



KASTA Newsletter

Fall 2019, Vol 18(2)

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President's Corner



Dear KASTA Members,

Greetings! I hope your start to a new school year has been a great one! One constant in life is change. While change can be challenging sometimes, I hope you are finding success in the new challenges you are providing for your students. I find myself doing “the same old thing” from time to time. When I have the good sense to really scrutinize my teaching, I look for ways to change and improve. Even something as simple as rearranging my classroom set up can help me hear my classes in a new way and identify previously unnoticed areas for improvement. As go about your day, look for new ways to do the same old thing. You will be glad you did!

If you weren't able to attend the KASTA Summer Workshop with Bob Phillips, you really missed out on some fantastic information. I think all those who attended 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. A big thank you again this year to Dr. Laycock and his family, as well as the Wichita State University. For 2020 we will be hosting Dr. Brenda Brenner from Indiana University. Make plans to attend!

This February, KASTA will host another discussion concerning the addition of a second All-State string ensemble. Results from the 2nd and most recent survey can be found at <http://kasta.org/2020/02/20/kasta-all-state-orchestra-survey-ii-results/>. KMEA has requested we move the conversation from “Should we have a second ensemble?” to “What should a second ensemble look like?” This includes questions selection criteria for the orchestra, size of the orchestra, full or string orchestra, and any grade level considerations we may have. Please come to this meeting so we can provide KMEA with answers to these questions.

Finally, consider attending the National ASTA Convention in Orlando, FL March 4-7, 2020. I found the National ASTA Convention to be one of the best professional development and networking opportunities I had ever experienced. 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! Who knows, you might even find a great way to “change up” the same old thing!

Thank you,

Henry O. Littich
KASTA President
Director of Orchestras
Smoky Valley USD 400



KASTA Newsletter

Fall 2019 Edition | Volume 18, Issue 2

Jacob M. Dakon, editor

KASTA.org

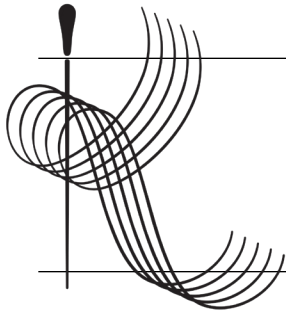
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For access to past KASTA Newsletters, see <http://kasta.org/newsletter/archive/>



News from K-State Strings

String Fling 2020!

Seven orchestras, seven fantastic conductors! With more than 500 5th-9th grade students at the K-State Student Union in January, conductors Manda Deegan, Dr. Laura Eakman



(5th), Carson Felt, Joey Menninga (6th), Lynnita Harris, Lori Lindshield McKinney (7th), and Dr. Mark Laycock (8/9) whipped their groups into shape for a Sunday concert. Many K-State string students facilitated the process, working as teams to set up chairs, play along with the orchestras, sort music, and just generally

making things work smoothly. Next year's String Fling will be Jan. 16-17— check the website, www.stringflingksu.weebly.com for information!

Guest Artist, Violinist Immanuel Abraham

Founder of The Violin Guild on Facebook (the largest social media network for bowed strings), Dr. Immanuel Abraham is making a difference in the string world. Growing up in poverty and only starting free lessons at age 14, his dedication to the path for a career in music is inspiring and an important lesson for students. Dr. Abraham shared his knowledge and talent generously, giving collegiate and pre-college master classes, talking to beginning violinists at Manhattan's Community School for the Performing Arts, working with Manhattan High School orchestras, and appearing as soloist with the K-State Orchestra. He performed "Winter," from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, and "Schindler's List" by John Williams on the December concert.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WINTER

FAMILY CONCERT

Featuring Violinist
Immanuel Abraham

Works including...

Berlioz - Roman Carnival Overture
Handel - Selections from "The Messiah"
Vivaldi - "Winter" from the Four Seasons

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019
7:30 p.m.
McCain Auditorium

Family Activities Before & After the Concert
Including a Holiday Sweater Contest!

Dr. Abraham's
Performance Sponsored by...

