

MASTA Updates



Greetings from MASTA



Summer Projects!

Most of us create some sort of goal for our summer. Maybe it's to learn a new piece, maybe it's to read a book, maybe it's just to get away. My summer goal was to reorganize my HS orchestra library. Thanks to the help of colleagues, family, and even a few students our 1000+ title orchestra library is almost completely digitized, numbered, and reorganized in what I hope will be a more functional system. I even created an "app" for our library to keep on my phone! As your summer wraps up I hope you have found the chance to at least start your summer goal, or even better, achieve it.

MASTA achieved one of its goals! For years we've discussed having a studio teacher workshop to gather private instructors together to discuss their concerns, support their work, and give them an opportunity for some meaningful professional development. Thanks to the efforts of Past-President Janis Peterson, the string faculty at Central Michigan University, and presenters Larry Hutchinson, Andrea Yun, Renee Skerik, and David Reimer - our first ever Studio Teacher Workshop was launched in early August. All plans are to continue this event in the future so please keep an eye out for information coming soon.

Fall Reading Sessions!

On September 22nd there will be two new music reading sessions held for your convenience. At 8:30 AM at Plymouth-Canton High School or Forest Hills Northern High School you can join fellow orchestra teachers to read new music for all levels. This is a great time to see some new resources, catch up with fellow educators, and maybe even take home a prize or two. Thanks to Cathy DePentu and Mark Kotchenruther for hosting and to Joe Oprea and Samantha Hickey for organizing these resources for our members.

MASTA Solo Competition

Please help us get the word out now about the MASTA Solo competition. The first round video submission is due on November 1st. The final round recital will be held at Hillsdale College on November 18th and is certain to be a great display of outstanding musical skills. Details on the competition can be found [HERE](#). If you have questions please feel free to e-mail our solo competition chair [Melissa Gerber Knecht](#).

Teacher of the Year/Administrator of the Year

Please start considering a person worthy of nomination for the MASTA Teacher of the Year Award or the Administrator of the Year Award. This award helps us recognize the best of our profession in this state and we need your nominations to start the process. Nominations will be taken in the coming months and your contribution is appreciated.

Michigan Music Conference

Planning is well underway for the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids. Charles Laux will be our headliner in addition to sessions and performances that are sure to inspire. Be sure to reserve Friday morning at 8 AM for our MASTA General Membership Meeting. All are asked to join us for updates and sharing. We'll provide the coffee!! Information can be found [HERE](#).

ASTA National Conference

If you've never been to our annual National Conference you are missing out on one of the most exciting professional development opportunities available to our profession. This year's conference is in Albuquerque, NM, which is not that convenient for us Michiganders, but if you are attending please let me know. I'm hoping to organize some sort of Michigan get together. Registration is [HERE](#).

Finally,

I am so honored to be President of this fine organization!! Someone told me once that being President means they just need someone to do the work, and that is definitely true, but I have gained far more from Michigan ASTA than I have given. Every time I am at a MASTA event I pick up a new trick, resources, or idea for my classroom. I have been inspired by so many and when I communicate with National ASTA they are ALWAYS impressed by what we are doing here. I dropped my daughter off for her freshman year of college last year and she is still playing her cello. It is not going to be her major, but she considers her orchestra rehearsals the break in her day. That came from her experiences in MASTA Camp, the adjudicators she was encouraged by at Solo and Ensemble Festivals, the teachers (who were MASTA Members) that instructed her, and the many other opportunities she received because of the thriving string instruction going on in our state. Congratulations to all of you and have an EXCELLENT “new” year!

Sincerely,
Dan Scott
President, MASTA

Our MASTA Board

When you have the chance, please don't hesitate to send these wonderful professionals a thank you for their service to our organization!!

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