

THE SOUNDPOST



CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, INC., of the AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2019



Our CalASTA State Solo Competition Winners



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ASTA Members in California	855
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THE SOUNDPOST



SPRING 2019

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CALASTA LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT

Kimberly Cole Feeney
(916) 928-9996

SACRAMENTO SECTION
kcolefeeney@gmail.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Robert Becker

LOS ANGELES SECTION
becker@chapman.edu

PAST PRESIDENT

Loretta McNulty
(510) 847-8432

SAN FRANCISCO SECTION
ljwmcnulty.asta@comcast.net

SECRETARY

Quyen Nguyen
(858) 337-2563

SAN DIEGO SECTION
violas@gmail.com

TREASURER

Michael Feeney
(916) 928-9996

SACRAMENTO SECTION
mffeeney@earthlink.net

SOUNDPOST EDITOR

Katie Hunt
(916) 814-1461

kthunt.music@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Stephen Moore

SAN FRANCISCO SECTION
smoore@alumni.northwestern.edu

MEMBER AT LARGE/CODA LIAISON

Lawrence Huang
(925) 979-5539

SAN FRANCISCO SECTION
matrixbach77@gmail.com

SECTION PRESIDENTS

Amy McGuire
(661) 858-9332

BAKERSFIELD SECTION
gypsyvln@gmail.com

Dr. Thomas Loewenheim
(559) 278-7547

FRESNO SECTION
tloewenheim@csufresno.edu

Robert Becker

LOS ANGELES SECTION
becker@chapman.edu

Rejean Anderson
(916) 428-7379

SACRAMENTO SECTION
rejevcl@gmail.com

Ulli Reiner
(619) 804-4634

SAN DIEGO SECTION
ureiner@earthlink.net

Joffria Whitfield

SAN FRANCISCO SECTION
jwhitfield66@juno.com

Griena Choi-Trask

STOCKTON SECTION
goodyviolin@yahoo.com

ASTACAP NORTH COORDINATOR

TBA

ASTACAP SOUTH COORDINATOR

Kay Pech
10711 Ashworth Circle
Cerritos, CA 90703
(562) 804-2725

LOS ANGELES SECTION

astacap.la@gmail.com

WEBMASTER/CMEA LIAISON

Kimberly Cole Feeney
(916) 928-9996

SACRAMENTO SECTION
kcolefeeney@gmail.com

HISTORIAN/INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE

Gayane Korkmazian
289 South Armstrong Avenue
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 255-5803

FRESNO SECTION

korkyhome@att.net



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KIMBERLY COLE FEENEY, PRESIDENT

Dear California ASTA Members,

I was very pleased to see a full representation from all seven sections at our last CalASTA board meeting, which was held on March 31 in Sacramento. Our chapter welcomes Griena "Goody" Choi who has accepted the position of Stockton Section President. The next board meeting will take place on Sunday, August 11 at Chapman University in Southern California.

I recently attended the leadership workshop at the National Conference in Albuquerque and as before, the need for membership recruitment is at the top of the list. California has formed a State Membership Taskforce to brainstorm ideas regarding membership at both the state and section level. Although California continues to have the largest membership nationwide, it has dropped considerably over the years. The committee includes Stephen Moore, Bob Becker and Quyen Nguyen. Please feel free to contact them if you would like to contribute useful recruiting tools and ideas.

The state solo competition last October was a great success. A third age category was added and the event was presented as a formal recital. By eliminating the spring showcase recital and reducing the award amounts, we were able to cut down on expenses even though an additional age category was added. I am hoping we can try this format again in 2020. A special thank you to cellist Susan Lamb Cook for doing an amazing job of organizing and chairing a first class event.

If you have visited the website lately, you will notice that we have removed direct emails and have a more secure process for contacting state and section officers. Please also note the revised bylaws. We will be in the process of creating a policy manual this summer and the committee includes Bob Becker, Kim Feeney, Quyen Nguyen and Michael Feeney.

Kimberly Cole Feeney
CalASTA President

Past CalASTA Presidents

1948-1954 Stefan Krayk
1954-1965 Lucie Landon
1965-1970 Phyllis Glass
1970-1974 Grace T. Robinson
1974-1977 Kenneth Fiske
1977-1979 Phyllis Magnuson Dunn
1979-1980 Anne Mischakoff
1981-1983 Gene Eaves
1983-1986 Thomas Tatton
1986-1988 Michael Pappone
1988-1990 James Kjelland
1990-1992 Victor Sazer
1992-1994 Owen Dunsford
1994-1996 Elizabeth Ivanoff Holborn
1996-1998 Richard Naill
1998-2000 Michael Allard
2000-2002 Priscilla Hawkins
2002-2003 Eleonore Schoenfeld
2003-2006 Judy Bossuat-Gallic
2006-2008 Gayane Korkmazian
2008-2010 Manon Robertshaw
2010-2012 Bongshin Ko
2012-2014 Kimberly Cole Feeney
2014-2016 Thomas Tatton
2016-2018 Loretta JW McNulty

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Please complete all applicable fields on the registration form. If you have any questions, please contact Member Services. We look forward to welcoming you to the ASTA community.



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Mail form: 4155 Chain Bridge Rd.,
Fairfax, VA 22030

Who recruited you to join ASTA?

