

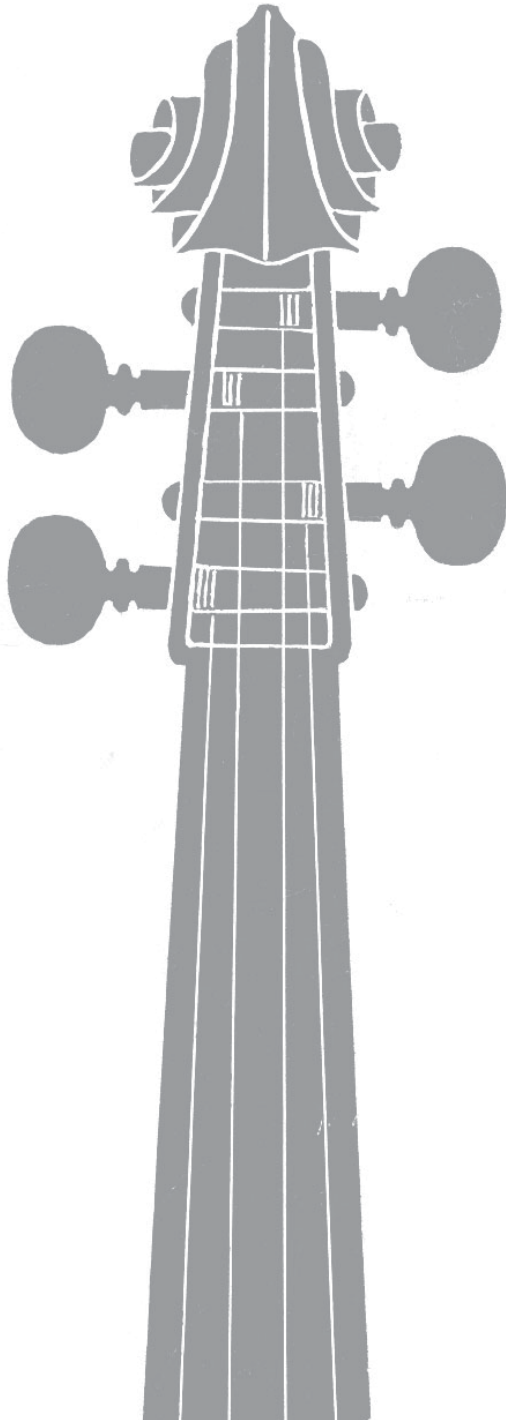


# Colorado ASTA, Inc.

## STRING VIBRATIONS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007

<http://www.colorado-asta.org/index.htm>



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### in this issue

Information on the CASTA Certificate Program

*Nomination for President-Elect and Lifetime Service Award 2007*

Maestro Wes Kenney wins international Conducting Competition

*Research from CMEA*

News from Colorado

## Almost My Farewell as CASTA, Inc. President

Dear CASTA, Inc. Colleagues, and Friends,  
This is the prelude to my final letter sharing the many CASTA successes we have enjoyed together as I complete my final term as CASTA, Inc. President. As you read this, I encourage you to consider the nomination of the next President-Elect. Trust me, you can do it. The support system is magnificent. Don Emmons will take the President office in May as I step on to Past-President. Don will make a most illustrious President having already made significant strides in our future success. Please see Ed Deepe's letter and send in your nomination after you read today's "String Vibrations".

Now, I would like to reflect on the most significant accomplishments made during my term. Most significantly, I am pleased to announce our membership has doubled to 250 members. We have student chapters and countless networking alliances with private, public and university studios. Never before have string teachers made such a prominent impact in music education. We love our jobs, enjoy a professional status building programs and not just necessarily saving the orchestra programs. Our orchestra programs are proud, sound fantastic and are prominent throughout Colorado and across the United States. Overall the musicianship is significant with happy, healthy quality orchestras everywhere. We are endorsed and supported by publishers, music companies, publishers, corporations, and government agencies.

Our CASTA legacy is impressive. I have researched an almost lost legacy and have listed a now complete list of Past-Presidents, Life Time, and Outstanding Teacher Award recipients. Check it out 'on line' on our incredible website.

