

A photograph of three young men playing double basses outdoors. The man on the left is giving a thumbs up. The man in the middle is smiling. The man on the right is looking towards the camera. They are in a field with trees and a utility pole in the background. The sky is a mix of blue and orange from the setting sun. The text 'KASTA Newsletter' is written in a large, white, serif font at the top, with 'Winter 2017, Vol 16(1)' below it in a smaller, white, serif font. The background image is partially obscured by a dark grey semi-transparent box containing the text.

KASTA Newsletter

Winter 2017, Vol 16(1)

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President's Corner



Dear KASTA Members,

Greetings! I am hopeful 2017 is off to a good start for each of you! Despite some threatening weather, I was able to attend the 44th Annual String Fling at Kansas State University where I had the privilege of working with some fantastic fifth-grade string players from around the state. Thank you to all who were able to bring students and a big THANK YOU to Drs. David Littrell and Cora Cooper for providing such a fantastic opportunity to our students and teachers!

The Annual Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Workshop is in the final stages of planning. If you have not already begun doing so, now is the time to start making plans to attend. In addition to a fantastic performance by the Kansas All-State Orchestra, Sumner Academy Symphony Orchestra, Wichita East High School Philharmonia Orchestra, Wichita State University Symphony Orchestra, and the Kansas Wesleyan University String Orchestra, there are many fantastic workshops scheduled.

Also, don't forget to make plans to attend the KASTA Luncheon on Friday at Noon in the Founder's Room. The performances and workshops will be fantastic again this year, but often the most valuable part of any workshop is the opportunity to visit with colleagues and friends. Whether it is discussing your latest teaching success, challenge, or sharing stories about the great cabin you visited over the holidays, these conversations are what will recharge your batteries, reaffirm your commitment to your students, and refocus your efforts to provide them with the very best instruction. Don't overlook the value of time spent with friends and colleagues!

I look forward to seeing you in Wichita!

Henry O. Littich

President, KASTA
Director of Orchestras
Smoky Valley USD 400

KASTA Newsletter

Winter 2017 Edition | Volume 16, Issue 1

Jacob M. Dakon, editor

KASTA.org

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KASTA String Orchestra Sessions

2017 Kansas Music Educators Association Teacher Inservice Workshop February 23-25, Wichita, KS

Thursday, February 23, 2017

- 5:00-7:00 KASTA Solo Competition
7:00-7:50 KASTA Board Meeting
8:00-9:30 KMEA President's Concert, Street Corner Symphony

Friday, February 24, 2017

- 8:00-8:50 Teaching Music Theory to String Students, Dr. Lillian Green
9:00-9:50 Evening the Score: Including Violin and Viola Music by Women in Your Solo Repertoire Choices, Dr. Cora Cooper
10:00-10:30 Kansas City Sumner Academy Symphonic Orchestra – Michelle Sweeten, Director
11:00-11:30 Wichita High School East Philharmonia Orchestra – Eric Crawford, Director
12:00-12:45 KASTA Luncheon – For tickets, see Michael Harbaugh
1:00-1:50 Knowing the Score: A Path to True Artistic Leadership, All-State Orchestra - Harvey Felder
Director Clinic
2:45-3:35 Weight, Weight, Don't tell me....SHOW me! - Kathleen House & Catherine Tummons
3:45-4:35 Transitioning from $\frac{3}{4}$ - to Full-Size Cello: Will we ever play in tune again? - Erinn Renyer
8:45-9:20 Wichita State University Symphony Orchestra – Dr. Mark Laycock, Director

Saturday, February 25, 2017

- 8:00-8:35 Kansas Wesleyan University String Orchestra – Dr. Jesse Henkensiefken, Director
9:00-9:50 Arranging for Instrumental Music Educators: A Pep Talk – Dr. Jeffrey Bishop
11:00-11:50 Instrumental Karate and Scale Olympians: Empowering Students Through Self-Guided Levels to Mastery - Jessica Amir-Foote & Allen Hisken
12:30-1:15 KMEA All-State Orchestra Concert – Harvey Felder, Director



Community Chamber Orchestra Gears up for its 20th Season

By Jacob M. Dakon & Anne Clark

It's 2017, and the Community Chamber Orchestra, LLC, is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Founded and directed by Dr. Anne Clark, the CCO began in response to the Clay County School District's decision to disband its public-school string program in the late-1990s. Disappointed, but not deterred, Dr. Clark, who was the school district's part time orchestra teacher at the time, gathered a small group of students, adults, and her dear violinist colleague, Pauline Meek. Together, they created a new ensemble purposed specifically with carrying on Clay County's rich tradition of string education. The newly formed Community Chamber Orchestra gave its first performance at the 1997 Piquette Festival's "Popcorn Concert," held at the Clay Center Rex Theater. Today, its musicians continue to perform regularly for the North Central Kansas community in indoor and outdoor facilities, schools, and nursing homes.

The CCO is a chamber ensemble in its truest sense, in that it performs in small community venues without a conductor. It is also small in size, consisting of only 12 members, all of whom are string musicians from the surrounding areas (e.g., Clay Center, Olsburg, Manhattan, Concordia, and Morganville). This being the case, Dr. Clark states that the CCO's repertoire is not restricted to string music, as they regularly collaborate with all kinds of musicians, including pianists, percussionists, guitarists, vocalists, organists, and woodwind and brass musicians. Other artists, such as dancers, readers, actors, puppeteers, and photographers have also participated their performances. In all, Clark states that more than 200 different area musicians, and guest professional soloists of regional, national, and international reputation have shared their musical abilities with the ensemble over the years.