RECRUITER NAME

RECRUITER CITY/STATE

RECRUITER E-MAIL ADDRESS

Membership Category

- ☐ Professional member
- ☐ Student member: full time student [Please provide expected Graduation Date (MM/YY)] ____/____/____
- ☐ Senior member: age 62 or older
- ☐ Dual: two professionals at same address [Please complete two separate forms]

Contact Information

- ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss ☐ Ms.
☐ Dr. ☐ Prof. ☐ Other _____

FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME

EMAIL ADDRESS

PRIMARY PHONE: ☐ WORK ☐ HOME

CELL PHONE

Select a primary address where you will receive correspondence & if applicable, *AST Journal*. ☐ Home ☐ School/Work

HOME ADDRESS

STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

COUNTRY

SCHOOL/WORK ADDRESS

(Required for Professional & Student Members)

SCHOOL/ORG. NAME DEPT./MAIL STOP

STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

COUNTRY

Tell Us About You

(Required for professional/senior and dual members)

What is your primary profession?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Studio | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Administrator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Performer | <input type="checkbox"/> String Enthusiast |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Conductor | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired | |

What year did you start teaching music? _____

What level do you teach? (Select all that apply.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary [K-5] | <input type="checkbox"/> Collegiate (Undergrad & Graduate) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle [6-8] | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High School [9-12] | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult |

What is your primary instrument?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violin | <input type="checkbox"/> Guitar | <input type="checkbox"/> Piano |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Viola | <input type="checkbox"/> Brass | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodwind |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cello | <input type="checkbox"/> Percussion | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Double Bass | <input type="checkbox"/> Harp | |

ASTA State Chapter

Your membership dues include state chapter membership. To find your state information, visit www.astastrings.org.

Dues Payment

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$116: Professional Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$57: Student member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$85: Senior Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$162: Dual (age 62 or older) |

"ADD ON"

- ☐ **\$15:** Membership certificate
- ☐ **\$7:** Membership pin

TOTAL \$ _____

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- ☐ Check—make payable to ASTA (U.S. funds only)
 Check No. _____
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NAME ON CARD SIGNATURE (PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION)

By completing this form, I confirm that this information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Dues are nontransferable and nonrefundable. There is a \$30 charge for all items returned from the bank.



CALASTA ACCOUNTING REPORT

MICHAEL FEENEY, TREASURER

ASTA Calendar Year Accounting Report
Calendar Year 2018

January 1, 2018 Bank Balance		11,720.33
INCOME	Rebates from National	12,359.68
	Soundpost Advertising	3,370.00
	Entry Fees for State Solo Competition	3,400.00
	Section Reimbursement for Website Expenses	15.00
	Donations	1,500.00
	Total Income:	20,644.68
EXPENSES	Rebates to Sections	6,010.48
	State Solo Competition Expenses	6,046.29
	Soundpost Production & Mailing	4,700.38
	Meeting Expenses	3,694.57
	President to National ASTA Conference	335.00
	New Section Seed Grant	600.00
	Website Support	698.50
	Coalition Membership & Lobbying Expenses	250.00
	Service Plaques	98.18
	Checks and Postage	170.59
	Election Expenses	176.90
	Miscellaneous Expenses	171.76
	Total Expenses:	22,952.65
	January 1, 2018 Bank Balance	11,720.33
	Plus Income (+)	20,644.68
	Minus Expenses (-)	22,952.65
	Calculated December 31, 2018 Bank Balance	9,412.36
	Outstanding Checks as of 12/31/2018 (+)	625.46
	Actual December 31, 2018 Bank Balance	10,037.82



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Greetings CalASTA Members! Here is a brief report on membership in CalASTA. CalASTA is divided into seven Sections. The Sections and their maps can be found here: <http://www.calasta.org/map.php>.

CalASTA's current membership is 857 with 406 members in the Los Angeles Section, 290 in the San Francisco Section, 60 in the Sacramento Section, 33 in the San Diego Section, 24 in the Fresno Section, and 23 each in both the Stockton Section, and 21 in Bakersfield. Make sure to keep your membership current to be able to take advantage of all of ASTA's member benefits. These benefits can found here: https://www.astastrings.org/Web/Membership/Member_Benefits.aspx.

You can find who is leading your Section as well as the goings on of your Section under the "Sections" tab at <http://www.calasta.org>.

You can check the accuracy of your ASTA membership information as well as seeing your membership expiration date and membership number by logging on to ASTA's website here: www.astastrings.org and clicking on "Sign In" at the top of the homepage.

If you haven't created online profile yet, this is where you can do that. Once you have logged in you can edit your personal information in the "About" tab and save your preferences under the "Preferences" tab. Make sure to click the "Save" button at the bottom of the page if you make any changes. Double check the accuracy of your CalASTA Section. If it is not correct via your county and the CalASTA Section map please contact Tracey Krat, ASTA Membership Coordinator, at tkrat@astastrings.org or 703-279-2113 ext. 14.

And now, new from ASTA:

Recruit new members and earn rewards

As an active ASTA member, you know first-hand the value your membership provides. Share your success by participating in ASTA's Member-Get-A-Member Campaign. Go here for complete information:

https://www.astastrings.org/Web/Membership/Member_Get_a_Member_Campaign.aspx

Rewards include:

- a free ASTA membership renewal
- a complimentary registration for the 2020 ASTA National Conference in Orlando, Florida
- an Amazon gift card
- a Starbucks gift card

Thank you for being the best part of ASTA!

Respectfully submitted, Stephen Moore CalASTA Membership Chair.



