

MASTA YOUTH STRING TEACHING PROJECTS COMPETITION REPORT

MASTA General Membership Meeting Saturday, January 24, 2015

Prepared by Melissa Gerber Knecht

Report:

Four College age students participated in the 2014 MASTA Youth Teaching Projects Competition within the May 1. Submissions were edited and assessed for quality and content by Dr. Michael Hopkins (University of Michigan).

Results of the 2014 competition:

1st place--Zachary Weisman, "Teaching Rhythm: History and Discussion of Tactics"

2nd place--Hannah Andrews, "Relationship Between Classical Violin/Viola Training and Improvisation"

Revision:

A revision to The MASTA Studio Teaching Projects Competition as follows: in place of the annual competition with a set date, MASTA NOTES will have a segment in its website/blog that will be designated for young researchers. Any student supervised by a MASTA string educator and presently in grades 9-12 or enrolled in a college/university is invited to submit his/her research papers or projects. Acceptance into the MASTA NOTES will be juried (using a similar process set by the national ASTA Journal). The MASTA Studio Teaching Director will manage, edit and coordinate the jurying of submissions and will send qualified papers/projects onto the MASTA NOTES coordinator (Jonathan Glawe).

Revision Rationale:

- Low number of applicants and participating universities
- Now that we have changed the MASTA NOTES to an online journal—this proposal may have long term positive implications to young string students as they learn about the benefits of ASTA.

MICHIGAN ASTA SOLO COMPETITION REPORT

MASTA General Membership Meeting Saturday, January 24

Prepared by Melissa Gerber Knecht

Report:

The Eighteenth Biennial Solo Competition took place between November 5 and December 5. There were six participants in the new online submission process.

Results of the 2014 competition:

JUNIOR DIVISION

Grand Prize SHAR Award (\$500)

Cullen O'Neil | Cello

Kalamazoo

Bruce Uchimura, teacher

First Prize Baroque Violin Shop Award (\$200)

Michelle Lo | Violin

Rochester

Hai-Xin Wu, teacher

SENIOR DIVISION

Grand Prize SHAR Award (\$500)

Stevan Lukich | Violin

Hillsdale

Melissa Gerber Knecht, teacher

First Prize Baroque _Violin Shop Award (\$200)

Andrew Bader | Cello

Ann Arbor

Anthony Elliott, teacher

JUDGES: Kirk Toth and Diane Winder

The Solo Competition is a fine example of bringing together MASTA and the music business community. SHAR Music and Baroque Violins are to be

thanked for their generosity and steadfast support. The two firms continue to find ways of supporting young musicians. Their interests in all aspects of string players and teachers is quite remarkable. How fortunate we are to have them as part of our collective team!

In addition, we need to thank our judges, Diane Winder and Kirk Toth. Their expertise and helpful comments are a wonderful asset to this solo competition.

Performing at this year's MASTA Membership Meeting will be Stevan Lukich, Grand Prize Winner, Senior Division and Cullen O'Neil, Grand Prize Winner for the Junior Division.

Discussion:

Due to the small number of submissions, a proposal of revisions (see below) will be presented to the MASTA board in January 2015 as follow:

Proposal No. 1:

In place of the biannual competition dates set in direct synchronization with the national ASTA Solo Competition, MASTA would present their biennial competition between years, beginning Fall 2015.

Rationale: A peer review of states within ASTA reveals the practice of holding the state wide solo competition between the national solo competition has been successfully done. In fact, MASTA is the only state which presently has their state solo competition concurrent with the national ASTA competition. This change would also provide an additional performance opportunity for Michigan's gifted string players.

Proposal No. 2:

Change the name of the competition from Michigan Solo Competition to MASTA Solo Competition.

Rationale: The title would be well served to include MASTA and the category of strings.

Proposal No. 3

Use the online submission process as the first round. The final round would be a live recital format during the MMC. The audience would also be given an opportunity to have one collective vote.

Rationale: As string teachers, we are in the business of promoting live music. Students need to develop experience gleaned from live performance competitions. A live recital of exceptional young musicians would be a wonderful and inspirational addition to the MMC. With the many young students performing and adult music teachers at the

MMC, an opportunity to hear top notch talent and expertise would be an exceptional and educational experience that should be made available to more than the MASTA membership. The competition donors have expressed an interest in supporting this competition when a face to face experience is given to winners with the donors of the prize money.

Additional Research Plans:

The Competition Chair plans to have a discussion regarding Michigan’s Solos Competition with Jeffrey Solo (ASTA Solo Competition Chair) at the national ASTA conference in Salt Lake City.

A Call for Recruitment Ideas:

As the participant numbers have been low, the competition has operated in the red for several years. This year, due to a lower prize money, bringing on Baroque Violins as a donor, using only one accompanist and one judge who worked for free, the competition broke even and did not need to tap into the Elizabeth Green Fund. As a 4% profit is required from MASTA, I would like to work on recruitment of this event. Ideas from MASTA membership are welcome!

Budget

Income

5 entry fees @ \$40.00*	\$200.00
SHAR Music donation	\$1000.00
Baroque Violins donation	\$400.00
INCOME TOTAL	<u>\$1600.00</u>

Expenses

Judge honorarium	\$100.00
Accompanist fee (Grand Rapids)	\$100.00
Prizes	\$1,400.00
EXPENSES TOTAL	<u>\$1600.00</u>

Income – Expenses Total =

\$0