



KASTA Newsletter

Fall 2016, Vol 15(3)

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School News, Member News, and More....

President's Corner



Dear KASTA Members,

Greetings! The new school year is in full swing! I wish you each the best as you prepare students for lessons, concerts, auditions, and a multitude of other performance opportunities. Please know the hours you spend preparing for and working with students makes a difference. I sincerely believe music makes us better people than we would otherwise be. Keep up the good work!

Speaking of good work, I would like to take a moment to introduce our new KASTA President-Elect, Laura Hutchins. Many of you already know Laura as a two-time KASTA Award of Excellence winner. You may have also had the opportunity to see and hear her orchestras perform at KMEA and the Mid-West Band and Orchestra Clinic. She is an experienced teacher dedicated to the improvement of her students and I am excited to have her onboard!

One of my goals as KASTA President is to increase both the quality and quantity of professional development opportunities for string teachers in Kansas. Thank you to those who answered my first challenge and have submitted clinic proposals to KMEA. Laura and I will meet with the KMEA Board to sift through all of the submissions and we look forward to scheduling these opportunities for you to share your knowledge with us.

A second goal is to update our KASTA website. In our world today, a website serves as our 'front porch' and will often be the first impression we make. It is my hope to reflect the same standard of excellent we hold in the classroom in our website. Please be looking for those improvements in the near future. In the meantime, Jacob Dakon has added a KASTA Facebook page and we will try to post reminders and information there as well. Please like us!

I had the opportunity to meet many of you at the Reading Session hosted by Olathe North HS, Cecily Mahan, and J.W. Pepper. Thanks to everyone who attended and for all of the work done by those who hosted. I know I found a couple new pieces for my library!

Thank you to Matt Means from Fort Hays State University. Mr. Means is heading up the KASTA Solo and Small Ensemble Competition that will be held at the February KMEA In-Service Workshop. He has been ironing out details and KASTA encourages you to consider sharing this opportunity with your students!

Finally, please take a moment to thank Mike Harbaugh, Karen Chapman, Roberta Banks, Jacob Dakon, Ken Hakoda, and Eric Crawford for their work in KASTA! This is a great group of educators who are working to help KASTA be the 'go to' organization for string educators in Kansas.

Henry O. Littich

President, KASTA

KASTA Newsletter

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Jacob M. Dakon, editor

KASTA.org

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Instrumental Conducting: Back to the Basics

Jesse Henkensiefken, Kansas Wesleyan University

As a conductor trying to improve my baton technique and the quality of my ensemble, I have come to rely on advice received from my mentors throughout the years. During my tenure at the University of Kansas I had the opportunity to study with several incredible conductors. One such maestro was Nikolai Uljanov, who had done substantial work in Moscow, Salzburg, and abroad. One of the most helpful lessons he gave me was how to score study. Maestro Uljanov taught me to think like an instrumentalist while conducting. Methodically, we went through every line of the score, one part at a time, catering our motions to each specific instrument. We continued this until every voice had been studied. Then we worked by instrumental sections, conducting all the strings at once, then the winds, brass and percussion. Working small to big, we combined sections until we had focused on all the parts at once. Obviously this took a substantial amount of time. After working in this detailed fashion memorization became non-problematic and occurred rather quickly.

During my studies in New York City with Maestro George Manahan, I was taught how to conduct a full symphony orchestra with precision and clarity. We worked on general posture, making sure to project every gesture to the back of the ensemble. This was done using the Alexander technique; a method that works to change movement-based habits in our everyday activities by getting rid of harmful tension in the body. We focused on staying out of the score with straight shoulders and head up, like a string was pulling the body straight up to the ceiling. To successfully do this, you had to truly know the score, making sure not to hunch over reading every note while conducting.

Most recently while studying at the Moscow State Conservatory with Maestro Anatoly Levin I learned the idea of physically subdividing within a beat while conducting, a technique I found to be incredibly helpful and effective. If a section of instruments is about to come in with tremolo or a succession of repetitive notes, the conductor needs to show that in their conducting immediately before it happens. This is a great way to keep your ensemble subdividing together. I think it is also a great way to create that *telepathic* relationship between the conductor and player, which all great orchestras appear to have. One of the most important aspects of conducting that I believe every musician must strive for, is a greater sense of self awareness. It is a process that takes time, diligence and an open mind. When in doubt conduct in front of a mirror and ask, would I play for me?