BAKERSFIELD SECTION

CalASTA Bakersfield Section is maintaining their 21 members by sending renewal requests and inviting all string educators to participate in the planning of events. We are the youngest official section of the California State Chapter; we hope we are serving the needs of all strings educators in the area. We have picked up a few new members, string teachers in Tehachapi. With two orchestras in the Tehachapi area, I hope they are thriving in our ASTA section, as well. Our first official event last year was the Solo Festival and Competition on April 13, 2018.

This fall we had another String Workshop on November 3, 2018 with an emphasis on inviting students from public and private teachers to have four levels of workshops with four clinicians. It was another huge success. We had a total of 65 students, divided into levels; we will have to find a bigger venue next year! Last year we did three levels, this year it was four. Level I was Perpetual Motion, with Clinician Bassist, John Hester. Level II was Rigadoon,

with Clinician Cellist, Heather Walkover. Level III was Witches Dance, with Clinician Violist, Tom Tatton. Our Level IV was La Cinquantaine, with Clinician Violinist Debbie Ellis. All were amazing teachers for these students and the demonstration concert at the end was fun, charming and so educational!

Our next event is May 4, 2019. We are still working on getting the judges for the upcoming Festival and Competition on May 4th. We will have four judges, two for the competition and two for the festival participants, with the same format as last year. We expect a great day at the same facility, Valley Baptist Church. We had 4 of the 5 winners go on to the State Competition last year, we hope to send as many this year. I already feel like the students have realized it is a big world out there and there is lots of great competition across the state.

Financially speaking, we would like to thank CalASTA for the \$600 seed money to get started last year. Our balance now as of the meeting on March 29 is \$267.58.

We are proud of our hard working officers and look forward to our next big event on May 4, 2019, all day at Valley Baptist Church on Fruitvale Ave, in Bakersfield.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy McGuire



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FRESNO SECTION

The Fresno section held its annual student recital on Saturday, March 23 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Thirty-nine students ranging from first graders through high school seniors and representing repertoire that spanned from Gossec's Gavotte from the end of Suzuki Violin School Book One to Ysaye's Sonata No. 3 and Sarasate's Zigeunerweisen. Two large groups of around 20 students each played ensemble pieces and the rest presented solos for violin, viola, cello and harp. These young musicians are the students of ASTA teachers Yuliya Hess, Thi guyen, Laura Porter, K.C. Samba, Cynthia Stuart, Valerie Walden and Limor Toren-Immerman.

On Saturday, March 30, the Fresno section will put on its annual Chamber Music Workshop. We will be hosting over fifty-seven students who will be grouped according to age and sight-reading level, as determined by a

sent out with the application that teachers administered to their participating students. This event will be held as it has been for many years, at the Alta Sierra Middle School. The teachers who are sending students to this event are both ASTA and non ASTA members. Students who have signed up include: Accent on Access students (an El Sistema-inspired program that has been going on for 9 years), and private students from the studios of Kelvin Diaz-Inoa, Lianna Elmore, Yuliya Hess, Thi Nguyen, K.C. Simba, Cynthia Stuart, Limor Toren-Immerman, and Judy Robinson. The workshop runs from 8:30AM till 2PM, with an informal recital from 2-3PM showcasing what the students have been working on during the workshop. This is both a big sight-reading day and a first introduction for some students to chamber music and playing one on a part. Coaches who will be teaching, and in some instances playing with the students include: Kelvin Diaz-Inoa, Adam Elmore, Lianna Elmore, Yuliya Hess, Elaine Ikemoto, Gayane Korkmazian, Willard Roberson, Judy Robinson, Caleb Sandersier, K.C. Simba, Matthew Smoke, Cynthia Stuart, and Limor Toren-Immerman.

On Saturday, June 1, the Fresno section will hold its yearly Solo Competition at the Fresno State Department of Music's Walberg Hall. Although we welcome both ASTA and non ASTA teachers to send students and to coach at our chamber music workshop, we limit entries to the ASTA Solo Competition to students of ASTA teachers. The Novice division is for ages 7-12, requiring a 10 minute maximum performance of two selections of contrasting style. Prize for first place is \$50. The Junior division is for ages 13-18, requiring a 15 minute maximum time for two selections—one, baroque or classical, and one from a later period (prize for first place is \$100. The Senior division is for ages 19-25 with a 20 minute maximum performance time of two contrasting pieces that follow the same guidelines as the Junior repertoire requirement (award is \$150 for first place). Winners in all categories qualify to go on to the ASTA State Solo Competition to be held in October of 2020.

Submitted by:

Cynthia Stuart and Thomas Loewenheim
Fresno ASTA Chapter Vice President and President





LOS ANGELES SECTION

Our last section board meeting was on March 17 at 6 pm at Chapman University.

All of our Competition locations are now set for this spring. There was an ongoing issue with Pasadena City College over the insurance that we carry that took literally months to alleviate. Richard at our Insurance was most helpful as were the faculty and staff of PCC. A word to all—Colleges and universities are probably going to be a little harder to use in the future due to possible legal responsibilities.

All of our Bowed String slots are now full for 2019. Harp and Guitar are coming right along. Brian Head was given an extension of time to get more guitars for his guitar event. It succeeded and now there are around 8 participants (not great, but better than a month ago). Marcia Dickstein is hosting the harp

We will be holding a special election in April for President-Elect.

We spent a great discussion about our sections “branding” and goals in regard to membership. Steve Acciani has agreed to work with the President to enlist wonderful high school teachers to our membership and possible officer positions.

