



KASTA Newsletter
Fall 2018, Vol 17(2)

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Dear KASTA Members,

Greetings! I hope in addition to meeting the needs of your students, you are finding time to keep yourself energized. For me, this came in the form of a Colorado Archery Elk Hunt at the beginning of September. I spent a week in the mountains with one of my younger brothers. Neither of us managed to harvest an elk and we were both tired from hiking and sleeping on the ground, but I walked away feeling I had accomplished a goal I set many years ago! I'm sure you love your job as much as I do. That said, find a way to unplug from 'the grind' and challenge yourself in a different way. You will be glad you did!

If you missed the KASTA Summer Workshop with Dr. Christopher Selby, you really missed out on some fantastic information. I think all attendees walked away with something they could take back to their classrooms and immediately use to improve instruction. If nothing else, the steak dinner at Dr. Mark Laycock's house was a fantastic way to connect with colleagues and relax. Even the weather managed to cooperate. A big thank you to Dr. Selby, Dr. Laycock and his family, and Wichita State University for their contributions to a great workshop. Look for information about our 2019 Summer Workshop soon.

In June, the KMEA Executive Board voted to include freshmen in the All-State Honor Ensembles for the 2019-2020 school year (next year). This means the current 3-year rotation of audition materials will need to be expanded to a 4-year rotation. KASTA has been tasked with putting together committees to select these materials for violin, viola, cello, and bass. The KASTA Board recently met and made recommendations of high school and university teachers to serve on these committees. It is my hope these materials can be select by the end of this school year.

In February, KASTA hosted a discussion concerning the addition of a second All-State string ensemble. I was pleased to see the KMEA Board include freshmen in the All-State process, but in my opinion, the increased competition for seats in the All-State Orchestra needs to be balanced with greater opportunity to participate. While I am completely committed to providing a 'mountain top' experience for our best orchestra students in Kansas, I am hopeful we can extend this opportunity to more of our students with the addition of a second ensemble. When it comes to what I want, however, I am just one of many string teachers in the state of Kansas and we need your input. To this end, KASTA will soon be conducting a survey of Kansas string teachers to put numbers to our questions about the addition of a second ensemble. Please take a moment to complete this survey. Our current plan is to "go live" with the survey on October 15 and keep it open until November 15.

Finally, consider attending the National ASTA Convention in Albuquerque, NM March 6-9, 2019. I attended for the first time last year in Atlanta and found it to be one of the best professional development and networking opportunities I had ever experienced. The nice thing is, Albuquerque is quite a bit closer than Atlanta! I know March can be a crazy time of year for all of us, but take the time to 'feed yourself' and you will find you are much better prepared to meet the needs of your students.

Thank you,

Henry O. Littich

President, KASTA



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Jacob M. Dakon, editor

KASTA.org

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For access to past KASTA Newsletters, see <http://kasta.org/newsletter/archive/>

Review: T. A. Timms & Son Custom Embroidered Violin Cases

By Katherine Okesson

My violin has high arching - REALLY high arching. It is so deep that the instrument doesn't fit in most violin cases. Over the years, I've tried cases made by the American Case Company, BAM, Bobelock, Concord, Gewa, GL Cases, Hightech, Musafia, and Tonarelli. I've also tried multiple student-grade cases when I was desperate for something that would work.

The best of these was the Bobelock brand, with their huge range of features, larger depths, reasonable prices, and durable construction. (<http://www.bobelock.com/cases/violin/violincases.html>)

Unfortunately, even Bobelock's thick, padded suspension wasn't deep enough for my Degani. My violin's back and bridge were jarred with every inadvertent bump of the case. I spent a huge amount of time and money on soundpost and bridge adjustments before it became obvious that I needed to get a custom case.

After months of deliberation, I settled on contacting the T. A. Timms & Son Case Company, located in Buckinghamshire, England (<http://www.tatimms.com/>). The company has a long and elite history of case making, extending from apprenticeships with W. E. Hill & Sons and Michael Gordge. The T. A. Timms & Son Case Company has built cases for some of the most famous violinists in the world, including orchestral musicians and international soloists. They are also world-renowned for the repair and restoration of Gordge and Hill violin and viola cases.

The Timms cases are designed and built by Desmond Timms and his wife, Rachel. Made in the traditional English style, the cases come with interior suspension, tailpiece "buffer" pads, solid brass hinges, adjustable bow-twists, a wooden shell, velvet or suede interior (in

a huge range of colors), hand-stitched leather handles and shoulder straps, music pockets, three-layer interior blankets, hygrometers, and "D" rings (which are attached to the wooden shell rather than the outer cover). The cases are sturdy, practical, and beautiful.

