

All-State: Scales in the Classroom

presented by William Hinkie; reported by Jennifer Arco

William Hinkie spoke at two sessions on scales in the classroom. His first session dealt with getting all of us to exchange our knowledge of different resources of scale books and methods. At his second session, we were actively involved in preparing scale fingerings and then trying them out on each instrument. He also supplied the group with ideas of how we could get students excited about playing scales. The idea of a

Scale Olympics is wonderful. He also talked of a scale competition as a possible semester project for which there would be several non-threatening judges brought in to evaluate the students. Getting all students involved with scales in class was another key point Hinkie made. Have the tonic of a scale played by one or two sections of the orchestra and have the other students play the scale above that. What a great way to get

students to listen and be aware of his or her own tuning within the orchestra!

Jennifer Arco teaches at Owatonna Junior High. She is a regular clinician at the Upper Midwest String and Chamber Music Conference. This year she is chairing the MNSOTA Middle Level Honors Orchestra event. †