

STRING VIBRATIONS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2001/2002

<http://www.musicalmud.com/asta/>

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It won't be long before we will be together at the Broadmoor Hotel for another CMEA convention. In this issue, you will find the complete schedule for the Colorado ASTAWITHNSOA portion of the convention. We will have two nationally recognized clinicians to work with us to learn new and exciting ways to help our students. The recipients of the 2001 CASTA Outstanding Teacher and the 2001 CASTA Lifetime Service Awards will also be announced during the 2002 CMEA Convention. I always look forward to such events to learn new ideas and approaches to teaching and to find out about new developments in the field of music education, as well as meeting up with colleagues and friends. Stay at the Broadmoor! You'll be closer to the action.

Also in this issue you will find your ballot for President-elect and Secretary. Look for candidate and election information. Ballots can be mailed in or can be cast at CMEA, so don't forget to bring it along. See you at the Broadmoor.

Kip Mason

Colorado ASTAWITHNSOA President

SUBMISSIONS FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP

Tricks to Teaching Note Reading

by Ed Deepe, ASTAWITHNSOA Southern Colorado Representative

This fall I have taken on teaching the orchestra class - the only strings class - at West Middle School in Colorado Springs, in addition to my four elementary schools. The orchestra is made up of 6th grade beginners as well as 6th, 7th and 8th grade continuing string students. I'm excited to have 34 students enrolled, since last year the orchestra had fewer than ten students. I have discovered that almost a third of the students cannot read music. Of those that can read music, several have weak basic music theory skills. About half of the orchestra is proficient at reading music and of course want to progress. I have been trying to spend time each week on music theory to help the nonreaders improve. As teachers we all have "tricks" that we use in our teaching. I would like to share a few of mine regarding note reading, since I have had success using them.

Trick #1 - I explain the seven letters of the music alphabet. Then while holding a lightweight MIDI controller keyboard vertically against the chalkboard with the "high" pitch keys high and the "low" pitch keys low. I explain the music alphabet again and write the letter name of several white keys beside the correct keyboard key. I point out "middle C" as the dividing point between "high" and "low" pitches. After setting the MIDI controller aside, I explain the repetition of the "alphabet" by completing the sequence to the top and to the bottom of the chalkboard.

Trick #2 - Starting at "middle C" I draw line, space, line, space, etc. all the way up and down the board. Explain the difficulty of reading music if every player saw all the lines; therefore through custom musicians have limited the visible lines to five with the four spaces. The "visible" five lines are different for different types of instruments because of the pitch range of the various instruments.

Trick #3 - When explaining clef signs I only briefly use the words treble, alto and bass. I find more success using G-clef, C-clef and F-clef. I show the students why the G-clef is called the G-clef by showing the clef sign starting to curl around the G line on the staff. Once the students know which clef is theirs, the music alphabet can be used to figure out any other note.

Trick #4 - Remember, you can't expect what you can't inspect. Help the students gain confidence by giving them one-line exercises each day. Have speed contests for saying the music alphabet both forward and backwards.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

The CASTA String Vibrations Newsletter is honored to bring you statements from our candidates for President-Elect.

Doran Azari

Doran Azari is an orchestra teacher in School District 6, in Greeley. He directs the orchestra programs at Greeley Central High School, Northridge High School and Franklin Middle School. Mr. Azari is also currently serving as the Northern Governor to the Colorado All-State Orchestra. Mr. Azari is an active performing violist. He performs regularly with the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, substitutes regularly with the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra and Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra, and performed in October of 2001 as a soloist with the Greeley Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Azari served as the festival manager of the Breckenridge Music Festival for two years (1989-1990), and also served with the Colorado National Guard for ten years leaving that organization as a communications officer in 1990 to devote his professional life to music and the education of young people. His Greeley Central High School symphony orchestra was featured at the Colorado Music Educator's Annual Conference in January of 2000.

If elected to the position of president-elect of the Colorado Chapter of the American String Teachers Association and National School Orchestra Association, Mr. Azari will leave his position on the All-State Orchestra Governing Board. He will devote his time to learning the various functions of the board members and officers of the CASTA/NSOA, he will establish professional working relationships with colleagues throughout the state and region, and he will start to work towards fulfilling the goals of his presidency. These goals will include:

1. Continuing to build upon and uphold the work of previous CASTA board members and officers (increasing membership, clarifying and defining the organizations bylaws, and providing for more direct participation of CASTA/NSOA representatives to the Colorado Music Educator's Association).
2. Building stronger partnerships between Colorado public school and private orchestra/string teachers (especially through the use of the Vibrations Newsletter). This will also provide for the inclusion of more Colorado private string teachers into the CASTA chapter.
3. Increasing the level of Colorado ASTA/NSOA participation in National ASTA/NSOA concerns (i.e., the recruitment and retention of quality orchestra and string teachers in the schools and communities throughout our state and nation, and the advocacy for orchestra and string programs which help the country's school districts raise test scores, reduce dropout rates, and bring positive public awareness to the importance of the arts).

