

## MMEA: Orchestra Open Forum by Mark Solie

*Mark chaired the Orchestra Open Forum at MMEA. [ed.]*

The Orchestra Open Forum clinic session for the MMEA Convention took place at 7:45 on Friday morning. It was well-attended, in spite of the time of day.

Jim Bartsch spoke about the side-by-side session that he is coordinating with the Minnesota Orchestra for next year's All-State Orchestra. All the details have yet to be worked out, but the session will be held in early October.

Julie Guerber, president-elect of MNSOTA, spoke briefly about upcoming events, in particular the Middle and Junior High Orchestra festivals happen-

ing this spring.

The rest of the time we had a discussion of new required scales for the upcoming All-State Orchestra auditions. Most of the teachers there had no problem with learning the scales as a matter of course, but thought that learning so many for this audition was too much. Many felt that the emphasis was over-balanced in favor of technique over musicianship. As a result of this forum, I have decided to announce in advance the six scales required for the March auditions; orchestra teachers throughout

the state will have received a notice from the MMEA office by the time this edition goes to press.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns relating to the All-State Orchestra or the MMEA.

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