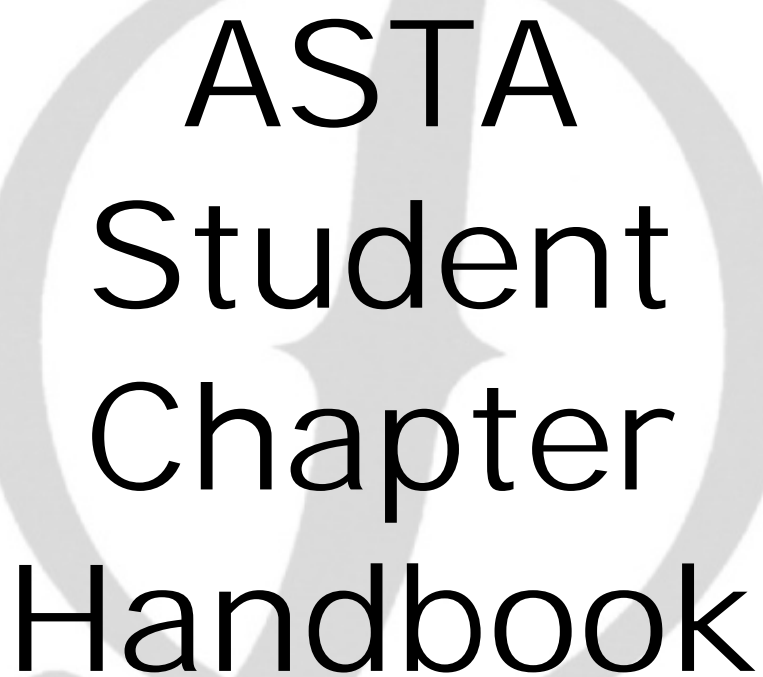


American String Teachers Association

4153 Chain Bridge Road Fairfax, VA 22030

www.astaweb.com (703) 279-2113 asta@astaweb.com

A large, light gray watermark of the ASTA logo is centered on the page. The logo consists of a stylized musical staff with a treble clef on the left and a bass clef on the right, with a large, ornate flourish in the center.

ASTA Student Chapter Handbook

Revised September 2009

ASTA Student Chapter Handbook

Table of Contents

Introduction and Overview	
Mission Statement	3
Message from the President	4
General Information	5
National Associates Contact List	6
Student Chapter Leadership	
Student Chapter Liaison	7
National Executive Board Secretary	8
National Member Programs and Information	9-14
Ways to Help ASTA in Your Daily Activities	15
ASTA National Conference	16
Formation of a Student Chapter	17-19
Sample Constitution and Bylaws	20- 21
Suggested Student Chapter Activities	22-24
Chapter Structure	25
Membership and Conference Applications	26

ASTA Mission Statement

The American String Teachers Association promotes excellence in string and orchestra teaching and playing. ASTA pursues its mission through:

- An open sharing of ideas;
- Benefits, services and activities responsive to the needs of all members;
- Development of strong state leadership and chapters;
- Enhancement of the image and visibility of string teaching and study;
- Advocacy for string education; and
- An inclusive community of string teachers and players.

A Message from the President

Greetings ASTA Student Members,

Student members are our most important members as you are our future teachers, performers and enthusiasts.

Whether you choose private studio or school teaching or become a performer, you have chosen a career where you can share your passion for music and teaching with others. Being an ASTA member allows you the opportunity to network with others who share this love for our profession and learn from some of the master teachers of our times. Getting active in your ASTA student chapter and volunteering with your state chapter will give you good experience as you enter the professional world. In order for our art form to survive we need to stick together and have a better understanding of our different specialties within the string world. There is no better place to start this than in the university setting.

Best of luck to you and let me know if I can be of any assistance!

*Jeff Solow
ASTA President
Private Studio Teacher
Professor of Cello and Chamber Music, Temple University
solowcello@gmail.com*

General Information

Student membership is open to any full-time student attending a public, private or parochial school, college or university. Membership in ASTA can be a very meaningful and rewarding experience. As a student member you receive our quarterly journal, *American String Teacher*; have networking opportunities through our e-communities, [Facebook](#) page; receive recognition through our journal, website and awards program; are eligible to attend conferences and workshops sponsored by ASTA at a special student rate; and may take advantage of all the national member programs that ASTA has to offer.