The CASTA, Inc. leadership is phenomenal. Our most recent Past-President Margaret Berg has finalized and the board has approved our Chapter By-Laws. Thank you for all your work and quality accomplishments. To Nancy Allwein, our amazing Treasurer. Thank you for always keeping us "in the black", we look good in black. Thank you for your time and expertise this summer helping to create a working budget to support our numerous programs. To Don Emmons, our President-Elect, you are an incredible leader. I appreciate your patience and understanding. I look forward to even greater CASTA success and accomplishments with your fine organizational style. To Kim Watkins, thanks for your quality scribe work. Fred Jewell our "String Vibrations" Editor, I am in awe of you. The "SV" is always a great read and timely work. To the entire board and amazing representatives. Thank you to Ed Deepe, our Southern Area Representative who regularly helps promote our awards recipients with pristine, quality inscriptions. Most recently, this summer, a well-deserved award to Flesher-Hinton for service since 1951. To the other Area Representatives, I so appreciate your attentive work and thoughtful leadership. Holly E. Wood, Jennifer John, and Mike Nelson, you ROCK. Thanks for all you do. I also want to thank our new Certificate program committee Dr. Kip Mason, Chair, Dr. Margaret Miller, and Campbell Harrison. I am so proud to announce the availability of numerous kickoff of so many incredible programs for our students to excel and participate. We had a fabulous summer conference and Mimi Butler was fantastic helping us begin our new venture in our certificate program. Oh, and we had a huge turnout this summer with 54 members in attendance at Cherry Creek HS. For handouts, pictures, updates and more-check the web.

And once again, special thanks to Barb Risner for a fabulous party for all the CASTA members celebrating our summer conference and hosting Mimi Butler at her home this summer. Most of all, a standing ovation to our webmaster, or should I say webmistress, Linda Johnson, for routinely providing stellar and exemplary performance and representation of CASTA's work promoting our information and achievements. You are a true friend and professional. Thanks Linda for making our website an amazingly professional and beautiful resource. Selected Nationally as ASTA's "Best Website" in 2005. Still a winner in 2007.

National ASTA conferences are relatively new with only five in existence; Columbus, Reno, Austin, Kansas City and Detroit. We have always had significant membership representation at each conference. Most recently, the CSU Chamber Orchestra performed

in Detroit with Dr. Wes Kenney and Steve McNeal, presentations by Juliet White-Smith, and many others. Actually a special and recent international congratulations to our very own Dr. Wes Kenney, CSU conducting professor and Fort Collins Conductor on winning the Varna International Conductors Competition held in Vidin, Bulgaria.

I invite you all to attend our sixth conference. This year, as you know, will be in Albuquerque. To stay informed visit our CASTA, Inc. website often. Currently, you will see a beautiful picture of our Colorado National High School Honor Orchestra winner cellist Jamie Alayne Clark, from Boulder High School. Special thanks to Vanda Skadden our newly appointed NNSHO Chair for promoting this reputable and exciting venture. Jamie will have a fabulous time in Albuquerque if selected to perform.

Back to Colorado as our status is distinguished by the high representation of CMEA audition submissions. The top orchestras in Colorado will perform this coming January at the Broadmoor. Congratulations to the winning Colorado Orchestras performing at CMEA this year. Bravo to these incredible orchestras.

Deer Creek M.S. String Orchestra, Andy Micheau, director  
Mesa County Honor M.S. Orchestra, J. Cameron Law, dir.  
Fairview H.S. Chamber Orchestra, Stephanie Wallace, dir.  
Niwot H.S. Symphony Orchestra, Keith Ellison, dir.  
Rocky Mountain H.S. Symphony Orchestra, Beth Wells, dir.

We will also hear the Colorado State Pueblo Orchestra under the direction of Jacob Chi and the Regis University Orchestra under the direction of Charles Lee. How wonderful to look forward to all these marvelous performances.

Our clinicians at CMEA this year are absolutely superb. We are especially fortunate to have Dr. Robert Frost, Dr. Larry Livingston, Dr. Michael Gagliardo, Stephanie Schweigart and "Two Fiddles" with The Laufman's. There were many wonderful and prominent proposal submissions this year. Thanks to everyone for the creative effort and incredible response. We welcome your future input in future years. More thanks in advance to the generous financial support of Kjos Music, Golden Music, Flesher-Hinton Music, Kolancy Music, Roper Music, Music & Arts, FJH Publication and others. Additionally, look forward to our traditional New Music Orchestra Reading Session sponsored by Flesher-Hinton Music as well as our annual CMEA/CASTA Inc. General Membership Meeting. Remember, send in your nominations today; Hall of Fame, Lifetime Awards, 25 Year Awards, ASTA Member of the Month, & more. If you don't do it, who will? You make the difference.