Jesse Henkensiefken

A Kansas native, Jesse Henkensiefken performs regularly as both a cellist and conductor. He is the current Kansas Wesleyan University Director of Orchestras, and both the Assistant Conductor and Principal Cellist of the Salina Symphony. He concertizes

throughout Kansas, the Midwest and the USA, and holds degrees from the University of Kansas, Park University and the Manhattan School of Music in NYC. He is the founder of the KWU International Music Festival and resides in Salina KS with his beautiful wife Tatiana Tessman and their daughter Sophia Elise Henkensiefken.

Kansas State University Future Music Educator's Day

Do you have high school seniors thinking about a career in teaching music? FUTURE MUSIC EDUCATOR'S DAY is the event for them! Rather than being specifically a recruiting activity for the university, Future Music Educator's Day is an attempt to expose potential music students to a career in education. It is more of recruitment for the profession than for any one institution.

Students will:

- Follow an assigned student mentor through a "Day-in-the-life-of" a music education student
- Meet with faculty and student mentors
- Visit a Music Education class session
- Visit sessions on Instrumental, Choral, String, or Jazz Education
- Observe a Band, Orchestra, or Choral rehearsal
- Hear talks on "So You Want to be a music teacher?" and "Preparing to be a music major on college"

REGISTER AT:

<http://www.k-state.edu/musiceducation/prospective-students/fmed/>

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2016
[FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS]
9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Summer Break Stories: Fond Farewells in California to a Mentor and Friend

Matt Means, Fort Hays State University

Each summer I participate as a member of the first violin section of the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music (cabrillomusic.org) orchestra. These challenging and inspiring 2 weeks are dedicated to the performance of living composers' music, and since I joined this group over 10 years ago I have had the great pleasure of working with our Maestra, Marin Alsop, who currently leads the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. This summer was Maestra Alsop's 25th and last season at Cabrillo, and it was an

emotional one for all of us, as Marin had a big say in recruiting those who have joined this ensemble, which is made up of professional musicians from around the USA. Though I am looking forward to working our incoming music director, Cristian Macelaru, I will miss Marin's inspired leadership, dedication to new music, and potent musical genius. Attached are two pics from Cabrillo: me with Maestro Alsop and the composer John Corigliano, whose music we have performed regularly.



Matt Means is Associate Professor of Music at Fort Hays State University. Currently, he serves as Director of the FHSU Honors College.

Introducing New String Faculty



The Wichita State University School of Music is proud to welcome **Dr. Betul Soykan** as Professor of Violin; she previously taught at the University of Texas-RGV in Brownsville. Betul holds four degrees in Violin Performance and String Pedagogy. She received a special distinction award for her Concert Diploma recital as well as first prize in the Concerto Competition of Swiss, where she was chosen to perform Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto with the Bern Symphony Orchestra. She has taken an active part in master classes and seminars with renowned musicians such as Vladimir Spivakov, Igor Ozim, Igor Oistrach, Victor Pikaizen, Trio di Trieste, Stanislav Apolin, Rudolf Baumgartner, and Siegfried Palm. Betul's recording of Cesar Franck's Sonata and other pieces by Swiss composers is available through Eroica Records. In this recording the Sonata by Melchior Ulrich is dedicated to her and was premiered in Switzerland in 1995. Her second CD, the "Complete Sonatas of Joaquin Turina" was released in July 2015 by Centaur records. Additionally, she is the founder and CEO of Atlanta Strings Conservatory Inc., a non-profit institution, dedicated to the education and promotion of String Music, primarily to underprivileged students, styled after European conservatories. She also served as a faculty member at Gordon State College, Clayton State University, Hochschule der Künste Bern and Seminole College. Betul performs on a violin made by Antonio Gagliano II, circa 1840.

The Southwestern College Music Department is proud to welcome **Seth Girton** as Affiliate Instructor of Cello and the Southwestern College Youth Symphony Conductor. Seth Girton hails from Wichita, Kansas, where he began studying cello at the age of nine. Under the tutelage of Susan Mayo, he was an active participant in the Wichita Symphony Youth Orchestras Program for six years before pursuing a degree in mathematics at Oberlin College, where he also performed extensively. He received his Master of Music degree from Emporia State University and maintains an active performance schedule with the Friends University Community Orchestra in Wichita and the Newton Mid-Kansas Symphony Orchestra, in each of which he is acting principle Seth has also spent several years exploring non-traditional and experimental music and techniques and sharing these at venues in the Wichita area. Additionally, Seth is the instructor of cello at Heston and Bethel Colleges and at the Bethel College Academy



of Performing Arts in Newton, Kansas, and he is excited to join the faculty of Southwestern College as instructor of cello and Southwestern College Youth Symphony conductor and music director.

New Faculty Continued...