Membership as an individual student has many advantages, but membership in a student chapter adds strength through unity in order to become a strong voice for string music education. Through student membership you can show your support for the improvement of string education and performance. You can help ASTA work for you and your goals; most important, you can be actively involved in making things happen.

Should you ever need student chapter assistance, please contact the national office:

American String Teachers Association

4153 Chain Bridge Road

Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: (703) 279-2113

Fax: (703) 279-2114

E-mail: asta@astaweb.com

Web: www.astaweb.com

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General Information, Continued

National Office Staff 703.279.2113	
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Stacie Pratt Membership Assistant	stacie@astaweb.com Ext. 16
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Student Chapter Leadership on the National Level

Benjamin Whitcomb, Student Chapter Liaison, whitcomb@uww.edu

Benjamin Whitcomb, cellist, is highly regarded for his interpretation and musicality, both of which stem from his intelligence and his deep understanding of music theory. He plays with an enthusiasm that is contagious and a sensitivity that entralls audiences. An active recitalist and chamber musician, he performs more than twenty concerts a year. He appears regularly on the "[Sunday Afternoon Live from the Chazen](#)" concert series broadcast live on Wisconsin Public Radio. He [collaborates with pianist Vincent de Vries](#) in frequent recitals around the country, and he is a member of the [Ancora String Quartet](#) and the UW-Whitewater Piano Trio. He performs concertos with local orchestras, and he has also been a member of several orchestras in Texas and Wisconsin, including serving as Associate Principal Cello of the Madison Symphony and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. He has produced several CDs of his recordings, including his 2007 release of solo cello works by Bach and Gabrieli on the [MSR Classics](#) label.

Best known for his remarkable intelligence, enthusiasm, and sense of humor, Dr. Whitcomb is quickly developing a reputation as one of the best cello teachers anywhere. He is an expert on every aspect of cello playing. His Ph.D. in music theory also informs his teaching, for he inspires his students not just to play their best, but also to understand how music works. He is a frequent guest clinician and performer at high schools and summer camps, including the National String Workshop, and universities throughout the country. His book on effective practicing is scheduled to be available in the spring of 2008, and he is also a contributing author to the third volume of [Teaching Music through Performance in Orchestra](#). He has presented papers on cello and on music theory at several national conferences, including those of the [American String Teachers' Association](#) and the [Society for Music Theory](#). He is also an articles reviewer and the editor of the Cello Forum of the American String Teacher journal. He is past president of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American String Teachers' Association. Dr. Whitcomb served as chair of the instrumental faculty at the La Musica Lirica music festival in Nova Feltria, Italy, from 2004 to 2007.

Dr. Whitcomb is Associate Professor of Cello and Music Theory at the [University of Wisconsin-Whitewater](#), where he initiated and continues to coordinate the Theory/History Colloquium speaker series, the [Musical Mosaics Faculty Concert Series](#), and the [UW-Whitewater String Chamber Music Camp](#). He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and Oklahoma State University, and he has studied with Phyllis Young, George Neikrug, and Evan Tonsing.

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Student Chapter Leadership, Continued

Judy Bossuat, National Executive Board Secretary, jwbossuki@onebox.com

Judy Weigert Bossuat, was the String Project Master Teacher at the University of California, Sacramento from 2002-2005 and returned in Fall 2007. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from the State University College, Crane School of Music in Potsdam, New York, graduating Magna Cum Laude and is a 1978 graduate of the Talent Education Institute in Matsumoto, Japan where she studied with Shinichi Suzuki, returning in 1982 to do post-graduate work.

Bossuat has been teaching strings, conducting orchestras, and training teachers for over 35 years; 16 of them at the “Ecole de Musique Suzuki” in Lyon, France. Many of her former students have attended prominent conservatories and are pursuing professional careers soloing and playing in leading orchestras worldwide. She is especially known for her work training music teachers both for public school positions and private studio teaching. Bossuat's career has also included faculty positions at the University of the Pacific - Stockton CA and the University of Oregon – Eugene, as well as private and public school teaching and youth orchestra conducting.

