



# ASTAWITHNSOA COLORADO

## STRING VIBRATIONS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2005/2006

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

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### **in this issue**

from the President

*from the President-Elect*

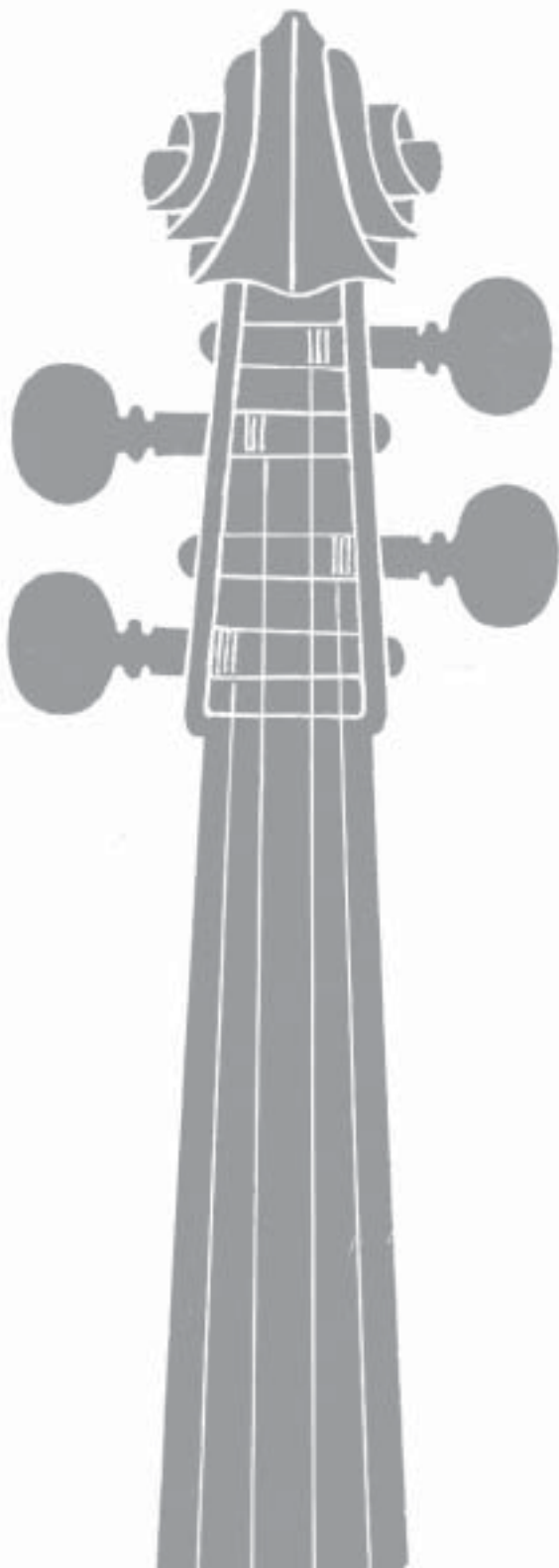
from the Past-President

*from the Newsletter Editor*

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*Future CASTA Events*

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Dear CASTA Members:

Happy 2006 to all of you! I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits. I'd like to share some personal news... Connor James Berg was born November 3. He'll be attending his first of (I'm sure many!) CMEA Conference this year. I look forward introducing him to my fellow CASTA members!

We've got a full schedule planned for CMEA 2006 (please see the enclosed schedule). Our guest clinicians are Brett Smith from the University of Central Washington and Doris Gazda. Brett, an active conductor and cellist, is coauthor of *Do It! Play Strings*. He will be giving three clinics for us on technique, listening skill and musicianship development. I attended one of Brett's sessions at the 2005 National ASTA Conference. I think you'll enjoy his sense of humor, interactive style and teaching tips that are thoroughly addressed in his sessions/handouts. Doris Gazda whom many of you most likely know of through her publications and work with our CASTA Middle School Camp, will be doing a session on developing musicianship in all levels of students.

Of course, we are fortunate again this year to have several Colorado teachers scheduled to present informative clinic sessions. These teachers include: Susan Day, Paul Erhard, Ron Francois, Cameron Law, Wes Kenney and Steve McNeal. Please be sure to see the schedule of clinic topics and times!