BRAVO to all the incredible music educators throughout Colorado for their numerous deeds, accomplishments, profound and significant work with our membership, community, audiences, students, and youth of today. BRAVO to our magnificent leadership; Michelle Ewer, President of CMEA, Cindy McCaskill, President-Elect of CMEA, Mary Wagner, President of ASTA and Jeffrey Solow, President-Elect of ASTA, all our Leadership Stars guiding us to success. You will absolutely love our upcoming conferences and conventions this year. Please plan to attend. Wishing you a warm, successful and fulfilling 2007-2008 performance season. Remember, always send your pictures, stories, and anecdotes. It's what makes us CASTA, Inc. Share your successes.

Musically yours,

*Andrea Meyers*

CASTA, Inc. President  
Rock Canyon HS Rocky Heights MS Orchestra Director  
Colorado American String Teachers Association, President  
<http://colo-asta.org>

## **ANNOUNCING THE CASTA CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FOR STRINGS!!!**

The first CASTA Certification Program for Strings will be held Saturday, March 8, 2008 at Highlands Ranch High School. This is a great opportunity for your students to receive comments and a certificate from ASTA for completing levels of achievement. Suggested repertoire and scale lists can be found on the ASTA web site at [www.asta-web.com/cps.htm](http://www.asta-web.com/cps.htm). The application deadline is January 11, 2008

We are looking forward to a great first year, and are planning to have certification days in all the CASTA areas in the future.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact a committee member.

Kip Mason, Chair	<a href="mailto:kipmason89@aol.com">kipmason89@aol.com</a>
Campbell Harrison	<a href="mailto:Campbell.Harrison@Adams12.org">Campbell.Harrison@Adams12.org</a>
Carol Tarr	<a href="mailto:CelloCarol@aol.com">CelloCarol@aol.com</a>
Margaret Miller	<a href="mailto:violaco@comcast.net">violaco@comcast.net</a>

### **BRAVO!! COLORADO NHSHO WINNER!**

**JAMIE ALAYNE CLARK**, cellist from Boulder High School, has been chosen as the CASTA, Inc. applicant to the National High School Honors Orchestra. Jamie is a senior in the Boulder High School Chamber Orchestra. She has attended Colorado All-State Orchestra in 2006 and 2007 and also Western States Honors Orchestra Festival in 2005 and 2006. Jamie is a member of the Vesuvius Quartet and taken masterclasses with the Takacs Quartet, the Tel Avia Trio, the Vogler, and Chen Quartets. She is currently a member of the Denver Young Artists Orchestra, and was a member of the Boulder Youth Symphony for several years. She won the 2007 Virginia Charles Concerto Competition and was the 2006 winner of the Boulder High School Concerto Competition. Jamie is a cello student of Judith Glyde. Kip Mason is her high school orchestra director. She has performed the Elgar and Lalo Concertos. Her audition included excerpts from the Haydn and Lalo Concertos.

We are very pleased to have such a qualified applicant, and wish her well. The NHSHO will be held at the ASTA National Conference in Albuquerque, NM, February 27-March 1, 2008.

\*\*\*All teachers please take note that the NHSHO for next year will be March 19-21, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia. Please prepare your students early in the year for their audition pieces for this wonderful opportunity.

Submitted by Vanda Skadden



# Demographics, Job Satisfaction, and Career Plans of Colorado String Music Educators

by Joshua Russell, Ph.D.

As a part of developing a questionnaire for my dissertation at the University of Colorado, Boulder, I conducted a pilot study using string music educators in Colorado. This pilot study was intended to improve the String Music Educator Questionnaire (SMEQ) subsequently sent to a national sample of members of ASTA. The purpose of the dissertation was to investigate the career plans of string music teachers and factors that may influence their decisions to remain in their position, seek a related position, or leave the profession entirely.

The pilot study took place over two days during the Colorado Music Educators Conference held in Colorado Springs, Colorado on January 19-20, 2007. Participants were found in clinics for string teachers, at the Colorado American String Teachers Association (CASTA) information booth, and at the annual CASTA general membership meeting. Twenty-three Colorado string teachers completed the questionnaire.