Bossuat currently serves as secretary on the national board of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) and on the national board of the National String Project Consortium (NSPC). She is an authorized Suzuki Method teacher trainer for the Suzuki Association of the Americas and the European Suzuki Association, and an honorary life member of the European Suzuki Association (ESA) and the “Association Musicale Suzuki en France” (FMSF). She has served as president of the California chapter of the American String Teachers Association (CALASTA) and orchestra representative of CMEA Bay Section.

Bossuat was recently named the “2007 Graduate of Distinction” by the Victor Central School District (N.Y.) She has also received an “Eminence Credential” from the California State Credentialing Board and been named to *Who's Who of American Women* 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, *Who's Who in American Education* 2006, 2007 and *Who's Who in America* 2006 and 2007.

National Member Programs and Information

ASTA offers numerous member programs each designed to help fulfill the goals of the ASTA mission. A comprehensive list of member benefits and program information can be found on the website at www.astaweb.com. Updates occur regularly so bookmark the site!

Discovering Strings and Orchestras

ASTA's newly launched community outreach program that will partner volunteer string clinicians with youth groups in grades one through three. Students will participate in five sessions that range from group string lessons to academic lessons to field trip outings. To learn more about this program and how you can get involved visit the Community Outreach section of the ASTA web today! Clinicians are needed for this program and this is a great opportunity for student chapters to do some community service work while learning important recruiting skills.

Merle J. Isaac Composition Contest

The purpose of ASTA's Merle J. Isaac Composition contest is to encourage the composition, publication, and performance of music of quality for the benefit of school orchestra programs. The senior division is open to composers aged 19 and above. Composers are invited to submit an original, unpublished composition that is suitable for a string or full orchestra at the elementary, middle/junior high school or high school level. Visit the ASTA website for guidelines and application.

The selection process: in the Preliminary Round, all entries are screened (score analysis) by a panel of three judges. Compositions selected for the Final Round are rehearsed and performed by a school orchestra for a panel of five judges. ASTA reserves the right to declare that a winner does not exist if the entry requirements and the musical standards are not fulfilled. The deadline for the contest is **January 15, 2010**.

Outreach Grants

Grants are available to start community initiatives or local projects within your community. Projects should be geared towards students in an urban or rural setting to engage needy students in string activities.

Continued on next page

National Member Programs and Information, Continued

Senior Division of the National Solo Competition

This competition is open to students ages 19-25 in the instruments of bass, cello, guitar, harp, viola, and violin. The biennial competition is held in odd years. Guidelines are published in the February issue of the *American String Teacher* in the year preceding the competition, and are also posted on our website. Participation is open to ASTA members and their students. Most state units hold preliminary state level competitions to select national semi-finalists. Contact your state competition chair or chapter president for more information. Contact information for state level competitions is also available on the ASTA website.

Available Job Openings

ASTA receives requests to post available string and orchestra teaching jobs around the country on our website. Listings on the website usually include job requirements, salary range, background information about the school/organization seeking candidates and their application process. ASTA posts these available positions for up to two months, but exact timing from the employer may be shorter and changes can occur quickly, so check the site often for the most up-to-date information.

Expanding Your Education at the National Conference

ASTA's annual national conference gives students valuable career building blocks. Not only does each conference contain a wealth of knowledge in areas such as pedagogy, techniques, alternative styles and general interest topics but also those pertinent to teaching in various setting like K-12, Private studios and at the university level. It also gives students the opportunity to interact with leading educators in the field, both scholarly and socially.

Plus don't forget about the first rate performances, exhibit hall and social activities available.

The 2010 conference will bring you performances from iPalpiti's Orchestral Ensemble of International Laureates, the Quartet San Francisco, Student Music Ensembles, and the National High School Honors Orchestra.