Finally, performances this year will be given by (in chronological order) Boulder High School Chamber Orchestra (Kip Mason), Fairview High School Classic Knights Orchestra (Brett and Stephanie Wallace), Ralston Valley High School Chamber Orchestra (Ken Sawyer), Denver School of the Arts Quartet (Frank Fyock) and Douglas County Combined Elementaries Festival Orchestra (Kim Watkins).

There are a few changes this year at the conference. First, the CASTA Awards Ceremony will take place at the beginning of the String Music Reading Session (Friday, 10:20am). Please be sure to attend to support our award recipients this year: Andrea Meyers (Teacher of the Year) and Jim McNeal (Lifetime Service). Second, with the newly constructed Broadmoor Hall, there will be more space available for ensemble warm-up and exhibits. Third, there will be a charge for parking this year.

I look forward to seeing you January 19-21 at the Conference! Please be sure to send me your response to the enclosed ballot by January 15. As in the past, we will also vote at the beginning of our general membership meeting at the Conference. The winners of the election will be announced and introduced to the membership immediately following the CASTA Awards session.

*Margaret Berg*

Colorado ASTAWITHNSOA President

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

***The Rocky Mountain Viola Society presents the Sixth Viva la Viola Day.***

On Saturday, April 15, 2006, the Rocky Mountain Viola Society will present the sixth Viva la Viola Day at Ft. Collins High School. Last year's event drew over 100 violists from Colorado and Wyoming for a day of viola ensembles, a guest master class, a chance to try violas from area dealers, and a final concert.

This year's guest will be Peter Slowik, professor of Viola at the Oberlin Conservatory.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive information about Viva la Viola Day, please contact Margaret Miller, president at [margaretm@adelphia.net](mailto:margaretm@adelphia.net) or Sue Temple, Viva la Viola Day chair, a [stemple@comcast.net](mailto:stemple@comcast.net).

We look forward to seeing you on April 15!

***2006 Colorado ASTA Summer Conference***

Thursday and Friday, July 20 and 21, 2006  
Special Guest Composer/Clinician - Carrie Lane Gruselle  
Details to Follow!!!

## IMC/String Sessions

**DAY: Thursday, January 19, 2006**      **TIME:** 10:20 – 11:20      **LOCATION:** Main Ballroom  
**PERFORMANCE GROUP:** Boulder High School Chamber Orchestra      **CONDUCTOR/DIRECTOR:** Katherine Mason  
**PRESIDER:** Tom Horst, Director of Bands - Boulder High School

**DAY:** Thursday      **TIME:** 11:30 – 1:40      **LOCATION:** Main Ballroom  
**TITLE:** Conducting the Music, Not the Musicians      **CLINICIANS:** Wes Kenney and Steve McNeal, CSU  
**PRESIDER:** Mike Nelson, CASTA Denver Area Representative  
**DESCRIPTION:** This clinic is designed to give high school and middle school conductors an opportunity to learn some expressive conducting techniques that will help them better communicate with their orchestras. Audience members will have an opportunity to try out suggested gestures. Also, several conductors will be selected to conduct the CSU Chamber Orchestra during the workshop portion of this session.

**DAY:** Thursday      **TIME:** 1:50 – 2:50      **LOCATION:** International Center North  
**PERFORMANCE GROUP:** Fairview High School Classic Knights Orchestra      **CONDUCTOR/DIRECTOR:** Brett and Stephanie Wallace  
**PRESIDER:** Don Stensrud, Principal, Fairview HS

**DAY:** Thursday      **TIME:** 3:00 – 4:00      **LOCATION:** Main Ballroom  
**PERFORMANCE GROUP:** Ralston Valley High School Chamber Orchestra      **CONDUCTOR/DIRECTOR:** Ken Sawyer  
**PRESIDER:** Jeff Talley, Vocal Music Director, Ralston Valley High School

**DAY:** Thursday      **TIME:** 4:10 – 5:10      **LOCATION:** Main Ballroom  
**TITLE:** Tried and True Pieces for Orchestra      **CLINICIAN:** Steve McNeal, CSU  
**PRESIDER:** Fred Jewell, CASTA Newsletter Editor  
**DESCRIPTION:** This clinic will feature 'tried and true' grade 2-5 (middle and high school) literature. The orchestral works discussed are rewarding to students while introducing specific string and wind techniques. Come learn how orchestra teachers can create a 'win-win' situation by programming quality orchestra repertoire!