## *Pilot Study Participant Demographics*

Demographics of the pilot study participants were roughly similar to the national sample of ASTA teachers. On average, pilot study participants were 39 years old and had 14 years of teaching experience. Elementary teachers comprised 44% of the participants, middle school teachers 39%, high school teachers 13%, and mixed level teachers 4%. Eighty-seven percent of the participants were Caucasian and 13% were Asian. No other ethnic group was represented in this pilot study. A majority of participants were female (56%) and grew up in a middle class or upper middle class socioeconomic area (87%). Nearly one half were married while 39% were single and 22% were divorced. The greatest proportion of pilot study participants had no children (57%) or 2 to 3 children (35%). Roughly 8% had one child or more than three children.

Nearly all participants (96%) taught in traditional public schools, with one individual teaching in a charter school. The majority (61%) taught in a suburban area with an average class size of 21 students. Most of (87%) received their initial certification through their bachelors degree, while 9% received certification through a masters degree program and 4% through an alternative certification program. Almost one half (48%) of the pilot study participants participated in a mentoring program when they first began teaching. Almost all pilot study participants were certified to teach music in Colorado. Thirty-five percent of the pilot study participants reported having received an award or recognition for their teaching.

## *Pilot Test Results*

With respect to job satisfaction, pilot study participants were most satisfied with their teaching load, teaching assignments, the students in their schools, and their relationships with colleagues in their school as well as with parents. Conversely, participants were less satisfied with the level of autonomy afforded to teachers, opportunities for collaboration with other faculty members, student achievement, and the level of administrative and community support in their schools.

The vast majority of pilot study participants (96%) considered themselves either committed or very committed to being a music teacher and either effective or very effective teachers. Eighty-seven percent of the respondents indicated that they found teaching music enjoyable or very enjoyable while 65% reported not experiencing frustration from being a music teacher. There was a sense of isolation among the participants. Several pilot study participants (35%) indicated they felt isolated in their positions and/or isolated at their school. The majority of participants (70%) saw themselves as equal part musician and teacher.

Pilot study participants felt that school administrators perceived music education as unimportant.

The majority (74%) felt that their philosophy was either somewhat similar or similar to that of their administration. Most expressed a degree of dissatisfaction with local, state, and federal mandates that impacted the classroom.

Pilot study participants reported high agreement with all statements about the benefits of music education. Although all music activities were rated as highly important, composing and improvising music as well as evaluating musical performances were the least valued activities. Few participants (4%) indicated that their job negatively impacted their home life. Additionally, the majority of the participants in the pilot study reported being satisfied or very satisfied with opportunities to find a higher paying job outside of education and opportunities to advance within education.

Finally, participants were asked to identify their career goals for the next year as well as for the next five years. Table 1 depicts the responses to these items. (Editor's note: Table 1 can be found on the following page.)

## *Implications*

Due to the small number of string teachers participating in this study, making any type of statistical inference is difficult. However, some implications warrant further discussion and investigation. It is somewhat alarming that only 56% of Colorado string teachers in this study plan to remain in a K-12 teaching position in five years. Moreover, 13% of Colorado string teachers plan to leave music teaching for reasons other than retirement in the next five years. Issues leading Colorado string teachers to leave the profession should be explored in order to find ways to deter unwanted teacher attrition. Migration between jobs may also increase in the next five years leaving some schools without a highly qualified string teacher. This may negatively impact the quality of or accessibility to string instruction for students in Colorado.

Relatively high proportions of strings teachers indicated a plan to leave their K-12 teaching position to teach in a community organization or a college or university. This may be healthy migration as community organizations need qualified string teachers who are not only positive performance role models, but who are also well trained in the instruction of young students. This may, in turn, lead to more string students continuing their string education after high school and into college and beyond, or into the string teaching profession. Additionally, more colleges and universities need string music education specialists that will be better able to recruit, retain, and train future string music educators.

*Note:* I would like to sincerely thank Andrea Meyers for assistance during this project. I would also like to thank the string music educators in Colorado who were willing to take the time to complete the questionnaire and add to the general knowledge of the status of our profession. Thank you.