Continued on next page

National Member Programs and Information, Continued

AST Journal

American String Teacher (AST), the official ASTA quarterly journal, is available to current members each February, May, August, and November. Student membership includes electronic access to the AST journal at www.astaweb.com. These journals provide a valuable wealth of content to both current string educators and those embarking on the profession. Each issue has approximately three feature articles related to teaching aspects, and instrument specific forums, plus regular columns of Teaching Tips, Showcases, Reviews, My Turn, Member2Member, Notes, and Association News. Start building your library of resources with these amazing articles and information. *Back issues, if available, are \$15.00 each. A printed copy of the Journal is also available for an additional fee.*

Publications

ASTA now carries a wealth of string publications in a growing library of new and revised resources. A variety of texts are available covering topics such as Pedagogy, Classroom & Orchestra Instruction, Private Studios, Research, Resources, Music and CDs, and Compendiums. ***Publications can be ordered securely on-line using your VISA or MasterCard (www.astaweb.com) or through our publications order form found in each journal.***

Chapter Recognition and Communication

Wouldn't you like to see your chapter highlighted in the next issue of the *AST* journal and on the ASTA national website? Student chapters are encouraged to submit chapter news and activities to the national office for inclusion. If your chapter planned a successful event, take some pictures and submit it to the office. Other student chapters are always looking for new ideas. Please send these to Mary Jane at maryjane@astaweb.com. Chapter members are also encouraged to submit articles for the journal. ASTA would like to feature articles from the student perspective. Preparing for student teaching, working at a string project site, mentoring public school students, practicing ideas, preparing for auditions, ideas on advocacy or alternative styles are topics that would be of interest. Complete submission guidelines can be found on the website.

ASTA also encourages our chapters to communicate with one another. Learn what other chapters are doing and how they successfully increased chapter participation, planned and executed community outreach initiatives, worked with their local state officers, network with local educators, and more.

Continued on next page

National Member Programs and Information, Continued

Chapter Recognition and Communication (continued)

ASTA lists all of our active chapters on our website with live links to any website you may have, and the email address for the chapter contact. The chapter, along with advisor and current chapter president are listed in each issue of the AST journal. Please be sure to send National your updated officers and length of term per officer after each election you hold.

ASTA Student E-Newsletter

A student chapter e-newsletter is sent twice a year to all student members. Included is information of particular interest to student members. The student chapter liaison is always looking for articles for this newsletter – any and all suggestions are needed.

Outstanding ASTA Chapter Award

ASTA has created a new way to recognize chapters who are making a difference in their community. Annually, ASTA selects one student chapter that is actively involved in promoting strings in their university or college campus and the surrounding community. Areas that contribute to the award process include: chapter newsletter, a webpage, fundraisers for activities, supporting local school programs and local private teachers, working on projects with your state chapter and hosting chapter meetings at your campus.

The selected chapter will be presented the award at the 2010 national conference during the student chapter session and meeting being held in Santa Clara, California this February. If you would like to have your chapter considered for the 2010 award, please completed the [application](#) found on the ASTA website and return it to the national office no later than **November 2, 2009**.

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National Member Programs and Information, Continued

Advocacy

In order to educate and draw attention to the need for strings in public schools, ASTA has initiated an advocacy program. This program gives member access to advocacy materials that they may then use to advocate for and/or keep strings in their local schools. Whether you're looking to start a string program in your school or are fighting to keep what you have, these advocacy materials will help you in your campaign: ASTA Advocacy Resource Center (AARC), ASTA Advocacy Award, Why Strings?, and Advocating for Strings DVD. You may visit our website at www.astaweb.com for more information pertaining to these and many other topics.

Involvement in Your State Chapter

Payment of your national dues also provides membership in your state chapter of ASTA. State membership dues are already included in the price of national dues and are sent to each state unit on a quarterly basis. Each state chapter offers its members a variety of services such as newsletters, educational seminars and workshops, websites, etc. Get involved at the local level and learn what many educators in your area are willing to share about their experiences and tips for teaching success! Email your state president and see what you can do to help. Getting to know teachers in your state can give you contacts for jobs when you graduate.

