



Alla Corda

NC Unit of American String Teachers Association

NC ASTA Website: www.ecu.edu/music/ncasta
Fall 2009

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had a relaxing summer. And, that we're all rested and ready to really dig in and do wonderful teaching this fall. Please think about what NC-ASTA has to offer you and your students.

This year the NC-ASTA Solo Competition will be held at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston Salem. BROOKS WHITEHOUSE does a wonderful job organizing and running the competition by making sure that every participant has a good experience. Last year our winner, STEFANI COLLINS (violin), went to Atlanta to compete in the ASTA's national competition and she won second place. Her performance is a testament to the good teaching in North Carolina.

MIRA FRISCH is diligently recruiting teachers and their students to participate in the Certificate of Advancement Program. This is not a competition. This is a program to help you prepare your students for auditions and performances. This is as much for the teacher as it is for the student and detailed information may be found on the NC-ASTA website: <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cfac/music/ncasta/>

REBECCA MACLEOD is in charge of the NC ASTA Education Scholarship, a wonderful new program which was started in 2008. This program will give a competitive scholarship each year to a qualified NC string student who plans to attend a North Carolina university as an education major.

CHRISTINA PLACILLA ran the National High School Orchestra Program that occurred this spring, and 3 students have been accepted to participate in the National Honors High School Orchestra. See more information in this newsletter!

GREG HURLEY continues to do the newsletter and website.

Our "New Music Reading Session" will also be held at the North Carolina School of the Arts on Sat., Nov. 7th in room 129 from 2 to 4 pm. LYNNE LATHAM will conduct us as we play through new string orchestra music of different levels. Our annual luncheon/business meeting will be held at the NCMEA conference Monday, Nov. 9th from 12:30 - 2:00. A winner from the solo competition will perform for us. Afterwards lunch will be served and we'll hold our annual business meeting. You do not need to be a member of NCMEA to join us at the luncheon/meeting

We have a very strong enthusiastic board that is constantly thinking about opportunities and services that can be offered to you. We want NC ASTA to take an important role in our state teacher's and student's lives. We need you to give us some ideas as to what we can do to help you - we want to know what your

needs are. Send your comments and thoughts directly to me and they will be discussed with our board.

We have two new board members. BILL SCHLETA is our new Membership Chairman, replacing SARA RUSSEL who is very busy now with her family (new baby) and work. I thank Sara for all she has done for us. LESLIE ALTERIN is our new secretary. She has replaced LISA WHITE who is working while now pursuing another degree. We also thank Lisa for her devotion and time to NC ASTA.

Finally, as an ASTA member, I encourage you to take advantage of what the national organization offers, such as insurance, publications, scholarships of various kinds and etc. Please know that we are all NC ASTA - take part in our activities and encourage student chapters - let's work together to build a very strong, united chapter in North Carolina.

Hope to see you this year,

Susan Wallace

NORTH CAROLINA STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HONORS ORCHESTRA

After passing initial state competitions, 300 applicants nationwide competed to be chosen for the biennial National High School Honors Orchestra that rehearse and perform at the ASTA National Conference. From the 300, 120 students were chosen. NC-ASTA is very proud to announce that three NC students were chosen to participate! The three students are:

- Wesley Shang- Cary, NC, violin
- Audrey Chang Ou Chang- Cary, NC, principle flute
- Ho-Young Ahn- Mathews, NC, clarinet

The National High School Honors Orchestra will be held February 16- February 20, 2010 in Santa Clara, California. Students in the eleventh and twelfth grades during the 2009/2010 school year applied for participation on stringed

instruments. Percussion and wind students who were eligible to apply were ninth through twelfth graders during the 2009/2010 school year.

