

President's Message

Karen McGhee-Hensel

What an exciting time to be a string educator in Kansas!

As a member of Kansas American String Teacher Association, YOU will be impacting important policy changes in this state with the power of your vote.

I am sure you have already received a survey from KMEA asking how we impact future music educators. Be sure you complete that survey and always encourage your students to follow in your footsteps. We need to keep "growing a crop" of young music teachers here in the Sunflower State.

You will also soon be receiving an email asking you to vote on the question of memorization of solos at the State Solo/Ensemble. Please take a moment to vote on this very important issue.

If you are a teacher in the Northeast District, you have already heard that the KMEA Board has voted to split that district in order to encourage more of our colleagues in the smaller districts to participate in KMEA activities.

This is a wonderful era of change and progress. Embrace the change. Be the change. Enjoy your year and support KASTA!

Karen McGhee Hensel

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Echoes from Orchestras Past: Orchestra History Needs to be Recorded

Larry R. Williams

In 2013, we find ourselves 123 years into Kansas' school orchestra history. The first half of that century of orchestras has been documented, but to this writer's knowledge, little of the past 50 years is more than the memories of those musicians and directors who have lived it.

Fifty years ago Olathe was a small town with no orchestra - look at it today. Basehor, Maize, Gardner, Spring Hill, Tecumseh, Stillwell and Stanley were all small towns, but today are hubs of large school districts; and all have orchestras. Who is writing those histories? If orchestra histories are not written, they will be lost in the swirl of social networks and old memories. Your own teaching history could be lost.

Writing the history of Kansas orchestras, or of a community orchestra history, are great subjects for thesis writing or dissertations. Many masters' and doctoral papers are written to never see the light of day again. Histories of Kansas school orchestras will be read and remembered for generations, especially since Kansas has always been a leader in music education. Histories also easily answer the "So what?" question that stymies so many graduate students in choosing a research topic.

Even if you are not writing a graduate paper, now is the time to share your favorite memory of a teacher or history-making event in your orchestra experience. Don't be afraid to toot your own horn. Other teachers need to hear of school orchestra successes.

Send your stories to me at lrwilliams3@att.net, and I'll share them, or even help in writing them if you desire. As a retiree director, I hope this teaching year is going to be historic for you, in a good musical sense.



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Together We Create

KASTA State Solo Competition

Matt Means, Fort Hays State University

The KASTA state solo competition is improving! Over the course of the past year your KASTA executive board and myself have been working, in conjunction with KASTA members, to radically alter the competition format in order to make it stronger than ever. We believe that the new format will generate even greater interest in the past.

In short, the state solo competition will now be a LIVE competition (not recorded) and will occur during the state in-service workshop at KMEA in Wichita at the end of February. The stipulations and details, along with a copy of the registration form are available in this newsletter. You can also find all of this info at the KASTA website (kasta.org), thanks to Ken Hakoda.

As always, please contact me (mmeans@fhsu.edu) if you have any questions about the new format. I urge you to have your students apply and look forward to seeing them in Wichita in February!

Thanks for your continued interest and support,
Matt Means

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Kansas American String Teachers Association

KASTA SOLO COMPETITION

The KASTA state solo competition will now be a two competition year event, conducted on Thursday, February 27, 2014, at the KMEA to-Service Museum at the Century II Convention Hall in Wichita, Kan.

\$100 Prize for Kansas Senior Division Winner

\$500 Prize for Kansas Junior Division Winner

JUNIOR DIVISION Open to musicians enrolled in a K-12 school program.

SENIOR DIVISION Open to musicians enrolled in a Kansas college/university.

Applications and first two business days after February 1, 2014, to: Walt Meech, Department of Music, Fort Hays State University, 626 Park Street, Hays, KS 67601

Questions? meech@fhstate.edu

Please see www.kasta.org for complete requirements.

THE KANSAS CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE 2013-14 STATE SOLO COMPETITION

The state solo competition has moved to a radically different format this year! We are excited about the changes and are hopeful they will lead to increased participation and involvement!

