



# ASTA Student Newsletter

*Fall 2007*

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## Important Dates

**Nov. 30** – Student Chapter Renewal Forms Due

**Dec. 1** – Early Bird Deadline for 2008 National Conference

**Dec. 1** – Student Chapter Award Nominations Due

## Contact Us

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## Welcome Back from ASTA!

Hello!

Welcome back to school. I hope that you all had the summer you needed, whether it included relaxing, attending a music festival, or playing more weddings than you ever thought possible. As you work to balance all the activities that will come your way this year, remember that we are all involved in ASTA to help support the future of string music in the world in some way. Whether you plan to perform, teach elementary strings, or have a private studio bursting at the seams, ASTA can provide you with support through a network of people and resources designed to make your string life easier and more effective.

I look forward to hearing from some of you throughout the year. Please email me with any comments or questions you have about ASTA and I will do my best to answer or send you on to someone who can.

Marjorie Bagley  
ASTA Student Chapter Committee Chair  
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## Make the Most of Your Student Chapter!

As you get back in the swing of things, don't forget to think of creative ways to involve new people in your local student chapter. A wide variety of activities throughout the year should help attract all the string players in your school. Look around the region and find a high school string program interested in starting an ASTA chapter. Strike up a mentorship or buddy program with them—help them come to realize what a powerful place these relationships have in our future. I will certainly admit that one of my favorite parts of attending ASTA conferences (other than the informative sessions, of course) is visiting with friends and colleagues, many of whom I only see once a year now that we've all found jobs and settled down. It is wonderful to compare ideas and I always return from such meetings feeling rejuvenated and ready to tackle the same old issues with new eyes.

How is your chapter doing?

My student chapter at Ohio University has had an initial executive board meeting to brainstorm activities for the year and an opening meeting for the whole chapter that included far too many homemade cookies. (Food is always a good way to lure in unsuspecting supporters!) We've mapped out our activities for the year. Our Outreach Coordinator is scouting for possible concert venues and schools that would like a performance or demonstration. Our Activities Coordinator is finalizing a list of social activities meant to combine fun with some learning. String movie night is on its way, along with a dinner lecture on several lesser-known string

players of note. Please feel free to share with me some of the activities your chapter finds fulfilling and useful.

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## Outstanding Student Chapter Award

The Outstanding Student Chapter Award is given to an ASTA student chapter for exemplary promotion of strings in and around the university community. Nominations are due December 1. Please click here for the nomination form. This award will be presented at the 2008 National Conference. Completed forms should be sent to Kari Hahn at 4153 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030.

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## 2008 ASTA National Conference

The 2008 National Conference will be in sunny Albuquerque this spring. Come escape the snow and ice and enjoy some reasonable weather as you connect with string players from across the country. Don't miss the featured performances by Joshua Bell and Jeremy Denk and the Shanghai Quartet! Plus show your support to the up and coming young artists involved in the National High School Honors Orchestra!

### *Free Registration!*

Did you know that you can register for free if you volunteer at the Conference? Click this link for more details.

### *Network With Your Fellow Students!*

Make sure you plan to attend the session *A Survival Guide for the First Year String Teacher*. This session deals with the non-teaching details that must be taken care of prior to and during the first days of school to ensure an organized and successful year. Pre-service and first-year teachers will find this information especially useful. The Outstanding Student Chapter Award will be presented at the conclusion of this session, followed by a social event and meeting of the student chapter officers and networking for members.

### *Sessions That May Be of Interest*

As always, there will be a wide variety of sessions that should appeal to educators and performers alike. Some of the sessions will appeal to those with an interest in the physical and psychological difficulties inherent in playing a string instrument:

- ♪ **Coping and Recovering from String Performance Related Injury** Presenters: Donald Brown, String Educator; Bradley Sidener, Certified Physical Therapist
- ♪ **Mental Crossover – Sport Psychology Methods for Musicians** Presented by Jennifer Mishra, University of Houston
- ♪ **Yoga for String Players** Instructed by Cristina Seaborn, Central Minnesota Music School

As we all think about how to be better advocates for our profession, check out this session for some new ideas.

- ♪ **Effective Music Advocacy: Three Components of Effective Music Advocacy**  
Presenter: John Benham, Music in World Cultures, Inc.

Wondering how to pay the rent with all the skills you've acquired?

- 🎵 **A Survival Guide for the First Year String Teacher** Presenter: Melinda Craford
- 🎵 **Careers in String Teaching** Presenter: Bob Gillespie
- 🎵 **Marketing 101 For Freelance Musicians** Presenter: Steven Vance, Steven Vance Strolling Violins

If you teach private lessons, check out the master classes for new ideas and inspiration from these master teachers.

- 🎵 **Pre-College Level Master Classes:** Jeff Bradetich, Bass; Antonio Lysy, Cello; Nancy Buck, Viola; Katherine McLin, Violin
- 🎵 **Collegiate Level Master Classes:** Diana Gannett, Bass; Thomas Landschoot, Cello; Pamela Ryan, Viola; Danwen Jiang, Violin

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## Collegiate Student Chapter Handbook

The student chapter handbook has been revised and is now posted on ASTA's website. You can view the revised handbook by clicking this link. Check out the new look of the website while you're there!

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## STEP Program

The String Teacher Enrichment Program is a 45 hour comprehensive professional development program featuring topics specific to string teaching. This program is to be completed within the time frame of two ASTA national conferences over a four year period.

STEP is open to

- 🎵 any string teacher interested in expanding their knowledge base on vital topics in string education
- 🎵 non-string playing teachers such as band directors who are now teaching strings
- 🎵 private lesson instructors now teaching adjunct in schools.

STEP fills in gaps in coursework, introduces new concepts in education, and reinforces knowledge for string teachers of all kinds. More information can be found here on our website.

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## A Call for Volunteer String Clinicians

ASTA is launching a new program—Discovering Strings and Orchestras—to partner youth groups with local string educators to bring string music to young students. Funded by a grant from NAMM, this program will bring youth groups together with local string clinicians who will host a five-session workshop that explores string music. Geared towards students in grades one through three, Discovering Strings and Orchestras will include performances, activity books, group lessons, and more! If you are interested in serving as one of the volunteer string educators, please contact Elizabeth Bookwalter at (703) 279-2113, ext. 26 or [liz@astaweb.com](mailto:liz@astaweb.com). You can also log on to [www.astaweb.com](http://www.astaweb.com) to learn more about this new program.