Esther Che is poised to take over from Kyle Champion as Competition Chair when he steps down from that position next year.

We have once again chosen “Honorees” for our section

- a. Private Studio Teacher- Fung Ho
- b. Classroom Educator-Ernie Salem of Cal State Fullerton
- c. Distinguished Service to our string community-Irene Kroesen of Irvine School District and the conductor of Santiago Strings under the Pacific Symphony Education Programs

Our grant program was reduced somewhat by budget constraints but we move forward with those selections shortly for the summer and next year.

ASTACAP enrollment is down a bit but we lost a number of participants with the departure of Susan Pascale, but Kay Pech continues to find more participant, both students and teachers for this valuable assessment program. Brava Kay...

Our advertising receipts for String Along continue to be strong and we actually might be able to grow them to further offset costs this year. Wendy Velasco always produces fantastic editing and articles for our section's String Along publication.

We hosted a robust Chamber Music Day on the campus of Chapman University on Feb 24. Photos and the program were posted on our Facebook page last month. Great work by Kay Pech on this.

The President is assigning members to contact certain memberships that are expiring, did expire etc. as they are known to Board members. We appreciate the timely receipt of the last membership updates from Stephen and Kim. During the national conference, I interviewed one of our national board members who works with the new national website installation. We're about a year away from being able to go to the national website and have contemporary data about a particular members renewal/membership update etc.

We are working on ways to utilize our grant money to more effectively assist the underserved communities in our areas. Partnerships with Santa Ana Strings, projects in Los Angeles etc. are under review for the future. Please visit our wonderful Los Angeles section's Facebook page for updates, results of competitions this spring, sponsored events, and future plans.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Becker

President Los Angeles Section CalASTA

THE CALASTA LOS ANGELES 2019 AWARDS



FUNG HO OUTSTANDING STUDIO TEACHER OF THE YEAR

This award is presented to a studio teacher and member of ASTA who has made outstanding lifetime contributions to the field of string playing, with at least 10 years of successful experience with a reputation that goes beyond their studio.

Mr. Ho is currently on the violin faculty of the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA) where he serves as the Conductor for the String Orchestra and Chamber Music Coach, and maintains a studio of young and talented students. Many of his prize-winning students have gone on to further their musical studies in music conservatories all over the country. As the conductor of the CSULA Orchestra/Olympia Youth Orchestra, he provides a performance opportunity for our CalASTA Solo Competition Grand Prize Winners each year.



ERNEST SALEM OUTSTANDING SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

This award is presented to a school teacher with at least 10 years experience and a member of ASTA who has made a significant contribution to a school orchestra or a university program, epitomizing every facet of excellence in string teaching. Teachers shall have a reputation that goes beyond their classroom, in such areas as mentoring peers, presenting sessions at conferences or for being life-long learners.

Dr. Salem teaches and performs chamber music at CSU Fullerton and maintains a busy schedule giving recitals and concerts across the US, Europe and South America. He's offered master classes at universities, colleges and art schools throughout the United States and his fine studio of university violin students compete in our CalASTA Solo Competition each year.



IRENE KROESEN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FOR THE YEAR

This award is presented to a school administrator, music supporter, or music business that has made a significant contribution to string teaching in the Greater Los Angeles Area Section for five or more years. Examples of contributions are: Initiating a string program in a school district, expanding an existing program, creating or expanding a youth orchestra program, or providing exceptional support to a program. Other examples include financial support, advocacy, chairing recital competitions or being a member of the string industry.

Irene Kroesen is the Music Director for the Pacific Symphony Santiago Strings, a premiere youth orchestra in Orange County. From 1988 to 2011 she was an adjunct instructor at Chapman University where she taught String Methods for music education majors.



SACRAMENTO SECTION

Fall Recital and State Competition (at UCD) were both successful events.

May 5 and 12 will be Spring Recital and solo competition.

Essay/art Contest will again be chaired by V.P. Gay Currier.
Deadline is Apr. 29. 1st Prize will be a \$50 gift certificate from Kline Music, one of our valued supporters.

Secretary Raelynn Imai will attend the Stand Up for Music events at the State Capitol in April.

Sacramento section meeting will be held Apr. 28.

March Newsletter featured an excellent interview with Kimberly Cole Feeney (our former Sacto. Pres.), now State President, detailing her long and successful teaching career.

Rejean Anderson

SACRAMENTO SECTION SOLO COMPETITION REPORT

CalASTA Sacramento Section 2019 Solo Competition Report

Congratulations to all of the participants who competed at the annual CalASTA Sacramento Section solo competition held on Sunday, May 12, 2019 at UC Davis.

The winners were as follows:

Violin:

Mia Mendoza (winner, novice division, student of Carol Miethke)

Katelyn Wong (winner, junior division, student of Reylynn Imai)

Jannella Gaza (winner, senior division, student of Reylynn Imai)

Cello:

Benjamin Jiang (winner, novice division, student of Susan Lamb Cook)

Alexander Chang (winner, junior division, student of Richard Andaya)

All winners will receive their certificates and cash prizes at the annual Sacramento Section Fall recital in November 2019. They are also eligible to enter the CalASTA State Solo Competition.

The following students were also recommended for eligibility to enter the CalASTA State Solo Competition:

Jessica Li – Junior Cello

The next CalASTA State Solo Competition will take place in the fall of 2020 in southern California. Guidelines and application forms will be available in the spring/summer of 2020 at www.calasta.org.



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SAN DIEGO SECTION

Greetings from San Diego!