Also unique to the CCO is its support of intergenerational community engagement. The CCO is made of

performers varying widely in age and technical ability. Some of the youngest performers are in elementary grades, while the most senior members are well into their 80s. According to the CCO website, this enables entire families to share live music-making experience with each other, all within a warm intergenerational community environment. The orchestra also seeks to provide area youth with a string education, rental instruments, and an outlet to demonstrate what they have learned, in some cases, even providing deserving high school students the opportunity to solo with the orchestra.

Finally, the orchestra serves the community through their music. After performances in 2001 and 2006, the orchestra completed production of a 2-CD set, entitled, "Music of the Kansas Pioneers," which contains authentic pioneer music from the 1800's and early 1900's. More recently, the CCO completed a 2-year project, entitled "Agriculture and the Arts," which celebrates Kansas agriculture through music and photography. They also produced a children's musical drama entitled "Ducktails" that based on the book by Janette Oke. The adaptation, music, and lyrics were set by Anne and Elizabeth Clark (Mall). The orchestra produced a pup-



pet show, with many of the musicians and their family members doubling as puppeteers.

So far, in 2017, the CCO has held its annual half-price sheet music sale on January 14th at the KSU String Fling, in the McCain Building atrium. All music and music equipment was donated by orchestra supporters. On February 12, 2017, the CCO performed a concert entitled, Love Songs and Sweets Buffet at the Morganville School in Morganville. Attending guests were entertained with waltzes, love songs, and dances while enjoying a dessert buffet and chocolate fountain. Later this Fall, the CCO plans to give an outdoor concert with singer-songwriter Elizabeth Anne Mall at one of the Clay Center Festivals, a concert at a regional nursing home, and another "Meet the String Family of Instruments" demonstration for a public school where strings are not available in the curriculum, all of which are free of charge.

For more information on the CCO, visit www.kansasmusic.net, or 'friend' them on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/CommunityChamberOrchestra). Dr. Anne Clark can be contacted at bclark@diodecom.net or 785-926-4725. The orchestra typically submits grant applications to cover free events; however, the public is welcome to support the orchestra by donating tax exempt through the Clay County Arts Council, or as business advertising directly to the Orchestra.

Any donations or advertising may be mailed to:
Community Chamber Orchestra, c/o Dr. Anne Clark,
454 23rd Rd., Morganville, KS 67468-9117.

New orchestra members are welcome to join the CCO on Friday, March 17 for rehearsals in the Morganville Community Room from 6:30-8:00 pm. There is no cost to join. Contact the Director at 785-926-4725 or bclark@diodecom.net.

Musicians of the Community Chamber Orchestra's 20th Season include:

Violins

Dahlia Dean, Clay Center
Nancy Blockcolsky, Olsburg
Joanna Murphy, Manhattan
Gary Beck, Clay Center
Ayla Floersch, Manhattan
Chayton Alquist-Pennell, Concordia
Mian Zhao, Manhattan

Viola

Elisabeth Efken, Manhattan

Cello

Dana Dean, Clay Center
Matthew Kelley, Manhattan
Dr. Anne Clark, Morganville

Guest Pianist

Selena Bennett, Manhattan



Kansas State University 2017 String Scholarship Auditions



Friday, March 3
Saturday, March 4

Please call (785) 532-3800 or email mus@k-state.edu to make an appointment for your 15-minute audition.

Prepare:

1. Two major scales and one minor scale, three octaves
2. Concerto movement (complete or partial) or equivalent piece
3. Contrasting piece or étude

Please demonstrate your ability to play lyrically and technically for fast passages. There will be sight-reading at the audition.

Want more information?

www.k-state.edu/orchestra

Dr. David Littrell dlitmus@k-state.edu

Dr. Cora Cooper corac@k-state.edu

Students who wish to play in the K-State Orchestra, but who do not want to audition for a scholarship, may audition for admittance into the Orchestra at the beginning of the fall semester.

Seating audition excerpts will be available online by mid-June.

Upcoming Concerts:

Dr. Anne Clark, cello

Recital

March 11, 2017 at 4:00

Manhattan Arts Center, Manhattan, KS



On March 11, 2017, at 4:00, Dr. Anne Clark, cello, will perform a recital for the public at the Manhattan Arts Center. The program is as follows:

Beethoven Cello Sonata Op. 102, No. 2
Boccherini Cello Sonata No. 6 in A Major
Barber Cello Sonata, Op. 6
Chopin Grand Duo Concertante
w/ cello part composed by Franck

Dr. Clark will be joined by Matthew Means, Nancy Blockcolsky, Amanda Arrington, and Dr. Tetyana Allston on piano.

Tickets: Adult - \$10, Military, Student or Child - \$5

Tickets can be bought online through the Manhattan Arts Center or at the door.

Box offices opens at 3:15. House opens at 3:30.

Seating is General Admission.

Manhattan Arts Center, 1520 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502, Phone: 785-537-4420



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913-491-6636

North Kansas City

6312-14 NW Barry Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64154
816-746-0500

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.