

Fall 2011

Volume 3, Issue 1

# UTAH SOUNDPOST



## WHY ASTA, WHY NOW?

A couple of weeks ago I was casually talking with a good friend who is also a string teacher. The conversation turned to a discussion about Utah ASTA and the purpose of our professional organization, the **American String Teachers Association**. What is the profile of Utah ASTA? If you were to peruse our membership lists, you would find that Utah ASTA is the umbrella organization that serves the diversity of string teachers in our state. No other organization encompasses the variety of string teachers existing in Utah, while providing laser-like focus on improving string teaching. Utah ASTA members include the best examples of the following types of string professionals:

- Outstanding Private Studio Teachers*, including both Suzuki and Traditional teachers.
- Distinguished Collegiate String Professors and Associate Professors*.
- Excellent Orchestra teachers*, including Public, Private, and Charter school professionals.
- Professional Musicians*, including members of the Utah Symphony.
- Skilled Luthiers* in our state who provide quality service to string professionals in our area.

I must confess that at the beginning of my career, I was an “in and out” member of ASTA. As a result, I had a very limited and somewhat inaccurate view of what ASTA offered to me as a string professional. As I became more involved over the last few years, I learned first-hand how active membership in Utah ASTA inspires us to be the best string teacher we can be. Active membership in ASTA provides the opportunity to rub shoulders with top string professionals at the Fall Workshop, the Annual Awards Luncheon, the Junior High Orchestra Festival, and at the National ASTA Convention. Excellent string teaching practices are disseminated in abundance at these events! The first time I attended the UTASTA Fall Workshop, I learned in ONE day the equivalent of what I learned over several days at other music teacher events. Additionally, as we make connections with each other as string teachers, we gain valuable friendships and mentor relationships that enrich our lives and the lives of our students.

If you are a current member of ASTA, I encourage you to be involved and take advantage of the opportunities that UT-ASTA provides. Visit our website at [www.utahasta.com](http://www.utahasta.com) to become familiar with the variety of events of available, both locally and nationally. If your ASTA membership has lapsed, COME and RENEW--both your membership and your teaching practices by joining with us!

On the following page you will find information about the sessions we have planned for our Annual Fall Workshop on Saturday, October 29th, 2011 in Park City. You won't want to miss the event. We have invited some of Utah's best string professionals to share their techniques, insights and practices in successful string teaching!

Finally, let me share a thought that is posted at the entrance of my high school classroom: “*You Get What You Give*” (Tim Lautzenheiser). Speaking from personal experience, I have found this statement to be very true as it relates to involvement in a professional organization, including Utah ASTA. *Come! Learn from others, give what you have learned, and experience the wealth of association with fellow string teachers!*

Sara Jane Thompson  
Utah ASTA President  
sjthompson@dsmail.net  
Bountiful, Utah

# ANNUAL FALL WORKSHOP

featuring

the *FRY STREET QUARTET*

and—WE'VE GOT THE BASSES COVERED too!

Saturday, October 29, Ecker Hill Middle School – Park City

On-Site Registration or Check-In for Pre-Registrants: 8:00 AM

First session 8:30 AM – workshops end at 3:30 PM

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD TO STRING TEACHERS IN YOUR AREA!

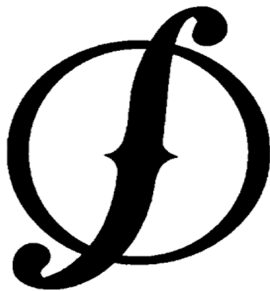
- Master classes* taught by the Fry String Quartet members (Rebecca, Felicia, Bradley, and Anne)
- We've Got the Basses Covered* with a bass sessions featuring special guest, Dr. Anthony Stoops (University of Oklahoma), and our own David Yavornitzky, Denson Angelo, and Eric Hansen.
- Summerhays Music will provide lunch & a session on the proper set-up of the Double Bass!
- Lots of great sessions featuring the following: *Baroque String Techniques* (Alex Woods), *Alternative Styles Session* (Aaron Ashton), *Music Mind Games: Music Theory Games in the Group Lesson Setting* (Marie Feinauer & Amy Fowers), *Running a Professional Private Studio* (Scott Tanner), *Web Resources for String Teachers* (Sam Tsugawa, Ryan Kemp, Monte Belknap), and *An Orchestra Teacher's Workshop: Clinic with Park City Orchestra Students* (Guest clinician: David Beck).

