



KASTA Newsletter

Spring 2021, Vol 20(1)

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Greetings KASTA Members,

What a wonderful virtual convention this past February! Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen, whether through a workshop or a performance. It was definitely one that took a lot of extra work to make things happen!

The All-State Orchestra did an amazing job! I was so proud of our students and what they were able to accomplish! Next year will be the inaugural year of the All-State String Orchestra, which will occur alongside the Full Orchestra. I am excited about this new opportunity for our students! The KMEA board is meeting this summer to work out all of the details.

With the end of the school year in sight, I would like to get everyone thinking about how exciting it will be to teach in a normal classroom setting again. We also have Dr. Brenda Brenner, past ASTA President and Associate Professor of Music Education at Indiana University, Jacobs School of Music, coming on June 18th and 19th for our KASTA Summer Workshops held at Wichita State University. You can register through our website. She has some wonderful tricks and techniques to sharpen your teaching skills as we all prepare to enter the classroom again. Hope to see all of you there!

Laura Hutchins
Robinson Middle School Orchestra Director
KASTA President



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Jacob M. Dakon, editor
KASTA.org

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2021 KASTA Solo Competition Winners

As with so many events this year, the 2021 KASTA Solo Competition took place virtually. The winners of each division received a prize, and were featured at the 2021 KASTA luncheon in February. The winner of the Preparatory division (K-8), **Laura Ward**, is from Wichita, a student of Laura Black. The first-place Junior division (9-12) winner was **Melody Tzang**, a harp student of Erin Wood. Second place in the Junior division was **Wyatt Gaugler**, bass, a student of Mark Foley. And the Senior division winner (college) was **Tan Ngo**, a student of Laura Black at Friends University. KASTA, once again, offers these students many congratulations!

2021 KASTA Awards

At the KMEA In-Service Workshop in February, the Kansas American String Teachers Association recognized the 2021 award winners at the annual KASTA Luncheon. Sadly, due to the virtual nature of the event, there was no food this year and we missed the luscious desserts. Don't miss KASTA Luncheon next year when these award winners will receive their awards in person and we will recognize the 2022 award winners.

The Young Teacher of the Year Award went to **Tyler Harvey**. Tyler is in his seventh year of teaching in the Olathe Public Schools and currently teaches at Summit Trail Middle School. To quote his nominator, Joel Martin, "Tyler is one of those rare teachers who not only gets students excited about making music but has the skills to teach them well. He already has a very large program at the middle school, and his students come to high school both prepared and passionate about orchestra. His passion and knowledge are evident from every class, and in each performance. He teaches with the energy of a young teacher but the skill and wisdom of a seasoned veteran."

Adrienne Allen is the winner of the KASTA Distinguished Service Award. Adrienne is Executive Director of the Salina Symphony, where she oversees the Salina Symphony Orchestra and Salina Symphony Youth Education Program. Nominated by Henry Littich, Adrienne supports musicians, teachers and students alike with resources of the Salina Symphony. Her great leadership has provided youth education opportunities and free virtual Salina Symphony concerts during the pandemic while adhering to local, state, and national recommendations to make doing so as safe as possible.

Dr. Mark Laycock was awarded the Certificate of Merit. Dr. Laycock serves as Director of Orchestral Studies at Wichita State University, Conductor of the Wichita Youth Symphony, and is an active leader in national music education organizations including ASTA and the Midwest Clinic. His nominator, Rachel Dirks, says, "Dr. Mark Laycock has tirelessly served the strings teachers of Kansas for over 15 years. Dr. Laycock has provided countless clinics to string programs across the state. Each session is filled with nuggets of musical inspiration and a dose of

2021 KASTA AWARDS

KANSAS-AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

KASTA HALL OF
FAME AWARD

*Martha
Barnhill*



KASTA
DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD

*Adrienne
Allen*



KASTA YOUNG
TEACHER OF THE
YEAR AWARD

*Tyler
Harvey*



KASTA
CERTIFICATE OF
MERIT AWARD

*Mark
Laycock*



his wonderful sense of humor. His work in Kansas also extends across the globe as teachers are discovering what we've always known...he is a unique and valued treasure in our profession.”

