



Michigan Chapter of the American String Teacher Association

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**MSBOA Liaison**  
JOSEPH OPREA

## Winter 2023 Full Board Meeting Agenda

1-19-23, 10 AM – Noon, Pearl Room, Amway

- A. Welcome
- B. Approval of Consent Agenda
  1. Sept. 2022 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. MSBOA Orchestra Activities (Oprea)
  9. Member at Large (McNair)
  10. Studio Teaching (Boucké)
- C. Reports with discussion/action items
  1. President's Report (Fritzemeier)
  2. President Elect Report (Marr)
  3. Past-President Report (Hopkins)
  4. Chamber Music Festival (Kothman)
  5. Solo Competition (Knecht)
  6. Outreach (VanEizenga)
  7. String Camps (Mihalko)
- D. New Business
  1. Summer retreat June 30
  2. ASTACAP – how can we help?
- E. Adjourn

**MASTA Full Board Meeting**  
**Saturday, September 24, 2022**

**Present:** Stacey Bowen, Candace Chappell, Joe Harmsen, Michael Hopkins, Mary Kothman, Melissa Knecht, Burke Lokey, Alan MacNair, Amy Marr, Dan Scott, Amy Tenney, Joanna Van Eizenga

1. **Approval of Minutes** from January 2022 meeting
  - a. The full board meets in September and January
  - b. The January minutes are not in the packet
2. **Advertising**
  - a. Motion to approve - Candace Chappell, Second - Joanna Van Eizenga
  - b. **Discussion**
    - i. Doing well with advertising and memberships
    - ii. Organizations that stepped away during the pandemic are back
    - iii. Needs an accurate list of sponsors in our printed materials
    - iv. Mid - late August, Joe communicates with the advertisers
    - v. Mid-October, we have the confirmed list of sponsors
  - c. Solo Competition needs to go out before the summer, no updated list yet. Melissa will need to speak with Joe
  - d. Melissa Knecht - Flyers are complete but we don't have a final answer from two sponsors - Silver and Gold sponsors are not confirmed.
  - e. Sponsors can be recognized at the competition
  - f. Michael Hopkins - Joe is doing a tremendous job!
3. **MASTA Notes Report - Candace Chappell**
  - a. Are there any MASTA events or interesting events going on around the state?
  - b. Showcase what is going on around the state.
  - c. Candace will focus on what we are already doing.
  - d. Van Eizenga - When grants are awarded could take from grant request forms
    - i. Include a short article / paragraph and a photo in reference to the experience
    - ii. Motion to accept - Dan Scott, Second - Melissa Knecht
4. **Discussion:**
  - a. Dan Scott - promote good products, services and professional development
  - b. Mary Kothman - those at the university level are trying to promote music in schools.
  - c. Dan Scott - Jonathan Glawe's leadership program / request an article to share with the membership
  - d. Melissa Knecht - Hillsdale College
    - i. The Emerson String Quartet is performing for free then playing in Ann Arbor
  - e. Michael Hopkins - Is it appropriate to send to the membership? Not to endorse, just sharing information.
  - f. Sessions should not be to promote products
5. **Outreach Report - Joanna Van Eizenga**
  - a. Motion to accept - Dan Scott, Second - Alan MacNair
  - b. See "note" on report - updated on the MASTA website

- c. Changed to allocate money to current requests

**6. MASTA Camp**

- a. The MASTA camp scholarship deadline is April 15
- b. MASTA Camp deadline is May 1
- c. Van Eizenga needs to check camp registrations and needs access
- d. Camp was half of what it usually is
- e. Past grants - no new grant requests
- f. Total amount awarded \$1,010.00

**7. MASTA Chamber Music Festival**

- a. Motion to accept - Dan Scott, Second - Candace Chappell
- b. Discussion - Math Kothman
  - i. Request to have one piano tuned in the amount of \$150.00. The venue is free.
  - ii. Michael Hopkins - MASTA 5% surplus should not be zero
    - 1. Return a 5% surplus to the organization
    - 2. 5% of budgeted expenses - \$183.00
    - 3.  $\$1732 + \$183 = \$1915.53$
    - 4. Motion to raise the competing fee to \$55.00
    - 5. Burke Lokey - motion to raise the competing fee from \$50-\$55, Second - Joanna Van Eizenga
    - 6. Michael Hopkins - countermotion - raise competing fee to \$60 and non-competing to \$50 - Second Dan Scott - MOTION PASSED