The University of Kansas School of Music is proud to welcome **Hannah Collins** as Assistant Professor of Cello. Collins is a dynamic performer and collaborator devoted to diverse forms of musical expression. Winner of De Linkprijis for contemporary interpretation, Hannah takes an active role in expanding the repertoire for cello and has commissioned and premiered solo works by composers such as Caroline Shaw, Patrick van Deurzen, and Timo Andres. With support from the Presser Foundation, Hannah spent 2009-2011 in France and The Netherlands researching and performing contemporary European cello repertoire. She continues to catalyze and champion the works of compelling young composers with New Morse Code, her duo with percussionist Michael Compitello. Hannah and Michael were finalists in the 2014 Concert Artists Guild Competition and recipients of a Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Grant for a new work by Christopher Stark entitled *The Language of Landscapes*. Together, they co-direct Avaloch Farm Music Institute's New Music Initiative, a summer residency program in Boscawen, New Hampshire designed to provide resources and workspace for performers and composers collaborating on new works.

Praised for her “incisive, vibrant continuo” playing (South Miami Classical Review), Hannah appears regularly as a Baroque cellist with the Sebastians, New York Baroque Incorporated, Quodlibet Ensemble, and the Trinity Baroque Orchestra. She is a core member of Cantata Profana, a vocal/instrumental chamber ensemble with a narrative programming style that cuts across stylistic genres. Hannah has been invited to give solo and chamber music performances at festivals throughout Europe and North America including Orford Centre d'arts (Canada), Kneisel Hall (US), NJO (The Netherlands), Aldeburgh Festival (UK), and Musique de Chambre à Giverny (France).

A dedicated teaching artist, Hannah is an alumna of Ensemble ACJW, a professional development program focused on chamber music performance, teaching artistry, and arts advocacy through the resources of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and the Weill Music Institute, in partnership with the New York City Department of Education. She serves as co-director of KHBH: Together in Music, a recurring outreach residency which connects the Kneisel Hall Music Festival with the community of Blue Hill, Maine through creative projects. She currently teaches cello and chamber music Queens College and Greenwood Junior Music Camp.

Hannah earned a B.S. in biomedical engineering summa cum laude from Yale College and also holds graduate degrees in cello performance from the Yale School of Music and the Royal Conservatory of The Hague. Her principal mentors have included Stefan Reuss, Ole Akahoshi, Aldo Parisot, Michel Strauss, Robert Mealy, and Marcy Rosen. For more information on Hannah Collins, see <http://www.hannahcollinscello.com/>.

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Membership Highlights

Dr. Cora Cooper, Professor of Violin & Viola Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS

Music from K-State professor Cora Cooper's Violin Music by Women anthology was featured in a recital by students of violinist Claire Allen in Fairfax, VA on June 4. The recital had a hashtag of #WomenWriteMusic. In addition to selections from the anthology, Allen performed works by Clara Schumann. Cooper joined Allen and pianist David Norfrey to play Rebecca Clarke's "Nocturne" for two violins and piano (and they met for the first time an hour before the performance!) The grand finale of the student portion was a group performance of K-State grad Hannah Bartel's "The Ice Skating Pond" from her Kansas Memories Suite, commissioned for volume one of the anthology. More information on women violinists and composers can be found at www.violinmusicbywomen.com.



Cody Toll, Orchestra Director Manhattan-Ogden United School District 383

On September 20, 2016, eight young violinists from Manhattan, Kansas, had the unique opportunity to perform with YouTube sensations, The Piano Guys, to a sold-out audience in McCain Auditorium. Wanting to feature dedicated young artists from the Manhattan area, The Piano Guys contacted the directors of the Gold and Silver Orchestras to request eight violinists in middle school or younger to join them for their piece, Beethoven's Five Secrets. Four violinists were selected from Anthony Middle School, one from Eisenhower Middle School, one from Marlatt Elementary, and two from homeschooled families. The students were very enthusiastic about performing with The Piano Guys, who have inspired so many young musicians with their exciting and accessible popular and classical arrangements. For more information on The Piano Guys, see <https://thepianoguys.com/>. For more information on the Manhattan-Ogden USD 383, see <http://www.usd383.org/manhattan-ogden>. For more information on the Gold and Silver Orchestras, see www.goldorchestra.org.

Dr. Amber Peterson, Assistant Professor of Music Southwestern College, Winfield, KS

Dr. Amber Peterson will be a guest conductor for the Delano Chamber Orchestra (Wichita) on their October 16th performance. She will also be performing "Autumn" from The Four Seasons with the Winfield High School Orchestra in November.