Instrument Insurance

Instrument insurance with preferred rates for ASTA members is available through the Merz-Huber Insurance Company. A current ASTA membership is a prerequisite for ASTA's discounted insurance plan.

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National Member Programs and Information, Continued

New Curriculum ASTA is currently preparing a model K–12 curriculum for use in string programs in multiple settings including public, private, and charter schools, studio teaching, and other venues. The curriculum will be geared towards heterogeneous classroom teaching but also equally usable for the studio teacher. This document should provide an invaluable resource for current college students, teachers just beginning their careers, experienced teachers involved with curriculum development or looking for new curricular models, administrators, parents, and collegiate teacher-trainers. The first draft of the complete curriculum will be presented at the 2010 ASTA convention in Santa Clara, California.

Information Sources The ASTA web site is continually being updated with news of upcoming conferences, events and competitions, jobs in the string community, community outreach efforts, membership information and much, much more. Be sure to visit www.astaweb.com often for the latest information. If you haven't been to the site visit us today as we have a brand new look and navigation!

Share information with ASTA and other student chapter members on message boards at our members-only e-Communities and also on [Facebook](#). These are both excellent ways to access quick information on a variety of topics, concerns or challenges many face on a daily basis. In addition, many student chapters have their own websites, which are listed on ASTA's web site. Visit the student chapter section of the website to click and connect with other students from around the country.

Ways to Help ASTA in Your Daily Activities

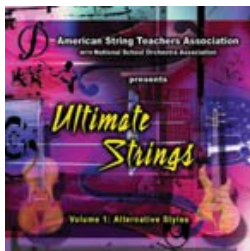
Online Shopping at Your Favorite Sites

As college students and young professionals, disposable income to make monetary contributions to your profession is often limited. Did you know that just by accessing some of your favorite online shopping sites from ASTA's site your purchase will make a contribution to ASTA. There is no additional cost for this program.

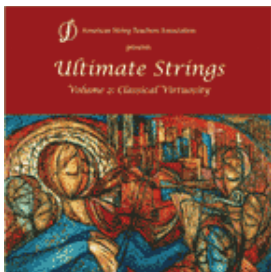
Major retailers have partnered with ASTA to help support our outreach initiatives. For every purchase you make with them, they have agreed to send ASTA a percentage of your purchase to ASTA's Foundation. There is no additional cost to you. Your price does not include this additional amount and no hidden fees. If the item is on sale when you view their site, it will be on sale when you access it through our link. In order for ASTA to receive the contribution, you **MUST** access their through ours. As you visit our website, simply click on the store logo and you will be directed to their store.

Ultimate Strings Benefit CDs -- Only \$9.95 Each!

Ultimate Strings is a three-part series of CDs to benefit the *National Foundation to Promote String Teaching and Playing*. Acclaimed artists in the string world have generously donated their tracks to help support ASTA's educational and outreach programs. CDs are \$9.95 each and are available for purchase in the ASTA bookstore.



Ultimate Strings, Volume 1: Alternative Styles is the first CD in a series of three. Volume 1 featured tracks by Grammy-winning fiddlers Mark O'Connor and Alison Krauss, Grammy-nominated fiddler Darol Anger, jazz violinist Christian Howes, fiddler Matt Glaser with pianist Bevan Manson, electric violinist and Emmy-winning composer Mark Wood, the Grammy-nominated Hampton (Rock) String Quartet, and more!



Ultimate Strings, Volume 2: Classical Virtuosity features world-renowned classical soloists, including Joshua Bell, Midori, Rachel Barton Pine, Jeffrey Solow, Emanuel Vardi, Gerald Klickstein, Gary Karr, Janos Starker, and Lynne Aspnes.

Visit the ASTA Online Bookstore today to get your copies!

ASTA National Conference

Overview

Join your colleagues for another phenomenal conference in **Santa Clara, CA** from **February 17-20, 2010**. The ASTA National Conference is the premier place to enhance your skills and knowledge of string related topics. Please visit the [ASTA National Conference Section](#) for complete information on the conference.

