



Michigan Chapter of the American String Teacher Association

**President**  
MICHAEL HOPKINS

**President-Elect**  
JED FRITZEMEIER

**Past-President/**

**Student Chapter Coordinator**  
DAN SCOTT

**Secretary**  
LINDA TROTTER

**Treasurer**  
BURKE LOKEY

**Member-At-Large**  
INGRID DYKEMAN

**Chamber Music Festival  
and Competition**  
MICHAEL HOPKINS

**String Camp**  
CAITLIN MIHALKO

**Membership Chair**  
ALLISON HOLDEN

**Michigan Music  
Conference Coordinators**  
JIM VAN EIZENGA

**MASTA Notes/Blog**  
CANDACE CHAPPELL

**Website/Webmaster**  
NICK MOSLEY

**State Solo Competition**  
MELISSA KNECHT

**Studio Teaching**  
ANDREA YUN

**State String Outreach**

**National Honors Orchestra**  
JOANNA VAN EIZENGA

**Michigan Youth Arts**  
DAVID REED

**Blue Lake Suzuki**

**Family Camp Liaison**  
MARILYN KESLER

**MSBOA Liaison**  
MERLYN BEARD

**SAA Liaison**  
REBECCA HUNTER

**Northern Michigan Initiative**  
ERIC MARTA

### Winter 2021 Executive Board Meeting Agenda 1-17-21, 6:00 – 7:00 PM

- A. Welcome and Introductions
- B. Approval of Minutes and Submitted Reports
  - 1. Sept. 2020 Executive Board Meeting Minutes (attached)
  - 2. Treasurer's Report (attached)
  - 3. Member-at-Large Report (attached)
  - 4. President-Elect (Fritzemeier)
  - 5. Past-President (Scott)
  - 6. President (Hopkins)
- C. New Business
  - 1. Remaining Meetings for 2020-21
    - a. General Membership Meeting
    - b. Spring Executive Board Meeting
  - 2. Teacher and Administrator of the Year award update
  - 3. Budget discussion
  - 4. As Arises

### Winter 2021 Full Board Meeting Agenda 7:15 PM – 8:30 PM

- A. Welcome
  - 1. Reminder of Upcoming Meetings
    - a. General Membership Meeting
    - b. Summer Retreat?
- B. Approval of Minutes and Submitted Reports
  - 1. Sept. 2020 Full Board Meeting Minutes (attached)
  - 2. Project Director Reports
    - a. Advertising (Harmsen)
    - b. Membership (Holden)
    - c. MASTA Notes (Chappell)
    - d. Solo Competition (Knecht)
    - e. Chamber Music Festival (Hopkins)
    - f. Webmaster (Mosley)
    - g. Outreach (VanEizenga)
  - 3. Oral reports
    - a. MMC (VanEizenga)
    - b. String Camps (Mihalko)

- c. Northern Michigan (Marta)
- d. BassFests (Holden)
- e. MYAF (Reed)
- f. MSBOA (Beard)

C. New Business

a. Planning for 2021

- i. MASTA Conversations for Winter/Spring?
- ii. Studio Teacher board member and event(s)
- iii. Interviews with members

D. As Arises

**MASTA Executive Board Meeting  
September 26, 2020 at 10:00 AM  
Zoom Meeting**

**Executive Board members present:**

Michael Hopkins, Ingrid Dykeman, Burke Lokey, Dan Scott, Jed Fritzeimer and Linda Trotter

**Meeting called to order at 10 AM.**

**Secretary Report presented by Trotter**

***Motion to accept Scott and second Dykeman – PASSED***

**Treasurer's Report presented by Lokey**

Taxes were filed. The camp had refunds and \$1,000 donation to the Howell Nature Center. We received the membership dues from National ASTA of approximately \$2,000. There was request to have a Balance and Loss statement per quarter.

***Motion to accept Scott and seconded Trotter – PASSED***

**Member at Large presented by Dykeman**

Ingrid requested that we let her know of any new string teachers in the state.