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CSPA
BOOK CENTER FOR
MUSIC, CULTURE, AND
COMMUNITY STUDIES



K-State Symphony Orchestra Activities

The theme for this year's orchestra programs has been "Perspectives" and the most recent concert (Feb. 20th) was out of this world! In addition to a performance of Holst's *The Planets*, the concert featured a student concerto competition winner playing Debussy's *Rhapsodie for Clarinet* and Jesse Montgomery's work *Starburst* for string orchestra. Montgomery is a Juilliard-trained violinist, two-time Sphinx Competition laureate, and is currently composer-in-residence for the Sphinx Virtuosi. In celebration of the centenary of the 19th Amendment this year, one woman composer has been featured on each orchestra concert during the season. In addition to Montgomery, music by Fanny Mendelssohn, Ingrid Stolzel and Rebecca Clarke have been highlighted. The season's last concert will be on April 30, 7:30 pm in McCain Auditorium. The theme? "Home on the Range." Y'all come!

The orchestra went on tour to four Kansas City high schools on Feb. 21, performing works from the Feb. 20 concert. Let us know if you'd like a future performance tour in your area!

Faculty News

Rachel Dirks and Cora Cooper are staying busy sharing research and pedagogy, along with their K-State duties. Both presented at KMEA, and both will present at the national ASTA conference in Orlando. As at KMEA, Dirks will present multiple times at ASTA, including her clinic session: "Are you ok? Experiencing and Coping with Adolescent Anxiety and Depression in the Music Classroom," based on her groundbreaking research for her doctoral dissertation. She has also presented on this topic and more at CMEA and TMEA (to a crowd of 500+!) Dirks has received word that her research poster, "The Butterfly Lovers Project: A Study of Cultural Authenticity in the Multicultural Music Education Experience" has been accepted by ISME for their conference in Finland this August.

In Orlando, Cooper will reprise her session, "What to do when it doesn't sound like you want it to: A Practice Flowchart." If you missed it at KMEA or ASTA, let her know if you'd like a free copy! Cooper was very honored to receive the KASTA Distinguished Service Award this year, primarily for her work promoting women composers through the graded anthologies *Violin Music by Women* and *Viola Music by Women*. *Cello Music by Women* is in the works, aided by her colleague's expertise!

Questions? Thoughts? Feel free to contact us at corac@k-state.edu or rdirks@k-state.edu!



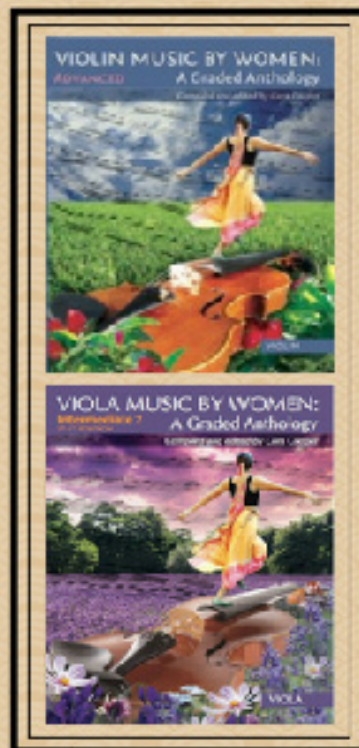
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WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Wichita State University Symphony Orchestra Spring 2020 Season

Thursday, February 27: Concerto-Aria Concert

Robert Tindle: Shine (world premiere)	Dylan Adkins, horn
Dukas: Villanelle L	Logan Barat, tenor
Khachaturian: Violin Concerto (I)	Leah Rosales, violin
Nielsen: Flute Concerto (I)	Alaina Tuberville, flute
Gounod: "Salut! Demeure chaste et pure" from Faust	
Ginastera: Estancia: Four Dances	

Friday, February 28: KMEA President's Concert

Khachaturian: Violin Concerto (I)
Gounod: "Salut! Demeure chaste et pure" from Faust
Ginastera: Estancia: Four Dances

Thursday-Sunday, March 19-22: WSU Opera Theatre

Mozart: *Così fan tutte*

Sunday, May 3: Oratorio Concert

Vaughan Williams: *Dona Nobis Pacem*
Dan Forrest: *Requiem for the Living*

Welcome Incoming Students!