**8. MMC Committee Report**

- a. Motion to accept - Stacey Bowen, Second Amy Tenney
- b. Discussion - Dan Scott
  - i. Registration fee has increased from \$95-\$110
  - ii. Michael Hopkins - For teachers and orchestra conductor to have an additional night of lodging. MASTA would cover the second night (Friday) of lodging. Second - Amy Marr

**9. Webmaster Report**

- a. Motion to accept - Dan Scott, Second - Melissa Knecht
- b. Discussion:
  - i. Joanna Van Eizenga - Nick is doing an excellent job
  - ii. Michael Hopkins - inform Nick of any changes to projects

**10. MSBOA Liaison Report**

- a. Motion to accept - Candace Chappell, Second Amy Marr
- b. Discussion:
  - i. Dan Scott - Thank you to Michael Edwards for hosting the reading session and Zoom MASTA meeting
  - ii. Thank you to Sam Farmer for the pieces from Luck's and the organized folders
  - iii. MSBOA Honors Festival in May (May 13th tentative) is it happening?
    - 1. The meeting is not until November
    - 2. Could the winner of the Chamber Music Festival perform?
    - 3. Check with Joe Oprea

**11. Studio Teaching Report - Shawn Bouke**

- a. Motion to accept - Joanna Van Eizenga, Second Dan Scott
- b. Michael Hopkins will follow up with Shawn to create a budget
- c. ASTACAP - launch and promote studio teachers
  - i. May 21st in Jackson at the Jackson Symphony building
  - ii. Judges have to be officially trained in ASTACAP levels (different repertoire, scales, etc.)
  - iii. Julianne Bowers will help to launch and expand in the future

#### 12. Solo Competition Report - Melissa Knecht

- a. Motion to accept - Amy Tenney, Second Candace Chappell
- b. \$50.00 MASTA, \$75.00 non-MASTA
- c. 20 competitors in the first round
- d. Deadline to enter - November 1, 2022
- e. Hillsdale College is donating the fees for the pianists and have always done this
- f. Michael Hopkins - change sponsorship allocation - 5% MASTA surplus
- g. Melissa Knecht - increase sponsorship by \$120.00
- h. Total income to match total expenses. Too late to raise the fees.
- i. In a typical year
  - i. ½ MASTA - \*winners are usually MASTA members
  - ii. ½ non-MASTA
  - iii. Gold: \$1000.00 first prize, Silver: \$500.00 second prize plus a fan favorite
  - iv. Michael Hopkins - discuss raising fees in January 2023
  - v. Melissa Knecht - submit an updated budget, revise and send to Jed Fritzmeier

#### 13. Membership Report - Amy Tenney

- a. Membership has declined slightly
- b. Amy T. is reaching out to colleges
- c. New teacher enrichment opportunity
- d. Mid-career teachers present in maybe September, October or November
- e. MASTA Make and Take idea:
  - i. 1 day retreat
  - ii. Tips and tricks for beginners plus teacher enrichment opportunities
  - iii. 45 minute sessions plus a break to discuss MASTA membership and what it provides
  - iv. Cost - \$15.00 per person
    - 1. Breakfast - bagels, Lunch - Jimmy John's
  - v. Intersects with the position of Member-At-Large - Alan MacNair
    - 1. Amy and Alan should should work together
  - vi. The fees would cover food and drinks. If MASTA is involved, a budget is necessary.
  - vii. Dan Scott - Could be a Membership Chair activity \$100.00 from MASTA operating expenses
  - viii. Michael Hopkins - Approve \$100 for the Membership Chair to host a One Day Retreat
  - ix. Joanna Van Eizenga - \$20.00 per teacher to offset food costs
  - x. Melissa Knecht - Invite teachers to join MASTA/ASTA

- xi. Amy Marr - early 2000's more collegiate members. Eastern Chapter has over 40 members
- xii. Motion to accept report - Melissa Knecht, Second - Joanna Van Eizenga
- xiii. Michael Hopkins - Motion to approve \$100.00 in seed money to cover the MASTA early career education retreat for the Membership Chair. Second - Dan Scott
- xiv. Burke Lokey - new line item in the budget
  - 1. Dan Scott - can it be placed under the operational budget?

