

*"Our modernized minds need to be musicalized. We have deified the intellect....and developed only half of man's possibilities. There is no other human activity that asks for such a harmonious cooperation of 'intellect' and 'soul' as artistic creation, especially music."*

*Ernst Levy*

## **NC ASTA BOARD MEMBERS**

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### **National High School Honors Orchestra**

### **Chair (NHSO):**

Sally Ross  
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### **Member-at-Large / Certificate Program:**

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**Nancy Bargerstock**

Here is wishing everyone a wonderful, productive school year ahead! This fall NC-ASTA's calendar includes the following events: a Two-Day String Pedagogy Workshop with Bob and Pam Phillips at Appalachian State University on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> (there is still time to register! see <https://ssl1.appstate.edu/confinst/string.php>), the NC-ASTA Solo Competition on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the North Carolina School of the Arts, the NC-ASTA Reading Session on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at NCSA, and the annual NC-ASTA luncheon / membership meeting at the NCMEA Conference on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott Hotel / Convention Center in Winston-Salem. Plans now are being laid for the Spring 2008 NC-ASTA Certificate Program with adjudication centers in three locations statewide: Lenoir, Greensboro, and Greenville. Please refer to the ASTA webpage concerning general information about the ASTA Certificate Program.

As NC-ASTA president the last sixteen months, my appreciation for our organization and its accomplishments has increased significantly. At close range, I have observed the invaluable work being done at the national level to organize initiatives and opportunities for our nation's string teachers and programs. At the state level, others work tirelessly to provide a professional network, student/teacher-focused events, and training venues for classroom and private studio teachers. Our state organization needs your involvement to help implement these ideas. I encourage you to actively participate in state and national events either by sending your students to the Certificate Program, Solo Competition, and National High School Honors Orchestra, or by yourself attending the annual Reading Session and workshop/conference events. Please contact me or one of our NC ASTA Board members if you are interested in lending a hand in facilitating or hosting some of our activities.

Presently the NC-ASTA Board is accepting nominations for the next President-Elect. Official elections for the post will take place by mail in spring 2008. Dr. Susan Wallace steps up to the state presidency in May.

NC-ASTA is a vital component of our state's musical profile. Presently there are a few NC public school programs with difficult, even tenuous situations that need our support. Clinically, it has been proven that an early musical education profoundly affects the development of a young brain, while it enriches the soul. Our common belief in our profession and our advocacy for it is necessary for its survival.

Please consider attending the NC-ASTA luncheon on Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> in Winston-Salem. This is one of the few opportunities when we can gather and share ideas and concerns. I have reserved the space from 12:30 to 2:00 to accommodate lunch and discussion time. I hope to see you there!

## **NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HONORS ORCHESTRA**

**Sally Ross**

This year seven string students from North Carolina choose to audition for National High School Honors Orchestra. While this is a 50% increase from 2004 we still have lots of cheerleading to do so that more of our students take advantage of this opportunity. These musicians spent the time completing an application and resume and making a recording of a specific concerto and a piece of their own choice. All of these kids have a leg up now on the college

Mary Kay Robinson  
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us

application process and a good recording (I can attest to the quality of the playing!) to use should they need one. Each state chapter can send 30 applications to the National Office. Some states have so many applicants that they have to have a state judging committee screen them! Once the tapes are in the hands of the National Office the state of origin has no bearing on the selection process. The most outstanding applicants, regardless of their home are selected. This year's orchestra will meet and rehearse in Albuquerque NM as part of the ASTA National Conference.

In 2005 I had the opportunity to attend the conference in Reno, Nevada. I sat with the very proud mother of Sara Barlowe, a Hickory High School student participating in the orchestra. The concert was simply breathtaking. Midori introduced the orchestra and their was a stage full of wide eyes as so many of the young string players had been drawn to music by seeing her (or Yo-Yo Ma) on Sesame Street. Sara definitely fell in to that category! The level of the performance was amazing and the commitment and intensity of the players was incredibly moving. I would venture to say there was not a dry eye in the auditorium.

Sara, now a junior at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, feels this experience was a defining moment in her life.