***Motion to accept Scott second Trotter – PASSED***

**President Elect presented Fritzeimer**

***Motion to accept Scott second Lokey – PASSED***

**Past President presented Scott**

Dan asked if we wanted to offer something to our college and high school groups. Maybe a nominal donation for maybe a pizza party? Currently we have three high school chapters that are not meeting this time due Covid. This idea was tabled until after Covid ends.

***Motion to accept Trotter and second Dykeman – PASSED***

**Presidents Report presented by Hopkins**

Michael stated that he would like to continue to discuss the Young Teacher Award. He would like to get studio teachers on board with MASTA.

***Motion to accept Dan second Dykeman – PASSED***

## **New Business**

1. Policy Manual and Job Description, as compiled by Janis Peterson, has been updated.
2. The current MMC Liaison is Dan Scott. How does this work in our New Policy? The president has previously done this. He will no longer be the MMC Liaison. The question is who will be the new liaison? This is an appointed position. Suggestions were given for a replacement for this position with the president contacting these people and asking them to take on this position.

***Motion to accept the updated policy manual and job descriptions by Lokey and seconded by Scott. – PASSED***

3. Janis Peterson was acknowledge and thanked for the outstanding work on the updated Policy Manual and Job Description.
4. Next meeting schedule – Due to the fact this years' MMC is virtual the next General Membership Meeting will be Sunday, January 24 at 7 PM.
5. The next Board Meeting will be Sunday, January17th with the Executive Board starting at 6 PM and full board at 7PM.
6. Suggestion was made to award the Career Excellence Award to Valerie Palmieri. It was suggested that we wait until 2022.

***Meeting adjourned until 11:15AM***

## **Full Executive Board Meeting Agenda**

Members present: Joe Harmsen, Jim Van Eizenga, Joanna Van Eizenga, Melissa Knecht, Allison Holden, Meryln Beard, Nick Mosley, Caitlin Mihalko, Michael Hopkins, Ingrid Dykeman, Burke Lokey, Dan Scott and Linda Trotter

Meeting called to order

### **Secretary's Report presented by Trotter**

There was an error that needed to be corrected.

***Motion to accept the minutes Dykeman and second Harmsen with correction – PASSED***

## **Project Director Reports**

### **Advertising presented by Harmsen**

***Motion to accept Mihalko second Dykeman – PASSED***

### **Membership presented by Holden**

Our membership is increasing

***Motion to accept Harmsen second Scott – PASSED***

### **Solo Competition presented by Knecht**

- Would like to add an addendum in the guidelines that we will accept Zoom performance if contestants cannot leave their school
- Would have the soloist to submit their performance via video recording for the General Meeting and make the video available on our website.

***Motion to accept Harmsen second Milhalko – PASSED***

### **Chamber Music Festival presented by Hopkins**

There were fewer students participating this year. There were three options that are being looked at for the 2021 festival. We will wait on making a decision and vote until the January Meeting.

The students will still receive the prizes and will be highlighted in a video on our website and Facebook page.

***Motion to accept Dykeman second Holden – PASSED***

String Camps presents by Milhalko

\$1,200 was donated to the MASTA Camp

\$1,000 was donated to the Howell Nature Center

Camp leadership do not feel comfortable proceeding with camp with the Covid virus still going on. Caitlyn would like to refrain on making any decision about whether or not to hold camp until January. We will also have a line item for Scholarships for Camp (and others) in our budget.

***Motion to accept Scott second Harmsen – PASSED***

### **MSBOA Liaison presented by Beard**

We may hold Solo and Ensemble festival using videos. MSBOA Honor's Festival is being planned for May at Central Michigan University.

***Motion to accept Scott second Dykeman – PASSED***

### **Webmaster (oral report) presented by Mosley**

***Send info and reports to Nick***

### **Outreach presented by J. Van Eizinga**

Joanna asked what the budget for professional development. It was stated that the budget is Program grants is \$3,500 and Professional grants is \$2,500.

