



Michigan Chapter of the American String Teacher Association

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ANNE KEARNEY-LOOMAN
MSBOA Liaison
MERLYN BEARD
SAA Liaison
REBECCA HUNTER
Northern Michigan Initiative
ERIC MARTA

Winter 2022 Full Board Meeting Agenda

1-27-22, 10 AM – Noon, Pearl Room, Amway

- A. Welcome
- B. Approval of Consent Agenda
 1. Sept. 2021 Full Board Meeting Minutes (attached)
 2. Treasurer's Report (Lokey)
 3. Advertising (Harmsen)
 4. Membership (Tenney)
 5. MASTA Notes (Chappell)
 6. Webmaster (Mosley)
 7. MMC (VanEizenga)
 8. Northern Michigan (Marta)
 9. Blue Lake Suzuki Family Camp (Kearney-Looman)
 10. MSBOA Orchestra Activities (Beard)
 11. Studio Teaching (Boucké)
- C. Reports with discussion/action items
 1. President's Report (Hopkins)
 2. Past-President Report (Scott)
 - a. Policy manual job descriptions
 3. Chamber Music Festival (Kothman)
 4. Solo Competition (Knecht)
 5. Outreach (VanEizenga)
 6. String Camps (Mihalko)
- D. Matters Arising
- E. New Business
 1. Planning for 2022
 2. Summer retreat?
- F. Adjourn

MASTA Board Meeting Minutes - 9/18/21

Members Present - Michael Hopkins, Jed Fritzmeier, Candace Chappell, Joe Harmsen, Joana VanEizenga, Merlyn Beard, Mary Kothman, Burke Lokey

Virtual Attendees - Amy Tenney, Caitlin Milhailko, JimVanEizenga

Called to Order - 11:25am

Secretary report presented by Hopkins - move to accept by Harmsen, 2nd by Kothman - PASSED

Advertising - presented by Harmsen

Move to accept - Beard, 2nd by Chappell

Biggest change is moving the Resource Guide to digital format, advertisers are all on board. Otherwise advert funds should be similar to years past. Suggested to revisit printed resource guide next year. PASSED

MASTA Notes - presented by Chappell

2 posts on the website already this year. Always looking for more reports/ events to post. Does not have to be a long article, looking to keep membership informed of string things going on in MI. Also hoping to have more studio teacher involvement as well as an interview with a Master Teacher. PASSED

Outreach - presented by Van Eizenga

Moved to accept by Kothman, second by Harmsen

Joanna wanted to make sure we were good to go for Grants this year. PASSED

Chamber Music Festival - presented by Kothman

Move to accept by Harmsen, 2nd by Van Eizenga -

Music Festival Faculty will be WMU Faculty, including bass professor. Budget is similar to last year, with the addition of hiring a student to help manage the building. Some discussion around what the enrichment part of Chamber Festival could look like. Mary will reach out to Joe regarding which advertisers need to be announced at the Festival. Michael asked if we could use the same registration system that we are using for MASTA Camp. More investigation will be done by Caitlin. Where will the winning ensemble perform? Maybe be a featured group at the MASTA Summer Camp?

PASSED

MMC - presented by Van Eizenga

Motion to accept - Fritzmeier, 2nd Harmsen

Trying to get MMC to run as normal, looking for extra rehearsal spaces for ensembles. Kristin Pelligrino is the MASTA headliner. Lots of studio teacher options this year. There are more

instrument-specific sessions this year. Looking to add an ice cream social event for MASTA members. PASSED

Webmaster

Motion to accept by Harmsen, 2nd by Chappell

Updates to the website need to be sent to Nick. PASSED

MASTA Camp - presented by Caitlin

Motion to accept by Beard, 2nd by Harmsen

Ted McDonald will not be assistant director this year, Joe Harmsen will be filling the role of interim assistant director. Lots of really good things with the new CampDoc website that will help streamline camp from registration to check out. MASTA scholarships should be through the outreach chair.

PASSED

MSBOA - presented by Merlyn Beard

Motion to accept by Kothman, 2nd by Chappell

Discussion around whether or not festivals will happen as planned.

PASSED

Studio Teaching - presented by Hopkins

Motion to accept by Kothman, 2nd by Van Eizenga

Ideas include organizing masterclasses, using virtual chats, geared toward studio teachers.

November 13 is the first MASTA virtual chat. Compensation should be \$100 for virtual events.

