

MASTA President Report  
MASTA General Membership Meeting  
January 24th, 2015

I am excited about the string activities and level of teaching that is evident in the State of Michigan. Teachers at all levels are offering training and opportunities for string students. MASTA members are promoting string playing and education by providing camps, workshops, solo and research competitions and chamber music festivals. The members are involved in promoting all musical styles from classical to rock and roll. Students are being trained to succeed in a far more complex and competitive profession than in the past. I recently heard Mark Woods from the Trans Siberian Orchestra do a magical show at a local high school. I heard holiday collages that featured fiddle groups and classical performances. The whole world of string teaching is opening up to new ideas while the basis remains entrenched in solid musical and classical training.

As we move forward as string educators we have to recognize that the professional world of music is evolving. We need to be open to teaching many different styles and providing many options and paths for students. Great string playing skills and the ability to apply those skills, in a variety of situations, is the key to success as a string player.

I would like to thank all of our board members for all the work that they do for MASTA. I would also encourage our general membership to network and find ways to promote string playing in your areas. Consider offering an instrumental workshop or an alternate styles day. Think about combining with other schools and organizations to do projects or concerts together.

This years Michigan Music Conference features National ASTA President Steven Benham as our MASTA headliner. We will also honor MASTA Teacher of the Year, Administrator of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award recipients. There will be tremendous sessions offered and a great chance to catch up with friends. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lynn Brosnan for her great work as the lead planner for the MASTA portion of the Michigan Music Conference as she steps down from the position this year.

Have A Great Year  
Tim Staudacher