Work at Conference and Receive Complimentary Registration --

ASTA is seeking a limited number of students to work at the conference in exchange for complimentary student registration (*pre-conference sessions, concert/event tickets extra*). You must work a minimum of 16 hours during the conference, which is scheduled in blocks of at least 4 hours at a time. (Student must be available to work from Thursday 8a.m. to Saturday 4p.m.)

A \$99 Value!

Note: *ASTA does not provide assistance with travel, lodging or meal expenses.

Tasks You May Perform as a Volunteer Worker:

- Pre-conference set-up Tuesday & Wednesday (includes stuffing registration packets, organizing registration boxes, moving boxes and light equipment);
- Working at the registration desk checking attendees in and providing information;
- Being a runner to check on A/V equipment, and room set-ups;
- Changing session signs;
- Helping to decorate the exhibit hall, and other events;
- Taking tickets to concerts;
- Assisting with the National Orchestra Festival;
- Dismantling and repacking music stands;
- and more.

To volunteer to work at the conference, please contact Deanna at deanna@astaweb.com or complete the application form from our website, under the National Conference section.

Formation of a Student Chapter

Planning an Organizational Meeting

1. Appoint or request a faculty sponsor who is a member of ASTA to help plan a meeting and to serve as advisor for the chapter.
2. Select a date and time when most students will be free and likely to come to a meeting. Select a convenient location at your school. Your sponsor will be able to assist you in this.
3. If possible, the meeting should include a short program of good string music or an interesting speaker. This will help attract a more diverse group of string students. Be sure to leave ample time for an organizational discussion.
4. Invite by mail, bulletin board, email or telephone, all string players (violinists, violists, cellists, bassists, guitarists, and harpists) and all other potential members who may be interested in teaching strings and orchestra. Carefully outline the program and purpose of the meeting.
5. Invite any local members of ASTA, faculty and professionals, as well as members of any nearby student chapters. They should be able to contribute their ideas and own experience.

At the Meeting

1. Have all who attend sign a registry. After the program, invite them to stay for the organizational meeting.
2. Discuss benefits of having an ASTA chapter.
3. Distribute membership forms.
4. Collect membership forms, proof of student status, and checks for new members only.
5. The faculty sponsor should take nominations for officers: President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer.
6. Appoint committee chairs now or at the second meeting. Committee chairs may include membership, social, newsletter and community outreach.
7. Name your chapter.

Continued on next page

Formation of a Student Chapter, Continued

At the Meeting (continued)

8. Establish a chair and committee to draw up a constitution and bylaws. Samples of both are included in this handbook.
 9. Establish a date, time and place for the next meeting, at which time a proposed constitution and bylaws may be presented and election of permanent officers may take place.
-

Before the Second Meeting

The committee assigned to write the proposed constitution and bylaws should:

- Establish the offices of the chapter, including job descriptions.
 - Provide for a regular review of the officers. Define what elections are to be held and when offices are to change hands.
 - Establish enough officers to ensure an active and healthy chapter.
 - Consult with ASTA state officers. Obtain a copy of their constitution. You may find information of great value to your chapter.
-

At the Second Meeting

1. The chair of the constitution and bylaws committee should present the proposed constitution and bylaws for membership review and ratification. A final and ratified copy may be forwarded to the national office.
 2. Election of officers should take place.
 3. The secretary/treasurer should continue to accept membership applications and fees for new members and forward to the national office.
 4. Hold a brainstorming session. Place and prioritize all ideas on a list for further and future comments. Set a date to meet with committee members to assign meeting dates, activities and projects.
 5. Send a flier announcing the next meeting and program to all members and post it on the school activity bulletin board or email a reminder.
 6. A healthy chapter sponsors its own events. However, do not neglect the possibility of cooperative projects with other student organizations or with the state organization.
-

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Formation of a Student Chapter, Continued

Future Meetings

1. ASTA chapter meetings provide time to make music with friends and to become involved in the world of string and orchestra teaching and playing.
 2. Keep the National ASTA Chapter Liaison informed of your local activities.
 3. Send chapter news and photos to the communications manager at the National Office.
 4. Since the financial needs of each chapter vary, it is recommended that these needs be identified early in the year. Suggestions for funding-raising projects should be solicited from the membership and plans to implement a project should be well established.
 5. Each Student Chapter must submit a year-end financial state to their ASTA State Chapter President & Treasurer. Contact them directly for the exact due date in June.
-

Student Chapter Sample Constitution

The following is a sample constitution of an ASTA student chapter.