If elected to represent Colorado's ASTA/NSOA chapter, Doran Azari will make the above issues the central focus of his service. It is his hope that these items will make the orchestra and string teaching environment more effective for all teachers and students within Colorado.

Dr. Margaret H. Berg

Margaret H. Berg, Assistant Professor of Music Education, received her BS in Music Education from Case Western Reserve University, B.M. in Violin from the Cleveland Institute of Music, M.Ed. from the University of Cincinnati, and Ph.D. from Northwestern University. Prior to her arrival at the University of Colorado in the Fall of 2000, she was on the faculty at Ball State University, served as conductor of the East Central String Sinfonietta, was a member of the Muncie Symphony Orchestra, and was voted president-elect of the Indiana ASTA Chapter. She has taught at De Paul University, Northwestern University, and in the Cincinnati Public Schools. Dr. Berg is an active orchestra festival conductor and state and national conference clinician. Dr. Berg has published articles in the Journal of Music Teacher Education, Music Educators Journal, American String Teacher, and currently serves on the editorial board of the Journal of String Research. Recently, Dr. Berg has made presentations at the American Educational Research Association Conference, National MENC Conference, CMENC Conference, and Summer CASTA/CBA Conference.

Vision Statement: Currently, there are several enrichment opportunities available to Colorado string teachers and students including: the CMEA Conference, the CBA/ASTA Conference, Weekend for Strings/Western States Honor Orchestra Festival, All-State Orchestra, and the Middle School String Camp. As president-elect, I would like to expand these offerings to include specific events for new teachers and beginning students. These events would help participating teachers continue to grow as well as contribute to increased student retention in our programs. Another issue I would like to address is the increased diversity in repertoire and ensemble opportunities for string students. Recent American String Teacher journals have reflected this trend with articles on how to incorporate various styles of music and types of ensembles into the orchestra program. As president-elect, I would work to have sessions on this topic at the CMENC and/or CBA Conference.

**CMEA 2002
PROGRAM INFORMATION
COLORADO ASTAWITHNSOA**

Thursday, January 24

9:00-9:30 AM
Ross Room
Golf Club

Concert: Junior High School Orchestra
Boltz Junior High School Orchestra
Beth Wells, conductor

10:00-10:50

Ross Room
Golf Club

Let's Connect: Inspiring String students by connecting classical music to our contemporary lives.

Daryl Silberman, San Francisco, CA, clinician
Sponsored by Knilling Stringed Instruments, Kolacny Music and the St. Louis Music Company

Presiding: Katharine Mason; President, Colorado ASTAWITHNSOA. Join us in an interactive demonstration and "electrifying" session showcasing a wide variety of motivational and inspirational teaching styles by exploring all genres of music, promoting proper position and posture, using improvisation and amplifying stringed instruments and hooking up electronic sound effects. Daryl S. will share ideas from her travels to schools around the country that can help energize your string program. Bring your instruments!

11:00-11:50

Jones Room
Golf Club

"stringathon@ccsd.ms.orchestra/group.solo.festival. Bravississimo"

Ellen Ravnar, Cherry Creek School District, Clinician
Presiding: Fred Jewell; Editor, Colorado ASTAWITHNSOA

Take a little Suzuki philosophy, a liberal dose of solo string literature, season with lots of energy, motivation and practice time. Blend 300 middle school string students and six teachers in a gym, let simmer for nine weeks and you have Stringathon!

12:00-12:50 PM

**Concert: Colorado State University Symphony
International Center Orchestra**

Steve Moore, Conductor

1:00-2:50
Jones Room
Golf Club

Orchestra: New Music Reading Session

Zina Richardson, conductor, Mostly Strauss Orchestra

Sponsored by Flesher-Hinton Music Company.

Presiding: Andy Holmes, Secretary/Treasurer, CIAC

Special guests: the Colorado State University Symphony Orchestra Wind and Percussion sections. This year we will be reading both string and full orchestra music. Bring your instruments!

3:00-3:50
Ross Room
Golf Club

Let's play: Exploring Improvisation, contemporary genres, simple electronics with string students

Daryl Silberman, San Francisco, CA, clinician

Sponsored by Knilling Stringed Instruments, Kolacny Music and the St. Louis Music Company

Presiding: Michelle Ewer; President-elect, Colorado ASTAwithNSOA

We will be exploring amplification, sound effects, free improvisations, structured improvisations, a little rock and blues, to motivate students.