I ordered two cases - a shaped case for plane travel and an English model (or oblong) for daily use. Desmond asked me to provide tracings and measurements of my violin, so that the case shells could be built to size. I was also able to customize the features of each case, including choosing fabric colors, music pockets, and adding special "D" rings so I could wear them as a backpack. Finally, Desmond allowed my mother, an incredibly talented fiber artist, to create unique needlework designs on the interior fabric.



English Style (Oblong) Model - Interior Pocket
Case by T. A. Timms & Son; Embroidery by Janice
Gail



English Style (Oblong) Model - Interior with Blanket in Protective Plastic Case by T. A. Timms & Son; Embroidery by Janice Gail



Shaped Model - Interior with Blanket Case by T. A. Timms & Son; Embroidery by Janice Gail



English Style (Oblong) Model - Interior Blanket Case by T. A. Timms & Son; Embroidery by Janice Gail



Shaped Model - Interior Pocket Case by T. A. Timms & Son; Embroidery by Janice Gail



Shaped Model - Interior Blanket
Case by T. A. Timms & Son; Embroidery by
Janice Gail

Above all, Desmond Timms was an absolute joy to work with. He was responsive to emails, listened carefully to my “wish” list, and even provided me with photos and regular updates of the cases during production. Desmond lovingly nicknamed my extra-deep cases “the Twins”, and provided them with extra lid check-straps to support the extra height and weight of the lids.

During production, I was also sent velvet samples to choose from and Rachel Timms made special arrangements to find matching gross grain ribbons for the interiors. Every aspect of these cases was designed with love, care, and the utmost dedication to detail. They are guaranteed against defect and insurance papers were included.

I can't recommend the T. A. Timms & Son Case Company highly enough! If you are searching for a custom case with perfect customer service and flawless craftsmanship, you really shouldn't look anywhere else. In terms of the embroidery though, you're out of luck - my mom's not making any more!

Happy music making.



Katherine Anne Okesson, DMA

is currently a member of the Santa Fe Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra and of Performance Santa Fe. She performs regularly throughout the Midwest and Southwest regions as a recitalist and chamber musician. In addition to her current performance schedule, she maintains a private violin and viola studio, where she offers traditional and Suzuki based lessons.

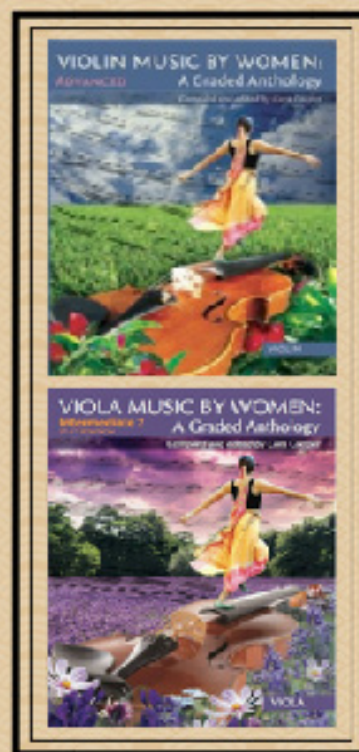


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K-State Welcomes Rachel Dirks as New Director of Orchestral Activities



We are happy to welcome Rachel Dirks to the K-State Music Program! An active conductor, clinician, and educator, she holds cello performance degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and Bethel College, and is currently working towards her Ph.D. in music education and orchestral conducting at the University of Kansas. As a guest conductor, she has been invited to conduct orchestras throughout the United States. As a featured clinician, she has presented at the Midwest International Clinic in Chicago, the Oregon Music Educators Convention, as well as many other state and regional conventions and festivals. If you'd like Rachel to come work with your students, email her at rdirks@k-state.edu.

In addition to conducting the orchestra, Rachel is teaching cello and string music education courses. "I am excited to join the Kansas State University School of Music, Theatre, and Dance this year and look forward to a fantastic season with the KSU Symphony Orchestra," said Dirks. Off to a great start with the first concert, "A Night at the Movies," already on the books on September 11, the next concert will be a family-friendly one featuring pre-concert carnival games for children of all ages and an instrument petting zoo. Join us on October 23 (6:30 carnival, 7:30 concert), in McCain Auditorium to be part of the fun!

K-State String Fling: Changes Ahead!

Exciting changes will be in effect for the next String Fling, January 19-20, 2019. Read on for details!

LOCATION: String Fling will be held entirely at the newly refurbished K-State Student Union!