The KASTA Hall of Fame Award is a lifetime achievement award in recognition of outstanding contributions to string education. The award this year went to **Martha Barnhill**, who is recently retired from a 39-year career in the Shawnee Heights and Seaman School Districts. She continues to perform and teach privately in Topeka and Lawrence and is currently serving as the KASTA President-Elect. Martha was nominated by Rachel Dirks, who says “Martha Barnhill is the quintessential role model for string educators: patient, dedicated, good-humored, and determined. Martha has always led by example. Under her guiding hand, Martha’s students have received the very best music education experience, many of whom have chosen to pursue music education as a profession. The many pre-service teachers who were fortunate enough to student teach with her also received the best training possible. Usually a gentle baptism by fire. And, for those of us who have called her colleague and friend, we have marveled at her quiet demeanor that serves as a disguise of her true persona - a force of nature.”

KU's 2021 VMMC is FREE!

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Kansas ASTA Middle-Level Statewide Orchestra

The American String Teachers Association Kansas Chapter KASTA Statewide Middle-Level Orchestra was offered in a different format this year. The students were selected for the 2021 Statewide Orchestra by paper audition as usual; however, we were unable to provide rehearsals and a performance in Hutchinson this year.

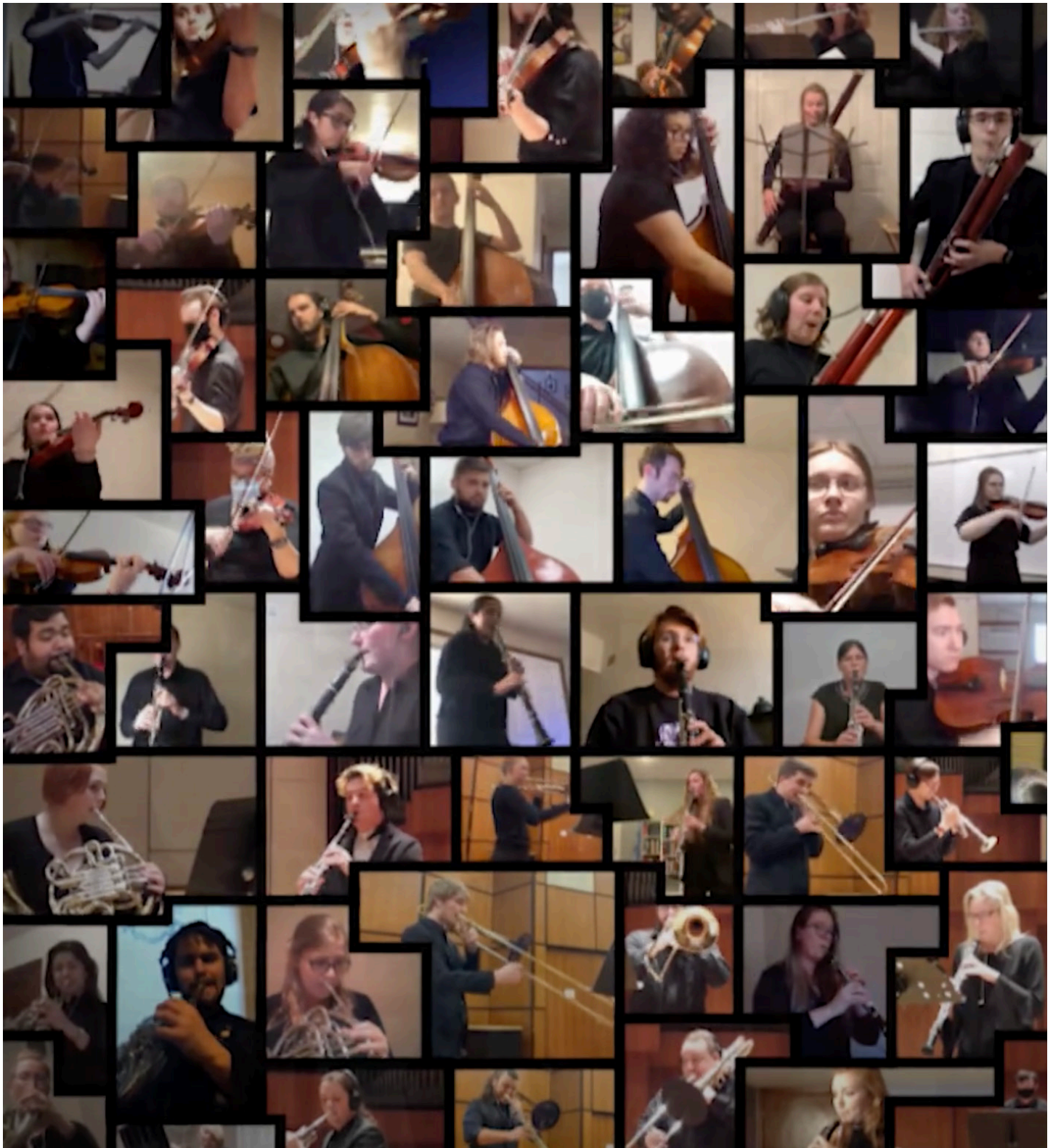
Middle Schools and teachers participating in this event included Beloit Jr. High School, Michael Harbaugh; Hutchinson Middle School 8th Grade Center and 7th Grade Center, Erica Pinkston; Smoky Valley Middle School, Henry Littich; Salina Lakewood Middle School, Lindsay Modin; Wichita Christa McAuliffe Academy, Catherine Tummons; and Wichita Robinson Middle School, Laura Hutchins.