***Motion to accept Scott second Dykeman – PASSED***

**Motion by Hopkins and second by Harmsen that the financial situation of the organization go back to \$2,500 for both program and Professional grants for this year. With an amendment that can be flexible grant for either category for this year. – PASSED**

**MMC (oral report) presented by J. Van Eizinga**

We are virtual this year. The headliners are Frank Diaz and Brenda Brenner.

***Motion to accept Trotter second Scott – PASSED***

**Northern Michigan presented by Marta**

***Motion to accept Harmsen and second Dykeman – PASSED***

**Bass Fest (oral report) presented by Holden**

It was suggest having the Bass Fest virtual or postponing the festival for a year.

St. Cecelia is interested in hosting an event for free.

**MYAF presented by Reed and Hopkins**

Will we are involved in the May Festival. This is an item to be discussed at the January meeting.

## **New Business**

1. Andre Yun has resigned from the board. We need suggestions for someone to take over the 'Studio Teacher' chair. Send suggestions were Nyssa Rabinowitz, Shawn Boucke, Jamie Fiste and Fe Ye Sung
2. Question about whether or not we should accept credit card payments.
  - We would need a merchant account which would have a fee of 2 ½ to 3 ½ percent.
  - We would need to pass that fee on to the payer.
  - We could use PayPal
  - It was stated that if the Camp used a credit card it would create a more complex accounting situation
3. Budget for 2020 – 21 need to be amended for the Northern Michigan Initiative from \$1,400 to \$1,000.

**Motion to approve the 2020-21 Budget without camp, but to revisit the camp portion at the January meeting, by Mahalko and second by Lokey. – PASSED**

**Motion to adjourn, at 1:10 PM. by Trotter and second by Harmsen - PASSED**

***Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Trotter***

**MASTA Emergency Executive Board Meeting  
November 23, 2020  
Zoom**

**Members present:** Michael Hopkins, Ingrid Dykeman, Linda Trotter, Burke Lokey, Jed Fritzemeier

**Meeting called to order at 8:03 PM**

Discussion with the treasurer on whether or not the Solo Competition was able to make the \$750 profit. Burke stated that the competition enrollment was lower than normal. This year there were \$2,200 in expenses.

Mike explained that there was a letter from the National Board of Directors stating that they were suspending chapter rebates this year because the National Conference was being virtual. This means that we will/did not receive the anticipated \$5,000 from National ASTA.

Joe Harmsen raised \$3,300 so far with our Advertising.

We need to save money this year. Suggestion on ways to save money were:

1. Do a PDF for this year's Resources Guide which would save us \$1,500
2. We could use \$900 for our Investment to help cover the loss.

Our current bank balance is \$24,000 and about \$18,000 to \$19,000 is available.

**Proposed, for this year only, that we make the Resource Guide digital only and reduce the professional development grants and outreach grants to \$2,850. Moved by Hopkins and second by Fritzmeier – PASSED.**

Discussion on the nominees for Teacher of the Year.

**Motion to accept the slate of Jonathan Glawe, Amy Marr and Wendy Stuart for Teacher of the Year by Hopkins and second Lokey – PASSED**

***Motion to adjourn by Dykeman and second by Fritzemeier – PASSED at 8:50PM***

# Michigan Chapter American String Teacher Association

## Treasurer Report

January 10, 2020 - January 10, 2021

	<u>2020-21</u>
<b>Income</b>	
47300 Membership Dues - ASTA	\$ 1,488.50
48000 MASTA Camp	\$ 9,650.00
48100 Chamber Music Festival	\$ 1,045.00
48200 Solo Competition	\$ 480.00
48300 Bass Festival	\$ 55.00
48400 Michigan Music Conference	\$ 8,900.00
Advertising	\$ 3,730.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 25,348.50</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
60100 MASTA Camp Expenses	\$ 11,732.50
60000 Solo Competition Expenses	\$ 2,400.00
60400 Chamber Festival Expenses	\$ 2,500.00
60800 UP String Program	\$ 1,400.00
60900 Operations Expense	\$ 762.35
62110 Accounting Fees	\$ 607.90
60501 Resource Guide	
65050 Website	\$ 154.45
63000 Grants, Scholarships and Awards	\$ 2,343.70
68400 National Conference	\$ 1,289.40
68340 Meals (Meetings)	\$ 2,026.63
68360 MMC	\$ 2,512.90
68500 Mileage	\$ 1,624.80
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 28,592.28</b>
<b>MASTA Accounts</b>	
PNC Bank	\$23,286.52
Investment Account	\$26,689.02