Through these contemporary devices we will address such issues as lack of confidence, improper positions and postures and unenthusiastic participation. Bring your instruments!

4:00-4:45
International
Center North

High School Orchestra Concert

Grand Junction High School Symphony

Orchestra, Cameron Law, Conductor

Friday, January 25

9:00-9:45 AM
Jones Room
Golf Club

Colorado ASTAwithNSOA General Membership Meeting

Presiding: Katharine Mason, President, Colorado ASTAwithNSOA

10:00-10:45
Ross Room
Golf Club

Essential Communications

Pam Tellejohn Hayes, Clinician

Presiding: Katharine Mason; President, Colorado ASTAwithNSOA

Sponsored by Kolacny Music, Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation and the Glaesel Division of the Selmer Instrument Company.

This session includes a variety of important materials on communicating with the various people in your program - students, parents, colleagues and administrators.

11:00-11:30
Jones Room
Golf Club

Middle School Orchestra Concert

Campus Middle School 8th Grade Orchestra

Judy Elgethun, conductor

11:45 AM-12:45 PM

Student ASTA and CMENC Session Team Teaching: The Best of Both Worlds

Palmer Room
Golf Club

Presiding: Katherine Tischauser; Secretary, Colorado ASTAwithNSOA

Student MENC and ASTA members are invited to share pizza and conversation with a special panel about the value of teaming with your colleagues.

1:00-1:45 PM
Jones Room
Golf Club

Winner's Recital: Colorado ASTAwithNSOA Solo Competition with Special Guests: the Denver School of the Arts String Quartet

Frank Fyock, Director, Denver School of the Arts

Presiding: Nancy Allwein; Treasurer, Colorado ASTAwithNSOA

Hear the best of the best - the winner of Colorado's Preliminary to the National Solo Competition along with the Denver School of the Arts' String Quartet.

3:00-3:45 PM
International
Center South

High School Orchestra Concert

Douglas County High School Orchestra

Mindy Loewen, Conductor

Saturday, January 26

9:00 - 9:45 AM
Ross Room
Golf Club

Grading and Evaluation in the String Class

Pam Tellejohn-Hayes, Clinician

Presiding: Troy Raper; Webmaster, Colorado ASTAwithNSOA

Sponsored by Kolacny Music, Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation and the Glaesel Division of the Selmer Instrument Company.

10:00-10:30
Jones Room
Golf Club

Middle School Orchestra Concert
Creighton Middle School Orchestra
Michelle Ewer, Conductor

10:30-10:45
Jones Room
Chair
Golf Club

ASTAWITHNSOA Awards Presentation
Presiding: Ed Deepe, ASTAWITHNSOA Southern Colorado Representative and Awards
Chair
Colorado ASTAWITHNSOA Awards for Outstanding String Teacher of the Year
and Lifetime Service

12:00-12:50
Ross Room
Golf Club

Techniques for Developing Proper Playing Position
Pam Tellejohn-Hayes, Clinician
Presiding: Ellen Currier; Western Slope Representative; Colorado
ASTAWITHNSOA
Sponsored by Kolacny Music, Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation and the
Glaesel Division of the Selmer Instrument Company.
*This session focuses on techniques that go beyond a method book in
developing playing position in the heterogeneous string class.*

Also of interest to String Teachers:

- Opening Reception
- Sessions for instrumentalists by Quincy Hilliard
- "Playing by Ear"; Molly Weaver; Friday, 8:00 AM, Ross Room
- Jazz Improvisation sessions by Jamey Abersold
- Closing concert; Saturday, 3:00 pm; The Denver Brass

CMEA CLINIC/CONFERENCE
January 24-26, 2001

Lots of great string stuff and two national clinicians!

Help your professional organization —
stay at the Broadmoor this year!



AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
WITH NATIONAL SCHOOL ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

CASTAWITHNSOA Official Ballot
January 2002
Election of Secretary and President-elect

Please vote for one candidate for CASTA President-elect. (check one)

Doran Azari

Dr. Margaret Berg

Please vote for one candidate or write in your nomination for CASTA Secretary.

Katherine Tischhauser

write-in candidate

Mail ballots to: Katharine Mason
9285 Wexford Road
Boulder, CO 80303

Mail-in ballots must be postmarked by January 16, 2002.

Ballots can also be cast in person at the Colorado Music Educators' Association Convention in Colorado Springs, January 24-26, 2002 prior to the conclusion of the General Membership meeting of the CASTAWITHNSOA Friday, January 25, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.