#### **14. Member-At-Large Report - Alan MacNair**

- a. Compiling information from the MSBOA about teachers in new positions. Not all of the teachers are first year teachers.
  - i. Michelle Bessemer - Kennawaw Hills
  - ii. Kelly Kwiatkowski - is with Linda Trotter in West Bloomfield
  - iii. Michael Hopkins - The MSBOA isn't the appropriate organization. Teachers should join ASTA for continuing professional development.
  - iv. Motion to accept - Dan Scott, Second - Joanna Van Eizenga

#### **15. MASTA Camp Director's Report - Caitlin Mihalko**

##### **a. Discussion:**

- i. Positive feedback from parents and students. Contactless drop off
- ii. Challenges:
  - 1. New staff - learning and growth for counselors, college students demonstrated growth
  - 2. Could see how Covid impacted the students and counselors
  - 3. Applied for a new state license. The new license will help to save money. There wasn't a site visit during camp. The license will be finalized remotely.
  - 4. Two campers were sent home for behavioral issues. Connections between students were not appropriate for camp. Almost had to contact CPS twice. Stress and mental issues were intense.
  - 5. Accommodations for autism - higher needs of students.
  - 6. Can't monitor all conversations. Would be helpful to have more leadership. Sarah Maurice will assist next year. Three sessions of camp is too much for one person.
  - 7. Facilities - Howell Nature Center - Day camp activities have taken over. Party tents with platforms and cement. There is a fundraiser to build a deck on the back of Grinley. The long-term goal is for the day camp not to be there as an isolated space.
    - a. Gender identification - add a gender neutral cabin
    - b. Parents did not place this information on the camp application and there is no alternative housing.
    - c. Mary Kothman - Add a clause in the application
    - d. Instructional coach to help with camp social work
  - 8. Tentative dates set - Zoom meeting to discuss camp for next year

9. Joanna Van Eizenga - Session 3 was great. Much progress in the orchestra rehearsals
10. Michael Hopkins - Caitlin is confident the numbers will go back to normal. One staff member had to leave. Lynn Brosnan filled in.
11. Budget
  - a. 2023 - \$130,000.00
  - b. \$120.00 - \$122.00
  - c. \$40,000.00 off this year with a return to the normal budget in a few years.
  - d. Registration fees cover operating expenses
  - e. MacNair created a bass ensemble
  - f. Budget B keeps everything the same
    - i. Motion to accept Proposal B - Dan Scott, Second - MacNair
  - g. Proposal 1 - new debit card. Expired a few years ago. Burke Lokey to get a new debit card to Caitlin.
  - h. Policy regarding sales tax - some places of business would not accept the sales tax exemption. MASTA would have to create a Costco card. Meijer did not know what to do with the tax exempt card. Restaurants will not accept tax exempt either.
  - i. The account has to be under MASTA. Burke Lokey to issue a debit card with the tax exempt number.
  - j. MASTA policy is not to reimburse sales tax.
  - k. Solution - raise program director amount to reflect sales tax money not to be reimbursed to Caitlin.
  - l. Caitlin needs to confirm MASTA Camp dates
    - i. Needs to meet with the Howell Nature Center
  - m. Possible MASTA retreat during Session 3 of MASTA camp?

#### **12. MMC - Jim Van Eizenga**

- a. MASTA voted on and approved second night of lodging
- b. Rachel Barton Pine has to travel with an assistant.
  - i. Michael Hopkins is on U of M block for MMC lodging
  - ii. Barton Pine on MMC hotel block. Assistant will be on the MMC hotel block for this year.

#### **13. Budget 2022-2023**

- a. We are showing a loss of \$687.00 for the year.
- b. MMC income - \$2500.00 / \$6,000.00-\$10,000 pre-Covid
- c. MASTA Camp \$130,525.00 in income, expenses \$121,801.00 plus \$1916.00 in liability insurance.
- d. Slight adjustment to professional development, program grants to \$4,000.00 and camp scholarships of \$3,000.00.
- e. Surplus of \$313.00
- f. We have been losing money for the last few years. Camp needs to make money.

- g. Advertising and sponsorships numbers have increased over \$1,000.00.

**14. UP Initiative**

- a. Spend money in the summer
- b. Eric Marta has vacated his position officially this week. Eric has recommended someone for the position. Who is the successor?
- c. Will discuss in January
- d. Reach out to find out if she is willing to join the board.
- e. \$1400.00 to spend
- f. Motion to adjourn the meeting - Dan Scott, Second Joanna Van Eizenga