**Dr. Véronique Mathieu, Assistant Professor of Violin
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS**

In May 2016, Véronique Mathieu, Assistant Professor of Violin at the University of Kansas, performed Brahms Double Concerto with cellist Daniel Veis and the Shenyang Symphony Orchestra in China. The concert was followed by a series of master classes at the Shenyang Conservatory. In the same month, Dr. Mathieu was the featured soloist in a concert celebrating the union between Canada and Vietnam at the National Academy of Music in Hanoi. She also taught master classes at the National Conservatory in Ho Chi Minh City, and performed for the Saigon Music Club.



**Dr. Jacob M. Dakon, Assistant Professor of Music Education
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS**



Dr. Jacob M. Dakon, Assistant Professor of Music Education at the University of Kansas, presented the paper “They always have their music with them: Examining task-value of memorization in youth instrumental ensembles” at the International Research Symposium for Talent Education in Minneapolis, MN on May 27. He also gave a spoken paper, “Choristers’ perceptions of top-level choral experiences: Replication and extension,” with colleague Dr. Marci Major at the International Society of Music Education World Conference on Music Education in Glasgow, United Kingdom on July 29. His most recent publication, “Singers’ perceptions of mid-level choral experiences,” can be found in Volume 64, Edition 1, of the Journal of Research in Music Education.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW FOR CONTEST?

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www.violinmusicbywomen.com

Upcoming Concerts & Events

Wichita State University Symphony Orchestra Fall 2016 Repertoire

Thursday, September 22/Miller Concert Hall, Jeb Wallace, horn

Michael Torke: *Jasper*

Mozart: Horn Concerto No. 4 in Eb Major

Sibelius: Symphony No. 5 in Eb Major

October 13-16/Miller Concert Hall, WSU Opera Theatre

Berlioz: *Beatrice et Benedict*

Thursday, November 10/Miller Concert Hall, Cristina Castaldi, soprano

Kevin Puts: *Hymn to the Sun*

Verdi: Ernani, involami from *Ernani*

Verdi: Come in questo'ora bruna from *Simon Boccanegra*

Verdi: Ave maria from *Otello*

Catalani: Ebben? ne andro lontana from *La Wally*

Puccini: Vissi d'arte from *Tosca*

Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 3 in A Major ("Scottish")

Thursday, November 29/Wiedemann Hall, Lynne Davis, organ

Handel: *Messiah* (Christmas selections)



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY



South Kansas Symphony 2016-2017 Season

Kaleidoscope	October 7, 2016	8:00 pm
Movie Matinee	October 23, 2016	3:00 pm
Winterfest	December 4, 2016	3:00 pm
Symphonic Rhythms	February 19, 2017	3:00 pm
Chamber Gala	April 2, 2017	3:00 pm
Titans	April 30, 2017	3:00 pm



Southwestern College Youth Symphony 2016-2017 Season

Borealis	October 9, 2016	3:00 pm
Christmas Festival	December 11, 2016	3:00 pm
A Night at the Opera	February 12th, 2017	3:00 pm
Going for Baroque	April 23, 2017	3:00 pm

STRING NEWS @ SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

Scholarship Auditions for 2017-2018 Students

November 12th, 2016 & February 11th, 2017

Substantial Music Activity Scholarships Available for All Majors!
Contact Dr. Peterson (amber.peterson@sckans.edu) for information.



Southwestern College Honor Orchestra Festival

On January 24th, 2017, students from Arkansas City, Derby, El Dorado, Ponca City (OK), and Winfield High Schools participate in a daylong festival, culminating in a performance at 6:00 pm that evening. The orchestra will perform Rutter's Suite for Strings and Rosauero's Marimba Concerto (Jeremy Kirk, soloist). Also performing will be the Ponca City High School's orchestra, under the direction of Dan Larson.

South Kansas Symphony Concerto Competition

On March 4th, 2017, all Kansas and Oklahoma music students (12-18 years old) are invited to participate in the Junior Division of the South Kansas Symphony Concerto Competition. The winner will perform with the South Kansas Symphony at their April 30th performance. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners receive monetary prizes and scholarships to the Cole Family Summer Music Festival. Registration materials must be postmarked by February 1st. Contact Dr. Amber Peterson (amber.peterson@sckans.edu) for information.

