

TMEA Region 25 Orchestra Division
Minutes – Spring Region Meeting
May 16, 2009 – Lovejoy High School

Meeting was called to order by Orchestra Division Chair Andrew Goins.

Christine Towndrow moved to accept the old minutes. Betsy Thomas seconded.

Important Dates:

Region 25 all-region auditions will be held on October 17, 2009 at Carpenter Middle School. Thank you to Alicia Alexander for hosting.

Region orchestra places and dates:

Middle School

Auditions: October 17, 2009, Carpenter MS, Plano, TX

Concert/Clinic: November 13-14, 2009, Plano SHS, Plano, TX

Clinicians: Bach, Charlotte Moellering, Carrollton
 Beethoven, TBD
 Brahms, TBD

High School

Auditions: October 17, 2009, Carpenter MS, Plano, TX

Concert/Clinic: January 22-23, 2010, Lowery Freshman Center

Clinicians: Philharmonic, Sergio Espinosa, University of Texas Arlington
 Symphony, Franz Krager, University of Houston

UIL

Middle School UIL will take place on April 8-9, 2010 at Lowery Freshman Center, Allen, TX.

High School UIL will take place on March 10-11, 2010 at Plano East SHS, Plano, TX.

It was noted that since the Honor orchestra entry process is now entirely done online, we are asked to no longer refer to the declaration of entry as a “letter of intent,” but rather as “Part A, Part B...” etc.

There was no old business to discuss.

New business

Join TODA! The all-.state etudes have been posted online. They are only available online.

There was a discussion about making a change to the middle school all-region audition process. Andrew Goins reported that the following concerns had been brought forth to him or presented themselves during the 2008 auditions:

1. The logistics of audition are approaching impossible to accommodate. All of the groups audition groups barely fit into the allotted time this year due to the number of groups needed. If the auditions continue to grow, there will have to be two days of auditions, with all directors required to be present for both.
2. It seems that many students are auditioning for an inappropriate level; many students who are Brahms level were not in Brahms perhaps because they underestimated themselves or went for the “sure thing” and many made Brahms orchestra members made it by default because not enough students chose to audition.
3. The middle school audition process does not prepare students for the high school audition process.

In response, Andrew Goins proposed the following:

1. Have two audition groups instead of three, one for Bach and one for Beethoven and Brahms with the judges placing them in the appropriate group.

2. Change the number of audition groups from twelve to eight.
3. Shift the audition packet from whole piece/scale system to an excerpt/etude system and leave the scales in the Bach audition.

Discussion followed. A correction was made: Beethoven and Brahms already audition on excerpts, not entire pieces. The ideas of rechairing and sectionals during the clinic were brought up. Discussion about this was tabled to the fall meeting.

Andrew Goins proposed to leave the Bach audition the same and go to one combined Beethoven and Brahms audition with an etude/excerpt format.

Josh Thompson moved to accept. Betsy Thomas seconded. The motion carried.

Middle School music selection meeting will be:

When: June 10, 2009

Where: Pender's Music

Time: 2:00 pm

What: choose music and etude

The process for choosing excerpts was voted on:

Option 1 The region organizers and officers choose the excerpts and anyone who wants to give input does so at the music selection meeting.

Option 2 Hold a second audition selection meeting to decide on the excerpts.

Option 1 won.

High School music selection meeting will be:

When: June 9, 2009

Where: Plano East SHS, Plano, TX

Time: 10:00 am

The audition will be selected there.

The following region organizers were selected:

MS Bach Orchestra – Lindsey Hernandez

MS Beethoven Orchestra – Beth Romig

MS Brahms Orchestra – Dennis Langevin

HS Philharmonic Orchestra – Stefanie Hayes

HS Symphony Orchestra – Josh Thompson

It was proposed that we institute a region chair in training position that will shadow the region chair for a year before serving in the position. Betsy Thomas moved to accept. Kari Zamora seconded. The motion carried. Michael Link nominated Fawn Sorgi. Meghan Gomen nominated Brian Coatney.

Colleagues spoke on the behalves of the candidates and a vote was taken. Fawn Sorgi is the next region chair in training. Congratulations and good luck!

Andrew Goins proposed several updates to the region 25 orchestra handbook. Betsy Thomas moved to accept the changes. Jo Wallace-Abbie seconded. The motion carried.

Jo Wallace-Abbie volunteered for the UIL Music Advisory Committee.

Andrew Goins recognized directors leaving the region; Brenda Johnson will be greatly missed.

Betsy Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting, Jo Wallace-Abbie seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted

Meghan Gomen, Region 25 Orchestra Division Secretary