# Michigan Chapter American String Teacher Association

## Treasurer Report

January 1, 2022 - January 2, 2023

	<u>2022 Actuals</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over/Under Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>			
47300 Membership Dues - ASTA	\$ 3,746.40	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (1,253.60)
48000 MASTA Camp	\$ 80,389.05	\$ 130,525.00	\$ (50,135.95)
48100 Chamber Music Festival	\$ 1,265.00	\$ 2,950.00	\$ (1,685.00)
48200 Solo Competition	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 550.00
48400 Michigan Music Conference	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ (2,500.00)
Advertising	\$ 5,830.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,330.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 92,380.45</b>	<b>\$ 145,075.00</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>			
60100 MASTA Camp Expenses	\$ 80,648.93	\$ 121,651.00	\$ (41,002.07)
60000 Solo Competition Expenses	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ (100.00)
60400 Chamber Festival Expenses	\$ 3,389.75	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 89.75
60900 Business Expense	\$ 1,010.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 310.00
63000 Grants, Scholarships and Awards	\$ 947.80	\$ 8,000.00	\$ (7,052.20)
6500 Operations Expense	\$ 2,084.45		
68400 National Conference	\$ 1,129.70	\$ 1,888.80	\$ (759.10)
68340 Meals (Meetings)	\$ 2,561.12	\$ 2,166.77	\$ 394.35
68360 MMC	\$ 1,954.01	\$ 2,512.90	\$ (558.89)
68500 Mileage		\$ 1,924.80	\$ (1,924.80)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 96,025.76</b>	<b>\$ 144,544.27</b>	
<b>MASTA Accounts</b>			
PNC Bank	\$18,193.04		
Investment Account	\$25,093.13		



## Advertising Coordinator January 2023 Report

This has been the most successful sponsorship/advertising season since I took this position! We are still waiting on a couple of payments, and these will be followed up on in the coming weeks. The total amount raised for this year is \$4,630.00. Below is the current breakdown of sponsorships and advertisements by type and company/organization, with new, upgraded, & renewed-after-a-break commitments **bolded**:

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

**\*\*\*One “Action Item” or request from me: I would like to motion to change the title of the “Advertising Coordinator” to the “Sponsorship & Advertising Coordinator” to more accurately reflect the position’s duties and responsibilities.\*\*\***

The “Sponsor Thank-You” graphic provided below should be included on all MASTA event materials. The digital file for this was created by Nick Mosley; thanks, Nick!

### THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-23 SPONSORS!



Respectfully submitted, Joe Harmsen, MASTA Advertising Coordinator

## Membership Chair Winter 2023 Report

MASTA currently has 266 active members, up from 254 members last Fall. The 28 members whose memberships have lapsed since the Fall have been contacted via email. ASTA indicated that there are 12 new members

New members:

*Paul Le*

*Montana Crawford*

*Katie Bast*

*Jane Ball*

*Ingrid Pylvainen*

*Keenan Thomason*

*Laura Xydas*

*Jessica Lipon*

*Elise Greidanus*

*Abigail Best*

*Anna Janowski*

*Jennifer Boutin*

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

Respectfully submitted, Amy Tenney, Membership Chair

**MASTA NOTES**  
**January 2023 Report**

This year so far, the blog has been displaying the great things going on with string teaching around the state. We have featured articles on grant recipients, the chamber music festival and solo competition, and reached out to members about teacher of the year voting. It is my hope that activities at this years' MMC will be showcased on the blog soon too, especially in relation to our MASTA headliner Rachel Barton-Pine.

If any members know of great teaching and events happening, please contact me so that I can follow up and see if a contribution can be made. Any ideas are welcome!

- Creative ideas and technology tools that work
- Virtual or live orchestra events around Michigan
- Interview with a master teacher or new to MASTA teacher- suggestions welcome!
- Posts from MASTA grant recipients

Respectfully submitted, Candace Chappell, MASTA NOTES Editor

# Webmaster Report

MASTA Winter Meeting | January 19, 2023

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

The website was recently updated with our new sponsors for the year. This year's resource guide and teacher of the year candidates have also been recent additions. The calendar and board members are up to date to the best of my knowledge. Please let me know if you notice any outdated information or changes that need to be made. 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 send an email to the general membership, please send it to [members@astamichigan.org](mailto:members@astamichigan.org). I am typically able to approve posts within a couple hours, if not sooner.

**Website Traffic** - We averaged just over 600 page visits per month over the past year, which is typical.

**Subscribe!** - Anyone is able to subscribe to receive email notifications when new blog entries are posted on the website. Go all the way to the bottom of any page on the site, and you'll find it under the search box. Many things that go on the website are not necessarily also sent out via the members email list, so this is a quick and easy way to get notified when there is a new posting. There are currently 59 subscribers.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Mosley

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

(231) 343-3098

## MMC Committee Report

Winter 2023

Welcome to this year's Michigan Music Conference! A couple of important points to take note of:

1. Please join us for the Exhibitor Reception on Thursday evening at 7pm.
2. The MASTA general membership meeting is moved to 10am on Friday for this year only
3. We have FIVE orchestras performing at this year's conference. Hopefully you take in at least one concert!
4. There needed to be some room changes from past years for a few things, don't assume things are in the same place as they have traditionally been!