**DAY: Friday, January 20**      **TIME:** 8:00 – 9:00      **LOCATION:** Main Ballroom  
**TITLE:** Colorado ASTAWITHNSOA General Membership Meeting      **PRESIDER:** Margaret Berg, CASTA President  
**DESCRIPTION:** This meeting is open to all string/orchestra teachers in Colorado. Come and learn about Colorado and National ASTA events in 2006.

**DAY:** Friday      **TIME:** 9:10 – 10:10      **LOCATION:** Main Ballroom  
**TITLE:** Sequential Cello Technique      **CLINICIAN:** Brett Smith, University of Central Washington, Cosponsored by GIA Publications and Kolacny Music  
**PRESIDER:** Katherine Tischhauser, CASTA Secretary  
**DESCRIPTION:** Come learn how best to sequence the development of cello bowing and various left hand techniques.

**DAY:** Friday      **TIME:** 10:20 – 12:30      **LOCATION:** Main Ballroom  
**TITLE:** CASTA Awards / New Orchestra Music Reading Session, Sponsored by Flesher-Hinton Music  
**CONDUCTOR:** Zina Richardson      **PRESIDER:** Andy Holmes, Secretary – Treasurer, IMC  
**DESCRIPTION:** New this year, the orchestra music reading session will begin with the CASTA Awards ceremony. Bring your instrument to read through the latest in full and string orchestra literature.

**DAY:** Friday      **TIME:** 1:50 – 2:50      **LOCATION:** Main Ballroom  
**TITLE:** Amazing Bass: The End of 'Basses, You're Late!'      **CLINICIAN:** Paul Erhard, University of Colorado  
**PRESIDER:** Nancy Allwein, CASTA Secretary and All-State Orchestra Chair  
**DESCRIPTION:** Adding an amazing bass sound to your orchestra is easy. During this clinic you'll learn simple ways to improve bass tone quality, articulation, rhythmic drive, intonation and ensemble playing.

**DAY:** Friday      **TIME:** 3:00 – 4:00      **LOCATION:** Main Ballroom  
**TITLE:** Giving Beginning Bowing Technique a Musical Purpose      **CLINICIAN:** Brett Smith, University of Central Washington, Cosponsored by GIA Publications and Kolacny Music  
**PRESIDER:** Ed Deepe, CASTA Southern Colorado Representative  
**DESCRIPTION:** This clinic will provide you with ideas for how to motivate and support bow technique and musical development by having your students engage in enjoyable musical tasks. Bring your instrument!



## **Dear CASTA Members,**

We are alive and well! Your dedication to our profession is an incredible reflection of our membership and fine leadership. We are visible; continually building and designing amazing orchestra programs that rival others both nationally and internationally. We have innovative performers, clinicians, composers, conductors and educators throughout Colorado. There are so many professional accomplishments in our membership. The annual District 11 MS. Honor Orchestra performed with Juliet White-Smith guest conducting. What a thrill to see and hear the quality of musicianship in Colorado Springs. I was recently honored with guest conducting and taking 15 of my 18 students from Rock Canyon HS. to the Second Annual Honors Chamber Orchestra Festival sponsored by Fort Lewis College. What an exciting event thanks to Katherine Tischhauser, festival director and Mikylah Myers McTeer! I highly recommend and encourage your participation next year! Wait until you see the pictures!

And All-State Orchestra is coming right up! You go, Colorado ASO Board, judges, and musicians! It just gets better with student ASTA memberships and Tri-M Chapters starting up everywhere! Thanks to UNC and Bravo to Western State Honor Orchestra directors and participants. Amazing work! Greg Hurley, one of past presidents and recent guest conductor at WSHO was very complimentary about our chapters fine organizational skills and efforts in music education. Tomorrow, I look forward to the entire string faculty from CSU to visit Rock Canyon H.S. Wow, and all I had to do was ask! There are countless exciting performances, activities and events happening throughout Colorado. Let us know what you're up to! Ask membership for visitations. We are committed to supporting and acknowledging our efforts. Congratulations to Margaret Berg our president and our CASTA Board for outstanding leadership. Bravo to Michelle Ewer as she takes on even greater challenges as our own CMEA President Elect! Check our prominent website for current events and exciting details. Remember, you can easily post your own events and pictures through our webmaster Linda Johnson. We have so much to look forward to with CMEA just around the corner, National ASTA in March, and our annual summer conference. The possibilities for our continued shared success is endless!