## **Member at Large Winter 2021 Report**

### **REPORT:**

Since my last report, I have had the chance to connect with a few teachers as well as participate in a few Zoom sectionals. I'm hoping, as things start to move towards in person school, I might get a few more invitations to come and visit. Right now, the teachers who have reached out to me, are stating that their schools are not allowing in guests yet.

### **FUTURE GOALS:**

- Continue to reach out to the teachers regarding assistance
- Continue to send them updated information from MASTA/ASTA that might assist them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ingrid Dykeman-Member at Large

**Past-President's Report**  
**Winter 2021**

I would like to encourage you all to register and participate in the Michigan Music Conference. Our first ever virtual conference is certain to be one for the history books. You will want to be able to say you were there when!

The student chapters of ASTA at our colleges are understandably fairly inactive as most colleges are balancing between online and hybrid class schedules. Suggestions on building this aspect of our chapter are appreciated.

On a personal note, I've been nominated to the National ASTA board as Member-At-Large. I'm honored by the nomination, but encourage you to vote even though I'm on the ballot.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dan Scott

## MASTA President Report

January 2021

I want to thank all the members of the MASTA board who have done a great job at keeping things going during the pandemic. We have a really amazing group of people serving on the board!

I spent this fall promoting the national ASTA webinars and other events, helping Jed with Teacher and Administrator of the Year awards, making the Member Resource Guide, and communicating with board members about the solo competition, membership, website, and budget.

This fall we learned that the national board voted to suspend chapter rebates. I want to thank the executive board for taking to time to recommend adjustments to our budget.

The National Orchestra Festival for Mar. 2021 has been cancelled.

We learned recently that Monika Schultz, ASTA CEO, has taken another position and will be leaving Feb. 1.

Now more than ever, it is important for members to stay involved and supportive of ASTA's events. Please help spread the word about our annual meeting, MMC, and the national conference!

Respectfully submitted, Michael Hopkins, President

## Advertising Coordinator January 2021 Report

As with most things this past year, we have had a unique sponsorship season. The total amount of sponsorship money we received for the 2020/21 season is \$3,330.00, and all organizations are paid in full. This is exactly \$1,000 less than last year, but that is to be expected given everything going on. Below is the breakdown of sponsorships and advertisements by type and company:

- Platinum Sponsor (\$1000): Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp
- Gold Sponsors (\$500): Meyer Music, Shar Music
- Silver Sponsor (\$300): Baroque Violin Shop
- Full-page Advertisement (\$200): Interlochen Fine Arts Academy, Michigan State University, Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan
- Half-page Advertisement (\$150): Grand Valley State University
- Quarter-page Advertisement (\$80): Superior String Alliance

A huge thank-you goes out to our sponsors! This year, the Resource Guide is a fully-digital publication instead of also being printed. This is due to budget constraints in a number of areas. To make up for this, the sponsors/advertisers will be receiving the following alternative benefits: Name & logo recognition in the email containing the Member Resource Guide, the front page of the Member Resource Guide, the Solo Competition page of the Member Resource Guide, the winning Chamber Music Festival video, on a screen during the MASTA membership meeting Zoom call, and other Zoom meetings.

Additionally, the “Sponsor Thank-You” graphic provided below should be included on all MASTA event materials.

### **MASTA would like to thank our generous sponsors!**



Respectfully submitted, Joe Harmsen, MASTA Advertising Coordinator

Membership Chair  
Winter 2021 Report

MASTA currently has 301 active members, down from 320 members in Fall 2020. There are 11 members whose memberships have lapsed and they have been contacted via email.

