Recipients and the ASBDA Encore Awards Recipients (NCBA Award of Excellence and ASBDA Encore Award recipients must submit bio and photo to me, Alice Aldredge, NCBA President, no later than October 1). In addition, we will vote on our NCBA Hall of Fame

ALICE
ALDREDGE



nominees. The conference offers veteran teachers an outlet to continue to grow and explore best practices. Both new and experienced teachers benefit from the clinics, concerts, and networking opportunities.

The NCBA spring business meeting included reports from our committee chairs. Past President, Michael Wilson, gave updates from the NC Honors Band Committee. Be on the lookout for the new percussion rudimental solo survey. This information should be shared with you at your respective district spring and fall meetings.

Rebecca Best presented a video on blind audition procedures. The committee will continue to explore the possibility of blind auditions and will make a report at the NCBA Fall Business meeting. Rodney Workman, President-Elect, discussed concerns from MPA events. Brent Harris, NCMEA Band delegate, will chair a sub-committee that will work with solo and ensemble representatives to create a uniform adjudication sheet. Look for a report from the MPA summer meeting at your respective district fall meeting.

Marching committee chair, Ryan Summers confirmed judges training dates and shared survey information. Windy Fullagar will serve as the new Mentor Committee chair, replacing Phillip Riggs. The mentor committee plans to have their annual retreat in conjunction with the NCMEA conference. Contact Windy or your district chair for more information.

The NCBA executive board approved the following procedural changes that will start this school year:

- Directors requesting to not be present at NC Honors band auditions must make their request to the state president in written form no later than 2 weeks before the audition, otherwise students will not be allowed to audition.
- Auditions for All-State Honors Band will begin at the conclusion of the director's meeting. All students need to be on campus by noon.

A highlight of the spring meeting was our time to celebrate those that were retiring. Deborah Phillips, NC Honors Band Treasurer, is retiring and will be stepping down after the NCBA Fall meeting in November. If you are interested in serving in the role, please contact Alice Aldredge prior to October 1.

As always, please be prompt in meeting your deadlines, which are firm. All information about state events can be found at www.ncbandmasters.org. Do not ask for an exception. Observe them carefully to protect your students and do not schedule other activities during district or state events. All events require directors to attend and be responsible for their students. Please be professional and model the type of responsibility you expect from your students. All-State Honor Band Auditions will be on March 5, 2016 (snow make-up March 12) held on the campus of Brown Middle School and East Davidson High School in Thomasville and All-State Honors Band Clinic will be April 29 - May 1, 2016 held on the campus of the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the NCBA officers or your respective district chair with questions or concerns. Their contact information can be found on the webpage. We are here to serve you and your students. Best wishes on a successful school year and I look forward to seeing all of you in November at the NCMEA conference.



CHARLOTTE BAND RECEIVED ACCOLADES IN IRELAND

The Charlotte Catholic High School Band received two major awards at events associated with the St. Patrick Day music festivities in Dublin and Limerick, Ireland. The band was acclaimed The Best International Band in the International Marching Band Competition in Limerick, Ireland. Twenty-four marching bands featuring 1,110 musicians from across the world competed in the prestigious annual Limerick International Band Festival.

The band was also named The Overall Best Band in the 2015 St. Patrick Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland, where they

competed with twenty-eight other performing ensembles. An estimated 500,000 spectators viewed the annual parade with another 500,000 television viewers in eighteen countries in which the parade was televised.

An award ceremony was held at the Lord Mayor's Mansion House in Dublin, Ireland following the spectacular parade.

David Wasson, a senior trumpet player in the CCHS Band remarked, "My participation and experience of being in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin was life changing. I felt

ecstatic when I marched onto the Main Street of the parade and saw the huge amount of people who were there just to see people like me. I was in awe by the number of cameras taking pictures and the cheering that took place whenever we interacted with the audience. In short, I feel like I was given a once in a lifetime opportunity and will remember it for the rest of my life."

The Charlotte Catholic High School Concert Band presented a concert in the historic St. Patrick Cathedral on the eve of St. Patrick Day.



The **UNCG School of Music, Theatre and Dance** is pleased to announce the appointment of



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Dr. Eric Willie
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Photo credit: Daniel Price / Alex Photography

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL SECTION

By STEPHANIE PEO, *Chair*

August. The countdown begins. Even if you worked on professional development during the summer, you probably didn't have to supervise students the way we do during the school year. I look forward to Back to School with both anticipatory excitement and (mostly irrational) dread. Time for that annual recurring nightmare that my students have all turned into Vinny Barbarino and company from *Welcome Back Kotter*, or worse. Time to wonder what plans my administrators have concocted for the benefit of our students' growth at test time that will inevitably create complications for my program. Time to stop and take a breath, think positive thoughts, Namaste...