[www.uark.edu/depts/uamusic/html/Russell\\_Joshua.htm](http://www.uark.edu/depts/uamusic/html/Russell_Joshua.htm)

*This article was submitted by Dr. Joshua Russell of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Dr. Russell is an Assistant Professor of Music Education in the J. William Fullbright College of Arts and Science. This research was conducted during the 2007 CMEA Convention in Colorado Springs and submitted to String Vibrations Newsletter in the spirit of sharing the research finding with Colorado music educators.*

# Demographics, Job Satisfaction, and Career Plans of Colorado String Music Educators

by Joshua Russell, Ph.D.  
(cont. from previous page)

**Table 1**

Career Plan	Year 1 %	Year 5 %
Remain a music teacher at the same school	48	26
Remain a music teacher at a different school in the same district	22	13
Remain a music teacher in a different district	9	17
Leave music teaching temporarily for family, health, or personal reasons	0	0
Leave music teaching temporarily for educational or professional reasons	9	0
Leave music teaching to become an education administrator	0	4
Leave music teaching in a K-12 school to teach music privately	0	0
Leave music teaching in a K-12 school to teach music in a community organization	4	13
Leave music teaching in a K-12 school to teach music in a college or university	0	9
Take early retirement	0	0
Retire	4	4
Leave music teaching completely and permanently for reasons other than retirement	4	13

**Colorado ASTA, Inc.  
Past Presidents**

2006 Margaret Berg  
2002 Michelle Ewer  
2000 Dr. Katharine "Kip" Mason  
1998 Dr. Greg Hurley  
1996 Cameron Law  
1994 Scott Betts  
1991 Vanda Skadden, retired  
1988 Michelle Ewer  
1986 Richard Fuchs  
1984 Barbara Risner  
1979 Larry Overton, retired  
1977 Mike Pearce  
1974 Howard Mickens, retired  
1976 Gerald Karre

**Colorado ASTA, Inc.  
Life Time Service Award**

2007 Carol Tarr  
2006 Jim McNeal  
2005 Larry Lashley  
2004 Larry Overton  
2003 Leonard Diggs  
2002 Will Schwartz  
2001 Tom & Barbara Humphrey  
2000 Dan Giullian  
1999 Vanda Skadden  
1998 Steve McNeal  
1997 Virgil Rosenberger

**Colorado ASTA, Inc.  
Outstanding String**

2007 Pattie Nelson  
2006 Andrea Meyers  
2005 Nancy Allwein  
2004 Becky Anderson  
2003 Barbara Rino  
2002 Cameron Law  
2001 Judy Elgethun  
2000 Susan Day  
1999 Scott Betts  
1998 Brett Wallace

**CMEA  
25 Year Award Recipient**

2007 Elva Jean Bolin

# **CASTA CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FOR STRINGS 2008 APPLICATION**

**WHERE: HIGHLANDS RANCH HIGH SCHOOL**

**WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2008**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 11, 2008**

Fees: Levels F-3 \$15.00  
Levels 4-6 \$20.00  
Levels 7-8 \$25.00  
Levels 9-10 \$25.00

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_ Level \_\_\_\_\_

Circle if appropriate: Level B      Comments only      Honors

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanist \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher preferred time to assist at exams \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTS: Please attach a check payable to the teacher**

The teacher must be a member of ASTA. The signature below indicates that I understand Rules regulating this event and agree to abide by them.

Teacher signature \_\_\_\_\_

ASTA ID# \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL COMPLETED FORMS AND PAYMENT TO:**

Dr. Kip Mason, Chair  
9285 Wexford Dr.  
Boulder, CO 80303

**NOMINATION FORM  
COLORADO AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**Nominee for President-elect**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Past/Current String Teaching Position: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee for Life Time Service Award 2007**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Past/Current String Teaching Position: \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement in support of the nominee for the Life Time Service Award.** (Include information about his/her work and accomplishments within the string profession. This might include such things as where he/she taught, dates of service, awards, special accomplishments, contribution to the music community, and impact on the lives of students.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Nominator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information for Nominator:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return nomination to:**  
Ed Deepe  
5319 Descanso Cir. E  
Colorado Springs, CO 80918-2010  
Or  
Email: e.deepe@att.net

**Nominations must be received by October 15, 2007**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STRING PROJECT SITES:**

**\$10,000 first year; up to \$25,000 over five years**

**Deadline November 16, 2007**

The National String Project Consortium (NSPC) is now accepting applications to start new String Project sites at universities in order to address the string teacher shortage. The deadline for this round of applications is November 16, 2007. Each new String Project will receive \$10,000 from grants to start their program in the first year.

The National String Project Consortium is a coalition of String Project sites based at colleges and universities across the United States. The NSPC is dedicated to increasing the number of children playing stringed instruments, and addressing the critical shortage of string teachers in the US.