Our San Diego section co-sponsored along with the Poway Unified School District, the Villiers Quartet from the UK. Violist, Carmen Flores attended Black Mountain Middle School in the PUSD with CalASTA-SD Section President, Ulli Reiner as her Orchestra Director. On Friday, March 15th the quartet performed at Bernardo Heights Middle School for ASTA members, parents, students and community members in a free educational concert presentation. What a wonderful opportunity for our section!

In Memorium- Viola Margaret (Fuehr) Panman March 11, 1935-March 18, 2019 and ASTA Member

Born March 11, 1935 to parents who had just immigrated from Hamburg, Germany, Viola spent her early years in Arcadia, California. When she was only 7 years old, she lost her dear mother. Her father remarried a year later, and moved to a house with a large one-acre property. Some of Viola's fondest memories were her father's gigantic vegetable garden, and the beautiful camellia bushes that bloomed each spring. This experience instilled in her a lifelong love for plants and gardening. Viola was an incredibly gifted musician, starting to play the violin at the age of 3, before Suzuki teachers even existed. She has very fond memories of participating in the Pasadena Symphony and the Carmel Music Festival every summer. She played in numerous chamber ensembles, and was a violist in a string quartet that won first prize several times in the Coleman Chamber Music Auditions. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in music from Occidental College, Viola got a position as violist in the Indianapolis Symphony (at the young age of 21) and after auditioning was placed 3rd chair. However, just two years later, she married the love of her life, David, and left the symphony to raise a family. Viola never left music, however. She taught her two young children to play the piano and the violin and she participated in numerous local symphony orchestras. When her children graduated from high school, Viola launched a successful after-school Suzuki music program, that encompassed at least 5 different schools in the Carlsbad school district. She built the program to more than 150 students, preparing them for competitions, performances, and local outreaches. One of her most successful groups was "The Strolling Strings", which performed at local events, strolling around the room as they played. It was quite a sight to see! During this time, Viola was also instrumental in starting the Civic Youth Orchestra. She managed the organization for many years, building it into a successful three orchestra program for young musicians of North San Diego County. In 1999, Viola was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer, but fortunately after treatment her cancer went into remission and she continued teaching in the Carlsbad string program. She even insisted on teaching while receiving treatments of chemotherapy and radiation. Later, after more than 20 years of leading the string program in Carlsbad, Viola retired to spend more time with her husband David. But she just couldn't stay away from teaching music. Instead she started a string program at her grandchildren's school, Oceanside Adventist Elementary. She also started a choir program and a bell choir program at that school. In 2016, Viola was diagnosed with Acute Luekymia (AML) but she responded well to treatment, and the cancer went into remission for two years. She was so happy and grateful for the time she had that allowed her to see her grandchildren grow up and even graduate from college. Just last November Viola flew to Michigan with the family to attend her grandson Jonathan's college piano recital. Viola's caring spirit and zest for life will be truly missed by so many of us all.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on June 22, 2019 at 3 pm at the Oceanside Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1943 California St, Oceanside, CA 92054.

In Lieu of flowers, please send donations in Viola's name to the American Cancer Society or a charity of your choice.

Board members Quyen Nguyen and Victoria Eicher represented the CalASTA-SD section at the ASTA National Conference in New Mexico earlier this year and reported that it was a wonderful and most informative conference.

New ASTACAP online exams will be available in June so watch for this coming out soon!

Musically yours,
Ulli Reiner,
President CalASTA-SD Branch
ureiner@earthlink.net
(619) 804-4634



James Dickenson, violin Tamaki Higashi, violin Carmen Flores, viola Nick Stringfellow, cello



SAN FRANCISCO SECTION

NEW ASTACAP COORDINATOR

We would like to welcome our new ASTACAP Coordinator, Mayumi Takarabe. Many thanks to Stephanie Railsback, our outgoing ASTACAP coordinator, for her years of service and for facilitating the transition.

ASTACAP

The applications have a new electronic format that allows teachers to print applications, track students who haven't paid and generate reports.

In March, 92 students from 16 teachers participated in the San Francisco Section ASTACAP exams. Exams were held in 4 locations in the Bay Area: Berkeley, (two different days), Walnut Creek, and San Francisco.

On August 24, 2019, Kristal Barlaan will organize an ASTACAP exam for harp, tentatively in San Jose.

CMEA BAY SECTION CONFERENCE

CalASTA San Francisco was present at the California Music Educator's Bay Section Conference, January 11th-12th, held at San Jose State University. We maintained an ASTA information table in the vendor area both days.

ASTA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Stephanie Railsback represented our chapter at the national conference in Albuquerque.

SOLO COMPETITION

The 2019 Solo Competition was held in Berkeley April 27, 2019. 26 entries were reviewed by a panel of 6 people. Finalists were announced from each division. The day was divided into two parts, one for the Novice Division Finalists and the Junior Division Finalists

GRANT PROGRAM

The San Francisco section is continuing its tradition of giving grants to area wide organizations to assist in their contributions to string music education in our section. This year, the board decided to implement an additional grant called Adopt-a-District. Teachers will be able to apply for a grant that will cover clearance expenses for string specialists to work with their students.

Respectfully submitted,
Joffria Whitfield,
San Francisco Section President



STOCKTON SECTION

Stockton section had their annual meeting on December 12, 2018 and it was at this meeting that a new board was voted in for the next two years:

Griena Goody Choi - President
Sydney Scott - Secretary
Donna Harrison - Treasurer

We were grateful for Myriam Cottin-Rack's four years of service as President and Mark Davila as Secretary. Our previous treasurer was Goody Choi.