All orchestras will rehearse and perform under one roof. The university's parking garage is attached, and there are elevators to use between floors for cellos and basses. Rehearsal rooms will be bigger for the increased comfort of players and parents. Sunday's concert will be in Forum Hall—a lovely hall smaller than McCain. See <http://union.k-state.edu/> for more information about everything the Union has to offer!

COST: The Registration Fee will drop from \$40 per student to \$35! Dirks and Cooper polled some of you this summer and discovered that it was not so much the motel costs that created problems for students, but the registration fee. The move to the Union has cut our costs significantly, so we can pass on the savings to you.

REGISTRATION: All registration will be done online on our website:

www.stringflingsu.weebly.com. Online registration is for both individuals seeking to register students (such as home-schooled students) and students in the public school systems. There

will be a box to tick if you will be paying by check, so that you can complete the registration rosters online without going through PayPal.

In order to get you accurate information about music to be played, room assignments, and conductors, **the window for registration will be Nov. 1-Dec. 1, 2018.** This will allow us to give you these details well before the new semester starts in January, and possibly before it ends in December!

MOTELS: Negotiations are under way with some nearby motels for blocks of reduced rate rooms for Saturday night. Check the website for information in early October!



Some K-State string students eager to welcome your students to String Fling!

Proceeds from String Fling allow us to offer scholarships at K-State to students participating in orchestra, whether they be music majors or majors in other fields. Your support helps us keep your dedicated students playing in college, and we appreciate the effort it takes you to bring your students to this event!

All-State Orchestra Violin and Viola Excerpt Recordings and Fingerings

The web address for Cora Cooper's edited KMEA audition parts and recordings of the violin and viola excerpts can now be found at: <http://www.k-state.edu/mtd/music/studios/string/>

November 8: Careers in Music/Future Music Educators Day for High School Seniors

Do you have high school seniors who might be considering a career in music? This event is for them! Rather than being specifically a recruiting activity for the university, Careers in Music/Future Music Educators Day is an attempt to expose potential music students to a career in music and education. It is more of recruitment for the profession than for any one institution. Built in to the day's schedule are the following meetings and presentations:

- Meeting with faculty and student mentors
- Visit of a Music Education class session
- Visit of sessions on Instrumental, Choral, String, or Jazz Education
- Observe a Band, Orchestra, or Choral rehearsal
- Sessions on Music Education
 - ♣ So you want to be a music teacher
 - ♣ Preparing to be a music major in college

Students interested in auditioning for admittance to the music program and/or scholarship consideration can do so as part of their schedule as well. Register here: <http://www.kstate.edu/musiceducation/prospective-students/fmed/> There will be a separate event for sophomore and juniors on March 29, 2018.



Carolyn Watson named KU's Director of Orchestral Activities



The University of Kansas School of Music is pleased to announce that Dr. Carolyn Watson has been named Director of Orchestral Activities. Please help us welcome our newest addition to the Kansas string community.

A major prizewinner at the 2012 Emmerich Kálmán International Operetta Conducting Competition in Budapest, Carolyn Watson was also a Fellow of the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival where she studied with David Zinman. She has conducted orchestras throughout Europe including the Brandenburg Symphony, BBC Concert Orchestra, North Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Kodály Philharmonic, Savaria Symphony Orchestra, Budapest Operetta Theatre, Bulgarian State Opera Bourgas and in Russia, the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic. In 2017 Carolyn was one of six conductors selected for the elite Dallas Opera Institute for Women Conductors and has participated in master classes with Marin Alsop, Peter Eötvös, Yoel Levi, Martyn Brabbins and Alex Polishchuk.

Carolyn conducted musicians of the Berlin Philharmonic in *Interaktion* 2010 and was Musical Assistant at the Staatsoper Berlin in 2012 for *Infektion!*, a festival of modern theatre celebrating the works of John Cage. She was resident at the Israeli National Opera during 2009 and assisted Sir Charles Mackerras on his final two productions at The Royal Opera, Covent Garden and Glyndebourne the following year. Carolyn is the recipient of a number of prestigious national and international awards for young conductors including the Brian Stacey Award for emerging Australian conductors, Sir Charles Mackerras Conducting Prize awarded via the Australian Music Foundation in London, Opera Foundation Australia's Bayreuth Opera Award and Berlin New Music Opera Award and the Nelly Apt Conducting Scholarship. She is the beneficiary of support from the American Australian Association's Dame Joan Sutherland Fund and a Sheila Pryor Study Grant from the Australian Opera Auditions Committee.