The KASTA Middle Level Orchestra has met in Hutchinson since 1987 under the inspiration of Bruce Boyd. Michael Harbaugh serves as chair for this event; Erica Pinkston is the local coordinator.

Next year we plan to return to the in-person format on April 23, 2022 with Mr. Bruce Boyd as our clinician! Please note that being selected for the 2021 virtual event will not qualify anyone for the 2022 KASTA Statewide Middle-Level Orchestra. Literature planned for the event include “Pantomime (*Scene No. 8 from ‘Nutcracker’), Tchaikovsky/Clark; Serendipity Suite, Richard Meyer; Plink, Plank, Plunk, Leroy Anderson; and the Full Orchestra selection “Procession Of The Sardar”, from Caucasian Sketches.

Additional details and access to the application form can be found on the [KASTA website](https://www.kasta.org). This site is available to you year round.

2021 Virtual Kansas



Intercollegiate Orchestra

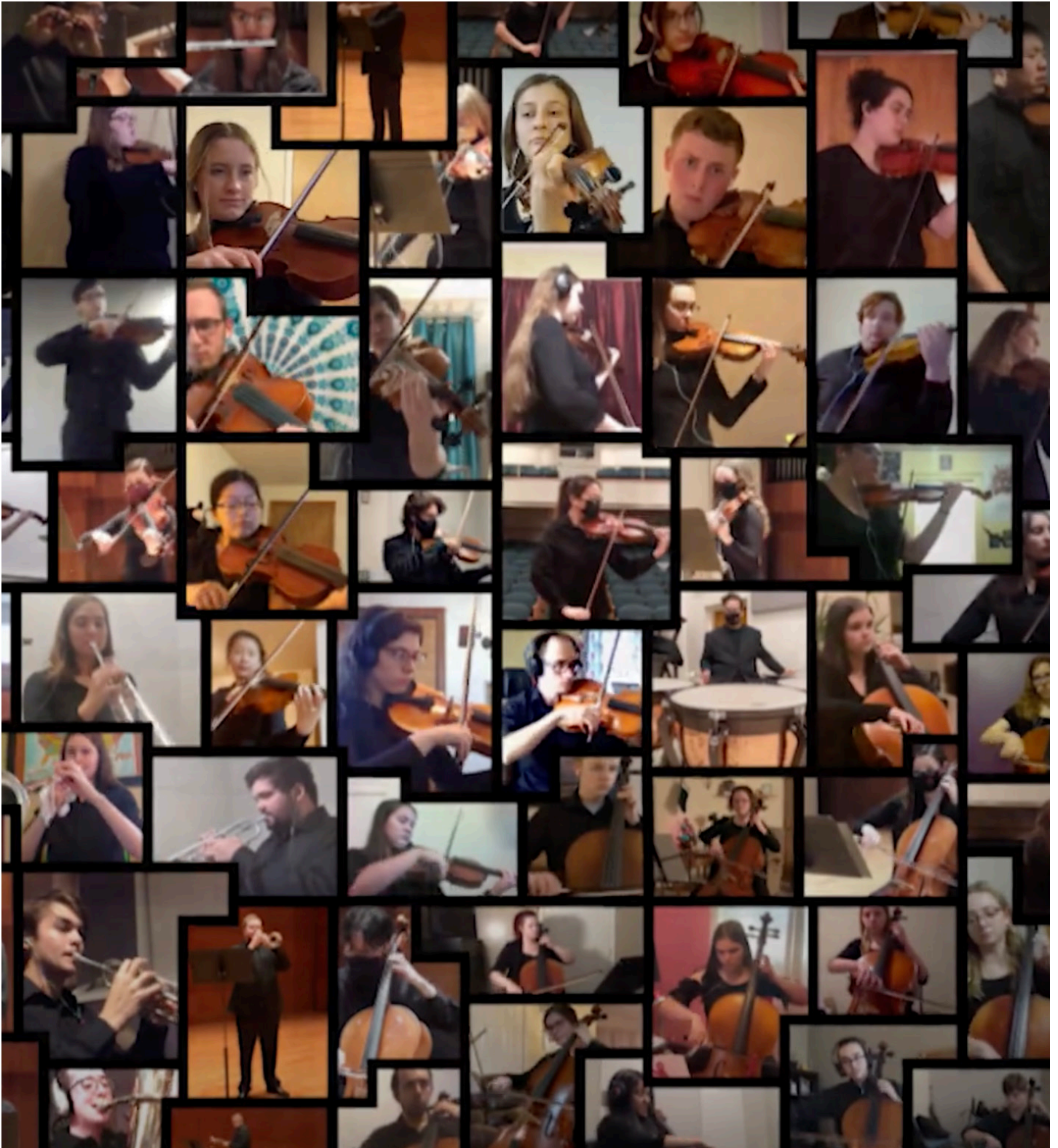


Photo Credit: Rachel Dirks, 2021

2021 Virtual Kansas Intercollegiate Orchestra

This past February, the Kansas Intercollegiate Orchestra embarked on a virtual musical project featuring an arrangement of Home on the Range by composer, James Barnes. The ensemble was comprised of over 100 musicians representing universities and colleges throughout the state. Each musician recorded their performance using a digitally designed accompaniment and click track, created by KSU Collaborative Pianist, Amanda Arrington. Once the video recordings were completed and submitted, videographer Connor Jones combined both sound and visual components into a synchronous finished product. A link to the performance can be found below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BXhKh6fou0&feature=youtu.be>

The KIO would like to thank the Kansas chapter of ASTA for its support of this project. With hope, the KIO has begun preparations for its 2023 performance — a musical experience that will once again be shared in person.

Rachel Dirks, KIO Chairperson



James Barnes is Professor Emeritus from the University of Kansas where he taught coursework in music composition, orchestration, arranging and wind band history/repertoire. At KU, he served as Staff Arranger, Assistant, and later, Associate Director of Bands for twenty-seven years. Barnes served as Division Director for Music Theory and Composition for ten years. In spring 2015, he completed his fortieth year of teaching at KU.

