

# *MASTA* Updates



## Greetings from MASTA



### **Exciting times!**

Hopefully, you have enjoyed a relaxing summer with some of the great weather we have had in our beautiful state this season. MASTA is looking forward to another great year supporting your teaching and hopefully supporting you in whatever means you need to help you on your journey in this profession. We are particularly excited for our upcoming Studio Teacher's Forum. This is the 2nd time we've pursued this endeavor and Andrea Yun has an amazing program planned for us. More details to follow in this note.

It must also be said that 2020 will be the 15th anniversary of the Michigan Music Conference. Join us for a wonderful program of sessions, concerts, exhibits all kicked off by a special concert featuring Bobby McFerrin. This year's conference is certain to be amazing - please find a way to join us in Grand Rapids and be sure to join us at any of the many MASTA meetings and greetings that will take place. Have an excellent season and best wishes to you and your students!

## Studio Teachers Forum

On September 8th at the University of Michigan, we hold our second Studio Teachers Forum. This year's forum will include sessions on taxes for the studio teacher, brain development, life balance, in addition to discussion groups to share frustrations and solutions. This day of events is only \$50 for MASTA members and is sure to provide a wealth of resources for our studio teachers. Please also share this with any studio teachers that may not be members of MASTA - they are welcome also!! Registration and details can be found [here](#).

## Bass Bash & Cello Fest

Two friends of MASTA will be hosting special events this fall also. The University of Michigan will host an incredible lineup of bass teachers and artists for the annual Bass Bash. On Saturday, September 7th students and teachers can participate in a full day of events dedicated to the bass. Faculty for the day include Max Dimoff, Robert Hurst III, and Ranaan Meyer in addition to MASTA's President-Elect Dr. Michael Hopkins. Events include masterclasses, a bass orchestra rehearsal and performance, technique classes and bass ensemble experiences. Details about this day of events and registration are available [here](#).

Western Michigan University will be hosting the Michigan Cello Festival on Saturday, November 2nd. This full day of events includes masterclasses, guest performances and a cello orchestra for all participants. Faculty includes Dr. Alice Ann O'Neil, Marilyn Kesler, Alicia Gregorian-Sawyers, Luke Cook, Bruce Uchimura, Anthony Elliott, Igor Cetkovic, and a special performance by hip-hop cellist Jordan Hamilton. Details about this day and registration are available [here](#).

## Fall Reading Sessions!

On September 21st 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 Teacher Orchestra

One of our many highlights every year is becoming the MASTA Teacher Orchestra at the Michigan Music Conference. This year our conductor will be [Matthew Aubin, Director of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra](#). Join us at the conference to be a part of this great activity for string teachers.

## 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. MASTA reserves the award for studio teachers in even-numbered years. This means your nomination can only be for a studio teacher at any level, not a classroom educator. Nominations will be taken in the coming months.

## Michigan Music Conference

Planning is underway for the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids. Dr. Rebecca MacLeod of the University of North Carolina is 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. No matter your pursuit, there is something for you at the conference. The Master Classes are top-notch, the college track is great for our professor's and the numerous pedagogy sessions are useful for every string educator. The exhibit hall dedicated to string resources is unmatched in our industry for its usefulness to string teachers and the concerts are always top-notch. This year's conference is in Orlando, FL, which is fairly convenient for us Michiganders. I found a direct flight from Grand Rapids for only \$182 round trip. If you are attending please let me know. Last year's Michigan gathering had about 30 of us celebrating together and I hope we can match or improve on last year's showing. 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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