\*\*First Time ASTA members, free workshop with ASTA enrollment.\*\*

\*\*Registration information and forms will be available at [www.utahasta.com](http://www.utahasta.com) soon!\*\*



Fry Street Quartet



## ASTA & UMEA EVENTS

—*Save the Dates*—

**Dec. 10, 2011—Next ASTA Board Meeting 10 a.m.**

**Feb. 3-4, 2012—Utah ASTA Events at UMEA—*Dixie Convention Ctr., St. George***

\*UTASTA Awards Luncheon, guest speaker **Bob Phillips, President of Nat'l ASTA**

\*UTASTA sponsored sessions by Peggy Wheeler, Andrew Dabczynski and Stephen Fairbanks

**Mar. 22-25, 2012—National ASTA Conference—*Atlanta, GA***

**Apr. 2, 2012—UTASTA Composition Contest Deadline**

**Apr. 27, 2012—UTASTA JHS/MS Orchestra Festival—*Morgan Theatre at USU***

**May 5, 2012—Spring ASTA Board Meeting at 10 a.m.**



## *WHY JOIN UTAH'S ASTA CHAPTER?*

*WHY ASTA? WHY NOW? Information on the benefits and reasons why these UT string teachers and ASTA board members keep their membership current and outlines their favorite benefits of being an active ASTA member. Enjoy!*

### *Donna Fairbanks, UTA ASTA Pres. Elect*

Congratulations! If you are reading this, you must be a member of ASTA! You should pat yourself on the back because this means you are an inquisitive musician who participates in a community of string professionals. I know I'm biased, but I've never met a string player who wasn't bright, disciplined, creative, courageous and generous. Bright because it takes a great deal of intelligence and skill to perform on such a complex and physically demanding instrument. Disciplined because you must devote mega-hours of practice (this also includes a twinge of insanity).

Creative because string performance demands more than just mechanics - it requires interpretation and soul-seeking. Courageous and generous because you must overcome fear and be willing to share a part of yourself. ASTA provides opportunities for you to contribute, share, interact and learn from many wonderful individuals. We are all striving for the same goal — to be successful performers and teachers.

ASTA resources include newsletters and publications, the ASTA Fall Workshop, ASTA classes at the MENC conference in St. George, and the National ASTA Conference. Although I've been receiving ASTA publications for years (decades really), it's only been within the last few years that I've taken advantage of workshops and conferences. I wish I had not waited so long. They provide a wealth of opportunities for growth and, best of all, getting to know other string players (and if you haven't guessed already, I REALLY like string players). I would encourage all of you to celebrate our "stringhood" and join us! I would love to get to know you.



Donna Fairbanks

### *Rachel Wheeler on the benefits of ASTA*

I can tell you why I joined. I love the collaboration I feel whenever I get together with music teachers. I love getting together and comparing notes during the fall workshop and at the UMEA conference. I love the fact that I have easy access to all of the great string teachers in Utah. I have yet to be turned down by any teacher when I asked for help, and because of ASTA, I know where to look for them. I look forward to board meetings and catching up with the new and different ideas in the state. I love the ASTA magazine. I have received lots of ideas on teaching all the stringed instruments from the articles to use in school and private teaching, not as teaching specific as ASTA. We have a great opportunity to tell the state and nation by joining ASTA!

### *Andrew Dabczynski on the benefits of ASTA*

Serious lawyers join the Bar Association, serious medical doctors join the AMA—and string teachers who are serious about being the most effective and respected in their field join ASTA—the American String Teachers Association. Through membership in ASTA, string teachers develop a wide and unique network of colleagues who share a like passion for string playing. They are exposed to new resources provided by other dedicated string players. They share ideas and expertise, both about the newest trends in string education and about the oldest traditions of their art. They discover repertoire, materials, and technologies. They participate in valuable and motivating activities with their students. But most importantly, ASTA members become the most successful string teachers in the country. If you're serious about teaching strings, join ASTA.

## *Janice McAllister on the Benefits of ASTA*

**A** – All of us are joined together. There is strength in numbers, unity in purpose and a vast reservoir of knowledge and experience waiting to be shared. All can learn from each other. The sum of the parts is always greater than that of any individual acting alone.

**S** – String musicians unite! Sociality results as we come together in workshops, festivals, combined concerts and activities. One teacher in a private studio can sometimes result in a lonely profession. Only one orchestra teacher in a big school can feel a bit isolated. The practice room can sometimes be a lonely place. The networking that happens spontaneously in the ASTA organization forms valuable connections as well as lasting friendships.

**T** – Trade secrets shared -Teachers and students teach; teachers and students learn – from each other, from the marvelous ASTA Magazine and from ASTA sponsored events.

