

## **2013 MASTA**

### **TEACHER OF THE YEAR & ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR**

The nominees for the 2013 MASTA Teacher of the Year are Mark Kotchenruther and Dan Scott. Both of these nominees are well known string teachers that have been leaders within the Michigan Music Education profession and have been inspirational in their dedication to teaching. These are wonderful candidates for our Teacher of the Year honor. We also have a nomination for Administrator of the Year on the ballot. Please take the time to read the bio's of the three deserving candidates included below.

Now is the time to vote. Mark your selections ( one in each category), and return by midnight Monday, December 10th, 2012. Send your ballot to: **Tim Staudacher, 286 Randall Rd. Norton Shores, MI 49441**. There is also an opportunity to vote electronically. Watch for the email in November (also due by midnight, December 10th, 2012).

I look forward to hearing from all of you. Thank you for supporting our 2013 MASTA nominees.

Sincerely,  
Tim Staudacher  
President-Elect

### **ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR NOMINEE**

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**Mr. Rob Durecka** joined the Bloomfield Hills Andover High School Staff as the Principal in the fall of 2008. Mr. Durecka attended Eastern Michigan University where he gained his Bachelor's degree in Public Law and Government. He completed his Masters of Arts Degree in Teaching from Wayne State University, and in December 2007, Rob also completed the Educational Leadership Specialist Program at Wayne State University. Prior to becoming Andover's Principal, Rob began his career with Bloomfield Schools as and Associate Principal at Lahser High School for three years. In his former district, Rob was the Principal of Central Middle School in Port Huron. He served as Assistant Principal at Port Huron High School for five years and taught Social Studies and coached both football and baseball for four years at Port Huron Northern High School. In the private sector, Mr. Durecka has worked as a supervisor at United Parcel Service and was a commissioned officer in United States Army Reserves for nine years. Rob and his wife Diane have been married for nearly 24 years and are the proud parents of three children who attend the Bloomfield Hills Schools and participate in their music programs.

Though growing up as an athlete, in lieu of being a musician, Mr. Rob Durecka has recognized that a school's overall success can be better measured through the quality of its arts programs than through just about anything else.

**Dan Scott** is currently in his 16th year as an orchestra director in Jenison Public Schools. Having taught orchestras at every level, he currently directs the 6th grade and high school orchestras in addition to assisting with the 5th grade beginning orchestras. During Dan's tenure the orchestras have consistently earned 1st division ratings at District and State festivals while growing from 225 orchestra students to over 500 students presently.

Dan is a graduate of Western Michigan University and holds a Masters Degree in Educational Technology from Grand Valley State University. As a cellist he has performed with the West Michigan Symphony, the Michiana Symphony, and continues to perform in a variety of performance ensembles throughout west Michigan.

In addition to his work with Jenison Public Schools Dan directs the Youth Philharmonic at the St. Cecelia Music Center and serves as Camp Director of the MASTA String Camps. He has served as VP of Band and Orchestra festival for District X of MSBOA and currently serves on the Literature Committee.

As conductor and clinician Dan has directed orchestras at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, WMU's Seminar Music Camp, the MASTA Junior High String Camp, and served as a clinician for the MSBOA Middle Level String Clinics in addition to presenting clinics and workshops at the Michigan Music Conference and several schools and colleges throughout the state of Michigan.

Dan lives in Jenison with his wife Diane and his daughters Laura (12) and Emma (10). In his free time Dan enjoys spending time with family, golf, and Macintosh computing.

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**Mark Kotchenruther** Has been a music educator for twenty-six years. He holds a B.M. and a Ph.D. in music education from the University of Michigan, and a M.A. in music education from The Ohio State University. Mark has previously taught in Louisville and Owensboro, KY (where he also served as president of the Kentucky chapter of ASTA); Norfolk, VA; and South Haven, MI. Since 2000, Mark has taught orchestra in the Forest Hills Public Schools where, in 2009, his Forest Hills Northern High School Chamber Orchestra was selected by MSBOA to perform at the Fourth Annual Michigan Music Conference.

As an undergraduate student, Mark served as counselor at the MASTA Elementary String Camp. Since that time, Mark has become a dedicated ASTA member and believes in its mission and activities. As a result, he has established ASTA elementary string camps in Kentucky (1990) and Ohio (1993) to help promote string playing in those states. Mark recently served as president of MASTA (2008-2010), during which time MASTA received the prestigious "Outstanding Chapter Award" at the 2010 national ASTA Conference. Mark also served MASTA from 1994-2001 as Music Director for the Elementary String Camp, and from 1999-2004 as conference coordinator for the Midwest Music Clinic (Ann Arbor).

Mark has served on the conducting staff of Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp since 2001, and the Knollcrest Music Camp at Calvin College since 2006. Mark has also been adjunct professor of string methods at Albion College and Western Michigan University. He has directed youth orchestras in several communities, including: Owensboro, KY; Monroe, MI; St. Joseph, MI; and for 10 years at the St. Cecilia Music Center in Grand Rapids (2001-2011). Mark has also been invited as guest clinician and conductor throughout Michigan including: Birmingham, Coopersville, Farmington Hills, Greenville, Marquette, Midland, Mona Shores, Portage, South Haven, St. Johns and Walled Lake. Mark is also a founding member of the newly formed Partnership for Music Education Policy Development: A Michigan think tank (PMEPD).

As a string teacher, Mark has constantly strived to provide his students with a quality musical education that is characterized by thoughtful preparation and sensitive musicianship. Several of his former students have pursued music degrees at Michigan State University, Western Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, and Indiana University. Mark is grateful for the opportunities ASTA has granted him, and is passionate about the influence all string educators have on their students and community.

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**VOTE FOR MASTA 2013 TEACHER OF THE YEAR & ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR**  
**Mail Ballot to:**

Tim Staudacher, 286 Randall Rd., Norton Shores, MI 49441

**Teacher of the Year**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mark Kotchenruther**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dan Scott**

**Administrator of the Year**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Rob Durecka**