Time to prepare another amazing CASTA silent auction basket. Remember to bring your item to the CASTA meeting. See you at everything at CMEA!! It is a delight and privilege serve as your President Elect. Your string friend,

*Andrea Meyers*

Colorado ASTA WITH NSOA President-Elect

<http://colo-asta.org/index.htm>

Rock Canyon HS, Rocky Heights MS, Redstone Elementary

Andrea.Meyers@dcsdk12.org

## **Greetings from the Past-President**

Congratulations to Margaret Berg, the new proud mother. Enjoy Margaret! I also congratulate all of the directors and private teachers who have students in Colorado All-State Orchestra. Give yourselves a pat on the back. Thanks to the All-State Orchestra committee for all of their hard work in putting it together! I know the countless hours you must put in. It does not go unnoticed.

With the Colorado Music Educators fast approaching, I thought I should address a few issues. Below are the new parking guidelines. Remember, I am only the messenger, folks! There is still free street parking by Colorado Hall and a free lot over on the west side. Gone are the spots on the street by the Golden Bee and across the street. Be prepared. There is a new restaurant in the Broadmoor Hall. This will help with meal congestion in the tavern! Valet Parking: leaving your car with an attendant at Main or West, the cost will be \$15.00 for a 24 hour period, In/out service. Overnight Hotel Guests is \$15.00. Self-Parking Guest's: parking their own car in the parking garage, the cost will be \$12.00 for a 24 hour period. Overnight Hotel Guests: \$12.00 Self and Valet Parking charges offer in and out privileges to the guest during a 24 hour period. Make your room reservations now. The Broadmoor South is under construction so rooms will sell out. The form is on [www.cmeaonline.org](http://www.cmeaonline.org). I hope to see you all in January!

*Michelle Ewer*

Colorado ASTA WITH NSOA Past-President



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***Sixty musicians from four regional High Schools performed on the  
Nov. 14 Honors Chamber Orchestra Festival  
hosted by Fort Lewis College***

Nearly 60 high school string players gathered at Fort Lewis College on Sunday and Monday, Nov. 13-14 for the Second Annual Honors Chamber Orchestra Festival. The event culminated with a free concert at 3 PM on Monday, Nov. 14 in the Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis College. The program included Moodscales by Susan Day along with several other compositions. Students representing Durango, Farmington, Piedra Vista and Rock Canyon high schools participated. During the weekend all of the students and teachers had the opportunity to attend the San Juan Symphony concert as well as enjoy the Four Corners Area. The festival was directed by Fort Lewis College Associate Professor of Music Katherine Tischhauser. Andrea Meyers from Douglas County was the dynamic guest conductor of the festival.



***STATE BASKETS ROLLING IN FOR SILENT AUCTION AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE***

The tradition continues . . . At ASTA's first national conference, held in 2003 at Ohio State University, state baskets were the hit of the Silent Auction to benefit the National Foundation to Promote String Teaching and Playing. State baskets are donated by ASTA chapters and contain a variety of goodies that are related to music or representative of that state. These goody baskets are returning to the 2006 national conference in Kansas City, and they are arriving daily at the ASTA national office. We would like to thank the following states, who have already submitted their baskets, and encourage others to do the same! As of December 10, baskets have been received from California, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, and Virginia.

To preview Silent Auction items, including state baskets, visit <http://www.astaweb.com/2006/SilentAuction.htm>. To donate an item to the Silent Auction, please contact Liz Bookwalter at [liz@astaweb.com](mailto:liz@astaweb.com). Items should be sent to the attention of "Silent Auction" at the ASTA national office.

## Greetings from CASTA Newsletter Editor

Andrea asked me a few weeks ago when the general membership would hear from me in the newsletter instead of just holding my work in their hands and reading the results. Here it is. I've been pondering. All of us have very high aspirations of working in a top notch middle or high school with awards and plaques lining the walls; students admiring you for what a wonderful teacher you are and what a legacy you have built over the years. These students come from families that can give their child the best instruments and music instruction they can afford and support your efforts completely. That's what I want. Or I thought so anyway until recently. I come from a very large high school in El Paso, TX. with a very successful Orchestra program (or it was until our Orchestra Director of 23 years left for La Porte, TX., and taught at an even larger high school with kids that had money! )

The families in my neighborhood didn't have money. I rented all of my violins from the school district until my Senior year. Most of my classmates in orchestra rented from the district also. Their families were not much better off. My dad drove a 4X4 truck for the utility company setting poles in the middle of the desert for new subdivisions to go in. We just got by. My graduation present was a violin, my first. I still had to pay for half of the violin after I graduated. Here's the crux of what I have been pondering.