After the conference, you will receive a feedback survey. We do read every piece of feedback! It really helps us move the conference forward. In particular, MASTA could use some suggestions for headliners!

Enjoy the conference!

Respectfully submitted

Jim Van Eizenga

MASTA MMC Coordinator

## **MSBOA Liaison - Orchestral Activities Winter 2023 Report**

This fall, we had the String Orchestra Reading Session in September and the Mid-Level Clinic in October.

The String Orchestra Reading Sessions were held on Saturday, September 24, 2022. 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 the west-side site at Lowell Middle School, hosted and coordinated by Joe Oprea. Approximately 50 orchestra teachers, student teachers and university music education majors participated in the reading session, reading through approximately 40 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.

The Fall Mid-Level String Clinic on Saturday, October 8, 2022, at Waterford-Kettering High School, Portage North Middle School & South Haven High School. The clinicians worked with 274 middle school students from 10 schools that were divided into 2 orchestras at each site. Thank you to the hosts, Merlyn Beard, Sean Brennan and Jessica Fiedorowicz for the work to make the Mid-Level Clinics a success. Thank you to our clinicians, Sara Jager, Ji Hyun Kim, Jean Lee, Andrew Pool, Rodney Page, and Maritza Garibay (2022 MSBOA 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.

As we move forward I would like to encourage more middle school orchestra programs to become involved in the Mid-Level String Clinic. In looking ahead to next year, we are tentatively planning on having four sites for this event, Waterford-Kettering, Portage Central, Forest Hills Eastern and Marquette. I would also like to consider including a performance by student groups such as Lowell Fusion Rock Orchestra, Saline Fiddlers, etc. at each site at approx. \$300-500 per site. I believe this has been done in the past.

On December 10, 2022 MSBOA hosted Band/Orchestra Adjudication training. I am waiting to hear how many new string adjudicators completed the training. Currently we have 175 MSBOA adjudicators that have not signed up for the anti-bias training. If they have not signed up for the training by the end of the 22-23 school year they will be moved to an inactive list until they have taken the training. Please encourage anyone you know that hasn't taken the training to do so.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe Oprea,  
VP Orchestral Activities  
Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association  
MSBOA – MASTA Liaison

## Studio Chair January 2023 Report

On May 21st, 2023 we will hold the first ever Michigan ASTACAP (ASTA Certificate Advancement Program) at the Jackson Symphony Orchestra building. The current estimate is around 20 students participating. From polling ASTA members the majority of the students will be violinist and a few bass students. With an average of 4 students per hour we would likely need two exam rooms and two warm-up rooms for a total of 5 hours.

I have matched fees to an ASTACAP that occurred in a different state

### **Levels & Fees:**

- Foundation, 1, and 2: \$40
- Level 3, 4, and 5: \$52
- Level 6 and 7: \$65
- Level 8, 9, and 10: \$75

### **Duration in minutes:**

- Foundation and 1: 8
- Level 2 and 3: 10
- Level 4 and 5: 15
- Level 6: 17
- Level 7 and 8: 20
- Level 9: 25
- Level 10: 30

A \$10.00 fee per participant (included in the calculation of the application fee) is sent by the state chapter to the ASTA national office.

**Outlined below is an estimated budget to be approved.**

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Estimated final cost</b>
<b>Venue</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>Judge Fees</b>	\$50 per hour	\$250
<b>Food/snacks</b>	\$100	\$100
<b>Cordinator honorarium</b>	\$100	\$100
<b>Name tags/office supplies</b>	\$50	\$50
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$500</b>

With 20 students the average payment would be around \$45 (ASTA mentions 70% of students are between levels 1-5) the incoming amount would be \$900. \$200 would go to the National office and estimated \$500 for judges leaving \$200 for a surplus return to MASTA plus padding. We would need around 14 participants to break even.

Certificates are obtained from the ASTA national office by filling out the State Enrollment Form and mailing the form, along with a check (\$10.00 per exam taker) to the national office. The

certificates are either given or mailed to the participating teachers, following the exam, along with a copy of the Evaluation Form for each of their students.