Students attending Wichita in Fall 2020 are invited to participate in the WSU Symphony Orchestra; the ensemble welcomes instrumentalists from all academic disciplines. Interested students are encouraged to enroll in the course (MUSP 211A) during preregistration. In early July, enrolled students will be sent a link to audition information and excerpts; auditions will take place during the first days of the fall semester.

For information regarding these and other opportunities for string players at Wichita State, contact Dr. Mark Laycock, Director of Orchestras (mark.laycock@wichita.edu or 316-978-6202).

KASTA Summer

June 21 & 22, 2019



On June 21st and 22nd, 2019, KASTA had the privilege of hosting renowned pedagogue and composer, Bob Phillips, to the 2019 KASTA Summer Workshop. Bob has authored over 21 book series for music instruction, including the ground breaking series of books Fiddlers Philharmonic, Fiddlers Philharmonic Encore!, Jazz Philharmonic, Jazz Philharmonic: Second Set and Latin Philharmonic, the String Explorer method books, Fiddle & Song, and the revolutionary Sound Innovations method series, all published by Alfred Music. He has had over 180 works published for orchestras and bands and is an award-winning ASCAP composer.

The event was held at the Wichita State University School of Music and was attended by string orchestra teachers from all parts of Kansas. Good times were had by all! If you missed the 2019 year's workshop, don't worry. Information is available on the 2020 Summer Workshop in this newsletter and the [KASTA website](#).



String Workshop

with Bob Phillips



For more information on the 2020 Summer String Workshop, see pp. 10-12 of this volume or visit the [KASTA website](https://www.kasta.org).

KASTA Presents: 2020 Summer String Workshop June 19 & 20, 2020 Wichita University

Clinician: Dr. Brenda Brenner
Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University



Brenda Brenner is Associate Professor and Chair of the Music Education Department in the Jacobs School of Music. She specializes in string music education, teaching applied violin as well as courses in violin and string pedagogy. She received a BM and BME from Wichita State University, and an MM and DMA in violin performance from the Eastman School of Music. In addition to her appointment to the Music Education Department, she serves as co-director of the IU String Academy, a position she has held since 1993. Her String Academy students are featured in concerts in major venues throughout the United States and have presented tours throughout Europe, Asia and South America. As director of the Fairview Project – a program in which over 120 students in an underserved school are taught violin as part of the curriculum – Brenner researches the cognitive, academic and social outcomes of early instrumental music instruction. A performer of chamber music throughout the United States, Brenner partners with her husband, organist Christopher Young. She also

teaches and conducts at the IU Summer String Academy, and is Assistant Director of the IU Retreat for Professional Violinists and Violists. She is an active international clinician, with recent appearances at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, the ASTA National Conferences, and at Music Educators Conferences throughout the United States. Brenner is the Past-President of the American String Teachers Association.

2020 KASTA Summer String Workshop Schedule

Friday, June 19

8:00 AM On-Site Registration

9:00 AM Setting up for Success

Some of the most important factors that determine success in playing a stringed instrument involve the beginning “set up” stage, which includes establishing a proper playing position and developing free and open muscular motions. Teachers can ensure success for their students by establishing a series of procedures that break down the set up tasks to a sequence of exercises that allow their students to look and sound great!

10:45 AM From Poof to Portato: A Sequence of Bow Strokes

Bowing technique is a crucial foundational skill in string playing that creates good tone quality and forms the basis for musical style. In this session, methods of teaching fundamental bow strokes and bow choreography in group settings from beginning through intermediate levels will be explored. Literature utilizing the various strokes will be presented.

1:45 PM Winning with Warmups Part I

An effective warm up routine that integrates technical and musical elements as a preparation for playing repertoire is a key to successful teaching. Separation of both left and right hand difficulties prior to attempting them within the repertoire is essential. This clinic will examine how to design an effective routine and will present examples of warm-ups using standard repertoire from the string orchestra literature.

3:30 PM Winning with Warmups Part II

Saturday, June 20

8:30 AM On-Site Registration

9:00 AM Theory is Awesome

Learning music theory concepts deepens students¹ understanding of music. Knowledge of intervals, solfege, chord structure, and musical form strengthen the comprehension of musical style, allows students to contribute intelligently to the musical decision-making process, and perform with more understanding and awareness. Strategies for building practical theoretical skills in the beginning through advanced string classroom through games, musical activities, and improvisation will be presented in this clinic.