The NSPC now consists of 30 String Projects at universities throughout the United States. These programs are training about 250 string teachers each year. Recent grants from NAMM, the D'Addario Foundation, and the Music Lives Foundation have enabled new String Projects to be created at Baylor University, Virginia Tech, University of New Hampshire, Central Washington University and James Madison University. For more information and the application form, go to the website at <http://www.stringprojects.org> or contact Robert Jesselson at 803-777-2033 or [RJesselson@Mozart.sc.edu](mailto:RJesselson@Mozart.sc.edu)

News From the Western Slope:

The CASTA String Camp began another successful season this summer, at Rangely College, in Rangely, Colorado, during the first week in August, under its director, Cameron Law. One hundred and twenty young musicians enjoyed the expertise of Orchestra director Steve McNeal, and professional musicians and teachers, Cameron Law, Amber Campbell, Ellen Currier, Ann Paulu, Mike Schafer and Troy Raper.

In addition to mass rehearsals and a stellar performance for parents, campers benefitted from sectional rehearsals, and "electives" to expound on their music learning, in addition to fun activities led by Lori Raper, the Activities Coordinator. Camp counselors, many who are former Western Slope Orchestra students, supplied the chaperoning and filling of "letdown" time along with Mike Scafwer's wife serving as Camp Nurse.

Also, our state scholarship winners for the CASTA String Camp this summer were Cassidy York, violin from Grand Junction and Bethany Campbell, viola from Littleton. Congratulations go out to these fine young musicians, and to all the CASTA Camp participants, for participating in such a fun and educational event.

This is a highly successful worthwhile camp that has become increasingly popular.

Musically Yours,

*Holly Wood*

CASTA, Inc. Western Slope Representative

### ***Bus to ASTA National Conference 2008***

Many of us have been talking about attending the next national conference. Would you be interested in a charter motorcoach to the 2008 ASTA National Conference in Albuquerque? CASTA, Inc. is currently polling its membership as to the possibility of chartering a motorcoach. If we have a full bus, fare could be as little as \$120 a person or less. If you are interested, please contact Fred Jewell at [fredjewell1@comcast.net](mailto:fredjewell1@comcast.net) or leave a message at (720) 252-8495 by November 1. Departure and return dates and times have not been determined but your input is requested. What a great way to reconnect with old friends and colleague and make new connections. Hope to hear from you soon.

## **Back to School or Did Summer Really Happen?**

By Elva Jean Bolin

Well, here we are back at school recharged, renewed and ready?! In Aurora, we have been back for a full month as of today. Yes, we went back on August 1. Now hold on, you won't be laughing so hard when we get out on May 21.

I know that all of you read my column on "Some 'R's for Your Summer". And I'm sure that during the summer every one of you did each and every "R" that I listed. I, of course, took my own advice and did every one of them, too. And if you believe that, you don't know me very well. Anyway, I did a few of them. Before school ended, I reorganized my classroom, and wrote a note to a special 4<sup>th</sup> grader. I had fully expected to see him this fall, but he moved to Texas during the summer. Wow, was I glad that I wrote that note! Over the summer, I rested, relaxed, rode my bicycle, read a book, recycled pop cans to pay for repairs on our school violins and regretted how much I had complained about the snow last December. I'm still waiting to have lunch with Andrea to reminisce.

During the summer I miss my students. You see, I have no kids of my own, only my five hundred at school. During the summer, my life is very quiet and totally predictable. It is not exciting and crazy like it is during school. It's not that I don't like summer, it's just so different than the fast action of school. Maybe that is a good thing. So you see, I'm kind of glad to get back to the brain stimulation that my students cause me.

The quiet days of sleeping until you are done, eating whenever you want (too often for most of us), taking a nap after lunch, riding your bike however far you wanted to go (or until your legs give out), having days without anything that was due tomorrow at 3:00PM, are soon forgotten when school starts again. The sun isn't even up when I have to get up at 5:30AM! Now bells and buzzers ring to tell me when I am late, when each class is over (whether I am done or not), when to go to the bathroom, when to eat lunch and when I can go home. (Does this remind you of Pavlov's dogs?) Now be honest. Do any of you ever leave school when that final bell rings unless you have an inservice meeting or an appointment with the doctor.