Deadlines for Honors Chorus auditions and All State school registration will be here in a flash (both due by Tuesday, September 15). Preparation clinics will begin this month. Hopefully all of your most motivated and talented students will be returning to participate. New students will arrive, unsure of what to do, and will jump in with both feet, ready to learn. You will introduce them to music they never dreamed existed. You will plan and prepare to help them reach their goals. You will achieve so much, and they will learn things no other students in your school are learning. You hope after students have done a concert or

STEPHANIE
PEO



participated in an MPA, they will begin to understand what all the practice and preparation is about.

At any rate, the weeks before school starts may be the best time to prepare field trip forms and plan the fundraisers you need for students to take advantage of the many NCMEA opportunities for middle school chorus students. Set up a calendar reminder to pre-register for our professional development conference while you're at it!

Every now and then my family looks at me quizzically and asks, "Why do you do this? Why do you work so hard, give up so much of your time and deal with all the frustrations...?" Classroom colleagues submit that all of us in "Encore" are certifiable for staying after hours every day and spending weekends taking our students on trips that wind up costing us some of our own money. Even my students have asked why we teachers keep teaching.

I really hope there are some of you reading this wondering, "What in the world is she talking about? MY situation is nothing like that!" I'm willing to bet, though, that regardless of differences in your teaching situation and the types of students you work with, all of our reasons for staying in the middle school choral teaching business are about the same.

As you enter into this school year, no matter how new or experienced a teacher you are, you will have moments of enlightenment and joy more addictive than you can imagine. You will see your students' eyes light up with understanding and pride, and you will share in their failures and triumphs. You will work to increase support for your program, for your children – and you

will become weary. In those moments, I hope you will reflect with your students on their accomplishments and goals. Be sure to contact your colleagues in NCMEA if you need help, ideas, or just to vent to someone who understands!

Below is a collection of reflections from students in my E.B. Aycock Chorus, from Caroline Bisette's C. M. Eppes Chorus, and from Allison Thompson's choir at Lucas Middle School. You may have collected student reflections of your own. If so, I hope you will share them with your colleagues in the *Music Educator* and on our new website.

This is Why...

"My favorite part of Chorus is when we go to competition and have concerts ...I learned that music is all over the world, that it is complicated, and that teamwork makes dreams work." Amari, 8th grade

"Getting to sing every day was my favorite part...I'm going to try out for every music opportunity possible...I hope to major in vocal performance...and make it big in the opera industry...later I want to teach voice at a university...I also want more people to be aware of classical singing and respect it for its art and unique style." Clara, 8th grade

"Music has changed my personal ways. I used to be sad, but whenever I got in this room I felt like I can open up and sing...In Chorus I feel like all my stress has gone away." Zykia, 8th grade

"I will remember the classical songs...I have learned that there are so many cultures out there. Music has a big impact on my life and I've come to love music." Ellie, 8th grade

"...that it helps you learn more about yourself...that music comes from your heart and that music can help you cope." Jashawn, 8th grade

"I realized that as long as you believe in yourself you can do great things in life...you need confidence more than anything. I love being on stage and I know that I can't fail if I try." Anna, 8th grade

"Chorus has increased my self-esteem by helping us sing alone in front of the whole class. Mrs. Bisette also helps us with our self-esteem by our whole class singing in front of the Spanish class. The best thing about Chorus is the songs because they are always different and are creative." Kyndell, 6th grade



MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL SECTION



Save the Date — NC Honors Chorus Clinics and Auditions

Be sure to visit the NCMEA website and the MS Choral Section site <http://ncmiddlechoral.webs.com/> for details

as well as updated policies and procedures. Fees and registration due to your regional site chair by Tuesday September 15.

Honors Chorus Preparation Clinics

UNCG will be hosting a FREE workshop on Saturday, August 22. Please check the MS Choral website for information on the ECU Honors Chorus Workshop. Audition Registration links on the Honors Chorus page of the website will be live by August 25. Auditions for Eastern, Central and Western regions will be Wednesday - Friday September 30 - October 2.

2015 NCMEA Professional Development Conference

November 7-10, 2015,

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Pre-Registration for the 2015 NCMEA Conference will open on August 17 at <http://www.ncmea.net/-ncmea-conference-overview.html>

All State Chorus

Greensboro Coliseum, April 15-16, 2016

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Tuesday, September 15

2016 MPAs will be in

February and March

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Visit the website for details and dates.

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HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL SECTION

By ED YASICK, Chair

"Education in music is most sovereign because more than anything else rhythm and harmony find their way to the innermost soul and take strongest hold upon it." – Plato

As I write this article, upcoming end of year activities fill my mind, although when you read it, they will be long past. Spring can be one of the most rewarding – and difficult – times as a choral director. We look so forward to the concerts, activities, and the many, many other spring performances. However, we also realize the seniors we've worked with daily for four years are about to leave.

How quickly the time goes. Weren't they just in freshman choir? Know that the experiences and opportunities we give them in high school will remain with them throughout their lives. I have so many alumni return and tell me how much being in chorus meant to them not only musically, but also emotionally and socially, as they matured into adulthood.

