
Alla Corda – SPRing 2005

President's letter

Dear Friends,

As you finish the academic year and begin to prepare for final concerts and recitals, it is wonderful to look toward summer and opportunities to refresh oneself. Please plan to join us for the NC-ASTA WITH NSOA summer workshop with guest clinician Phyllis Young. Phyllis's workshops are always chocked full of information, insightful teaching ideas, and high-energy enthusiasm! Phyllis can speak to ANY string teacher, regardless of instrument taught or the method to which you subscribe. In addition, you will earn 1.5 CEU credits for participation in the workshop. **This workshop is open to both ASTA and NON-ASTA string teachers**, so recruit your friends to join in the fun! You don't want to miss this opportunity to interact with this highly acclaimed string pedagogue, so please join us June 15-17 in Greenville for this extraordinary event.

Having returned from the National ASTA with NSOA conference, I was inspired by the performances and the variety of activities and sessions that were offered throughout the event. There was certainly something for everyone. I hope that you will make plans now to attend the next national conference in 2006 in Kansas City. The array of offerings was outstanding. Clinicians from NC included Nancy Bargerstock, Kathleen deBerry Brungard, Gerald Klickstein, Scott Laird, and myself.

Our state chapter is moving ahead with plans to implement the ASTA Certificate Program for strings. Mike Weaver of Elizabeth City State University has researched the program and has information in this newsletter that outlines the details of the program. The certificate program provides a unique and motivating opportunity for students to play for a qualified adjudicator, receive feedback, and receive a certificate from ASTA recognizing quality work. Through adjudication, this program will provide the student with motivation to perform well, and the feedback will aid in the student's development.

In the next newsletter, you will see advertising from music dealers interested in gaining your support and business. I hope you will patronize these businesses, for their advertising dollars are helping to support our chapter.

Best wishes for a successful end of your academic year, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the workshop with Phyllis Young in June!

Greg Hurley

A Workshop with Phyllis Young

Sponsored by ASTA with NSOA and
East Carolina University

Please plan to join us for the NC-ASTA WITH NSOA/ECU summer workshop with guest clinician Phyllis Young. Phyllis's workshops are always chocked full of information, insightful teaching ideas, and high-energy enthusiasm! **This workshop is open to NC-ASTA and non NC-ASTA string teachers, so please invite your colleagues!** You don't want to miss this opportunity to interact with this highly acclaimed string pedagogue! Phyllis can speak to ANY string teacher, regardless of instrument taught or the method to which you subscribe. In addition, you will earn 1.5 CEU credits for your participation in the workshop. Please join us June 15-17 in Greenville for this extraordinary event.

PHYLLIS YOUNG, Professor of Cello and String Pedagogy at the University of Texas at Austin, holds the Parker C. Fielder Regents Professorship in Music. Internationally acclaimed as a string teacher, in recent years she has presented workshops/master classes



in 30 countries on six continents and in 43 American states. Author of two widely distributed pedagogy books, "Playing the String Game: Strategies for Teaching Cello and Strings" (now in its 7th printing) and "The String Play: The Drama of Playing and Teaching Strings." she has served as national president of the American String Teachers Association and was the recipient of its 1984 Distinguished Service Award. ASTA with NSOA honored her again with the 2002 Paul Rolland Lifetime Achievement Award for being "a pedagogue of renowned stature who has made significant achievements and contributions to the profession throughout her career." In 2000 Indiana University bestowed her the title of "Grande Dame du Violoncelle." In addition to teaching cello performance majors, for thirty-five years she directed the University of Texas String Project, a large teacher training program which has been a model for numerous string programs

throughout the United States and abroad. Her former students are university professors, symphony musicians, public school teachers, private Suzuki teachers, and worldwide string leaders. She is an Honorary Member of the European String Teachers Association and has been listed in Who's Who of America.

Schedule

June 16

- 11:00 – 1:00 Check in
1:00 Phyllis Young – General Learnings from Everyday Life Applied to String Playing and Teaching
2:30 Bows Can Sing, Dance, Talk, and Whisper – Phyllis Young
4:00 New Music Reading Session

June 17

- 9:00 Getting Young Cellists Off to a Great Start – Phyllis Young
10:30 Vibrato: The Great Beautifier – Phyllis Young
12:00 LUNCH
1:30 Right from the Start: Pedagogical Development of Skills Advanced Skills for Young String Players – Greg Hurley
3:00 - 6:00 Learn to play a secondary instrument! Classes available for cello and violin/viola.

June 18

- 9:00 Turning Notes into Music – Phyllis Young
10:30 Masterclass – Phyllis Young
12:00 Final Reading Session.

PHYLLIS YOUNG WORKSHOP APPLICATION

Name

Address

Home Phone

Work Phone

E-mail

Primary instrument

Secondary instrument.

