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# THE STRING SECTION

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**The Florida American String Teacher Association**



**[flasta.org](http://flasta.org)**

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## The American String Teacher Association, Florida Chapter

ASTA is a non-profit organization devoted to enhancing the future of string teaching and playing in the United States; by increasing the amount of string teachers. Fortifying this commitment to the string community, ASTA has introduced many programs, services and foundations throughout the years. Among these outlets include the National String Project Consortium; assisting universities in enhancing the training of string music education majors. Therefore producing qualified string teachers for private and especially public schools.

ASTA has also developed programs for professional development and instrument and bow outreach for schools, studios, and students in need. More recently, ASTA developed The National Foundation to Promote String Teaching and Playing. This segment executes grants, awards, and competitions enriching the quality of string education. In addition to advancing string education and performance throughout America, it fosters a variety of projects around the world. ASTA keeps thousands of string educators connected through The American String Teacher, a quarterly journal that keeps ASTA members informed on the latest news on teaching, products, and the string community as a whole. For more information about ASTA please visit [www.astaweb.com](http://www.astaweb.com).

## Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

As the Fall semester draws to a close, many of us find ourselves incredibly busy playing, conducting, organizing, or attending orchestra concerts, studio recitals, holiday arts showcases, and other events. While this surge of events may leave little time for reflection, I find it important to remember just how central our work and our music is during this time of the year. Whether in a sacred, secular, or commercial context, the music we teach and the music we make elevates the human experience. To illustrate this, let us imagine for a second The Holidays (any holidays, for that matter) without music. Peek out from the Nutcracker pit at all of those aspiring Baryshnikovs and Misty Copelands, mesmerized in their seats. Stop by a shopping center, a social gathering, or a house of worship. With music, it can be magical, or inspiring, or motivating (or perhaps tolerable in the case of the shopping center). But, platitudes aside, No music = No magic.



Thank you for the magic and the work and dedication that make it possible.

Best wishes for a wonderful, musical, holiday season!

Kasia Bugaj

President, FL-ASTA

## Member News

### ASTA Orchestra Boot Camp for the non-string player

The very first national ASTA Boot Camp was held in Tampa, FL this past June. The three day hands on camp was designed for the non-string player. The camp was taught by Judy Evans and Pam Tellejohn Hayes. The directors spent 6.5 hours a day for three days being students. The band and vocal majors impressed Pam and Judy with their focus, interest and amazing spirit. The end of camp surveys were so positive, the Increasing Access to Strings committee is considering another three day camp in 2017. We will keep you posted!

### MusicScores! Pre-K Literacy/ Violin Program

MusicScores! accelerates learning potential by providing violin instruction that enhances literacy and focus, as well as social and motor skills for pre-school children. The MusicScores! curriculum is based on brain research. The Collier County based program is currently in 10 Head Start sites reaching 400 children from low economic families. The program has been duplicated in Osceola County, FL and Bloomington-Normal, IL.

The program is free to the schools and children. The lessons are provided for eighth months. Groups of children (7-9) meet twice a week. The students score in the upper quartile on the kindergarten readiness evaluation. The program has been licensed and the instructors will be training other communities interested in duplicating the program.

#### Do you have any Member News?

We are always looking for news from across the state, but we need your help! If you know of any news, events, or any other happenings please contact us at [florida.asta@gmail.com](mailto:florida.asta@gmail.com).

Please include a title and a body of 250 words with all relevant information. Images are optional. Our next issue is scheduled to come out in the spring of 2017.

### Naples Music Club “Master Class” Sessions Expanding

The Naples Music Club provides middle school coaching sessions for second year band and orchestra students. The students are recommended by their school music director. Students are selected on their school music class work and must be on free or reduced lunch status and unable to take private lessons.

The five, ninety minute small group sessions are taught by Naples Philharmonic, FGCU staff and local professionals. The sessions are designed to develop their technique to enable them to continue their instrumental classes in high school. The program has helped many students gain confidence in their ability.

This year, the Naples Music Club will expand the program to include high school string players. The program is coordinated by Judy Evans, Naples Music Club Board of Directors Outreach Chair.

### Farewell message from Tomas Cotik

I have just joined the faculty at Portland State University! I have accepted a tenure track appointment as Assistant Professor of Violin, and moved to Portland, Oregon just a month ago.