We had our annual Chamber Music Day on Saturday March 16 on the University of the Pacific's campus. The UOP Conservatory again donated their time and space for us to hold our event so there was no expense on facilities. There were 28 students who participated and eight local string teachers who volunteered their time to coach these students. Myriam Cottin-Rack organized this event. There was an informal recital in the afternoon and all the groups seemed to have a good time during rehearsals.

On Saturday April 6 we will be holding our annual ASTA Solo recital in Stockton at the First Unitarian Universalist Church. We have 14 students from three different teachers registered to perform. Most of the students will be accompanied by Jason Jeffrey who ASTA Stockton is hiring to rehearse and perform with the students.

Griena "Goody" Choi-Trask

STAND UP 4 MUSIC REPORT

When I was asked to represent CalASTA in the CMEA's Standup 4 Music day at the State Capitol last week, I'll admit I was full of nervous energy. Thoughts of "I'm just a musician and teacher, what can I say to professional legislators trained in eloquent speaking and laws?" When I arrived, I was even more frightened by the sheer size and immensity of the building itself. I was fortunate to meet two attendees from Auburn that have participated in the event for several years, and were kind enough to let me tag along with them and help me get up the courage to speak. My first impression was what an amazing place the Capitol is. It's a labyrinth of legislators. We met with several assembly and senate offices. While we didn't have appointments with all, they were all gracious in letting us speak with them for a bit, and it reminded me that our representatives are there to represent us and be our voice. Most of the time, I seem so far removed government, only a piece of paper at the polls, but these visits reminded me that I have more voice if I choose. I have to say I geeked out a little at how cool our government is. I am thankful for the experience and glad to remember that every person has not just a vote, but also a chance to be heard and converse with their representatives.

Reyllynn Imai
CalASTA Sacramento Section Secretary

2018 CALASTA STATE SOLO COMPETITION REPORT

The 2018 CalASTA State Solo Competition was held on Saturday, October 20 at the Ann E. Pitzer Center on the UC Davis campus. There were 43 competitors from throughout California, representing Novice, Junior, and Senior Divisions. Winners were chosen by the judges in the following categories:

Novice Violin:	Amaryn Olmeda (William Barbini, teacher)
Novice Viola:	Sharani Bhattacharya (Michael Larco, teacher)
Novice Cello:	Starla Breshears (Jean-Michel Fonteneau, teacher)
Novice Harp:	Joshua H. Ho (Hee Jin Yoon, teacher)
Junior Violin:	Megan Chang (Elmer Su, teacher)
Junior Viola:	Sophia Inés Valenti (Dimitri Murrath, teacher)
Junior Cello:	Abigail Leong (Jonathan Koh, teacher)
Junior Harp:	Carter Williams (Laura Porter, teacher)
Junior Guitar:	Conor Padmanabhan (Scott Cmiel, teacher)
Senior Violin:	Jeongwon An (Fung Ho, teacher)
Senior Cello:	Emma Hill (Thomas Loewenheim, teacher)

The caliber of performance was highly competitive in each Division and, on behalf of CalASTA, I would like to applaud each of the participants for the extraordinary level that they exhibited in their auditions.

Respectfully submitted by
Susan Lamb Cook, Chair

CALASTA STATE SOLO COMPETITION WINNERS



Sophia Ines is a 16 year old violinist. Her private teacher is Dimitri Murrath at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College Program. Her prior teacher was Jodi Levitz. Sophia Ines participated in the SFYO 2015 European Tour at the age of 12 years old, has performed on “From the Top” with her quartet and as a soloist, won the SRSYO Concerto Competition, performed with Benjamin Zanders, was a Mondavi Young Artist Competition finalist, won ASTA San Francisco 2017, 2018 and State, attended Music@Menlo 2017/2018, has performed on the stage with Kim Kashkashian and Midori Goto, won 2nd place in the American Viola Society National Solo Competition, and won 3rd place in The Sphinx National Solo Competition.



Starla Breshears, age 10, began cello lessons at age 3 with Yoshie Muratani. By the age of 6 Starla started studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Pre-college Division under Jean-Michel Fonteneau. Additionally Starla is coached by her accompanist, Ayke Agus, and by cellist, Christine Walevska. Starla has soloed with six different orchestras since the age of six. She has won numerous solo competitions, including winner Parnassus-San Francisco Conservatory of Music Concerto Competition, 1st place ASTA State Competition finals, 1st place U.S. International Music Competition, 1st place U.S. Open Music Competition, 1st place CAPMT-

Sacramento Competition, and 1st place DVS-HNU Competition. Starla has participated in master classes with Amit Peled, Darrett Adkins, and Bonnie Hampton. Starla is principal cellist of the SFCM Pre-College Division String Orchestra. Starla plays a $\frac{1}{4}$ size 19th century Hill & Sons cello generously on loan by J & A Beare Ltd., London.



Sharani Bhattacharya (born October 1, 2006) started studying violin at age three with Susan Pascale in the Pascale Music Institute (formerly South Pasadena Strings program), and later switched to viola at age seven. Her former teachers have been Zach Dellinger and Suzy Eun Won Lee, and she currently studies with Michael Larco. She has attended the violin/viola section of National Cello Institute (2016), Montecito International Arts Festival (2017) on a scholarship, where she performed in a masterclass by Roger Myers, as well as Violafest - Los Angeles, 2017 and 2018, performing in their advanced viola ensemble.