**A** – American String Teachers Association – our Utah Chapter is a vital and energized organization. We would be even stronger, even more dynamic and even more important in your life if you were a part of our organization. You need ASTA and we need you!

Please consider making an investment in yourself – in your hobby, in your profession, in our profession. Join with us in the Utah Chapter of ASTA!

## *Deanne Helquist on the Benefits of ASTA*

Why join ASTA and be an active member? ASTA promotes excellence in teaching, professionalism and leadership in its membership. This includes teachers at the private, public school and university levels, students, professional performers, those retired from the profession and music enthusiasts.

Additionally, below is a list of offerings that provide master classes, clinics, competitions, presentations and articles by teachers and leaders in the string education world. Participating in one or more of these is well worth the price of membership alone!

*Annual Fall Workshop, Annual National Conference—Annual State Meeting/ Awards Luncheon in conjunction with Mid-Winter UMEA Conference—Jr. High Orchestra Festival, Solo Competition—Composition Contest—Job Referral Services—American String Teacher Journal (one of the best in the music education field and always contains articles with great pedagogical information, plus many other features!)*

## *Molly Mortensen on the Benefits of ASTA*

ASTA provides me with many of the resources I need to always improve my game as a teacher and mentor of students. We all need new perspective in order to remain progressive and excellent in our teaching. It is very important to me to stay connected with other professionals for several reasons: 1) to learn from their experience and expertise 2) to share my ideas and experience 3) to keep the spark of energy alive in making music, both alone and with others. All of us can be great individually, but by working together (as a society of string teachers and musicians) we can attain an even higher degree of *excellence* in making and teaching music.

## *Need to join UT ASTA or renew your membership?*

Do you know a colleague or student who would like to become an ASTA member?

Please visit <http://www.astaweb.com> and join online.

Or download a membership application:

<http://www.astaweb.com/am/template.cfm?section=home>

# Educator of the Year

# UT ASTA



Samuel Tsugawa

- Director of Orchestras at Springville Senior and Junior High Schools for 22 years
- Bachelor and Masters of Music Education from BYU
- Doctor of Musical Arts from Arizona State University
- Multiple state of UT teaching awards
- Teacher of Year 1996 – ASTA
- Superior Accomplishment 2006 – UMEA
- Phi Delta Kappa 2006 – Utah Walmart Teacher of the Year

--UMEA Outstanding Senior High Music Educator 2011

“Thank you! Throughout my 24 years as a music educator, my goals for and philosophy of music education have evolved. As a young music teacher, I admit that I had many ‘hills to conquer’ and ‘dragons to slay.’ Recently, I have realized that I stand at the top of the hill surrounded by many dead dragons.”

—Dr. Samuel Tsugawa



Ryan Kemp

# Secondary Teacher of the Year

- Orchestra Director in the Davis School District (SD) at Farmington and Kaysville Junior High Schools for 17 years
- Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Weber State University with an emphasis in Choral and Instrumental Music
- Masters Degree in Technology in Education from Lesley University
- Assistant Principal Violist with the New American Philharmonic for 21 years
- Viola section coach for the Davis Youth Symphony

--Director of the Weber County SD High School Honor Orchestra

--Orchestra “Team Leader” for Davis SD

“Students don’t care what you know until they know that you care.’ As music educators, we can change student’s lives by nurturing their talents. We are blessed to be able to teach what we are passionate about and we have a great opportunity to teach students that as they pursue their music goals, they not only get to hear great music, they can make it happen, experience it firsthand and share it with others.”

—Ryan Kemp



Claudine Bigelow

# Higher Education Teacher of the Year

- Bachelor and Masters of Music from BYU with a D.M.A. from the University of Maryland
- Head of Viola Studies and Chamber Music Coordinator at BYU School of Music
- Active recitalist, having performed in Europe, the U.S., and New Zealand
- Performed in viola sections of the National Symphony, Utah Symphony, Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra, National Chamber Orchestra, and the National Gallery of Art in DC

--Performs annually with the Grand Teton Music Festival

--Served on the executive board of the American Viola Society for seven years and has been president of the Utah Chapter



David W. Yavornitzky

## *Studio Teacher of the Year*

--Principal Bassist and Concerto Soloist in the Utah Symphony

--Studio Bass Teacher in Utah for over 25 years with several students having won state-wide and national solo double bass competitions