While we are thrilled about this new chapter in our lives, we will miss the wonderful friends and colleagues we've made over the last seven years in Miami. I wish the best to my colleagues in the Amernet Quartet, Florida International University, and the University of Miami. I couldn't be more excited about the opportunity to work with my new colleagues, and about life in a wonderful city. I am looking forward to pass on my passion for music to many students and to develop musical collaborations with new and old friends!



**FACEBOOK.COM/  
FLORIDAASTA**

To keep up with current social media, we have created this page to have a stronger communication presence for our membership. Please take a moment to “like” our Facebook page to keep you apprised on upcoming events and happenings.

If you would like to add events to our Facebook page, please contact [florida.asta@gmail.com](mailto:florida.asta@gmail.com).

**FLASTA.ORG**

If you haven't already noticed, our website has been updated! It has a look and functionality that is in line with National ASTA recommendations. This will be a wonderful resource for information, forms, job postings, calendar of events, etc. If there is anything you wish to be added on our new website, please contact us at [florida.asta@gmail.com](mailto:florida.asta@gmail.com). We will be more than happy to add all FL-ASTA relevant information.

## FOA/FL-ASTA Fall Conference

Our FL-ASTA community had a wonderful time at the Hilton Orlando participating at the Florida Orchestra Association and Florida American String Teacher Association Fall Conference. There were some amazing sessions presented by members of our string community and we were able to spend time with Richard Meyer.



## New Teacher of the Year Award

### Congratulations Kayla Lisa!

Kayla Lisa is beginning her third year of teaching at Cypress Lake Performing Arts High School. She has doubled the enrollment of the orchestra and has added a beginning orchestra class.

In her second year in Lee County, she was selected to coordinate the High School level for the Lee All County Orchestra. She has doubled the number of Lee schools participating in this county event. This year Kayla Lisa was named conductor of the Southwest Symphony Sinfonia ensemble.

Kayla is chair-elect for FOA District 18. She has taught in the Collier Summer Orchestra Camp and the Naples Middle School Master Classes, coaching the violin sessions. Kayla is a fine musician and cares about providing a quality program for her students. When requested, she is quick to volunteer to help peers. Kayla was nominated by Judy Evans.



# National ASTA Conference

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania | March 1-7, 2017

Come join our fellow educators, musicians, and vendors at the American String Teacher Association National Conference! This is the the largest gathering of string professionals in the United States! Below is a list of performances and sessions showcasing our Florida colleagues! We hope to see you there and remember to bring your winter coat!

## 2017 National Orchestra Festival Invited Groups Representing Florida

### Avalon Middle School Sinfonia

Directed by Vincent Conrad  
Orlando, FL

### Chiles High School Chamber Orchestra

Directed by Christopher Miller  
Tallahassee, FL

A note from Mr. Miller

*As this year's roster began to form last spring, it was obviously an unusually capable group that was assembling for this year's Chamber Orchestra class. We, the class and myself, chose to apply for NOF last spring to create a challenge that would focus our talents and energies.*

*Since the first day of school this year, NOF has been on everyone's mind. The fund raising (considerable for such a long distance to Pittsburgh), the team building, the planning, and musical development have all been significant motivators in this year's work.*

*I wish I could say that people outside the orchestra understand what this is and what it represents, but I'm not sure they do. I know the students and the parents know, however. The point of the thing is what it brings to the students' learning and sense of achievement.*

## Presentations

### Rhythm isn't Just Sweet Dreams: Eurythmics in the Private Lesson

Presented by Shannon Thomas  
Florida State University

### The Legacy of Tadeusz Wronski

Presented by Sherry Sinift, University of Wyoming and Kasia Bugaj, Florida State University

### Gracious Approaches to the Plight of the "Purple Violin"

Presented by Kasia Bugaj, Florida State University and Annalisa Chie Chang, Florida State University

Applications Postmark Deadline:  
January 23, 2017



## AUDITION INFO

— Kids Go for B'roque 2017 —

Auditions: Sat., Feb. 4 - FSU College of Music

Concert: Sat., Feb. 18, 3 PM - Maguire Center at Westminster Oaks

The Tallahassee Bach Parley Kids Go for B'roque concert is an honors recital featuring musicians 18 years old and younger, who are currently studying with a music teacher, playing pieces of the Baroque period, 1600-1750. Strings, winds, pianists, vocalists, guitarists, and small chamber ensembles are welcome to audition. A panel of 3 judges will select those students who will perform on the concert.