His numerous publications for concert band and orchestra are extensively performed around the world. His works (including seven symphonies and three concertos) have been performed at such venues as Tanglewood, Boston Symphony Hall, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow and Tokyo Metropolitan Concert Hall.

Over the years, Mr. Barnes has been commissioned to compose works for all five of the major American military bands in Washington, DC. A recent CD release by the United States Air Force Band features two different works by James Barnes: Dreamers, written to commemorate the 100th anniversary of powered flight by the Wright brothers and Wild Blue Yonder, commissioned to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the United States Air Force. The U. S. Army band recently released a new recording of his Symphonic Requiem (Seventh Symphony), commissioned to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. One of his recent works, Escenas de los Aztecas, was the required work at the World Band Competition in Kerkerade, Netherlands during July 2013.



Wichita State University Update

Concert Calendar

WSU Symphony Orchestra concerts for the 2020-21 season may be accessed via the School of Music Facebook page. The opera will be performed for a live audience in the Fine Arts Amphitheater.

February

Bernstein: Overture to Candide
Cheung: Princess Chang Ping
Floyd: Pilgrimage (I, III, V)
Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto No. 3 (III)
Liebermann: Flute Concerto (II, III)
Grieg: Norwegian Dances

Concerto-Aria Concert

Mei Shyuan Chiou, marimba
Luke Harnish, baritone
Patrick Orr, piano
Daniel Rivas, flute

March

Joel Thompson: Seven Last Words of the Unarmed
Dan Forrest: Requiem for the Living T

Oratorio Concert

Ryan Beeken, conductor
Tom Wine, conductor

April 22-23

Menotti: The Old Maid and the Thief
Menotti: Amelia Goes to the Ball

WSU Opera Theatre

WSU String Faculty Video

Meet the string faculty in an informal video currently available on YouTube. Learn about School of Music degree programs, scholarship opportunities, and admission auditions. The video may be accessed here: <https://youtu.be/3UIXPzHaJgE>

Welcome Incoming Students!

Students attending Wichita in the fall 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).

2021 Summer String Workshop

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.

Please join us
June 18th & 19th, 2021



Kansas
American String Teachers Association
Summer Workshop 2021
June 18 & 19, 2021
Featuring: Dr. Brenda Brenner



Wichita State University
Duerksen Fine Arts Center, Room C104



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.