PASSED

Oral Reports

Membership - presented by Amy Tenney

ASTA membership incentives, Amy is looking for new teachers to help get them signed up.

Bass Festivals - presented by Hopkins, written by Allie Holden

We should wait until the 2022-23 school year to restate bass fests.

Budget

Moved to accept - Fritzmeier, 2nd Beard

Budget adjusted slightly to get Camp Scholarships to \$3000. Discussion around what the National conference and mileage budget will look like for a semi-normal year.

Motion to adjourn - Beard, second Harmsen called at 1:49pm

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Michigan Chapter American String Teacher Association

Treasurer Report

January 1, 2021 - January 16, 2022

	<u>2021-22 Actuals</u>	<u>2021-22 Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over/Under Budget</u>
Income			
47300 Membership Dues - ASTA		\$ 5,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)
48000 MASTA Camp		\$ 130,525.00	\$ (130,525.00)
48100 Chamber Music Festival	\$ 955.00	\$ 2,950.00	\$ (1,995.00)
48200 Solo Competition			
48300 Bass Festival			
48400 Michigan Music Conference		\$ 2,500.00	\$ (2,500.00)
Advertising	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (1,300.00)
Total Income	\$ 3,155.00	\$ 144,475.00	
Expenses			
60100 MASTA Camp Expenses	\$ 2,875.80	\$ 121,651.00	\$ 118,775.20
60000 Solo Competition Expenses			
60400 Chamber Festival Expenses	\$ 1,330.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 1,970.00
60800 UP String Program		\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
60900 Operations Expense	\$ 566.45	\$ 700.00	\$ 133.55
63000 Grants, Scholarships and Awards	\$ 842.60	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 7,157.40
68400 National Conference		\$ 1,888.80	\$ 1,888.80
68340 Meals (Meetings)	\$ 183.77	\$ 2,166.77	\$ 1,983.00
68360 MMC		\$ 2,512.90	\$ 2,512.90
68500 Mileage		\$ 1,924.80	\$ 1,924.80
Total Expenses	\$ 5,798.62	\$ 143,544.27	
MASTA Accounts			
PNC Bank	\$21,732.90		
Investment Account	\$28,589.16		

Advertising Coordinator January 2022 Report

Overall, we've had a successful sponsorship/advertising season. We are still waiting on a few payments, and these will be followed up on in the coming weeks. The total amount raised for this year is \$3,280.00. 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, Baroque Violin Shop
- Silver Sponsor (\$300): A&G Central Music
- Full-page Advertisement (\$200): University of Michigan, Interlochen Fine Arts Academy, Michigan State University
- Half-page Advertisement (\$150): Eastern Michigan University, 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.

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 2022 Report

MASTA currently has 281 active members, down from 290 members last Fall. The 9 members whose memberships have lapsed have been contacted via email. ASTA indicated that there are 7 new members

New members:

There were 8 members who were not active members of MASTA in attendance who we reached out to in the event that they are out of state or had memberships that lapsed without their realizing it. They have all been contacted about registering or renewing with MASTA.

I ordered a box from ASTA that contains registration forms, stickers, magnets, and other items for our booth at MMC.

ASTA waives a teacher's first year of teaching. I have contacted 2 new orchestra teachers to districts in MI regarding the waived first year along with the mentor program. If there are any new teachers you know of, please contact me with their names and emails.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Tenney, Membership Chair

MASTA NOTES
January 2022 Report

Blog posts made so far this school year:

- Announcement and details for the string reading sessions
- Setting up your virtual studio article by Shawn Boucke
- MASTA Chamber Music Festival

Article in preparation (to go out just before MMC 2022):

- Interview with Marilyn Kessler from a while back, in order to honor/highlight her as this year's Teacher Orchestra Conductor

Ideas for this year's blog:

- Recaps and photos of our MASTA gatherings
- Creative ideas and technology tools that work in the era of COVID
- Virtual or live orchestra events around the state(done by MASTA or individual directors/programs)
- Interview with a master teacher or new to MASTA teacher- suggestions welcome!
- Posts from MASTA grant recipients

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 contact me so that I can follow up and see if a contribution can be made. Any ideas are welcome!

Respectfully submitted, Candace Chappell, MASTA NOTES Editor

Webmaster Report

MASTA Winter Meeting | January 27, 2022

www.astamichigan.org

The website was recently updated with our new sponsors for the year. The calendar and board members pages are also updated for this year, and I've posted other event information and blog posts as I receive them. If you notice pages in need of updates or have suggestions on how to improve the site, please don't hesitate to let me know.