Respectfully submitted,  
Allie Holden, Membership Chair

## **MASTA NOTES**

### **January 2021 Report**

The following are ideas that would be great to cover on this year's blog:

- Recaps of our virtual MASTA gatherings
- Adapting lessons to virtual/hybrid models
- Creative ideas and technology tools that work in the era of COVID
- Virtual events (done by MASTA or individual directors/programs)
- Interview with a master teacher or new to MASTA teacher- suggestions welcome!

Requests for articles will be posted on the MASTA facebook page, and I would like to work with the Membership Chair to add more of our members to the group. I would also like to try to include more studio teachers in all that we do.

It has been increasingly difficult to recruit members to write, as all of our metaphorical "plates" are already overflowing. If any board members know of great teaching and ideas happening, please let me know so I can follow up and see if a blog contribution can be made.

Respectfully submitted, Candace Chappell, MASTA NOTES Editor

# MASTA Solo Competition

## Winter 2021 Report

The 20<sup>th</sup> biennial MASTA Solo Competition was held online November 1, 2020. Guest competition judges were two principal members of the Toledo Symphony: Kirk Toth, Concertmaster and Amy Cheng, assistant principal cello.

The judges decided to award two gold and two silver prize winners this year, due to the high level of competition participants. Gold prizes were awarded to violinists Danqi Zeng (Danielle Belen, teacher) for performance of Fugue from Sonata in G Minor by J. S. Bach and Caprice No. 23 in E-flat Major by Niccolo Paganini; and violinist Bright Johnston (Aaron Berofsky, teacher) performance of Andante from Sonata in A Minor by J. S. Bach and third movement of Concerto No. 3 by Camille Saint Saens. Silver Prizes were awarded to violist David Forman (Melissa Knecht, teacher) performance of Prelude from Cello Suite No. 3 by J.S. Bach and 2<sup>nd</sup> movement of Viola Concerto by William Walton; and violinist Javier Torres (Danielle Belen, teacher) performance of Andante from Sonata No. 2 by J. S. Bach and 1<sup>st</sup> movement of Concerto No. 3 by Camille Saint Saens.

### Final 2020 Budget

Participant numbers at the 2020 MASTA Solo Competition was considerably lower than in past years: 11 students attended the 2020 festival. 26 students attended in 2018 and 15 students participated in 2016. Similar recruitment measures were done as compared to previous years. The lower numbers may be attributed to a compromised private teaching year from March to November due to COVID-19. In addition, because originally the competition was advertised as having a live final round, some institutions that had sent students in previous years (i.e., Interlochen Arts Academy) were initially prevented from entering, as their students were not permitted to leave campus.

MASTA Solo Competition	2020
Total Attendees	11
<b>Income</b>	
MASTA members entry fees	\$400
Non-MASTA members entry fees	\$120
Sponsorship Allocation	\$1500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2020</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Judges honorariums 2 @ \$350	\$700
Prizes	\$1500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,200</b>
<b>Loss</b>	<b>\$180</b>

Plans for 2022 Solo Competition:

Recruitment ideas will be explored to expand Michigan string teachers' interest in this event.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Knecht, Director: MASTA Solo Competition

## MASTA Chamber Music Festival

January 2021

This year we will be holding a virtual chamber music festival so students can receive coaching from expert chamber music performers, and attend a musicianship enrichment class.

As part of the virtual festival, students in grades 9-12 may elect to participate in a competition. The winning ensemble will receive a prize of \$200. The winning ensemble will participate in the 2021 Virtual Michigan Youth Arts Festival, and a video of the winning ensemble's performance will be featured on the MASTA website, YouTube channel, and Facebook page.

Festival registration fee per student: \$25. Competition entry fee \$60 per ensemble.

**Registration deadline is Feb. 1.**

General plan:

- Groups will submit a videorecording of their chamber group performing a movement of a chamber piece by March 1.
- A coach will review the recording and schedule an online coaching with the group sometime in March.
- All students who register for the festival will also get to attend an enrichment session which will be scheduled in March.
- Groups who want to enter the competition will submit a second video recording after their coaching session. Recordings need to be submitted by April 15.
- A panel of judges will evaluate all competition submissions and choose a winning ensemble by May 1.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Hopkins, Chamber Music Festival Director



# Webmaster Report

MASTA Winter Meeting | January 17, 2021

[www.astamichigan.org](http://www.astamichigan.org)

The website received a small facelift this fall. I'm hoping to do a larger scale "new look" in the future. I'm always open to suggestions on how to improve the site or make it more useful.