She has won first prize in Satori Strings competition (2016), the ASTA - California state solo competition; also second prize in American Protege International Musical Talent competition 2018 and scheduled to perform in her

solo winner's recital in Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, New York in March 2019.

Sharani has been principal violist of Los Angeles Children's Orchestra and Los Angeles Children's Chamber Orchestra performing in Carnegie Hall, New York, PBS program in Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, America's Got Talent show in Nokia Theater, and numerous community events.

Sharani is an avid photographer and studies classical Indian dance from her mother Sohini Ray performing in the youth section of her mother's dance company, the Manipuri Dance Visions Ensemble.

Sharani thanks her pianist Milos Veljkovic, all her teachers, friends and family for their support and her elder sister (her only sibling), thirteen year old cellist Srijani Bhattacharya for being her biggest source of inspiration and annoyance.



Megan Chang, 17, is a senior at Harvard-Westlake School in Los Angeles. Megan has been playing violin under the tutelage of Mr. Elmer Su since she was ten. She is co-concertmaster of the Harvard-Westlake Upper School Symphony and the Palos Verdes Regional Symphony Orchestra (PVRSO), and is in her second year with the American Youth Symphony. Megan has won many accolades in violin solo competitions, including first place awards from the American String Teachers Association, the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC), the California Association of Professional Music Teachers, and the Lansum International Music Festival. As the 1st Place winner of the American Protégé International Concerto Competition, Megan performed at Carnegie Hall in 2016. Megan was also a Gold Medalist at the Southern California Junior Bach Festival Complete Works Auditions in 2017 and 2018. She has performed as a soloist with PVRSO, the Palisades Symphony, the Santa Monica College Symphony Orchestra, and most recently, the Mount Orchestra as its concerto competition's Grand Prize Winner. This summer, she was

selected as a concertmaster of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Young Artists Orchestra. Megan and her violin trio, M2K, were awarded 1st Place Alternate at the MTAC VOCE State Finals earlier this year and performed in a masterclass with the Ahn Trio. An avid and versatile chamber musician, Megan has premiered commissioned ensemble pieces on both violin and piano at the MTAC State Convention. Foremost, Megan loves to share her music with the community and regularly performs for veterans and senior homes.



Abigail Leong, age 15, started learning cello at the age of four. She currently studies with Jonathan Koh at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College. Abigail soloed at Carnegie Hall at the age of ten as a first place winner of the American Protege Concerto Competition performing the first movement of the Saint-Saens Cello Concerto. Recently she debuted the entire Dvorak Cello Concerto as the winner of the California Youth Symphony Young Artist Competition. An avid chamber musician, she has participated in the California Music Preparatory Academy as well as the Young Chamber Musicians Program with Susan Bates. Abigail won first place awards in many competitions including the California ASTA, Pacific Musical Society Foundation, VOCE California State Competition, Young Artist String Competition at DVC/HNU, Burlingame Music Club Competition, Silicon Valley Youth Music Competition, ENKOR International Music Competition, KAMSA Competition, and MTNA California State Competition. She was selected as a Fremont Symphony Orchestra Young Recitalist Competition

winner and was a soloist at the Junior Bach Competition. In addition, Abigail enjoys music outreach at retirement homes and hospitals, as one of her goals is to share music with others. In her free time, Abigail likes to dance tap and modern dances.



Guitarist Conor Padmanabhan, age 15, was a prizewinner in the 2019 National YoungArts Foundation competition and was the first-place winner in the 2018 California statewide guitar competition of the American String Teachers Association. He was a first-place winner in the Best Bach Performance of the 2017 international Great Composers Competition Series and has been a prizewinner in the Sierra Nevada Guitar Competition and the Pacific Musical Society Competition, among others. Selected by audition, Conor has performed as a soloist in the annual Junior Bach Festival for six consecutive years since 2013. Conor was a soloist on a 2017 concert marking the centennial of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and on a 2016 gala concert in San Francisco celebrating the

60th birthday of guitar Professor David Tanenbaum. He has performed as a soloist in concerts at the Sacramento Guitar Society and the University of Hawaii Maui College and has opened professional concerts for the South Bay Guitar Society and the Omni Foundation series in San Francisco. In 2018 Conor was featured in Classical Guitar Magazine's "Sunday Prodigy" series. He regularly performs as a volunteer at a local assisted-living center and in benefit concerts. Conor is a student of Scott Cmiel at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Pre-College Division, where he also performs in a guitar quartet. His first teacher was Jon Mendle. Outside the guitar, Conor attends high school in Palo Alto where he serves as an academic tutor. Conor plays a guitar built by Glenn Canin in 2012.



Carter Williams has been playing the harp for seven years. She is a 15 year old freshman at Clovis West High School. When she was just three years old, she fell in love with the harp watching a harpist playing in a tea room. Even though she was too young to start lessons, Carter remembered that day. At age seven, she began taking lessons. In 2015, she performed a solo concert at St. Mary's College, where she raised \$4,000 to provide violins for elementary students. Carter has played in the 2013 Yvonne LaMothe Schwager Harp Competition Winners Recital, and she has played in the Kids Spotlight for Valley Public Radio numerous times. She also annually plays in the Certificate of Merit. She got 2 nd place in the 2013 Yvonne LaMothe Schwager Harp Competition, 1 st place in the 2014 Fresno Section, ASTA Solo Competition (Novice Division), 2 nd place in the 2016 Art of Strings Great Composers Competition, 1 st place in the 2017 Handel Great Composers Competition, 1 st place in the 2017 ASTA Fresno Section Solo Competition, and 1 st place in the 2018 ASTA State Solo Competition for harp. In 2017, she had another Solo Concert and raised

over \$4,000 for Valley Children's Hospital. She is also in the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and she attended the Young Artists Harp Seminar for the first time in 2018. Carter was also the first Kid's Day ambassador for Valley Children's Hospital, and she was the 6th grade 2016 Academic All Star for the Fresno Bee.