10:15 AM Getting beyond “Good!” Effective Use of Language in the Classroom and Studio

Have you ever said “good” to a student and then stopped to ask yourself if it was truly good? What was good, and how might it be made better? Effective teachers know what to say and when to say it. Their use of language is a key element in their success with students. This clinic will present the principles of the effective use of language in music teaching as examined through current research and practice. The use of positive and negative feedback, avoidance of approval errors, and the use of a non-judgmental approach will be investigated.

2:00 PM New Music Reading Session!

3:30 PM KASTA Middle School Summer Orchestra Concert

Please plan to join us!

2020 KMEA Teacher In-service Workshop KASTA Sessions & Concerts

Thursday, February 27th

2:00 - 2:50 PM - 101 Pear

The Gig Survival Kit for Young Musicians - Manda L. Deegan

Help your advanced string students (or yourself!) be prepared for any gig with a blueprint for creating a Gig Survival Kit full of physical gig necessities, a logistics bag of tricks full of ideas and plans to get through any situation, and an emotional toolbox to navigate the even the worst gigs!

2:00 - 2:50 PM - 208 Walnut

Are you ok? Experiencing and Coping with Adolescent Anxiety and Depression in the Music Classroom - Rachel Dirks

If you've noticed more students in your program suffering from anxiety or depression, you're not alone. This session will discuss current adolescent mental health trends, how these trends have impacted the music classroom, and strategies for helping students and teachers navigate these challenges.

2:00 - 2:50 PM Founders Room

What They Didn't Teach Us in Conducting School - Cornelia Laemmli Orth

A look at unexpected professional situations. Lets do a fun Pops concert they said! Little did I know that meant lets do an Olivia Newton John cover concert. Experiences like this and more.

5:00 - 7:00 PM 207 Osage

KASTA State Solo Competition

The KASTA State Solo Competition seeks to recognize exceptional talent in our state at three levels: the Preparatory Division (Grades 8 and below) JR division (Grades 9-12) and SR division (enrolled at the college/university undergraduate or graduate level and 29 years old or younger.

7:00 - 7:50 PM - 207 Osage

All-State Orchestra Discussion

KASTA will lead another discussion concerning the addition of a second All-State orchestra. Discussion will focus around full -vs- string orchestra, audition requirements, and possible adjustments to the current All-State Orchestra.

Friday, Feb. 28th

8:00 - 8:50 AM 207 Osage

Start Them Strong: How Super Lessons Can Give Your String Beginners a Head Start - Amber Dahlen Peterson
Teaching string beginners in a heterogeneous setting can be challenging with the different needs of each instrument. Using a super lesson format can provide students with valuable knowledge and skills from an expert teacher prior to being in the large group.

9:00 - 9:50 AM 207 Osage

On and Off the Podium: Prioritizing Your Teaching in an Ensemble Setting - Frances Oare
In the rehearsal setting, it's often hard to know what to rehearse first. This session will discuss prioritization within the rehearsal. It will include effective diagnostic and corrective strategies, teaching cycles, ways to give meaningful feedback, and ways to elicit desired student responses.

9:10 - 9:45 AM Concert Hall Southeast Kansas Symphony Orchestra
Raul Munguia, Director

9:10 - 10:00 AM - 203 Birch

A Young Teacher's Guide to Selecting Orchestral Repertoire - Thomas Dickey
Attendees will be exposed to a four-step approach of selecting, evaluating, and programming repertoire for orchestras of all levels.

10:00 - 10:50 AM - 207 Osage

What to Do When It Doesn't Sound Like You Want It To: A Practice Flowchart for Strings - Cora Cooper
Do you find that your students often have no idea how to solve problems in practice? This "Practice Flowchart" guides them through six common stumbling blocks: speed, intonation, rhythm, consistency, tone, and coordination. Techniques are from string pedagogues, common practice, and common sense.

10:00 - 10:50 AM - 102 Apple

After the Method Book: Sequencing Intermediate Bow-Hand Development - Jacob M. Dakon
Drawing from the work of Paul Rolland and the ASTA Curriculum, Dr. Dakon explores a sequence of instruction for right-hand bow development that is suitable for string students in their 3rd and 4th year of classroom study. Come learn about portato, spiccato, sautille, and many more.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Drury Plaza Room

KASTA Luncheon

Please join us for the KASTA Annual Luncheon. In addition to a great meal, winners of the KASTA Solo Competition will perform and annual awards will be presented.