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. 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.

Feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions for the website.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Mosley

mosleyn@monashores.net

(231) 343-3098

Michigan Music Conference Coordinator

Winter 2022 Report

The 2022 Michigan Music Conference is taking place January 27 – 29, 2022 in Grand Rapids, MI.

Our headliner this year is Dr. Kristen Pellegrino, current ASTA president and professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Her sessions will be:

Friday 9am: How Different Approaches to Bow Hold and Bow Arm Affect Tone

Friday 2pm: Teaching Shifting and Vibrato in Group Settings

Saturday 11am: Demystifying Intonation for Violinists and Violists

Saturday 2pm: Classroom Management: Are You Proactive or Reactive?

Also, be sure to attend the Teacher Orchestra's performance on Friday evening at 7pm in the Ambassador Ballroom with a reception to follow.

After the conference, you will receive a survey. Please fill it out! It gives the committee good insight into how we can possibly improve the conference. I promise we do read all the comments!

If there is a session topic you think is missing, I would encourage you to apply to present! The more sessions we have to choose from the better the conference is for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Van Eizenga

Northern Initiatives Winter 2022 Report

Tuesday, January 18th 2022

What's new?

No action items for the board in the winter 2022 report. Orchestra programs in the UP are excited to be back face to face and performing. The Keweenaw Symphony and Marquette Symphony Orchestras have a full schedule of events planned. The Marquette Symphony Orchestra has also started an outreach program to do workshops and masterclasses for orchestra programs in Marquette county to help students prepare for district solo & ensemble. Baroque Violin Shop and Superior Strings Alliance have shown interest in sponsoring a string event for UP orchestra students in the spring. Details are still to be determined at this time.

Michael Waite Project

All school orchestra parts have been recorded. Last updated as is things are still in the mixing process. Currently hopeful for a spring release date.

Superior Strings Alliance

Ran a successful day camp through the summer of 2021. Planning on the possibility of face to face camp or bringing back the day camp for 2022. Remaining flexible and looking at dates for summer 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Marta

Northern Michigan Initiatives Representative

emarta88@gmail.com

Blue Lake Suzuki Family Camp Liaison

Winter 2022 Report

Blue Lake Suzuki Family Camp returned with two in-person sessions in June of 2021. We planned for sessions with 50% of our typical attendance and slightly surpassed that goal with a total of 317 students attending. Because we were one of only a few Suzuki institutes that held in-person activities we had a lot of first-time attendees from around the country. While the student numbers were strong, there were only three teacher trainees in attendance, typically we host 15-20 teacher trainees. The Suzuki Association of the Americas now allows teacher training to take place online. This makes training easier to access as there are no travel expenses, however, Marilyn Kesler and I believe that training in-person is better. We would like to see our numbers back to pre-pandemic levels. We have put together some information about the training offered this summer and will be sending it to key persons at several nearby university music departments in hopes of attracting more students.

Registration opened 4 days ago and we already have 72 students registered!

Dates for this summer are:

June 12-15 Session 1, strings and piano

June 16-19 Session 2, strings and piano

June 11-19 teacher training, violin unit 1 and cello unit 1

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Kearney-Looman, Blue Lake Suzuki Family Camp Liaison

MSBOA Liaison - Orchestral Activities Winter 2022 Report

This fall, we have returned to our fall orchestral events of the String Orchestra Reading Session in September and the Mid-Level Clinic in October.

The String Orchestra Reading Sessions were held on Saturday, September 18, 2021. There were two sites for the reading session, the east-side site at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, hosted by Michael Edwards and coordinated by Samantha Farmer (Novi Schools), and Lowell Middle School, hosted and coordinated by Joe Oprea. About 50 orchestra teachers, student teachers and university music education majors participated in the reading session, reading through approximately 35 new orchestra selections for school orchestras for all levels. The same music was used at both sites.

Thank you to Luck's Music for coordinating the donation of the music for this event from the publishers so the music was given away at the reading session. Many thanks to the event hosts, Michael Edwards and Joe Oprea, and the reading session coordinators, Samantha Farmer and Joe Oprea.