Who deserves the better teacher, if you will, standing in from of the orchestra. The orchestra with families with means that can afford fine instruments and private instruction OR the orchestra with fewer means that have to rent from the school or music store and cannot afford lessons. I currently teach at what some people would consider a questionable middle school and an okay high school. Particularly at the middle school, many parents and staff have heard in the checkout line at the supermarket "oh, I wouldn't send my child to THAT school!" We have a staggering number of close to if not over 80% of neighborhood families open-enrolling OUT of the neighborhood middle school. Yes, you read correctly, 80%! What about the kids that want to learn to play a string instrument that attend the neighborhood school because their families can't afford to send them elsewhere. We also have language barriers where many of the families do not speak English and are not comfortable coming into the school building because they are not sure they can communicate in their own language to find out what's going on at school. Some of my students have no choice but to work at a job after school to help support their families. Some families come from cultures that see music as not a desirable profession. Do I take my expertise and experience as a seasoned teacher or enthusiasm and energy as a new teacher to somewhere highly desirable to work OR teach at these schools and help them be the best players they can be even though they may never own their own instrument or take a private lesson? Does one group deserve better? You may not agree with me and may have a cross word or two for me at CMEA or the next summer conference. I think students in schools with populations of less advantaged students need the "better" teacher. That teacher may not have as many plaques and awards on the walls after a few years and may have to scrounge money from local businesses and do endless fundraisers to purchase instruments to rent out to students and maintain them. But think about it. That teacher may be the only exposure to music those students may have in their lifetimes. That teacher has to be the best possible teacher available. What a responsibility! That teacher can change a life for one student. That's why we teach. I am in that situation right now. I am the only string teacher most of my students will work with on a regular basis. My Juniors at my high school I started in fifth grade. I remember them. They were a remarkable group then and they still are. When they graduate next year, I will probably break down at the concert. There are 11 of them.

This is what I have been pondering for a while.

*Fred Jewell*

Colorado ASTAwithNSOA Newsletter Editor



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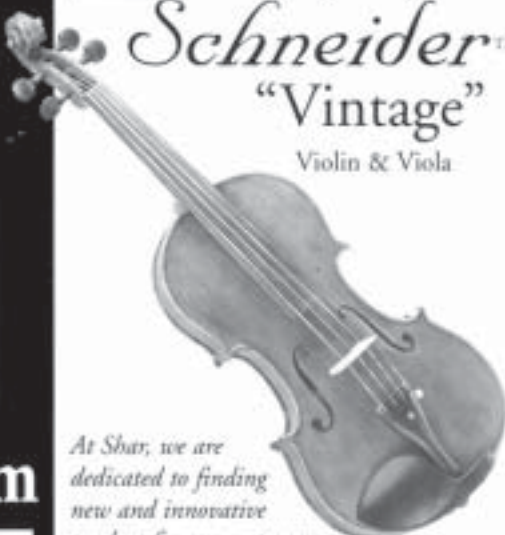
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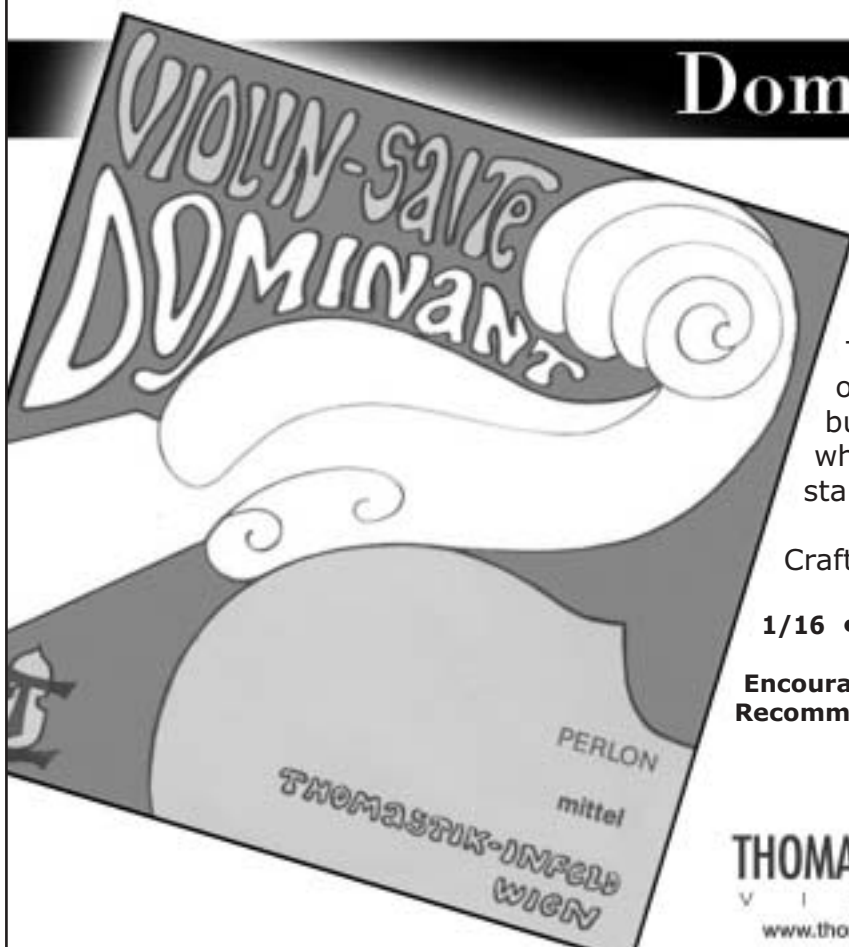
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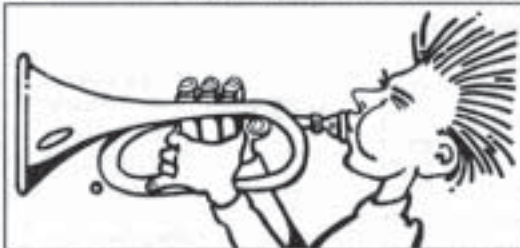
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## *Pikes Peak Middle School Honor Orchestra Performance*