NC-ASTA member (Please check one: yes_____ no_____) ASTA ID#_____

E-mail address

***NOTE: Please bring your primary instrument and a secondary instrument

Fees:

North Carolina ASTA with NSOA members

Individual \$60.00

Student \$25.00

Non-NC-ASTA members

Individual \$85.00

Student \$40.00

Checks should be made payable to NC-ASTA. Please mail registration and payment to

Dr. Greg Hurley, NC-ASTA President
Fletcher Music Center
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC 27858

Announcing the ASTA with NSOA Certificate Program for Strings

Mike Weaver
Elizabeth City State University

The ASTA WITH NSOA program began with the Maryland/DC chapter under the direction of Lya Stern in 1997, and New Jersey, Virginia, Florida, and Hawaii have in turn started the program. In order to take advantage of the benefits of the Certificate Program, NCASTA would like to offer this exemplary program to North Carolina's private studio teachers and their students. Please find below a description of the program as found in the Certificate Program for Strings Violin Levels syllabus. This violin syllabus, along with viola levels, cello levels, program description, and frequently asked questions, are available on the World Wide Web at www.asta.net/cps.

We are currently discussing where, when, and how the program will start in North Carolina. Our current target is to offer the program in the Spring of 2006 with planning sessions occurring during this summer's NC-ASTA Workshop.

I look forward to seeing you at the Summer Workshop so we can discuss this exciting program and get it up and running as soon as possible.

ASTA with NSOA Certificate Program for Strings

The Certificate Program is a framework for the graded periodic assessment of the string instrument student's technical progress and musical development. The program provides guidance to the teacher in setting goals and choosing appropriate material. At the same time it gives new incentives to students to persevere and excel in their instrumental studies. The program sets expectations and standards of performance on eleven progressive levels: elementary (e.g. Suzuki Book 1) to advanced (e.g. Mendelssohn violin Concerto). Each level is defined by a set of goals (e.g. use of vibrato, playing in 3rd position) and a list of appropriate study materials: scales, technique, etudes and solo. The program is available for violin, viola, and cello levels Foundation (F) -10. Students earn a Certificate of Achievement as they complete each level. The program is designed to encourage and motivate students, and to recognize their progress. It is open to students, preschool through adult. Students take the exam appropriate to their level of development, regardless of age. Students may enter the program at any level, may repeat levels, and may skip levels.

Some of the benefits offered participants are:

- **A graded program that assures a systematic, developmentally logical progression for improving technical and musical skills.** By preparing for the examination corresponding to each level, the teacher can plot the student's progress within a formal structure, creating the setting of a "music school without walls."
- **Periodic examinations —milestones on the path to better playing.** Students need goals and enjoy challenges. The Certificate of Achievement bolsters a sense of accomplishment and serves as tangible evidence of progress.
- **Comments of a highly qualified, impartial examiner.** Students get an opportunity to learn from the constructive criticism and suggestions of a knowledgeable, highly experienced teacher/examiner.
- **Flexibility in choice of repertoire.** While using the syllabus as a guide, teachers may choose any comparable study material or repertoire.
- **A boost to the prestige and professionalism of the private studio teacher.** Parents see their child's progress independently validated through the Certificate of Achievement issued by The American String Teachers Association with The National School Orchestra Association.

Evaluation System

The requirements for each level have been carefully and clearly defined. They are specific enough to set meaningful goals yet broad enough to accommodate any teaching style (traditional, Suzuki, etc.). The requirements are geared for the average student with built-in flexibility for the high achieving student. The requirements for assessment, along with recommended study material, are described in detail in the following pages. In order to ensure that the Certificate truly reflects progress from level to level, the student's performance has to meet certain minimum standards. Each portion of the performance (scale, etude, first and second piece, and sight-reading) is evaluated separately based on the following criteria: tone, intonation, technique, rhythm, musicality, memorization and stage presence. A rating of **V** (very good), **S** (satisfactory), or **N** (needs improvement) is given. If there are five or more "Ns" in any category, that portion of the performance exam must be taken again at a future date, to be announced. No retakes are necessary in sight-reading regardless of rating. The examiner will make written comments on aspects of the student's technique and musicianship. The examiner's decision is final. The completed examiners' forms will be sent directly to the teacher. Teachers are asked to distribute and discuss the comments with their students.

Teachers may choose the music for exams from any source as long as the material is comparable in level to that in the syllabus.

Each selection is evaluated based on tone, intonation, technique, rhythm, musicality, memorization, and stage presence. The evaluation forms are sent to the teacher to discuss with the students.

Opportunities to serve ASTA WITH NSOA

Our state and national ASTA WITH NSOA associations would not exist without volunteers. If you are interested in running for an office with NC-ASTA and/or volunteering your time for the good of our state chapter, NC-ASTA would like to know about you!

NC-ASTA seeks a volunteer(s) to solicit gifts (donations) for the state basket for the 2006 National ASTA WITH NSOA Conference in Kansas City? State baskets are raffled to highest bidders as a fundraiser for ASTA WITH NSOA. This could be a fun and entertaining project as one begins to think of the ways our beautiful state might be reflected in such a basket!

The National Office is seeking 3 volunteers who will be attending the ASTA National Conference in Kansas City in 2006 to preside at conferences. Presiding at a conference is easy and consists of helping to set up the room for the clinic, passing out handouts, and introducing the clinician. Please let me know of your interest!

If you are interested in serving in any of the above capacities, please write to me at hurleyc@mail.ecu.edu or call 252.328.1245