CONSTITUTION

_____ (school) Student Chapter
American String Teachers Association

We, students at _____ (school) interested in string playing and teaching, in order to form a more efficient and energetic student organization for the promotion of the string playing and teaching in the _____ (state) and provide a means of organizing the activities for the students and the community, establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I

Sec.1: Name: This organization shall be known by the title _____ (school) Student Chapter of the American String Teachers Association.

Sec.2: Purpose: The purpose of this organization shall be:

- a. To promote a greater interest and participation in string playing at the elementary, middle, high school and collegiate levels.
- b. To promote the highest standards in string playing, teaching, and string teacher education.
- c. To provide additional opportunities for community involvement in string playing.
- d. To serve as a coordinating agency for the activities and interest of this group.

ARTICLE II

This Association shall be governed by the articles and bylaws of this Constitution and the Constitution of the National ASTA where applicable. The National Constitution shall be the final authority if this Constitution is deemed in conflict.

ARTICLE III

Membership in the _____ (school) Student ASTA chapter shall be open to all students interested in string playing and teaching, at or below the graduate level, who have paid National Dues and any local dues as stated in the bylaws. Membership shall be open also to secondary string students.

ARTICLE IV

Sec.1: The officers of this chapter shall be:

- a. Chapter President
- b. Chapter Vice-President
- c. Secretary-Treasurer
- d. Membership Chairman

Sec.2: All officers shall serve for a period of one year and shall be elected in the _____ of the school year.

Sec.3: Duties of the officers shall be outlined in the Bylaws.

Sec.4: Election shall be by a simple majority.

Sec.5: In the event of a vacancy in any office, except President, the Executive Board shall appoint a successor to fill the remainder of the term.

Sec.6: In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, a general election shall be held. The Vice-President shall serve as President Pro-tem until such an election may be held.

Sec.7: Impeachment of an officer may take place at any general meeting for which at least two weeks notice has been given to all members by a three-fourths vote of the membership. The officer in question shall be allowed to make a case in his or her defense if he or she so chooses. A petition must be presented, signed by at least one-fifth of the membership, for impeachment proceedings to be placed on the agenda of a meeting.

Sec.8: The chapter Advisor shall be appointed by the Dean of the School of Music, Head of the Department of Music, or the State ASTA President.

Sec.9: The Executive Board shall be comprised of the Officers and the Faculty Advisor.

ARTICLE V

The _____ (school) Student Chapter of ASTA shall meet at least once quarterly during the Fall, Winter and Spring. Meetings shall be called by the President or the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any member and are to be supported by a petition of one-fifth of the membership. Following at least a three week publicity period, amendments may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the chapter membership.

ARTICLE VII

This Constitution shall go into effect when ratified by two-thirds of the chapter membership and approved by the National ASTA leadership

Suggested Student Chapter Activities

Based on chapter reports, the items below list successful activities and projects that ASTA student members have sponsored.

Musical Meetings

1. Informal chamber orchestra music reading sessions.
 2. Informal chamber music concerts.
 3. Sharing chamber music with the community (i.e., school, library, civic group, senior center or church).
 4. Organizing a series of noon concerts (informal—bring your own lunch).
 5. Assisting with high school or middle school festivals.
 6. Assisting with high school or middle school sectionals, rehearsals or concerts.
 7. Appearing as guest soloists at school programs.
 8. Helping an elementary teacher demonstrate instruments at a recruiting event.
 9. Volunteering as ushers at local symphony or chamber concerts.
 10. Running an orchestra rehearsal with student conductors and students playing on secondary instruments.
 11. Practicing teaching skills by teaching others.
-