**Email List** - We do our best to maintain an email list of current MASTA members, however this can be challenging since the membership list regularly changes as memberships expire and renew.

If you are a current member and not receiving emails, please let me know and I can easily add you to the list.

- If anyone needs to get something out to the general membership, please send an email to [members@astamichigan.org](mailto:members@astamichigan.org). As long as it is within the set guidelines, I will make sure it gets sent. Keep in mind it might take a day or two before it is pushed through. If it is urgent, please contact me separately as well.
- There is also a board mailing list - if you would like to send something to the board only please use: [board@astamichigan.org](mailto:board@astamichigan.org).

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions for the website. Special thanks to Candace Chappell for all her work in soliciting and providing content.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Mosley

[mosleyn@monashores.net](mailto:mosleyn@monashores.net)

(231) 343-3098

## Outreach Chair Winter 2021 Report

Action items are highlighted.

Budget:

- Budget total for PD and Program Grants has been reduced to \$2,800 because of reduced funding from national ASTA.
- Outstanding grants total \$750. Grants paid out total \$0. Remaining balance is \$2,250. New requests total \$1,000.

Past and outstanding grants:

- No new grants were been awarded at our last meeting.
- Outstanding grants
  - Program Grant: Burke Lokey – St. Joseph High School clinic with Michael Adelson in NYC, \$500. Grant report has not been received, so this has not been paid out.
  - **PD Grant: Joseph Alcocer** – Suzuki Book 8 training at PhoenixPhest, \$250. Grant report has not been received, so this has not been paid out. I followed up with Joseph and the board needs to discuss.

**New grant requests:**

- Professional Development Grants
  - Joe Harmsen – MSU Summer Masters program, \$250. This is Joe's second of three summers in the Master of Music program.
  - Fangye Sun – Suzuki Book 1 Training, \$250. Dr. Sun is the violin professor at CMU and was inspired by Wendy Azrak's ECC course. She wants to incorporate the Suzuki philosophy into her pedagogy class and "work as an advocate for engaging CMU student violin majors in building a vibrant string culture for the Mt. Pleasant and northern Michigan Communities."
- Program Grants
  - David Reimer, Dorothy Gerber Strings – \$500. Asking for funds to "Invite a guest Suzuki clinician to evaluate students and teachers in a new Suzuki program." Funds would cover about 50% of the clinician's fee, travel, and lodging.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Van Eizenga, Outreach Chair

## **Northern Initiatives Winter 2021 Report**

### What's New?

Upper Peninsula School's have been pivoting between online, hybrid, and face to face instruction. Northern Michigan University, the Marquette Symphony, and the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra have provided live streams and recorded concerts since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The Marquette Symphony Orchestra has also put together multiple videos with groups at a distance and have been releasing videos throughout the fall and holiday season. With no end in sight, virtual performances and videos seem to be our focus in the Upper Peninsula moving forward.

### Superior Strings Alliance

Planning on the possibility of face to face camp or bringing back a virtual camp for 2021. Remaining flexible and looking at dates for summer 2021.

### Michael Waite Project

With most festivals moving virtual this year, the Upper Peninsula Chamber Festival will not be taking place. Instead of the Northern Initiatives funds going towards the UP Chamber Festival, orchestra directors from the UP have reached out to local folk singer and songwriter Michael Waite with the intention of recording an album with each upper peninsula orchestra in the spring. Michael Waite has begun working on string arrangements for his music and is currently in the process of looking into recording his music along with local orchestras. This project will give Upper Peninsula students something to work towards, connect all UP orchestra students, and create something special in a year where live performances are not an option.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Marta  
Northern Michigan Initiatives Representative  
emarta88@gmail.com