OXFORD PUBLISHES *THE MUSICIAN'S WAY*, BY GERALD KLINKSTEIN

In August, Oxford University Press released *The Musician's Way: A Guide to Practice, Performance, and Wellness* by longtime NC- ASTA member Gerald Klickstein (360 pp. \$24.95). *The Musician's Way* presents comprehensive, research-driven guidance to all aspiring performers (especially college and pre-college music students) as well as their teachers. It also employs an extensive companion website, which includes free resources and downloadable practice aids: www.MusiciansWay.com. The book is organized in three parts:

- Part I, *Artful Practice*, helps musicians interpret and memorize compositions, fuel motivation, collaborate, and more.
- Part II, *Fearless Performance*, lifts the lid on the causes of nervousness and guides students to become confident performers.
- Part III, *Lifelong Creativity*, surveys tactics that equip performers to prevent music-related injuries and thrive as creative artists.

Gerald Klickstein is Professor of Music at the [University of North Carolina School of the Arts](http://www.uncc.edu) and an active classical guitarist. In addition to performing, teaching, and writing, he serves as Artist/Member-at-Large on the ASTA board and is a member of the College Board's National Task Force on the Arts in Education.

String Teacher's Cookbook

This savory book is a collection of insightful strategies in one easy, quick-to-read source. According to the publisher, contributors to the book were even eager to get a look at each other's ideas. With outstanding records of performance, workshop clinics, recordings, research, composition, leadership, and teaching, the 57 authors provide their favorite "recipes" that range from overviews of successful programs to specific topics intended to inspire all levels and types of ensembles and performers.

The cookbook is published by Meredith Music and distributed by Hal Leonard with royalties generously donated to ASTA. This book can be purchased online at halleonard.com for just \$24.95. It is edited by Joanne May.

NORTH CAROLINA ASTA STRING COMPETITION

The North Carolina unit of the American String Teachers Association is sponsoring a string solo competition in 2009 for students of NC-ASTA/NSOA members

When: October 24th, 2009 from 9 AM to 2 PM.

Where: University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

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

Prizes; A \$500 prize will be offered to the winner of the Senior division and a \$300 prize to the winner of the Junior Division.

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 Friday, October 2nd:

Dr. Brooks Whitehouse
North Carolina School of the Arts
1533 South Main Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27127-2188
whitehouseb@uncsa.edu, tel 336-770-3354

NC-ASTA 2009 String Competition Application Form

Name:

Age:

Instrument:

Address/phone/email:

Name, email and ASTA ID # of teacher (Teacher must be an ASTA member):

Program repertoire with timings (please note that if your program is longer than the allotted time, you will be stopped the time limit, and may be asked to skip around between selections on the program.)

Bach:

Showpiece:

Other contrasting work:

Enclosed: Check _____ Money Order _____
(Check or Money order should be made payable to NC-ASTA)

Thank you for your participation. We look forward to hearing you play!

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THE NC-ASTA STRING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

The American String Teachers Association would like to invite applicants for the NC ASTA String Education Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who is a resident of North Carolina, plays a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, string bass, guitar, or harp), and plans to attend a North Carolina college or university to study music education. The recipient of this award will receive \$1,000 toward tuition as well as a one-year student membership to ASTA. Deadline to submit an application is March 31, 2010. Application materials and further information regarding this scholarship can be found at the ASTA website, <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cfac/music/ncasta/index.cfm>.

NC-ASTA STRING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNER: ELIZABETH LYNCH



Elizabeth (Liz) Lynch is the first and only recipient to date of the NC-ASTA String Education Scholarship. Liz is currently a sophomore at East Carolina University, and received the scholarship for the 2008 – 2009 academic year. A native of Jacksonville, NC, Liz’s teachers included Mrs. Quast, Jennifer Mahouchick, and Joli Brooks. She studied viola privately with Lisa White. Liz is grateful for the scholarship and for the opportunity to join ASTA. By receiving the scholarship, “it created immediate involvement with the ECU Student ASTA chapter.” Liz goes on to state that “The scholarship certainly helped with schooling, and I want to thank the members of NC-ASTA for the opportunity that this award presented.”