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CALIFORNIA ORCHESTRA DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

The California Orchestra Directors Association (CODA) conducted elections for its 2019-2021 Executive Board. The winners were:

President-Elect- Matthew Mulvaney, Miramar HS, San Diego

Vice President- Brant Nishida, Diablo Vista MS, Danville

Secretary- Vickie Christensen, Los Altos High School, Los Altos, Los Altos

Treasurer- Cindy Moyer, Humboldt State University, Arcata

Immediate Past-President- Dr. Bill Harrington, Cal-State, East Bay, Hayward

As Matthew Mulvaney had served as All-State Orchestras Coordinator, Tiffany Ou, of Palo USD and Past CODA Secretary, has been appointed to serve in that capacity at CASMEC.

CODA was very visible and active at the 9th CASMEC in Fresno. The All-State Orchestras and string pedagogy sessions sponsored by CODA were all designed to provide string educators with new ideas and techniques to improve their orchestra programs and teaching. This year's convention included several nationally recognized ASTA string pedagogues. Sessions were presented by ASTA Past-President Stephen Benham, ASTA Convention Host David Pope, Lecturer in String Pedagogy courses for VanderCook College of Music; Renata Bratt, chair of the National ASTA Eclectic Styles Committee. Also presenting sessions were Drs. Cindy Moyer (violin, viola) and Garrick Woods (cello, bass) from Humboldt State University and CODA Secretary Tiffany Ou, Palo Alto Unified School District. In addition, the Orchestra from Buchanan High School (Fresno) under the direction of John Lack reviewed new orchestra music at various levels of difficulty from J. W. Pepper.

All three California All-State Orchestras rehearsed in the Wilson Theater/Cornerstone Church complex. The All-State Symphony was conducted by William LaRue Jones, Director of Orchestras at the University of Iowa and current ASTA President. The High School All-State String Orchestra was under the baton of Dr. Thomas Lowenheim, Orchestra Director and Professor of Cello at California State University, Fresno. ASTA Past-President, conductor and arranger Bob Phillips, led the Junior High All-State String Orchestra, considered by many national string educators to be the premier junior high honor string orchestra in the county!

Conductors for CASMEC in 2021 will be:

HS Symphony conductor: Rei Hotoda, Fresno Philharmonic

Program- Saint Saens - Bacchanale from Samson and Delilah, Tan Dun –

Passacaglia Secret of the Winds and Birds, Prokofiev Symphony #5 Finale 10'

HS String conductor: Sayra Siverson Albuquerque Youth Symphony

JH Strings conductor: William Dick, Austin Youth Symphony

Looking forward to the 2019-2020 school year, CODA will be sponsoring its State Honor Orchestras (High School Symphony and High School String Orchestra) at the University of California, Santa Cruz on December 6-7, 2019. Conductors will be:

State Honor Symphony- Dr. Bruce Kiesling, UC Santa Cruz

State Honor String Orchestra- Sandra Lewis, Gunn HS, Palo Alto

Audition material and deadlines will be posted on the CODA website after July 1, 2019.



STRING PROJECT

SACRAMENTO STATE STRING PROJECT

FALL 2019 Sacramento State String Project begins it's 19th Year!

This program, under the umbrella of the National String Project Consortium, helps college students get practical string teaching experience with children from the community. The project would be impossible without the help of the Sacramento State School of Music, individual donors and Sac State's Associated Students Inc. These donations and grants allow costs to remain low for the children.

Our teachers did an outstanding job spring semester. A special congratulation goes to our three graduating String Project teachers: Cory Oiler - Master of Music in Cello Performance, Emily Svendsen – Bachelor of Music (Viola),

and Amanda Shafer – Bachelor of Music - double major in Music Education and Cello Performance.

These teachers were joined for the 6th semester by Samantha Rosas, viola performance and new teacher, Chris Lee - guitar.

Classes at the satellite teaching location at the Taylor Street School in the Robla School District have been moved from Saturday to Friday afternoons. The students joining the campus students for Monday and Wednesday classes supplement these classes. Robla Educational Foundation helps to subsidize instruments and transportation for these students. This exemplary collaboration offers children an opportunity they otherwise might never have.

Our May 2019 Concert was exciting! The children and teachers performed accompanied by guest-percussionist Warren Gallic. Fun!

An intensive training weekend for the teachers will occur September 8-10 with both Master Teachers. September 10, Master Teacher Timothy Stanley will hold parent meetings and auditions for children who already play and would like to join the String Project. Fall Classes for beginners will begin on September 12 and returning students will begin September 17th.

Please save the date for our next free concert in the Capistrano Concert Recital Hall (parking structure 1) on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 7pm. The program will include endearing favorites and some new orchestra literature. <https://www.csus.edu/stringproject.htm>

Andrew Luchansky, Director

Judy Bossuat-Gallic and Timothy Stanley, Master Teachers

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