Social Meetings

1. Breakfast: rap sessions or string/orchestra discussion.
 2. Lunch: reserve a table at a local cafeteria for ASTA members. Invite faculty, guest clinicians or artists, and teachers to come and talk informally.
 3. Serve refreshments following a workshop or demonstration concert.
 4. Host a reception after a string concert to honor soloists or chamber musicians.
 5. Host a party after an orchestra concert.
 6. Have a pizza party, volleyball game, etc.
-

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Suggested Student Chapter Activities, Continued

Projects

1. Volunteer to assist with summer music camps.
 2. Organize or assist at a festival of orchestra or solo and ensemble festival.
 3. Visit, observe, or volunteer in the local school string programs.
 4. Visit a luthier to talk about string maintenance and selection of instruments for you and potential students. Become acquainted with new accessories and equipment.
 5. Attend a music conference. Visit the instrument displays to become better informed on student lines.
 6. Publish a student chapter newsletter for members of your chapter.
 7. Develop a student chapter web page and link to the national site.
 8. Promote and be an advocate for music education
-

Sponsors

1. Invite guests: Public school teachers, studio teachers, symphony members, or a college conductor. Each person could talk about their current position in regard to job description, preparation time, rehearsal or lesson time, paper work, salary, benefits, contract length, etc.
 2. Form master classes for area school string and orchestra programs.
 3. Invite a middle school or high school group to come to your campus. Have the group perform, give coaching sessions, tour the campus and perform for them.
 4. Host a middle school string festival for students with two and three years of experience.
 5. Sponsor a forum of public school teachers to share their expertise and answer questions.
 6. Sponsor talks by faculty or community teachers on Suzuki/Rolland/Alexander methods.
 7. Have a fund-raiser.
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8. Provide side-by-side opportunities for younger string players to sit and play with your members.
 9. Host a reception honoring music faculty and classmates.
 10. Sponsor a series of semi-formal recitals.
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**Popular
Guest
Speaker
Topics**

- How to build your resume
 - How to survive the first year of teaching
 - How to market yourself as a freelancer
 - How to set up a private studio
 - Injury prevention
 - Stage fright
 - Teaching chamber music
 - Practice tips
 - Technology
 - Improvisation
 - Surviving student teaching
 - Rehearsal techniques
 - Choosing music that works
 - Fiddle music
 - Jazz
 - Auditioning tips
 - Portfolios
 - Practice interviews
 - Emergency string repairs
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Chapter Structure

Meetings should occur at least once per quarter. Chapter officers should be elected by a simple majority for a period of one year.

Duties of the President

- To preside at general membership and Executive Board meetings.
 - To appoint members of all committees, temporary and standing.
 - To work closely with the Faculty Advisor and other officers in planning activities of the chapter.
 - To supervise and coordinate all activities of the Student Chapter.
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Duties of the Vice- President

- To be available to the President at all times and to perform such duties as the President deems necessary.
 - To officiate in the place of the President in event of absence.
 - To serve as co-chairman of all committees.
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Duties of the Secretary- Treasurer

- To keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all Executive Board and general membership meetings.
 - To arrange those records for permanent, efficient reference.
 - To be responsible for all correspondence of the chapter and the Executive Board.
 - To keep an accurate record of all money received or paid out.
 - To collect dues and handle all other financial matters.
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Duties of the Membership Chairman

- Organize a membership drive on and off campus.
 - Plan and organize meeting programs and special programs.
 - Work to fulfill the goals of the chapter.
 - Assist the other officers in carrying out their duties.
 - Serve as parliamentarian.
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Membership and Conference Applications

In order to continue to grow and prosper, ASTA needs more members like you! If you know of someone who would like to be a member, or should be a member, please pass along their information to the national office at cherry@astaweb.com or (703) 279-2113 ext. 14. You may also obtain a membership application on our website at www.astaweb.com under the membership section.

After the successes of our past national conferences, ASTA is looking forward to seeing you in Santa Clara, California in February. **Mark the dates on your calendar and join us February 17-20, 2010.** For further details on sessions, performances, hotel reservations and more, please visit www.astaweb.com under the national conference section. You may register online or print out an application form there as well. The August and November issues of AST will also contain the registration form.

Thank you for your commitment
to the string profession!

American String Teachers Association
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