--Professor of Double Bass at the University of Utah

--2007 Cover Conductor for the Utah Symphony's Educational Programs

--Conductor of a variety of youth, collegiate and professional orchestras

--Tireless proponent of contemporary music

--Alumnus of the Tanglewood Music Center Fellowship program, having received the C.D. Jackson Prize for Outstanding Achievement



Bryce Rytting

## *Outstanding Contribution to Music and Music Education*

--Bachelor of Music from the University of Utah in Music Theory, Magna Cum Laude

--Additional studies in Germany, England and the U.S. with degrees in conducting, history and theory

--Ph.D. and M.F.A in Musicology from Princeton

--Faculty of Eastman School of Music

--Music Director of the Utah Valley Symphony and conductor of the Utah Regional Ballet

--Joined BYU faculty in 1989; Named Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 1993, 1994, 1995, & 1998

--Joined UVU faculty in 2001; Music Department Chair from 2002 – 2010

--Conducted: Pro Musica, Park City International Music Festival, Salt Lake Symphony, Southwest Symphony and Chorus, Intermountain Suzuki String Institute; Opera, Choir, and Orchestra for BYU; UVU Orch.



Rebekah Willey

## *Nominated to NHSHO: Rebekah Willey*

The National High School Honors Orchestra has announced the invited students for the 2012 orchestra. These invited students, if they elect to attend, will perform 8:00pm Friday, March 23rd at the National Conference in the Rialto Theater at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Rebekah Willey of Pleasant Grove, Utah will represent our State! Congratulations!

We are very proud as the caliber of students we received applications for was outstanding.

September 19, 2011

Dear Colleague,

Utah State University and the Utah Chapter of ASTA are sponsoring the 12th annual USU/Utah ASTA Middle School/Junior High Orchestra Festival to be held April 27, 2012 in the Morgan Theatre at Utah State University. Our award-winning clinician/adjudicators will be Prof. Sergio Bernal, conductor of the USU Symphony Orchestra and Music Department Director of Strings. Dr. Bernal is an internationally known conductor who is exceptionally skilled at working with young orchestras. He will be joined by BYU professor, Dr. Andy Dabczynski and Dr. Robert S. Frost. Both are Utah ASTA past-presidents as well as nationally known composers, arrangers, clinicians, adjudicators and conference presenters. We feel very fortunate to have each of them work with our students.

We invite you and your orchestra(s) to participate. Because this will only be a one day event the number of participating groups is limited. We encourage you to send your registration form in as soon as possible. Preferred time assignments will be given to entries based on date of submission. In years past we have been unable to accept late entries because the day was completely booked. The event will include professional adjudication of each orchestra's performance as well as a professional recording. Limiting performance time to about 15 minutes will allow the clinician time to instruct your students in a mini-clinic.

If you are able to join us, please complete the enclosed registration form and return it along with the entrance fee of \$80 for ASTA members, \$100 for non-ASTA members (check payable to Utah Chapter of ASTA) by Friday, March 23, 2012. Fees are used to pay for hall rental as well as compensation for the adjudicators and recording technician. Registration should be mailed to the following:

Utah ASTA Middle School & Junior High Orchestra Festival  
c/o Janice McAllister, Mt. Logan Middle School  
875 N. 200 E.,  
Logan, Utah 84321

We are confident that you and your students will have a positive and rewarding experience. We plan to have some of Utah's finest young orchestra groups participate and hope we can include you in our plans.

If you have any questions, contact Janice McAllister by phone at (435) 753-3830 or by e-mail: [janicemcall@yahoo.com](mailto:janicemcall@yahoo.com) or [Janice.McAllister@loganschools.org](mailto:Janice.McAllister@loganschools.org)

Sincerely,

Janice McAllister, Festival Chair

Utah ASTA Middle School & Jr. High Orchestra Festival

**USU/Utah ASTA Middle School/Junior High Orchestra Festival**  
**2012 Registration Form**

Name Of School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number and Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Director: \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Orchestra Students: \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the time frame that would be most convenient for your group to perform:

Early Morning      Late Morning      Early Afternoon      Late Afternoon

Music to be performed (Limit the total playing time to 15-20 minutes):

<b><u>Name of Composition:</u></b>	<b><u>Composer/Arranger</u></b>	<b><u>Publisher:</u></b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Please return this form, along with your \$80 entrance fee (UT ASTA members) or \$100 (non-ASTA members)—payable to Utah Chapter of ASTA—by **Friday, March 25, 2012** to:

**USU/Utah ASTA Middle School/Junior High Orchestra Festival**  
**c/o Janice McAllister, Mt. Logan Middle School**  
**875 N. 200 E.**  
**Logan, Utah 84321**