WHAT:

The KASTA State Solo Competition seeks to recognize exceptional talent in our state at two levels: the JR division (applicants must be enrolled in a K-12 school program) and the SR division (applicants must be enrolled in a college/university at any level, undergraduate or graduate).

WHEN/WHERE:

The competition will take place Thursday, February 27, 2014, from 530pm-715pm at the Century II convention center in Wichita, KS, as part of the 2014 KSMEA In-Service Workshop. All auditions will be LIVE (not taped, as in previous years). A box dinner will be provided to all students who are auditioning for this competition, courtesy of KASTA.

PRIZES:

One JR and one SR division winner will be selected. Both winners will be required to perform on Friday, February 28, 2014, at noon at the annual KASTA awards luncheon at KMEA at the Century II convention center. The JR division winner will be awarded a \$350 prize and the SR division winner will be awarded a \$500 prize from KASTA.

STIPULATIONS:

1. Send the application form (via email or postal mail) and \$10 entry fee (check (made out to KASTA) or cash) to state competition chair Matt Means (mmeans@fhsu.edu) by FEBRUARY 1, 2014.

Once the applicant form and fee have been received applicants will be notified with a specific audition time and room location via email.

2. Past state solo competition winners are not eligible to apply.

3. **REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS:**

All applicants are expected to memorize their music, regardless of the division, with the following exceptions:

- Duo sonata repertoire with piano
- Chamber ensemble repertoire

All applicants are required to perform as much of their piece as is possible. Accordingly, please do not choose a piece that lasts significantly longer than the time allotment.

JR DIVISION: Applicants for the JR division are expected to prepare a maximum of FIVE (5) minutes of music from ONE (1) piece. Cuts to orchestral tuttis are permitted. Please time your piece carefully to ensure this limit is followed.

Pieces may either be accompanied or written for solo instrument. However, if the piece was written with accompaniment, the applicant is required to bring an accompanist to the competition.

SR DIVISION: Applicants for the SR division are expected to prepare a maximum of TEN (10) minutes of music from ONE (1) or TWO (2) pieces. Cuts to orchestral tuttis are permitted. Please time your piece carefully to ensure this limit is followed. Pieces may either be accompanied or written for solo instrument. However, if the piece was written with accompaniment, the applicant is required to bring an accompanist to the competition.

KASTA State Solo Competition Details, Continued

Chamber ensembles are permitted to enter either division provided that:

1. No non-string instruments are used except for the piano.
2. The ensemble does not exceed 8 instruments.

Winners of the competition (JR or SR division) will be expected to perform the piece(s) played at the competition at the KASTA luncheon the following day in their entirety.

All applicants will be required to bring THREE (3) copies of the music (piano reductions are ok, photocopies are ok provided they are destroyed immediately after the competition and/or are available via public domain on IMSLP, cuts should be clearly marked for judges) for the judges to their audition. If the piece performed has accompaniment, the accompaniment score should be submitted so that judges may see both the solo and accompaniment part.

4. **ACCOMPANISTS:** All applicants must bring an accompanist to their audition if the piece performed includes an accompaniment part. Accompanists are expected to perform with the division winners at the KASTA luncheon the following day. Accompanists will NOT be provided by KASTA for the competition.
5. **AUDITION ENVIRONMENT:** The competition will be open to the public so that friends and family members may attend. However, any audience members should maintain silence during performances and are not, **UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES**, to interact with competition judges during the event.
6. **JUDGING COMMENTS:** Once all applicants have performed all audience members will be expected to leave the room so judges may deliberate in privacy. Judges comment sheets will not be distributed to applicants.
7. **RESULTS:** Competition results will be announced immediately upon the completion of judging deliberation.

HELPFUL HINTS:

1. Prepare music that demonstrates your highest level of technical and musical accomplishment ***with*** the greatest sense of comfort and ease. I often tell my students before a competition, “you should be **ALMOST** tired of the piece by the time it is performed in the competition environment.”
2. Practice performing your piece in disadvantaged environments (too hot/too cold, without warmup, with audience members extremely close, with distractions or loud noises nearby) to develop a sense of greater consistency and stability when performing.
3. Record yourself regularly and rate your recording (phrasing, intonation, ensemble, pulse, articulation, etc) several times before you perform to develop a greater objective awareness of your preparedness. Use the spots/places noted from your recording as your practice agenda for the day.
4. Perform your music for others (especially music professionals that don't play your instrument) for comments before competing to gain more artistic insight.
5. Be psychologically prepared to play either earlier or later than your assigned time in case of last minute cancellations or a late start.

THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING AND GOOD LUCK!

KASTA State Solo Competition Application Form

KASTA STATE SOLO COMPETITION APPLICATION FORM

*IF YOU ARE APPLYING AS PART OF A CHAMBER ENSEMBLE, PLEASE COPY THIS FORM FOR OTHER GROUP MEMBERS AS NEEDED.

*NOTE: PAST STATE SOLO COMPETITION WINNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY.

APPLICANT

NAME: _____

APPLICANT

ADDRESS: _____

APPLICANT PHONE NUMBER: _____

APPLICANT EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ARE YOU APPLYING FOR THE: JUNIOR DIVISION _____ SENIOR

DIVISION _____

BIRTHDATE: _____

NAME OF APPLICANT'S PRIVATE

TEACHER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S PRIVATE

TEACHER: _____

PHONE NUMBER OF APPLICANT'S PRIVATE

TEACHER: _____

NAME OF APPLICANT'S SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

DIRECTOR: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

DIRECTOR: _____

PHONE NUMBER OF APPLICANT'S SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

DIRECTOR: _____

ASTA MEMBERSHIP NUMBER OF SELF, PRIVATE TEACHER, OR ORCHESTRA

DIRECTOR: _____

TITLE OF PIECE BEING

PERFORMED: _____

COMPOSER OF
PIECE: _____

LENGTH (TIMING) OF
PIECE: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION OF 2 REFERENCES (CAN BE PRIVATE TEACHER AND/OR
ORCHESTRA
DIRECTOR): _____

*PLEASE INCLUDE THE \$10 ENTRY FEE (CASH OR CHECK MADE OUT TO KASTA)
WITH THIS FORM. FEE AND FORM IS DUE BY FEBRUARY 1, 2014 TO:
MATT MEANS, KASTA STATE SOLO COMPETITION CHAIR
MALLOY HALL 247
C/O DEPT. OF MUSIC AND THEATRE
FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY
600 PARK STREET
HAYS, KS 67601

Any questions? Email Mr. Means at mmeans@fhsu.edu



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All-State Orchestra Excerpts

The 2013-2014 All-State Orchestra Excerpts have been edited and recorded by the Kansas State University String Faculty. Visit the websites below to see fingering and bowing suggestions and to access audio files of the excerpts.

Violin and Viola Excerpts by Cora Cooper: www.k-state.edu/music/cooper

Cello and Double Bass Excerpts by David Littrell: www.k-state.edu/music/littrell



Announcing the first annual Hornet String Improv Day

World-renowned string improv artists, Eugene Friesen (cello, Paul Winter Consort) and Darol Anger (violin, Turtle Island String Quartet) from the Berklee College of Music, will be the featured artists and clinicians. John Harrison (violin, Wichita Symphony concertmaster), Mark Foley (bass, Wichita State faculty), and ESU faculty, Susan Mayo (cello) and Jeremy Starr (violin), will also be clinicians. The day will include workshops by the clinicians, lunch, a select participant Honor Improv Orchestra, conducted by Eugene Friesen, and a finale concert featuring the Improv Orchestra and performances by the clinicians. Participation is limited to 60 high school students. Encourage your students to come explore what improv is all about in a creative and supportive environment! Open to improv novices through well-seasoned crossover artists.

Please contact Jeremy Starr (jstarr2@emporia.edu; 620-341-5336) for registration forms and if you have any questions or would like further information.