My students are so glad to be back in school too. I think they miss the brain stimulation as much as I do. They have spent the summer thinking of questions to which they are eager to find out the answer. Is 4<sup>th</sup> grade really better than 3<sup>rd</sup> grade? How much misbehavior does your new teacher let you get away before you have to stay in at lunch recess? Was Mrs. Rock really pregnant? Did she really have a baby? Is she still fat? Can Mrs. Bolin's keyboard still play in Spanish? Does the huge frog puppet still play the keyboard or did Mrs. Bolin just push Demo button? Are you going to send the flyers home in Spanish so my mother can read them? Will there be violin class after school? Will I ever get big enough for the next size of violin? Can I keep my small violin because I like it and it will get lonesome without me and no one else can take care of it like I do....? Are we going to the Symphony concert? Can I sit by you? And most importantly, Can I go to the bathroom?

My big questions are the same at the beginning of every year. Will I ever learn to work all of this new digital computer audio visual equipment without having to ask a second grader which cable goes where and which button to push? When is Fall Break? And most importantly, can I go to the bathroom? Sorry you must wait until the bell rings!

**Have a Great School Year  
Doing What You Do Best!!**

## **Symphony's Kenney takes top conducting award**

BY Stacy Nick  
StacyNick@coloradoan.com

Fort Collins Symphony Music Director Wes Kenney maestroed his way to winning the Varna International Conductors Competition overseas Sunday. Held in Vidin, Bulgaria, this is the first year the six-day conducting workshop has held a competition.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to win such an award," Kenney said Tuesday upon returning from the competition. "I'm also excited for this coming season with the Fort Collins Symphony. "I learned quite a few things there," said Kenney, who has been with the Fort Collins Symphony for four years. "As conductors, we're always students. There's always something new to learn, so to be able to get other world views (on music) was invaluable." During the competition Kenney faced some difficult challenges, the first of which was simply communicating with the musicians.

In Bulgaria very few people speak English, Kenney said. And even common gestures that Americans take for granted as being universal are not. "Just to acknowledge something was difficult," he said. "There they nod their heads to say 'no' and shake their heads to say 'yes.'" Kenney conducted the Vidin State Philharmonic Orchestra in several works, including Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony. One problem: The orchestra never had performed Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony. It was a challenge but not an insurmountable one, Kenney said. Obviously.

"The orchestra, concertmaster, faculty, and myself have concluded unanimously that the winner is Maestro Wes Kenney from Colorado, USA," said Maestro Dion Tchobanov, chief conductor of the Sofia Philharmonic, Sofia State Opera and the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, in announcing the award. Kenney winning such a prestigious, international award showcases the symphony's global vision, bringing world-class artists to Fort Collins. This season the symphony will host several international-caliber musicians on its stage, including Italian pianist Maurizio Moretti on Feb. 2. As part of his prize, Kenney will return to Bulgaria next season to conduct concerts in Vidin with the Vidin State Philharmonic Orchestra.



*reprinted with permission, originally published July 25, 2007 in The Coloradoan*

## String Vibrations Newsletter ad rates

Would you like to have your business advertised with us? Or would you like to run an ad for your organization? Our newsletter reaches over 200 string teachers, both public school and private at all levels, in the state of Colorado. If you are interested. Please send the ad to [fredjewell1@comcast.net](mailto:fredjewell1@comcast.net). JPEG, PDF and Tiff formats are preferred. Ads run from Fall issue to Fall issue.

full page	\$200	business card	\$25
half page	\$150	quarter page	\$75
link on our CASTA, Inc. website		\$25	

Send payment to Fred Jewell, 1114 Martin Rd., Longmont, CO 80501 payable to CASTA, Inc.

## Nominations for President-Elect and Lifetime Service Award

CASTA, Inc. is seeking nominations for our next **President-Elect**. The President-Elect serves a two-year term before moving into the Presidency. Our Colorado chapter has been fortunate to have strong leaders that have helped to make us one of the premiere chapters in the nation. If you or someone you know have a vision for CASTA, Inc. and would like to lead an organization of dedicated string teachers, please fill out the nomination form.

We are also asking the membership to nominate candidates for the **Lifetime Service Award**. The Lifetime Service Award should go to someone who has consistently promoted string instrument teaching with enthusiasm, commitment and above average success over the span of many years.

A nomination form is enclosed in this issue of String Vibrations and is also available on our website. You may mail or email your nominations to the address on the form. All candidates must be CASTA, Inc. members. The deadline for nominations is October 15, 2007.

The Outstanding Teacher Award will be awarded at the General Membership meeting at our Summer Conference. Therefore, the nomination process for this award will take place at a different time.