NHSO occurs every two years and is open to high school juniors and seniors. Information is posted on the ASTA web page in plenty of time for you to prepare students for the application process. The next orchestra will meet in 2010 with applications being due in the fall of 2009. Start talking about this opportunity with your freshman and sophomores now. Nothing ventured, nothing gained!

## NORTH CAROLINA ASTA STRING COMPETITION

*The North Carolina unit of the American String Teachers Association is sponsoring a string solo competition in 2007 for students of NC-ASTA/NSOA members*

When: November 3, 2007 from 9 AM to 2 PM.

Where: North Carolina School of the Arts.

Application Deadline: Postmarked by October 1st (see application below)

Prizes; A \$150 prize will be offered to the winner of both Junior and Senior divisions.

Program Length:

- Junior Division (18 years of age and under): 12 -15 minutes
- Senior Division (19-25 years of age): 17-20 minutes

Program Repertoire (same for all ages and instruments):

- Any solo movement of Bach.
- Two contrasting works of your choice, one of which must be a showpiece or other work that clearly demonstrates technical ability.
- Memorization is not necessary.

All contestants must arrange for their own accompanist. If you cannot bring

one with you, please contact Dr. Brooks Whitehouse at the email below for a list of accompanists in the Triad area. Fees and rehearsals are to be negotiated directly between accompanist and the contestant.

Registration fee for the competition is \$20.00. The completed registration form and fee should be mailed to the address below, postmarked by October 1st:

Dr. Brooks Whitehouse  
North Carolina School of the Arts  
1533 South Main Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27127-2188  
[whitehouseb@ncarts.edu](mailto:whitehouseb@ncarts.edu), tel 336-770-3354

## **BOB and PAM PHILLIPS WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 28 and 29**

**Bob Phillips**, composer, string pedagogue, teacher trainer, editor and conductor, is renowned both as an educator and an innovator in string education. Bob and his wife, Pam, devote their time to creating and presenting new music, workshops and materials for string teachers and students. Traveling internationally and throughout the United States they spend time in schools and universities in both workshop and guest residency formats. With over twenty-eight years experience in a public school classroom, as well as twenty years as a teacher trainer, Bob brings a wealth of knowledge and a sense of humor to his workshops, clinics, and guest conducting.



Bob is co-author of the String Explorer method books as well as the ground breaking series of books Fiddlers Philharmonic, Fiddlers Philharmonic Encore!, Jazz Philharmonic and Jazz Philharmonic: Second Set, all published by Alfred Publishing. He serves, along with Richard Meyer, as the String Editor for Alfred, guiding the development of the string catalogue. As a composer and arranger he has many published for string orchestra. An expert in the use of folk fiddling and

jazz in the string orchestra, he taught twenty-seven years in the Saline Area Schools building a string program with over 700 students that is a national model of excellence in both classical and alternative music. Bob's groups have performed at national and state conferences and consistently achieved top ratings at festivals. He founded the nationally renowned folk-fiddling ensemble, Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic, which under his direction gained an international reputation annually performing more than 75 shows.

Bob graduated from the University of Michigan with both Bachelor and Master Degrees in Music Education, where he studied with Lawrence Hurst, Elizabeth Green and Bob Culver. His students have been successful as string educators, as well as professional performers in both classical and alternative styles. He has been elected "Teacher of the Year" nine times by national, state, and regional associations and has been invited to present clinics in more than thirty states and in eight foreign countries. He has presented clinics at numerous national conferences including the Ohio State University String Teachers Conference, the American String Workshop, the National String Workshop, the Midwest Clinic, the International String Workshop, the International Society of Bassists and the MENC and ASTA National conventions. Bob and Pam founded the Phillips Family Fiddle Camps and the String Alternatives Workshop. Bob has been credited in

several national publications with being one of the prime forces in the creation of the alternative styles movement in schools.