Upcoming Performances



Wichita State University Symphony Orchestra Mark Laycock, Conductor

Concert Schedule Fall 2013

<u>Thursday, September 19/Miller Concert Hall</u> Cindy McTee: Tempus Fugit Persichetti: The Hollow Men Bloch: Proclamation Beethoven: Symphony No. 6 in F ("Pastoral")	David Hunsicker, trumpet
<u>Saturday, October 5/Miller Concert Hall</u> Repertoire TBA	Samuel Ramey, bass
<u>October 17-20/Miller Concert Hall</u> Carlisle Floyd: Susannah	WSU Opera
<u>Wednesday, October 30/Miller Concert Hall</u> John Williams: Call of the Champions Ravel: Mother Goose Suite Barber: Adagio for Strings Marquez: Danzon No. 2 Gould: American Salute	Halloween Family Concert
<u>Thursday, November 21/Miller Concert Hall</u> Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 2 in Bb Major Kodaly: Hary Janos Suite	Julie Bees, piano

The St. Petersburg String Quartet, WSU Quartet in Residence, will again present a concert series focusing on specific repertoire. This year's cycle, spotlighting Slavic chamber music, features quartets by Dvorak and Tchaikovsky. Fall performances will be in Wiedemann Hall on Tuesday, September 24, and Monday, October 28.

Upcoming Performances



2013-2014 Season

David Littrell, conductor

Paul Duffy, graduate assistant conductor

McCain Auditorium 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 17

Beethoven • Symphony No. 5, 1st movement

Saint-Saëns • Piano Concerto No. 2 • Amanda Arrington, piano

Rossini • *William Tell* Overture

Smetana • *The Moldau*

Tuesday, October 22

Haydn • Symphony No. 103 "Drum Roll"

Scott Freeby • *The Beauty of Holland*

Beethoven • Symphony No. 1, 3rd movement

Laurel Littrell • Nature's Law

Saint-Saëns • Bacchanale from *Samson and Delilah*

Tuesday, December 10

Sibelius • Karelia Suite 1st & 3rd movements

Two English Anthems • Patricia Thompson, mezzo-soprano

Parry • *Jerusalem* & Holst • *I Vow to Thee My Country*

Berlioz • Rakoczy March

Schubert • Symphony No. 9 "The Great," 1st movement

Grofé • "Cloudburst" from *Grand Canyon Suite*

Tuesday, March 4

von Suppé • *Poet and Peasant* Overture

Ravel/Bryce Craig • "Toccata" from *Le Tombeau de Couperin*

Aria Winners

Zwilich • *Cello Symphony*

Tuesday, April 22

Kabalevsky • *Colas Breugnon* Overture

Concerto Winners

Rachmaninoff • Symphony No. 2 in E Minor

Upcoming Performances



Join Us In The Flint Hills On Saturday, September 28, 2013, At "The Joyful Noise: A Music And Prairie Family Camp"

Enjoy an entire day immersed in the beauty of the Flint Hills while family members of all ages take part in music workshops, guided prairie walks, horseback rides, and a twilight concert under the stars featuring renowned guest artists, cellist Eugene Friesen and violinist Darol Anger.

For the third year, this special event will take place at Camp Wood YMCA in Elmdale, Kansas, a world-class, family-friendly facility with spacious, interior, all-weather spaces

For more information and to register for the camp online, visit www.joyfulnoisecamp.org.

COMMUNITY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Community Chamber Orchestra will be featuring KSU bass professor Gordon Lewis on Sat., Oct. 5 at 7:00pm in a concert in Morganville, Kansas. Gordon's photo and impressive resumes are attached. Any bass student would benefit from hearing the program of these bass works:

Solo Bass Quartet No. 2 by Hoffmeister
Variations Movement from Schubert's "Trout" Quintet
Solo bass pieces by Francois Rabbath:
Concerto in One Part
Iberique Peninsulaire
Ode D'Espagne

The Community Chamber Orchestra will also play two other short works. The concert location (old Morganville School at 317 Main, Morganville) can be seen on a map at www.kansasmusic.net under "Join the Orchestra." Admission is \$6/person or \$15/family.

The String Academy of the Plains

Strings and Friends Concert Series

"See the Music, Hear the Art"

October, 2013

Community Congregational Church, Garden City, Kansas

An artistic combining of Music and Art, this concert features our own Dr. Priscilla Hallberg, violin, and Linda Adams, piano. A multi-media exploration of French Impressionism featuring music of Debussy and Ravel and great French Artwork.

For more information visit: thestringacademy.com and click on Concert Series