2016 Junior Division Finalists

Thomas Mondry, piano	Mt. Carmel High School
Aidan Filbert Wells, piano	Wichita East High School
Caleb Renner, trombone	Inman High School

2016 Senior Division Finalists (Southwestern College Students)

Leslie Wofford, flute
Eva Farid, violin

ViolinFest & Violapalooza

January 28th, 2017 – Violapalooza
April 1st, 2017 – ViolinFest

All high school violin and viola students are invited to the Southwestern College campus for a day focused on their instruments. Students will perform chamber music, participate or observe a master class, and hear from several guest speakers/performers. Only \$10! Contact Dr. Amber Peterson (amber.peterson@sckans.edu) for information

2017 Cole Family Summer Music Festival

This festival is one of the few overnight music camps available in south/central Kansas, providing a well-rounded experience in which they are exposed to many new musical opportunities. Students also get to experience a little of college-life by living in the dorms for the week.

NEW! June 7-10th Session 1 (6th-8th grade) – Students will participate in orchestra or band, as well as the All Festival Choir (no prior singing experience required). The camp also features electives in which students will be exposed to music theory, conducting, world music, and musician's health. Beginners are also welcome!

June 11th-17th Session 2 (9th-12th grade) – Campers study with college faculty while developing musical skills in 4 areas of emphasis: choir, orchestra, piano, or band. All campers will also perform with the All Festival Choir (no prior singing experience required). In addition, students choose among electives including music theory, conducting, beginning strings, beginning piano, music & the brain, and African drumming. March 4th, 2017 - Prospective Session 2 campers have the opportunity to compete for talent scholarships. Additional need-based scholarships also available. Contact Dr. Peterson (amber.peterson@sckans.edu) for information.



2016 String Scholarship Winners

Leah Wise, bass	Derby North Middle School
Lindsey Bergner, violin	Pratt High School
Joseph Bowlby	Winfield Middle School

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**University of Kansas Symphony Orchestra
Fall 2016 Season**

KU Symphony Orchestra Halloween Concert

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2016, 7:30 – 9PM

Lied Center

Kansas Virtuosi

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2016, 7:30 – 9PM

Swarthout Recital Hall

The Music That Unites Us: KU Symphony Orchestra & Choirs

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016, 3 – 5PM

Kaufman Center for the Performing Arts

KU Opera: The Impresario & The Medium

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016, 7:30 – 9:30PM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2016, 2:30 – 4:30PM

Baustian Theatre

The Music That Unites Us: KU Symphony Orchestra & Choirs

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016, 6 – 8PM

Lied Center

Vespers

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016, 2:30 – 3PM, 7:30 – 9PM

Lied Center



got fingering?

All-State Orchestra Excerpts

Edited parts and Recordings

Drs. Cora Cooper and David Littrell

Kansas State University

Violin and Viola:

<http://www.kstate.edu/music/studios/string/violinviola/index.html>

Cello and Bass:

<http://www.k-state.edu/music/studios/string/cellobass/index.html>

Interested in submitting your ideas to the KASTA Newsletter?

We welcome your thoughts. Please submit all materials and query letters to:

Jacob M. Dakon, editor | Email: jmdakon@ku.edu

Submissions to the KASTA Newsletter should be of interest to string musicians and educators or members of the community with a stake in string education. Our audience consists of K-12 school string and orchestra educators, non-collegiate and collegiate studio teachers, music education professors, students, conductors, performers, and other interested parties.

Our Mission

The KASTA Newsletter is a tri-annual publication of the Kansas Chapter of the American String Teachers Association. Our mission is to promote communication and a sense community between collegiate, pre-service, and professional string educators throughout the state of Kansas by disseminating critical thought and opinion through discussion of string-specific topics. These include, but are not limited to:

- Articles examining pedagogical, curricular, and other educational perspectives;
- Articles that highlight a program's noteworthy experiences;
- Articles examining psychological perspectives pertaining to music and human behavior;
- Historical accounts of Kansas music programs or related material;
- Students' creative or music-educational writings;
- Research abstracts or reports that suggest direct application to instructional environments;
- Reviews (e.g., books, music, research); and
- Rebuttals and letters that promote healthy and progressive discussion.

We believe that sharing knowledge and skills is one of the primary means of advancing string education. Such advancements, we hope, will continue to enhance educational experiences for all Kansan music students and teachers, past, present, and future.

Length & Format:

Article submissions may be 250 to 3,000 words maximum. Three thousand words are equivalent to 6–9 typed, double-spaced pages. Musical examples, sidebars, references, tables may constitute the equivalent of one or two pages in addition to the text. Articles should be in either APA or Chicago format.

Articles may not promote products or commercial programs. An author may mention his/her studio, school or ensemble only in the context of one example among many. Mentioning programs or products should be solely for the sake of example to highlight a point in the article.

Given copyright restrictions, please do not submit works that have been previously published in other newsletters or journals without written permission from the entity in possession of the copyright.