Application deadline should be set to April 1st to give enough time to organize the final details of the event. Registrations will be sent out in January 2023.

Respectfully submitted  
Shawn Boucké  
Studio Chair



## MASTA President's Report January 2023

### Acknowledgements

- Jim Van Eizenga for his tireless work on the MMC planning committee. Jim's institutional knowledge of the event and working relationships with the members of the committee are invaluable.
- Dan Scott for chairing the MMC executive board. It is a fabulous to have an ASTA member "looking out for us" in putting together the conference.
- Amy Marr for landing Rachel Barton Pine as our headliner. It will be tough to top!!
- Joe Harmsen for re-establishing advertising funding. As MASTA goes forward, we need all of the financial help we can find!!
- Dr. Michael Hopkins for his broad knowledge and dedication. His patience is appreciated.
- Caitlin Mihalko for bringing back MASTA String Camps after Covid. Her diligence, energy, empathy are keeping the camps up to date and relevant.
- Shawn Boucke for his work organizing MASTA's first ever ASTACAP testing day.
- To all Executive and General MASTA board members for continuing their terrific and vital work.

### Why MASTA

The basis for my becoming a strings teacher has never wavered – a fervent credo that the orchestra as a vital part of our culture and therefore, an integral component of the educational system. Being an orchestra teacher wasn't my "plan B"; it was a passion for bringing great orchestral music to as many people as possible – it was a mission.

As a beginning teacher, ASTA was a source of information and inspiration. The ASTA Journal was one of the few places one could find information about the craft of teaching. While ASTA meetings, conferences and workshops were incredibly inspirational – having the opportunity to spend time with like-minded people was incredibly motivational. These activities provided time with some of the great educators to "pick their brains" and see what it takes to be successful.

The internet has changed the information base. While the ASTA Journal is still a great resource, there are wellsprings for knowledge that are available through a simple internet search.

So why should someone join ASTA? The answer is people. I know I'm "speaking to the choir" in most cases, but we need to push our colleagues to become an ASTA member or maintain membership in ASTA. One can never know where inspiration may come from. We all need to participate in activities that brings teachers together to re-focus our energies, re-affirm our commitment and move forward orchestral education.

### How MASTA

Crucial to my development as a teacher was my attendance in the 1980s at the National String Workshop in Madison, Wisconsin which does not exist anymore. This workshop brought

together members of major orchestras, professors from universities throughout the country, teachers from all corners of the country and university students for a week-long, 10-hour day of instruction and activities. In addition, we all stayed on the same campus so opportunities to mingle with some of the greatest orchestral minds was easy. Dr. Hopkins' workshop at the U of M and Dr. Gillespie's workshop at OSU are the closest examples of present-day programs.

My goal is to provide another opportunity for collaboration and association through our MASTA "retreat" for us to come together and re-charge our vision and inspiration.

For this year, I am proposing we a one-day retreat on the last Friday of our MASTA String Camps – June 30 - at the Howell Nature Center. We will make some music, talk pedagogy and "hang out". Information will be forthcoming.

## ASTACAP

Shawn Boucke is working hard to set up our first ASTACAP testing day. The day is set – May 21, the place is set – Jackson Symphony Orchestra Building, Jackson, MI, and now we need participants. You will be receiving the rest of the information very soon.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted

Jed Fritzemeier

**MASTA President-Elect  
January 2023 Report**

Since September, I have:

1. Created the 2023 MASTA Resource Guide, which was emailed to all members in December 2022. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Joe Harmsen, Jed Fritzemeier, and Michael Hopkins for all of their assistance with collecting materials and proofing the Guide prior to its distribution. Thank you to everyone who submitted their materials for inclusion into the Guide as well!
2. Served on the MMC Planning Committee with Jim VanEizenga and have been in contact with Rachel Barton Pine's staff to ensure we have the details and logistics covered for her stay with us.
3. Collected nominations for the MASTA Teacher of the Year and MASTA Administrator of the Year.
4. Sent the MASTA Administrator of the Year nomination to the MASTA Executive Board for voting in December. Dr. Stephen Laatsch from Saline Area Schools was confirmed. He has been invited to attend the Teachers Orchestra Concert to receive the award.
5. Prepared a ballot for the MASTA Teacher of the Year and distributed it to the membership. Nominees for Teacher of the Year are Kelly DeRose, Burke Lokey, and Wendy Tenney. Voting was open through January 4, 2023, and the MASTA membership has selected a winner for the 2023 Teacher of the Year, who will be announced at the Teachers Orchestra Concert at the MMC on January 20, 2023. Thank you to Dan Scott, who is having the plaques made for our award winners.