**Pam Phillips**, manager, producer, graphic artist, publicist and string educator, plans and produces the string education activities undertaken in partnership with her husband, Bob Phillips. With Bob, the famous composer and teacher, she travels extensively presenting clinics for teachers and working with students. Pam brings a broad understanding of the classroom and public school atmosphere to the construction of the clinics and workshops. She also coordinates projects and development of new materials. Currently working with promotion and development of Bob's books and compositions for Alfred Publishing, Pam masterminds many activities. Pam and Bob also consult with Barrage and act as the liaison between the performing group and schools.

Pam graduated from the University of Michigan and then ran a successful



business for many years. With Mary Kay Cosmetics she reached the level of Team Manager earning the use of three cars. This experience in sales, training and motivation became part of all future musical and educational endeavors. After spending these years in business and raising three musicians, Pam turned her full time energies to the arts.

Pam served as arts administrator for the performing ensemble, Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic in Saline, MI, for the first eight years after the group's founding. She also served as

a substitute music teacher and assisted in program development for the Saline music program. One specialty of Pam's is communication between the community and the music department. Together with Bob, she founded a new string program in Tecumseh, MI planning advocacy, interface with parents, classroom activities and assembling a ten-year plan for the new program. Pam is responsible for the development, marketing and organization of the Phillips Family Fiddle Camps, which ran successfully from 1997-2000 reaching over 500 students. An earlier collaboration with Barrage resulted in the well-received Siring Alternatives Workshops for teachers. Pam has assisted in the graphic design and development of the Fiddlers Philharmonic, Jazz Philharmonic, String Alternative and String Explorer series for Alfred Publishing. Pam served as producer, editor, writer and graphic artist for the newly released DVD, String Clinics to Go: The Art of Recruiting, distributed by Shar Products.

Recognized as Citizens of the Year by the City of Saline for their work in arts education, Bob and Pam were also honored in special ceremonies by both the House and the Senate of the State of Michigan for their work with the Saline Fiddlers.

They have three daughters who have taught at the Phillips Family Fiddle Camps and the Michigan ASTA camps. Two daughters, who are string teachers, also give fiddle clinics in their regions. The third daughter, a math

teacher, continues to teach at summer music camps and play bass on the side.

## WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

### Tentative Agenda: Friday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>

Friday sessions will involve Appalachian State students. They are also open to music education students from any university as well as to studio and schoolteachers.

9:00 to 9:50 Overview of the music industry and educational composing

10:00 to 10:50 Open discussion with theory/composition majors

11:00 to 11:50 Watch Bob work with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade beginning string class from Hardin Park Elementary School.

**12:00 to 12:50 Check-in** (Rosen Concert Hall Lobby)

1:00 to 1:50 Seminar: "How do you present information/yourself? - Communicating in the classroom of clinical arena." Bob teaches the "elements of delivery" including: modeling, tempo of presentation, sequencing / breakdown of skills to increase understanding, commanding leadership in the room, eye contact, and humor.

2:00 to 2:50 Roundtable discussion with students and participants

3:00 to 3:50 - String Pedagogy in the Instrumental Music Education Methods class

(Instruments will be needed for this session.)

4:10 to 4:50 - Open Session demonstrating how to teach fiddling for string orchestra! Community Music School students will participate. University students and teachers may observe or play.

4:50 to 5:30 - Open Session demonstrating the use of jazz and "improv" for strings. Community Music School students will participate. University students and teachers may observe or play.

### Tentative Agenda: Saturday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>

**A jam-packed one-day workshop:** To "bow or blow" - that is the question!

**(Included are refreshments and pre-ordered lunch.)**

**8:30 to 9:20 Check-in and continental breakfast** (Rosen Concert Hall Lobby)

**9:30 to 12:30 and 1:30 to 4:30: Teacher and college student workshop -**

Six hours of instruction weaving the following topics: Plenty of information perfect for the non-string player who finds themselves teaching strings!

"The Basics at All Ages" including:

1. Everything you wanted to know about starting strings but were afraid to ask!
  - Set up
  - Putting fingers down
  - Placing the bow
  - Instrument standards
2. Continued technique development after the first year
  - How to develop sight-reading skills, improve note reading, and developing a good tone
  - Tested methods for teaching shifting, tuning, vibrato and advanced skills
  - Developing bass players for a solid foundation to the orchestra
3. Classroom and rehearsal strategies for beginners through high school
4. Fiddling, jazz, and mariachi in the curriculum
5. Strategies for recruiting strings and then keeping them!