Info & Forms: TallahasseeBachParley.org

## The Conductor's Podium

The Conductor's Podium will highlight of FL-ASTA sponsored events. Events can range from honors ensembles, concerts, performances, workshops, and other achievements. If you have any highlight you wish to add for the next issue, please contact us at [florida.asta@gmail.com](mailto:florida.asta@gmail.com)

### Miami-Dade Honors Festival

FL-ASTA Miami-Dade Honors Festival began in 2011 as the FLASTA Miami-Dade Middle School Honors Orchestra, started by a group of concerned middle school teachers when the public school system discontinued their honors orchestra program. FLASTA Miami-Dade Honors has grown to now include elementary and high school strings, becoming an anticipated event each year in our community.

The elementary orchestra was conducted by Dr. Lee Stone, the middle school orchestra was conducted by Robert Longfield, and the high school orchestra was conducted by Thomas Sleeper.



### University of North Florida Educational Outreach Concert



The UNF Orchestra performed it's annual Educational Outreach music program on Tuesday Nov. 29th. This year's program included Vitorrio's Czardas arranged for violin/bass, and Saint Saens Carnival of the Animals with narration and dancing.

Over 1300 school students attended this concert. To date, the UNF Orchestra has performed for nearly 9,000 school aged students in Duval and St. Johns and Brevard Counties through its interactive concert programming such as the Saint-Saens Carnival of the

Animals with poems by Ogden Nash, A Magical Mozart concert featuring the young violinist Daniel Park and pianist Dr. Erin Bennett as concerto soloists, Seymour Barab's opera the Little Red Riding Hood, Kurt Weill's Street Scene and Britten's Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra.

## Collegiate Corner

### Florida State University Outreach, Growth and Inclusion

**AnnMarie Abraham, past president of the FSU collegiate chapter.**

The student chapter of the American String Teacher's Association at FSU encourages outreach in the community, and two ways that our organization serves the community are through the Leon High School Chamber Music Program—a collaboration with the FSU College of Music—and the North Florida String Festival. The Leon High School Chamber Music Program began in 2014 and it gives FSU pre-service string music teachers an opportunity to coach a chamber group while refining their teaching techniques under the supervision of experienced teachers. The high school students and the FSU student teachers meet once a week in preparation for a concert at the end of each semester, which is a great demonstration to parents, peers, and the community of how much growth can happen in a span of 12 weeks. FSU student teachers have come away from this experience learning about and reflecting on the intricacies of coaching a small ensemble and building well-rounded musicians. The North Florida String Festival is the ASTA student chapter of FSU's second major outreach program. This festival was created by Dr. Michael Allen and it provides an opportunity for students in schools in the county to perform solo and/or ensemble pieces and to receive feedback and a grade. This program has continued to grow and function as a learning experience for both the students who come to perform and also for our FSU string education majors and collegiate ASTA members, as they are the adjudicators for this event. Adjudicators go through a training process in order to provide the performing students with the best and most constructive learning experience. The ASTA student chapter at FSU promotes learning through the community, and through outreach, we continue to provide music education to students while also exposing our student chapter members to a variety of teaching experiences.

The ASTA student chapter at FSU is also driven by growth and inclusion. For the 2015-2016 school year, we had 15 active members, and now, for the 2016-2017 school year, we have 24 active members. With this growth in the past year, the ASTA student chapter at FSU has welcomed non-string students and more graduate students who have exposed our ASTA student chapter to a wide variety of musical and teaching styles. We have members who specialize in classical, old time, jazz and Irish music and we, as music educators, strive to create inclusive and culturally diverse classrooms in order to provide our students with a well-rounded musical education. Currently, the ASTA student chapter at FSU fosters this development by encouraging all string (and non-string native educators, particularly those who have expressed an interest in teaching strings in the future) to become active members of our organization so that we can learn from each other. To us, education is more than just providing information to students. Education is about providing students with the opportunity to feel enlightened by music and the ability to improve one's quality of life through diligence and persistence with music.