We had enough student participants for the Fall Mid-Level String Clinic on Saturday, October 9, 2021, at Portage Northern Middle School. The clinicians worked with 84 middle school students divided into 2 orchestras. Thank you to the host, Sean Brennan, for the work to make the Mid-Level Clinics a success. Thank you to our clinicians, Matt Bridges and Tanya Bennett (2021 Orchestra Teacher of the Year), for guiding the middle school students in their final preparation and performance. Music selection for next year's Mid-Level String Clinic will take place at the spring String Committee meeting.

On December 11, 2021 MSBOA hosted Solo/Ensemble and Band/Orchestra Adjudication training. About 6 new string adjudicators completed the training.

Going forward, district solo and ensemble festivals have an option to be virtual or in-person. State solo and ensemble will be virtual due to lack of host sites. We are working on creating a virtual band and orchestra festival option to go with the in-person festivals.

Respectfully submitted,



Merlyn Beard,
VP Orchestral Activities
Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association
MSBOA – MASTA Liaison

Studio Chair Winter 2022 Report

Action items will be in **bold** text.

In 2021, ASTA of Michigan studio teachers received a couple of email messages encouraging setting up their ASTAStrings.org personal profile. I know some engagement occurred as I received an email asking for assistance from one member. Continuing a goal from last year I would like to have a search function of private studio teachers to be accessible to parents and school teachers. A new website or search function might be a bit too ambitious, however, the current search page (https://www.astastrings.org/Web/Learn_Strings/Find_a_Teacher/Public/Directory/Find_a_Teacher.aspx) on ASTAStrings needs to be more well known. I will be writing members in the near future about adding this link to their own personal lists or websites for private teacher recommendations. **I would like to know if a shorter link address is possible to be created from the ASTAStrings main site to make it easier for teachers/parents to type into a browser without a need for a clickable link or using a URL shortening site such as Bitly to create one.**

As mentioned in 2021, my goal for 2022 was to bring ASTACAP to Michigan. Through the research and contacts made in 2021 it has come to my attention that students can participate virtually at this moment. Encouraging virtual participation seems to be a more obtainable goal for the year as opposed to created an in-person event. I will be reaching out to current members as well as non-members about the service. This push hopefully will bring incentive to grow the studio teacher numbers in ASTA of Michigan as well as give students an opportunity to award students of all levels through non-competitive examinations.

There are no budget proposals needed at the current moment for these projects.

Respectfully submitted
Shawn Boucké
Studio Chair

MASTA President Report January 2022

New board appointments

We welcome Anne Kearney-Looman as our new Suzuki Blue Lake Liaison

Congratulations to Amy Marr, president-elect, and Stacey Bowen, secretary. Their board positions will begin on May 15, 2022.

Alan MacNair was elected as Member-at-Large. That position is currently vacant so Alan will begin his term immediately.

Thank you to Dan Scott for organizing the nominating committee and overseeing the election process!

National conference

The national conference is on March 16-19. I will be attending the state leadership pre-conference meeting on Wed. Mar. 16 from Noon – 5 PM. Jed will also be attending.

Please let me know if you will be attending the national conference. I will be organizing a MASTA dinner like we have done in the past.

General Liability Insurance

I have been working on securing general liability coverage for the summer string camps. We should have this taken care of in early Feb.

MASTA Policy Manual Descriptions

Sometimes I get asked questions and I can't find the answers in our policy manual. We could make some improvements. If you were to leave your board position and were unable to speak with your successor, could they figure out how to do your job by reading the description in the policy manual? The basic idea is that if anyone on the board was to mysteriously disappear without a trace, the MASTA organization could continue to function without any loss of organizational knowledge. Please help MASTA by carefully reviewing and updating your job description and send to Dan this February.

Suggestions

1. Describe any contracts, licenses, leases, other legal agreements, the executive board authorizes you to enter into on behalf of the organization. Describe important business contacts.
2. Include info about the timeline for when you need to do the things you do.
3. Make sure you send copies of important documents to the MASTA President, the Secretary or the Treasurer for record-keeping.

Thank you for all you do for MASTA!

Respectfully submitted, Michael Hopkins, President

Past President Winter 2022 Report

Thanks to the MASTA Nominating committee, Bob Phillips and Janis Peterson for their help in recruiting our nominees for our 2022 Ballot. The nominees for 2022 were:

President-Elect

Amy Marr
Jim VanEizinga

Member-at-Large

Ellen Brosnan
Alan MacNair

Secretary

Stacey Bowen
Samantha Farmer

The election was completed on January 17th and the MASTA officers beginning May 15th, 2022 will be:

President-Elect: Amy Marr

President: Jed Fritzmeijer

Past-President: Mike Hopkins

Secretary: Stacy Bowen

Member-at-Large: Alan MacNair

Treasurer: Burke Lockey

Thanks to everyone who was nominated, voted, or was elected. We thank you all!