I hope by the time you read this article, you are taking time for yourself, doing something you enjoy, to rest and rejuvenate before preparing for the next school year. As choral directors, we give so much throughout the year, we need the summer to take a step back, assess the pluses and minuses from the previous school year, and determine how we want to move forward into the new one, as well as relax a bit to be ready for the upcoming demands we know await us.

What a wonderful experience the 2015 All-State Choral Festival in Raleigh was this year! Thank you all so much for being flexible as we performed in a new venue. I received many positive comments about the event. What a treat it was to have Richard Waters attend the premiere of his piece, *"Music, I Yield to Thee"* as well as an appearance by Stacey Gibbs when the 11-12 choir sang his arrangement of *"Witness."*

Next year's All-State Chorus will return to the Raleigh Convention Center and the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts on April 29-30, 2016. Please plan to attend.

Two choral directors were inducted into the 2015 NCMEA High School Choral Section Hall of Fame during

ED
YASICK



All-State: Libby Brown and Richard Keasler. They have made significant contributions to the NCMEA High School Choral Section and to the high school choral students of North Carolina. It was wonderful to include two great directors who have touched many lives.

Please consider nominating someone for the 2016 High School Choral Section Hall of Fame by emailing Carol Earnhardt at earnhardtcaryl@yahoo.com. It is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the directors who impacted the lives of their students through the love of choral music, who were dedicated to the choral art, and who demonstrated leadership in NCMEA and in choral music in North Carolina.

As you plan for the new school year, I hope you will prepare your top choral students for the North Carolina Honors Chorus Auditions in September. Our 2015 Honors Chorus clinician will be Dr. Eric Nelson from Emory University. The audition piece information as well as rehearsal tracks and registration materials are available at www.ncmeachoral.org. You must register your students to audition by midnight on September 10.

The audition dates for North Carolina Honors Chorus will be:

Thursday, Sept. 24 – East
Friday, Sept. 25 – Central
Saturday, Sept. 26 – West

Students should learn the entire audition piece. Directors will be informed of the audition "cut" by September 22.

The North Carolina Honors Chorus will rehearse at the Benton Convention Center on November 7-8, and will perform at the Stevens Center on November 8. Complete information concerning Honors Chorus auditions can be found at www.ncmeachoral.org and at www.ncmea.net. Please contact Ross Broadway or Carol Earnhardt at nchonorschorus@gmail.com with questions.

NCMEA conference is November 7-10, in Winston-Salem. I'm really excited about the number of motivating sessions being offered this year. I am planning on having four choirs (two high school and two college) perform for the high school section on Monday afternoon, November 9.

As you plan for the coming year, I hope you find yourself rejuvenated, renewed and ready to once again make beautiful music with your students! Always remember what a difference you make in their lives. If at any time you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at hschoral_chair@ncmea.net. I look forward to seeing you at conference in November.

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COLLEGIATE SECTION

FOCUS ON RESEARCH: HIGHLIGHT OF CNAFME COLLEGIATE EVENTS

By Dr. Jane Grant McKinney, Collegiate Adviser

Plans are coming together for the collegiate offerings at the NCMEA Conference in November. Thanks to Salem College and Home Moravian Church of Winston-Salem, collegiate officers from UNCG and Appalachian State University were allowed a space to meet in Winston-Salem (convenient to both schools) to pull together ideas for their sessions.

Rosalee Bailey, CNAfME state president, has chosen to emphasize collegiate research during her tenure and two research sessions will be offered. On Monday morning at conference, Collegiate will share a continental breakfast with Higher Education, Teacher Education, and Research during a presentation by

NAfME President, Glenn Nierman on *Directions for Research in Pre-Service Music Education*. Collegiate members are also encouraged to submit for Tuesday's research poster session. The Collegiate Business/Elections meeting will probably be held right before the continental breakfast but the scheduling has yet to be finalized.

In the planning session, suggestions were made from chapters for an administrator to speak on the art of interviewing and critique mock interview sessions. Nathan Street, Arts Education Coordinator for Guilford County Schools, has agreed to serve in that role. This will likely occur late Monday morning. Another very practical

session for collegiate members preparing for PRAXIS II (the reinstated test requirement for teacher licensure in North Carolina) will be presented by Dr. John Henry from North Carolina A&T State University. This session will also occur on Monday, time to be announced. On Monday afternoon, Glenn Nierman will address the collegiate members on *Strengthening NAfME Collegiate Chapters – A Key to Future NAfME Vitality*.

The officers decided to terminate the Collegiate Executive Board Luncheon because of lack of time but will hold the Executive Board meeting in late afternoon instead. They also decided to hold most of their sessions on Monday, the day when a greater number of collegiate members are usually present for the conference. Stay tuned for the actual time of events, which will be scheduled as soon as Glenn Nierman's schedule is solidified.

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December 5, 2015

January 30, 2016

February 13, 2016

February 27, 2016*

** final date to be considered for a music scholarship/assistantship*

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