In the next few months, I will be continuing to review our Policy Manual to update the President-Elect description where necessary.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or ideas!

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Marr,  
MASTA President-Elect

Past President's report January 2023

I contacted faculty advisors at universities/colleges this fall and learned that the only universities in Michigan with active student chapters are:

Central Michigan

Western Michigan

University of Michigan

I met with the students of the WMU ASTA Chapter in November.

I will work with the student leaders and faculty chapter advisors to determine what we might do to support these students.

Continuing to work with Shawn Boucké to launch the new ASTACAP initiative. Attended training sessions in January.

Advising president and president-elect on various matters.

Rebate checks from National – the national board suspended rebate checks in 2020. When they resumed rebate checks in Jan. 2022 they reduced the amount of the rebate from 20% to 10%, i.e., we will receive around \$2500 per year going forward instead of \$5000. The way they handled the process was confusing, so I did not realize they had cut our rebate in half until November 2022. We planned our 2022-23 budget based on having a 20% rebate, so I recommend we adjust our budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Hopkins

## MASTA Chamber Music Festival Jan. 2023 Report

The MASTA String Chamber Music Festival will be held on Monday, March 6, 2023 at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

Faculty for the Festival will be Junqi (Sophie) Tang, violin, Mary Kothman, violin (unpaid to coach/perform), Igor Fedotov, viola, Bruce Uchimura, cello and Michael Hovnanian, bass.

Aaron Reiley of the Guarneri House and physical therapist Jill Rutterbusch will be the enrichment class teachers. Jill will lead some exercises for musicians, especially focusing on hands and upper body.

We currently (as of 12/26/22) have one quartet registered.

We will be returning our fees to the pre-Covid rates of \$45.00 for non-competing students and \$50.00 for competing students. (So no extra competition fee.)

We still need to secure a venue in the spring of 2023 for the winning ensemble to perform at. There was talk of an honors festival this spring but it will not happen. I've contacted Melissa Knecht at Hillsdale about possibly hosting on their spring chamber music concert.

### **Proposed Budget for 2023 MASTA Chamber Music Festival**

#### **Expenses**

Junqi (Sophie) Tang-Coach	\$500.00
Igor Fedotov-Coach	\$500.00
Bruce Uchimura-Coach	\$500.00
Michael Hovnanian-Coach	\$500.00
Mary Kothman-Director	\$200.00
Administrative Assistant	\$200.00
1st Enrichment teacher	\$300.00
2nd Enrichment teacher	\$300.00
WMU Student worker (Troll)	\$136.50
Piano tuned	\$150.00
Lunch for coaches and teachers	\$90.00
Name badges	\$36.03
Certificates	\$15.00
Snacks	\$30.00
Winning Ensemble prize money	\$200.00
MASTA 5% Surplus*	\$183.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,840.53</b>

\*Surplus not expected to be needed  
Difference of Inc - Exp exceeds 5% (186)

#### **Estimated Income**

Festival Registrations	
7 students at non-competing rate (\$45.00)	\$315
28 students at competing rater (\$50.00)	\$1,400.00
Non-MASTA member fees	\$10.00
Anonymous Donation (Prize Money)	\$200.00

Sponsorship Revenue Allocation

\$1,732.53

**Total Income**

**\$3,657.53**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kothman, MASTA Chamber Music Festival Chair

# MASTA 2022 Elizabeth E. H. Green Solo Competition

## Winter 2023 Report

The 21st biennial MASTA Elizabeth E. H. Green Solo Competition Final Round was held on November 13, 2022 at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan. Guest competition judges were two principal members of the Toledo Symphony: Kirk Toth, Concertmaster and Amy Chang, Associate Principal Cello. Collaborative pianists were Thomas Ryskamp and Taylor Flowers.

The First Place, Gold Medal and \$1,000 prize money was shared by two violinists: Javier Torres Delgado (Danielle Belen, teacher) for his performance of the Concerto for Violin in G Minor, Op. 80, movt. 1 by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Stefan Hubenov (Dmitri Berlinsky, teacher) for his performance of Sonata No. 3 in D Minor: Ballade, Op. 27 by Eugene Ysaye.

The Second Place, Silver Medal and \$500 prize money was awarded to Diego Mieres (Yizhak Schotten, teacher) for his performance of the Rebecca Clarke Sonata for Viola, movt. 1.

Minji Kim's performance of the Prokofiev Violin Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 63. movt. 1, earned a special Honorable Mention certificate. Sixteen-year old Minji is a student of Aaron Berofsky.

