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TECHNOLOGY

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The 2006 convention was a great experience for all of us interested in music technology and education. We who were involved with the presentation deeply appreciate all the support that GMEA gave us. Technology is not a separate division of GMEA; we are there to accent the divisions. The fact that the people at our sessions probably came to be involved in their divisions and then decided to drop in on technology sessions gives me great hope for the future of music education in Georgia. One way to improve as teachers is to try something new, and technology is by its very nature associated with new ideas and ways of teaching.

Our featured speaker, Floyd Richmond, was very happy with the friendly response he got and with the warm southern weather. All of his sessions went well, particularly the session late Friday afternoon that featured free resources for educators. Hint to future presenters: if you want good attendance, put the word "free" in your title, or give away something!

One of my favorite sessions of the conference was by John Tisbert and Peter Tavalin on computer-assisted composition at Shuman Middle School. Even though the sessions on *Finale* or *Sibelius* might draw more audience members, the people at this session were very engaged

and excited to be learning real world applications. People like myself who organize educational conferences have a difficult time finding actual teachers to put on presentations. Industry representatives do an excellent job and are relatively easy to find, but presentations by actual teachers are much more authentic. I encourage everyone who uses technology in the classroom to consider sharing your ideas next year. Sometimes the most basic uses of technology are the most useful; teachers do not always have cutting edge technology. Research has shown that the more mundane aspects of technology are the most useful to the profession.

I was also happy to see greater involvement from the colleges and universities in the state. We have a great wealth of technical expertise in the university system, and it was wonderful to have professors willing to share their knowledge with teachers.

I took the opportunity to advertise GMEA's technology support group, GMEATech@yahoo.com. The group is only about a month old, so I hope it will become a place where anyone with technical needs can go for help. The best way to become part of the group is by going to the Web address: <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/GMEATech/>. Once you join, you can choose to receive emails or read messages on the web.

The conference was also replete with information about the Technology Institute for Music Educators (TI:ME). TI:ME is the best source for help with music technology in the classroom. One way to increase your technical skills would be to take the TI:ME courses at Georgia Southern University this summer. The courses are an intensive, two-week session on the GSU campus, equivalent to a three-hour graduate course. You can choose to take them for TI:ME Level 1 certification, or for 3 hours of GSU graduate credit. The tuition is \$425, and housing will be available. See the website for more information: <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted.TI-ME>. We got a number of excellent suggestions for improvements to next year's conference, so we hope to serve you even better in the future. GMEA and TI:ME will continue to have a link, and we will announce special TI:ME involvement at future conferences. I enjoyed organizing my first conference and hope that we can continue to build on what we have done in the past.

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