Discussion of Fundamentals - Back to Basics!

1. Beginning String Instruction – Getting Started, Technical Issues, Bow or Blow
2. Recruiting and Retention
3. Middle School and High School issues
4. Acceptable Instruments
5. Developing Low strings
6. Alternative Styles: Thinking about starting mariachi at your school?  
– Introducing other topics as part of your curriculum - How to run a group
7. Beyond the baton. Tips for better conducting of school ensembles.

4:45 to 5:30: Optional - Evening fiddle / jazz session

Please plan to join us for the NC-ASTA workshop with guest clinicians Bob and Pam Phillips. The workshop is geared toward both the private teacher and public school string educators. There will also be plenty of information perfect for the non-string player who finds themselves teaching strings! There will be evening fiddle, jazz and mariachi jam sessions. Bring your own instrument or borrow one on site.

**CEU credit possible**

Upon successful completion of workshop, participants will receive a certificate stating the number of participation hours. Please check with your school system for renewal requirements. The Saturday workshop will consist of 6 contact hours.

## **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Register online at Appalachian's School of Music website:

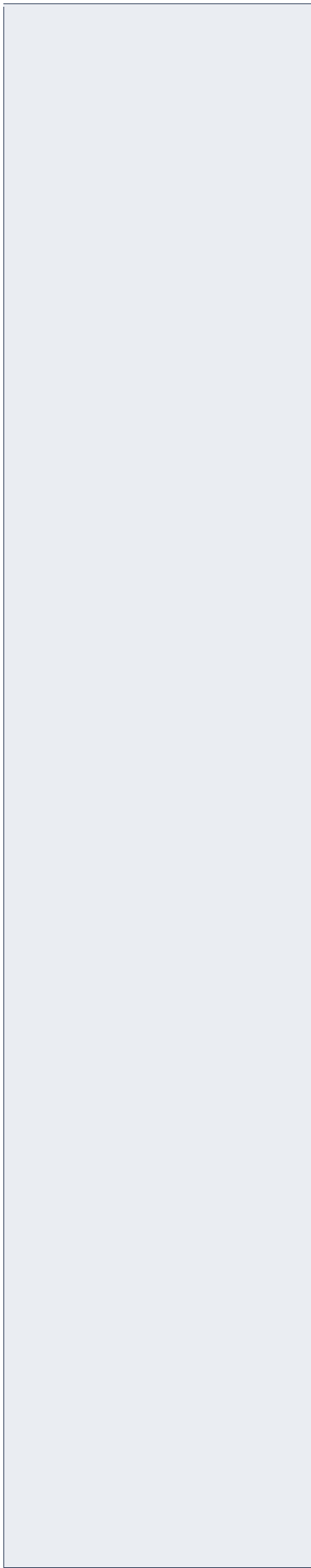
<https://ssl1.appstate.edu/confinst/string.php>

## **NC-ASTA LUNCHEON/MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT NCMEA**

NC-ASTA's annual Luncheon/Membership Meeting at the NCMEA Conference is scheduled for Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 2:00 in Ardmore, Marriott Hotel/Convention Center in Winston-Salem. The luncheon menu will include Caesar chicken salad, red velvet cake, and coffee. The cost for the luncheon is \$18 and tickets are available in advance at the time of registration for the conference. (The kitchen staff is happy to provide an alternative choice for those with special dietary needs on the day of the luncheon.)

## **ASTA READING SESSION AT NCMEA CONFERENCE**

Upon popular request, the ASTA Reading Session is scheduled for Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 until 11:00. Location: North Carolina School of the Arts in the School, Music Complex - room 168, adjacent to the Honors Orchestra rehearsal space. A few cellos and two basses will be provided. Otherwise, you need to bring an instrument in order to participate. Sandra Dackow will be providing some of her recent publications. I hope to see you



there.