Featured in a national conductor preview with the Sydney Symphony, Carolyn in 2011, was also Assistant Conductor for the inaugural Australian World Orchestra concert season in Sydney working with Simone Young. Also during 2011 she was Associate Conductor of the Tasmania Discovery Orchestra and Assistant Chorus Master of Sydney Philharmonia Choirs. In 2008 Carolyn conducted the Scottish Chamber Orchestra during the Orkney Conducting Course before returning home to conduct the World Youth Day Orchestra on the occasion of the Pope's arrival in Australia for a live audience of one hundred thousand and a worldwide-televised audience of some five million people.

Winner of the 2015 American Prize in Orchestral Performance and Runner-up for The American Prize in Conducting, Carolyn is also an enthusiastic music educator and currently serves as Director of Orchestral Studies at The University of Kansas whilst continuing to enjoy an active freelance career throughout the US, Europe and Australia. From 2013-15 she held the prestigious position of Music Director of the Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra, having also conducted the World Youth Symphony Orchestra and Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra since moving to the US in 2013.

Carolyn holds a PhD in Performance (Conducting) from the University of Sydney where the subject of her doctoral thesis was *Gesture as Communication: The Art of Carlos Kleiber*.



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SCHOOL OF MUSIC AUDITION DATES:
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PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOV. 1

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Wichita State University Symphony Orchestra 2018-19 Season

Thursday, September 20

WSU Orchestra Concert

featuring Andréa Banke, oboe

Gould: Fall River Legend Ballet Suite
Goossens: Concerto in One Movement
Shostakovich: Symphony No. 1

Thursday, October 11

Concerto-Aria Concert

Arnold: English Dances: Set No. 1
Enesco: Romanian Rhapsody No. 1

Tuesday, November 27

Holiday Pops Concert

featuring the A Cappella Choir & Concert Chorale

Tchaikovsky: Nutcracker Suite No. 2, op. 71b
Britten: Men of Goodwill
Newsom/Tyzik: Joy to the World
Surprise Guest Narrator
Philip Lane: The Night Before Christmas
Wendel: Little Bolero Boy
Schalk: Before the Marvel of This Night
Kantor: Night of Silence
James Stephenson: A Holly and Jolly Sing Along
Anderson: Sleigh Ride

Thursday, February 21

WSU Orchestra Concert

featuring Catherine Consiglio, viola

Beethoven: Consecration of the House Overture
Jennifer Higdon: Viola Concerto
Elgar: Enigma Variations

Sunday, May 5

Oratorio Concert

featuring the WSU A Cappella Choir &
Concert Chorale

Brahms: Ein deutsches Requiem, op. 45



Wichita State University Music Scholarship Audition Days

Incoming music majors—both freshmen and transfer students—are invited to attend one of three School of Music audition days: November 17, February 2, or April 6. A single audition qualifies for both admission to the major as well as scholarship consideration. Online information and registration is at www.wichita.edu/music. Non-music majors are welcome to audition for the WSU Symphony Orchestra; information may be found at www.wichita.edu/orchestra.

Upcoming Community Chamber Orchestra Concerts



The Community Chamber Orchestra will have concerts on December 7, 2018 and June 2, 2019. More information can be found at <https://www.kansasmusic.net/TitlePage.html>

Christmas Concert

Friday, December 7, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Help ring in the season with works from “The Nutcracker,” carols, and pops music!



Classical Guitar with Braulio Bosi

Sunday, June 2, 2019 at 4:00 pm

Braulio Bosi, of the University of Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, will perform two classical guitar concertos with the Orchestra, and a solo set of guitar works you won't want to miss!

The 2018-2019 family-friendly concert season will be performed in the main lodge of Life's Finer Moments, 1285 16th Rd., Clay Center, KS 67432

KASTA Summer

June 22nd & 23rd, 2018

On June 22 and 23, 2018, KASTA had the privilege of hosting Dr. Christopher Selby, author of *Habits of a Successful Orchestra Director*, as our clinician for the KASTA Summer Workshop. If you haven't had a chance to hear Dr. Selby speak, do so. Not only were his topics refreshing, but also innovative and challenging. Good times were had by all.

If you missed this year's workshop, don't worry. More information will be available on the 2019 Summer Workshop soon.



String Workshop

with Dr. Christopher Selby



THE KASTA NEWSLETTER:

*A Newsletter for String Educators by the
American String Teacher Association-Kansas Chapter*

MISSION STATEMENT

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

- Program news;
- Articles examining pedagogical, curricular, and other educational perspectives;
- Articles examining psychological perspectives pertaining to music and human behavior;
- Research abstracts or reports that suggest direct application to instructional environments;
- Reviews (e.g., books, music, research); and
- Opinion pieces 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.