Submitted by Ed Deepe, Southern Colorado CASTA, Inc. Representative

## Upcoming CASTA, Inc. dates and events

Next General Membership Meeting	Sat., Nov. 3, 2007 WSHO 10:00AM
CMEA State Conference	Jan. 24-27, 2008 Colorado Springs
ASTA National Convention in Albuquerque	Feb.28-Mar. 1, 2008

## VIVA LA VIOLA DAY 2008

Violists and orchestra directors in Colorado and Wyoming are invited to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> annual **Viva la Viola Day** on Saturday, April 19 at Ft. Collins High School. This is a great day of viola ensembles, a guest master class with Mimi Zweig, Professor of Viola at Indiana University, and a final concert. This year there will also be a concert by Board members of the Rocky Mountain Viola Society on Friday, April 18 at 7:30 PM at Ft. Collins High School. Information and registration forms are on the RMVS web site: [www.rockymountainviolasociety.org](http://www.rockymountainviolasociety.org) or contact Sue Temple, Viva la Viola Day chair, [vivalaviola@comcast.net](mailto:vivalaviola@comcast.net).

See you all in April!

## Congratulations Amber Martin

Amber Martin, Orchestra Director at Central High School in Grand Junction, received the Colorado Jaycees Outstanding Young Coloradoan Award. She is one of two recipients for 2007 The award is given to outstanding Coloradans ages 18 through 40 and is open to members of any profession. Amber received the award at a banquet her in her honor and her fellow recipient on Saturday, Sept. 15. Please extend you congratulations to her when you next see Amber. CASTA, Inc. is proud of you!

# Membership Application

Use this application to join ASTA today or apply online at [www.astaweb.com](http://www.astaweb.com).

<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Renewal	Preferred Method of Contact:	<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Fax	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail
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## Personal Information

Name _____	Prof. Affiliation _____
Address _____	Prof. Title _____
City, State, Zip, Country _____	Home Phone _____
_____	Work Phone _____
Date of Birth _____	Fax _____
	Anticipated Grad. Date ( <i>students</i> ) _____

## Membership Category

Check *only one*, dues paid annually.

- Professional..... \$93
- Dual..... \$130  
(Couples residing at same address. Requires two forms)
- Full-time Student (ID req.) ..... \$42
- Library Subscription ..... \$78
- Senior (age 62 or over) ..... \$66
- String Industry Council..... \$166, \$233, \$321

## Other Memberships

- |                              |                                       |                               |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AHS | <input type="checkbox"/> MENC         | <input type="checkbox"/> SAA  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ISB | <input type="checkbox"/> MTNA         | <input type="checkbox"/> IAJE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CMA | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |                               |

Make a tax-deductible charitable contribution:

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 - \$25   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$26 - \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$51 - \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over \$100  |

Profession		Instrument	
Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Check <i>only 1</i> primary profession		Check <i>only 1</i> primary instrument	
Check <i>any</i> secondaries that apply		Check <i>any</i> secondaries that apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Violin	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> High School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Viola	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle/Jr. High School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cello	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Elementary School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Double Bass	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> School (Multi-Level)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Guitar	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Private Studio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Harp	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Performer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Brass	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Conductor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Keyboard	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Percussion	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Music Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodwind	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> String Enthusiast	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

## Totals

Membership Category.....	\$ _____
Foreign Postage ( <i>US residents: postage included</i> ) (\$5 for Canada/\$10 for Other).....	\$ _____
ASTA Contribution.....	\$ _____
Membership Certificate (\$10 each).....	\$ _____
<b>GRAND TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

To reduce risk of delay in processing your application, please complete all sections of this form. For information on Institutional Membership or the String Industry Council, call 703-279-2113 ext. 16. Dues are for individual membership only. Dues are nontransferable and nonrefundable. There is a \$27 charge for all items returned from the bank.

## Payment Information

Check made payable to ASTA No. \_\_\_\_\_

Visa       MasterCard

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sig. \_\_\_\_\_

Choose from the following those directories you wish to be excluded from:

Online Membership Directory     Mailing Labels

ASTA Email Announcements     Job Referral Bank

## Membership Applications Should Be Returned to:

ASTA Membership Department  
 4153 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA, 22030  
 Fax: 703-279-2114 Phone: 703-279-2113  
 Or use your credit card to join online at [www.astaweb.com](http://www.astaweb.com).



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