*AnnMarie Abraham, originally from Tampa, Florida, is currently a Senior String Music Education Major at The Florida State University. AnnMarie served as the President-elect of the ASTA chapter at FSU for the 2014-2015 school year and as the President for the 2015-2016 school year.*

*AnnMarie currently performs with the University Symphony Orchestra at FSU and studies privately with Dr. Shannon Thomas. To further her education, AnnMarie has pursued training in Suzuki Book 1 with Carrie Reuning-Hummel in Tampa, Florida, and Dalcroze training with Cynthia Wilson and Karin Greenhead in Coventry, United Kingdom.*



# Upcoming Events

## Alhambra Orchestra

**January 6-8, 2017**

Alhambra Orchestra in Miami is holding its annual "Be Better with Bergonzi" weekend chamber music workshop at the University of Miami on January 6-8, 2017. Students, amateurs and professionals of all ages are welcome, with or without pre-formed groups. Mostly strings, but pianists and wind players can be in the chamber groups. Tuition is only \$175 and some scholarships are available. This is an intensive weekend workshop with expert coaching by UM's Bergonzi String Quartet and other faculty members, culminating in a participants' recital.

Contact Helen Hauser, Executive Director, hhauserjd@aol.com, for an application form.

## ViolaFest Miami

**Hosted by Richard Fleishman**

**New World School of the Arts**

**January 28, 2017**

The 3rd Annual ViolaFest Miami registration is now live. The event, featuring master classes, special topics and the Viola Orchestra will take place on Saturday, January 28, 2017 at New World School of the Arts, from 9am-7:30pm. The guest artist will be Joen Vasquez of the Pittsburgh Symphony. The event is free. For more information visit [www.RichardFleischman.com](http://www.RichardFleischman.com). Spread the word!

## Jacksonville Cello Workshop

**Hosted by Dr. Nick Curry at the University of North Florida School of Music**

**February 3-4, 2017**

The Jacksonville Cello Workshop (JCW), newly created in 2016 by Dr. Nick Curry, hosted on the beautiful University of North Florida campus, is a 2-day event for cellists of all ages and levels of expertise. UNF's JCW includes master classes and group classes for all students that attend. The world's foremost cello teachers (with specializations from teaching young students all the way to teaching students competing in the top international competitions) from around the country are brought in each year to work with cellists from the Jacksonville area and from around the region. Attending this 2-day event allows each student the opportunity to play in two master classes, participate in several group lessons and observe multiple master classes given by all workshop teachers.

Please check the registration page and mail in the form to secure your place today to join us in Jacksonville February 3-4, 2017. Participants that register before January 13, 2017 avoid paying a late registration fee. For more information and for applications visit: <https://jaxcelloworkshop.org/>

## Southwest Florida BassFest

**January 7, 2017**

We at Florida Gulf Coast University are very excited to once again be hosting the Southwest Florida Bassfest. The day has an exciting line-up of events and clinicians where professional and student bassists of all ages and skill levels from all over Florida get together, network, and talk about music and technique. Although day-of registration is available, Please contact Matthew Medlock at [mmedlock@fgcu.edu](mailto:mmedlock@fgcu.edu) and Bjorn Holmvik at [bholmvik@gmail.com](mailto:bholmvik@gmail.com) for more information.

## North Florida String Festival

**February 4, 2017**

The North Florida String Festival is a solo and ensemble festival sponsored by the Florida State University chapter of ASTA. It provides students of all ability levels an opportunity to perform for an adjudicator and receive constructive feedback. Fees are \$10 per solo and \$15 per ensemble due by January 6, 2017. More information can be found at <https://goo.gl/H2E8eE>

## Cross Pollination Extravaganza of Tampa Bay

**Every Child Can: February 17, 2017**

**Teacher Training: February 18 through 26, 2017**

This is the first time Suzuki teachers of various disciplines will come together in community as a cohesive Book 1 training unit. In this cross pollination extravaganza, a typical day will look something like this: three hours with your specific teacher trainer and then the unique opportunity to come together in community with all nine master teachers every afternoon for approximately two hours. Each day this elite panel of SAA trainers will introduce "real life" discussion topics facing every Suzuki teacher. For more information, please visit <http://suzukimusic Tampabay.com> or contact Martha Shackford at [MarthaShackford@gmail.com](mailto:MarthaShackford@gmail.com).