The Past-President is responsible for updating all Job Descriptions. Those will be disseminated at the conference and your edits are requested during the month of February.

The Past-President is also responsible for monitoring student chapters in the state. Communications were sent out and I am proud to report that Wendy Stuart has launched a student chapter at Troy High School. The website has been updated to recognize the new chapter.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dan Scott

MASTA Chamber Music Festival Winter 2022 Report

The 2022 Chamber Music Festival will be held on Monday, March 7th, at Western Michigan University.

- Coaches/judges are WMU string faculty: Megan Crawford, Mary Kothman, violin, Igor Fedotov, viola, Bruce Uchimura, cello and Michael Hovnanian, double bass.
- Enrichment teachers:
 - Helen Yee, violinist specializing in different styles of playing, film composer <http://www.helenyee.com/>
 - Karin Code, Scandinavian Fiddling

Items needed to be discussed with the board:

1. Can MASTA share with WMU the contact information of participants for recruiting purposes? (In the past WMU has had access to the participants of MYAF and that no longer exists.)
2. We will have to hire an additional stage manager from my previous budget to oversee the faculty concert and the competition. (\$13.00 an hour and estimated at 4.5 hours of work = \$58.50)
3. Do we want to have the piano tuned before the event? We are not being charged for the hall but to have the piano tuned would be \$150 additional. (We might look closer towards March 7th to see how many ensembles actually have piano in them to determine the need for this.)
4. We still need a performance venue for the winning chamber ensemble. (Again, because there is no MYAF where we traditionally had the ensemble perform.) I have two suggestions:
 - a. Combining with the Stulberg String Competition in a chamber recital. The silver or bronze winner from 2021 would perform on half of a chamber concert and our winners would perform on the other half. This would be held in later spring or early summer. There would be some expenses to work out with Megan Yankee (executive director) and the Stulberg people. WMU is willing to donate the hall but we will have to pay \$13.00 an hour for required staff. (\$36.00) Unsure at this point who would pay for the piano to be tuned. (\$150.00)
 - i. The Stulberg Competition is interested in having a long term possible relationship doing this.
 - ii. The Stulberg is willing to handle hotel accommodations and ground transportation for their soloist. Megan needs to talk with her board about an accompanist.
 - iii. Positives to this are that it would generate some nice publicity as well as be associated with a string competition centered on students around the same age. (They are required to be under the age of 19 to compete.) <https://www.stulberg.org/>
 - b. Having a totally separate chamber recital with the winning ensemble. Again, we could have this at WMU or another location can be discussed. The negative side of this is I don't know what kind of audience we would have.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kothman, Chamber Music Festival Director

MASTA Solo Competition Winter 2022 Report

2021 was off-year for the competition.

Bright Johnson, Gold Prize Winner of the 2020 MASTA Solo Competition will perform during the Teachers Orchestra Concert on Friday, Jan. 28, 7:00.

2021 MASTA Solo Competition Budget (for 2022)

Expenses: Accompanist fee (Grand Rapids) \$100.00

Expenses total: \$100.00

2022 MASTA Solo Competition Specifications

Preliminary Round will be completed via video audition submission. The deadline for submission is 11:59 on November 1, 2022.

The live Semi-Final and Final Rounds, will take place Sunday, November 20 in the Hillsdale College Conrad Recital Hall.

Recruitment Plans: MASTA website and individual emails will be sent to various Michigan string instructors.

Information regarding the 2022 competition will be up on the MASTA website by February 2022.

Proposed 2022 MASTA Solo Competition Budget-ACTION ITEM

Income:

Entry fees	\$600
Sponsorship Allocation	\$1,500
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,100

Expenses

Judges honorariums 2 @ \$350	\$700
Prizes	\$1,500
Pianist	\$200
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,400

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Knecht, Director: MASTA Solo Competition

Outreach Chair
Winter 2022 Report

Action items: Approval of new grant request

Past grants:

- Program Grant: David Reimer/Dorothy Gerber Strings - Suzuki clinician, \$500

New grant requests:

- PD Grant: Allie Holden (Rockford Schools) has applied for assistance with ASTA National Conference registration fee, \$250

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Van Eizenga, Outreach Chair