Friday, June 18

- 8:00 AM** On-Site Registration
- 9:00 AM** Setting up for Success
- 10:30 AM** Break
- 10:45 AM** From Poof to Portato – A Sequence of Bow Strokes
- 12:15 PM** Lunch
- 1:45 PM** Winning with Warm Ups – Part I
- 3:15 PM** Break
- 3:30 PM** Winning with Warm Ups – Part II

REGISTER ONLINE!

Visit the Kansas ASTA website for detailed session descriptions and complete online registration instructions!

<http://kasta.org/kasta-summer-workshop/>

Registration Fee: \$150.00

KASTA MEMBER DISCOUNT: -\$25.00

NEW! Pay online with PayPal (or mail a check)!

Saturday, June 19

- 8:30 AM** On-Site Registration
- 9:00 AM** Theory is AWESOME
- 10:00 AM** Break
- 10:15 AM** Getting Beyond “Good”
- 11:30 PM** New Music Reading Session!

Graduate Credit Information

Two hours of graduate credit are available through Wichita State University. All enrollments/payments must be done **separately** through WSU before June 17, 2021.

Course Record Number: (32856)
 MUSE 750AF: Summer String Workshop
 Approx. Cost: \$620 (**in addition to workshop fee**)

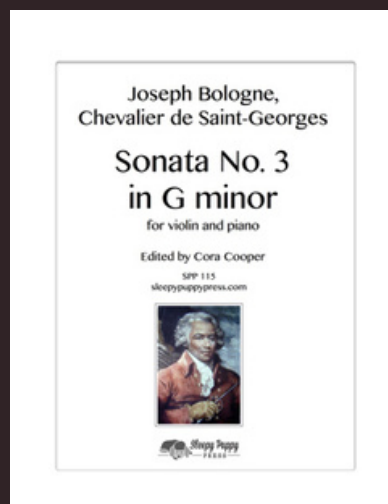
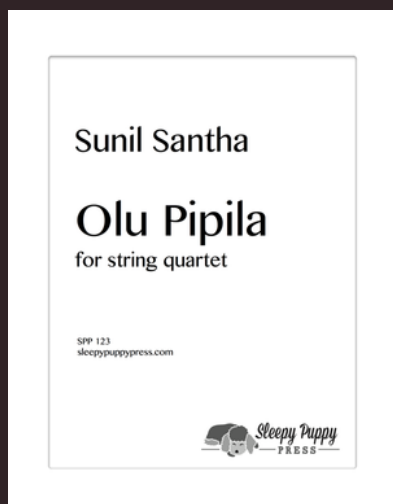
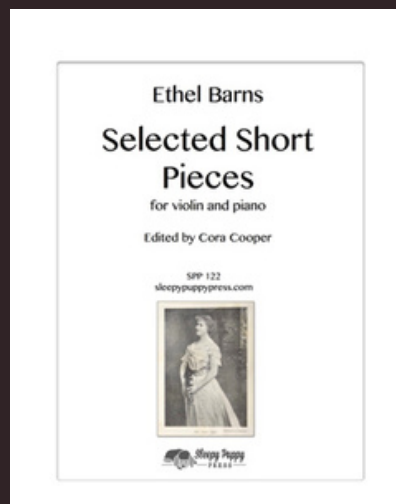
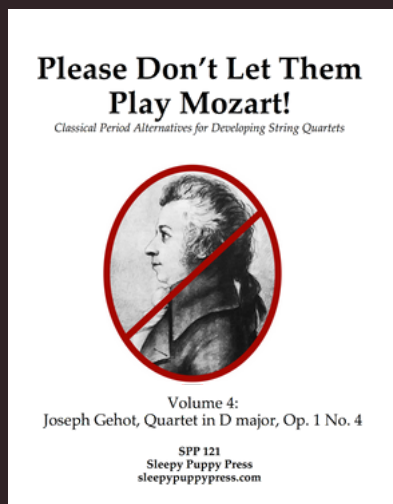
Please contact Dr. Mark Laycock
 (mark.laycock@wichita.edu) with questions.

Hotel Information

There are many hotels available in Wichita. You are welcome to choose any hotel which suits your needs!

COVID Information: While attending the workshop on the WSU Campus, participants will be expected to abide by all local, state, and/or WSU COVID guidelines in place at the time of the workshop.

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or Melissa Grady at mlgrady@ku.edu (choral)

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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.

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