Seven applicants were chosen to compete in the Final Round, selected from a highly competitive First Round of online submissions. Those final round participants were (in addition to those mentioned above): Katelynn Ehlert, harp (Chen-Yu Huang, teacher); Guanqun Li, violin (Junqi Tang, teacher); Cara Wunder, violin (Danielle Belen, teacher).

## Final 2022 Budget

Participant numbers at the 2022 MASTA Solo Competition improved from 2020: 19 students attended the 2022 festival (approx. 42% increase).

MASTA Elizabeth E. H. Green Solo Competition	2022
Total Attendees	19
<b>Income</b>	
MASTA members (11) entry fees	\$550
Non-MASTA members (8) entry fees	\$600
Sponsorship Allocation	\$1,250
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2520</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Judges' honorariums 2 @ \$450	\$900
Prizes	\$1500
Pianists (Hillsdale College donation)	\$0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,400</b>
MASTA 5% Surplus	\$120

**ACTION ITEM:** Although the judges initially agreed to a \$350 honorarium, at the Final Round they requested an extra \$100 because of the additional work adjudicating two rounds. (In 2020 the Solo Competition only had one round due to COVID). I paid for this out of pocket and request a reimbursement.

Respectfully submitted, Melissa Knecht, Director: MASTA Elizabeth E. H. Green Solo Competition

## Outreach Chair Winter 2023 Report

Action items: Proposal to reduce grant/PD deadlines to two deadlines instead of three - April 1 for requests that will take place in the summer, and September 1 for requests that will take place during the school year. This will streamline the process further and will make it easier for the Outreach Chair to advertise grant opportunities based on available funding.

- Current language: “Applications are due on September 1 for funding requests that will take place between October 1-January 31, on January 1 for funding requests that will take place on February 1-May 31, and on April 1 for funding requests that will take place June 1-September 30.”
- Proposed changes: “Applications are due on April 1 for funding requests that will take place June 1-September 30, and on September 1 for funding requests that will take place October 1-May 31.”
- If we decide to make this change, we will have to consider when it will go into effect, since the current deadlines have been advertised in the MASTA Resource Guide.

Past grants: None

New grant requests: None

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Van Eizenga, Outreach Chair



MASTA Camp  
Directors Report  
Thursday, January 19, 2023

## 2023 Camps

- Dates:
  - Staff arrival/training: June 15
  - Session 1: June 16-18
  - Session 2: June 19-23
  - Session 3: June 25-July 1
- 2023 Leadership
  - Program Director: Caitlin Mihalko, please continue to direct any camp related questions and communications to me. Feel free to call/text or email via my personal or school email.
  - Session 1 & 2 On-Site Camp Director: Caitlin Mihalko
  - Session 1 & 2 On-Site Assistant Director: Joe Harmsen
  - Session 3 On-Site Camp Director: Sarah Maurice
  - Session 3 On-Site Assistant Director: TBD
- **Action Item: Rate Change**
  - **Price of Session 2 changed from \$430 to \$435**
  - **Price of Session 3 changed from \$530 to \$540**
  - **Reasoning: still waiting on final numbers from HNC but there is a slight rate increase this year which this increase should cover. I would rather err on the side of caution.**
- **Action Item: COVID-19 Policies & Response Plan ([see attached](#))- Approval requested**
  - Reduced from last year with other alterations to the policies, but still requiring negative PCR test upon arrival for unvaccinated campers. Please read the policies. The rest of the document is unchanged.
- **Gender Neutral Housing**
  - Due to the increased need, I plan to have one cabin available for campers who prefer/need gender neutral housing.
- Staffing - have begun the process, inviting last year's staff who were a good fit. Will have an electronic application for returning and new staff.
  - I have reached out to one of my school guidance counselors about being an on-site social-emotional counselor at camp for Sessions 2 and 3. If I am able to hire her I would hire her as a counselor pay/position.
- Marketing plan (once COVID policies are approved & CampDoc is live):
  - Email MASTA membership, Facebook, Email previous campers, postcard to previous campers, Reach out to local youth orchestras
- Scholarships - need an updated scholarship application for the website
- 50th Anniversary!! We think last year technically was the 50th anniversary, but the furthest back we found documents was 1973, so we are going with that. We have a special logo that Sarah made and we are coming up with ideas on how to celebrate. Any ideas/suggestions please pass along to Caitlin.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Caitlin Mihalko, Program Director, MASTA String Camps  
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