THE NC-ASTA CERTIFICATE ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

NCASTA is planning two Certificate Advancement Programs for the spring 2010 semester, one in Charlotte and one in Lenoir. This program provides students of all ages and levels an opportunity to perform memorized scales, etudes, and pieces for a judge in order to receive comments and ideally a certificate of completion for a particular level of playing. We hope to have many string teachers participate by sending students and we are looking for local teachers to host each event. Detailed information, including an application form and flier, will be emailed to all NCASTA teachers and posted on our website in early fall. For more information or to volunteer to host a program, please email the CAP coordinator Dr. Mira Frisch (UNC Charlotte) at mfrisch2@uncc.edu.

FREE RECRUITING POSTERS AVAILABLE FOR ORCHESTRA

Having trouble recruiting students for orchestra? As part of the NAMM grant, Increasing Access to Strings, ASTA now has free posters available that target minority students. Place your order today by emailing maryjane@astaweb.com. You will receive 10 posters to display throughout your school community.

BECOME A FREE MEMBER OF THE ARTS ACTION FUND

As many of you know, ASTA has established a new partnership with the Americans for the Arts Action Fund. As a benefit of your ASTA membership, you can also become a free member of the Arts Action Fund which will provide you with:

- Timely arts advocacy alerts and news through E-Advocacy Center;
- Easy-to-use online tools to instantly contact elected leaders at the federal, state, and local levels as well as the media with customizable messages;
- Congressional Arts Report Cards to monitor how members of Congress are voting on the arts and arts education;
- Quarterly newsletter that keeps members informed and engaged as stakeholders in arts advocacy;
- News from campaign trails to engage, educate, and support political candidates running for federal office; and
- Ability to contribute to the only political action committee (PAC) in the country representing the interests of all arts forms.

Please help ASTA work with other arts advocates to build one million advocates for the arts by 2010 and advocate for arts education and arts funding. Join the Arts Action Fund today by going to <http://www.artsusa.org>

STRING ADVOCACY IN THE DAYS OF AN ECONOMIC RECESSION

For advocacy, ASTA has many ideas for the string teacher. Check out: <http://www.astaweb.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Advocacy>

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY BEGINS STRING PROJECT

Through a grant from the National String Project Consortium (affiliated with ASTA), the Dana Foundation, and in kind donations from East Carolina University, the ECU String Project was begun in fall 2008. The String Project program was developed with two purposes in mind: 1) to develop young talent, and 2) to provide supervised teaching experiences for prospective teachers.

Last year, 42 fourth and fifth grade students were taught by 6 undergraduate string education majors. Students received both large and small group instruction to facilitate technical development and group ensemble experiences. The year culminated with a program and reception on the ECU campus.

The six String Project teachers received several opportunities to learn. Weekly sessions were held to discuss logistical and pedagogical problems with Dr. Greg Hurley, ECU string education professor. Dr. Hurley also provided feedback on the lessons taught by the teachers, and demonstrated for the teachers in the large group settings. By far, the most important opportunity to learn came from the hands on experiences with the students themselves.

The 6 teachers reported more confidence in their ability to teach. Two comments summarized many of the teachers' comments about the program:

- By teaching students who are the same age as kids I would most likely be teaching as opposed to my peers in classes, I have learned a lot about teaching and have learned a great deal from my own students. I've learned how to phrase instructions, think of abstract ways to teach certain techniques, how to manage large and small groups, and interact better with young people.
- I've really enjoyed this experience. It's nice to work in groups small enough to get to know the students, and they enjoy getting to know each other. The group setting doesn't isolate any individual player, but is still open enough for me to give individual help. I've learned group control, and have just enjoyed teaching the cello to such willing students. The improvement of the class overall is almost stunning when I think back to what they sounded like on the first day. They are starting to look and sound like young cellists! I'm really proud of them.

Lessons for the 2009-2010 String Project will begin in late September.