Colorado Springs School District 11 and District 3 combined their top string students this past weekend, November 19 at Doherty High School for a performance of challenging string orchestra literature. Forty-six musicians from middle schools in the two district were chosen during auditions in early October for the opportunity to work with Dr. Juliet-White Smith, Associate Professor of Music, University of Northern Colorado. Dr. Smith rehearsed the 6th, 7th and 8th grade musicians Friday evening and Saturday, culminating with Saturday's exciting performance. Pieces performed included Satin Doll, Nightshift, Concerto in D Major by Bach, Arabian Dreams and two movements from the Capriol Suite. Along with parents and friends of the young artists, several honored school district administrators were in attendance at the Pikes Peak Honor Orchestra Concert, including Dr. Sharon Thomas, Superintendent of Schools, Colorado Springs School District 11, Mr. Tom Fleecs and Ms. Samantha Davis, Music Coordinators of District 11 and District 3, respectively. A recording of this performance may be obtained from Penquin Digital or viewed at a November 30 telecast on Colorado Springs' Channel 16. Please see more information of telecast dates from the Colorado Springs School District 11 website, [www.cssd11.k12.co.us](http://www.cssd11.k12.co.us).



I had the pleasure of conducting the Pikes Peak Middle School Honor Orchestra this past month in Colorado Springs. I was a bit nervous because this was to be my debut as a conductor. I tried to talk them out of hiring me, but they insisted. Good heavens, I didn't even own a baton! But I have to tell you, it was a blast! The orchestra directors in Districts 3 and 11 are doing an outstanding job. Their kids play at a high level and it is obvious that the directors hold them to a high standard. In addition, the students really appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the arts, evidence of good modeling on the part of their teachers.

The event was beautifully organized: the music selection was challenging without being overwhelming, the students were extremely well prepared and well behaved, and the directors took good care of me during my stay. All of this proved to make my job a piece of cake. On top of all the nitty gritty organizational details, the directors all seem to enjoy a great collegial relationship. I enjoyed several meals with them and it was obvious that they work well together and have a great deal of respect for one another. Thank you Sharon Anderson, Sherry Boyer, Daryl Counsell, Ed Deepe, Becky Harrison, Mindi Loewen, Alex Magalong and Dan Mays for your hard work and for allowing your kids to be my guinea pigs for two days!

*Juliet White-Smith*

Colorado ASTAWITHNSOA Northern Colorado Representative



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