12:00 - 12:50 PM 202 Cherry

Kodály in the High School? Of Course! Steve Oare

In Hungary, the Kodály method is simply considered good teaching. This comprehensive system of conceptual teaching is as effective in high school ensembles as it is with general music. This session is intended to demonstrate the integration of Kodály strategies and principles at the secondary level.

Friday, Feb. 28th, Continued . . .

12:15 - 12:45 PM Concert Hall
Manhattan High School Chamber Orchestra
Nate McClendon, Director

12:55 - 1:45 PM Service Club
Like Moving an Army—the Why & How of Organizing Performing Tours for Your Band, Orchestra, or Choir - John Cisetti
Traveling with your group is like moving a well-trained army. You must equip, transport, uniform, feed, house, deploy, execute, and safely return your students home, all while making great music and having fun. Explore the educational value and logistics of taking your ensemble on the road.

12:55 - 1:45 PM - 207 Osage
Tech Tools for Building Sight Reading Skills - Mike Olander
Help your ensembles master this critical skill with sequential, progressive, and responsive exercises. Discover software tools that will build these skills through aural training, sight-reading exercises, and automated assessments, increasing your ensemble's confidence with new repertoire.

1:45 - 2:45 PM Visit the Exhibits! - Expo Hall

2:45 - 3:20 PM Concert Hall
KASTA Kansas Intercollegiate Orchestra
Cornelia Laemmli Orth, Conductor

2:45 - 3:35 PM Century II Service Club
Teaching Outside the Comfort Zone: Tips for Band and Choir Specialists in the Orchestra Classroom - Amber Dahlen Peterson
Twenty percent (20%) of current string teaching positions are filled by certified teachers whose primary instrument is not a string instrument. These teachers frequently ask for advice on different orchestra Facebook pages. This session will explore commonly asked questions and strategies to address these concerns.

3:45 - 4:35 PM 205 Maple
Fast & Efficient Score Study: How to Get the Most Bang for Your Buck - Thomas Dickey
Targeted at teachers about to enter the field or those in their first few years of teaching, this session will present a concise yet systematic approach to score study that will better inform rehearsal plans and teaching strategies.

Saturday, Feb. 29th

8:00 - 8:50 AM

Sat. Feb. 29 201 Peach

Especially for Beginning and Middle School Band and Orchestra Directors - Charles Menghini

The key to having a successful instrumental program is found in the developmental years. Directors at this level have a different set of problems to address and a different set of decisions to make. Attendees will get practical information on helping students become independent music learners.

8:00 - 8:50 AM

Sat. Feb. 29 205 Maple

Branching Out: Building Alternative Styles Skills for Classical Musicians - Lillian Green, Ramiro Miranda, Rob Loren, Susan Mayo

For classically-trained musicians, stepping outside your comfort zone can be daunting. But familiarity with multiple styles is more and more important in the modern world, and skills like improv are often on lists of standards. This session will explore ways for teachers and players to branch out.

9:00 - 9:50 AM

Sat. Feb. 29 203 Birch

Building Your Instrumental Music Program: A Practical Guide to Recruitment and Retention - Marcia Neel

Based on best practices from highly successful directors, the Music Achievement Council has compiled numerous complimentary tools to cover all aspects of recruitment and retention. Sample forms, letters as well as creative, fun activities will also be shared. Great for new & experienced directors!

9:00 - 9:50 AM 202 Cherry

String Orchestra Reading Session - Michael Hanf, Jennifer Wright

JWPepper and KASTA present a reading session to explore some of the latest publications in String Orchestra repertoire across all grade levels. Bring an instrument to participate or sit in and listen to the variety of repertoire you could use this year with your orchestra!

1:00 - 1:40 PM Century II Concert Hall

KMEA All-State Orchestra

(All Seats General Admission \$7.00 See Ticketing Procedures)

Standards: P1, P2, P3, P4, P5 Jung-Ho Pak, Conductor

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.