



Student Chapter Handbook

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Lindsay Fulcher, Student Chapter Committee Chair (2017–2019)

Lindsay J. Fulcher is the Student Committee Chair for ASTA, beginning January 2017. She is also the assistant professor of string music education at the University of Northern Colorado where she teaches music education courses, advises the student ASTA chapter, and regularly works with local schools to enhance their orchestra experiences. Previously she taught orchestra in North Carolina where her students earned high ratings at local, national, and international festivals. She has been fortunate to conduct orchestras of all levels in North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. She performs regularly on viola and in the past, has kept a small studio of viola, violin, and cello students. She holds a BME from Baldwin Wallace University, an MME from Pennsylvania State University, and she is currently all-but-dissertation in her PhD in Music Education, also from Penn State.

Tracey Krat, ASTA Membership Coordinator/Student Chapter Liaison

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American String Teachers Association

4155 Chain Bridge Road • Fairfax, VA 22030
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Our Business/ ASTA Mission Statement

We provide professional development, career building and support, and a community of peers for all teachers of stringed instruments.

Our Impact/Vision

Enriching lives through universal access to fine string playing and teaching.

Our Core Values

- **Community.** We harness the power of collaboration between people.
- **Excellence.** We will always strive to do our very best work in service of our community.
- **Teaching & Learning.** We are lifelong learners and share our knowledge openly.
- **Integrity.** We will be honest and aligned with our values—always.
- **Passion.** We approach our work with focus and intentionality of commitment.
- **Diversity & Inclusion.** We value every person for the differences of identity, ideas, and interests they bring, and we actively work to engage with those differences.

Our Goals

- Develop and deliver high-value, timely solutions that support the string teacher and player's evolving needs.
- Foster community among string teachers and players.
- Ensure the organizational future of ASTA for upcoming generations of string teachers and players with membership growth and financial health.

ASTA National Board

William LaRue Jones
President

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President-Elect

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ASTA Student Chapter General Information

Student membership is open to any full-time student attending a public, private, or parochial school, college, or university. Membership in ASTA can be a very meaningful and rewarding experience. As a student member, you will receive many benefits: networking with potential mentors, discounted rates on instrument insurance, discounted rates to attend ASTA National Conference, the quarterly *American String Teacher* journal, and the yearly *String Research Journal*. You will have the opportunity to participate in state and local activities, build a professional network, and find future employers.

Membership as an individual student has many advantages, but membership in a student chapter provides a strong and unified voice for string music education. Through student membership, you can demonstrate your support for the improvement of string education and performance. ASTA can help you and your fellow students achieve your goals—and you can be actively involved in making things happen!

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

American String Teachers Association

4155 Chain Bridge Road

Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: 703-279-2113 • Fax: 703-279-2114

E-mail: membership@astastrings.org

Web: www.astastrings.org

Student Chapter Awards

Student chapters and student members are eligible for three annual awards:

- Outstanding Student Chapter Award
- Most Improved Chapter Award
- Student Exemplary Service Award

Applications may be found on the student chapter page on www.astastrings.org along with award forms and submission deadlines. Please consider applying for one or more of these awards. Award winners are announced at the ASTA National Conference, awarded a commemorative plaque, and recognized in the *American String Teacher* journal.

Outstanding and Most Improved Student Chapter Awards

The Outstanding Student Chapter Award and the Most Improved Student Chapter Award honors two student chapters that are actively involved in promoting strings at their college or university, and in their surrounding community. Those chapters that represent themselves through activities and performances both on and off campus, and demonstrate their impact on string education and the strings profession, will be considered for either of these awards.

Student Exemplary Service Award

The Student Exemplary Service Award recognizes college string students who distinguish themselves as active members and supporters of the strings community both on and off campus. These students will have contributed to school and community activities, events, outreach programs, or performances, held a leadership role in their student chapter or in their strings classes, and have participated in any of their state chapter's events or activities.

National Member Programs and Information

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

- **Career Center**

Brush up your resume and see what jobs are out there. ASTA members can request a free resume review.

- **Online Resources**

Whether you are looking for music programs, summer workshops, a private teacher, string products or services, publications, local activities, or the latest news, you will find it at www.astastrings.org. As a member, you also have access to content reserved exclusively for members, including journal archives and a member directory.

- ***American String Teacher Journal***

Every quarter, our award-winning, peer-reviewed journal provides insightful educational content and keeps members informed of developments and news within the string profession.

- **Affordable Instrument Insurance**

ASTA members receive a special discounted rate on instrument insurance through Huntington T. Block (formerly Merz Huber Co.). Your membership must stay current to enjoy these valuable savings. Visit www.huntingtontblock.com/Coverages/Musical-Instrument-Insurance for details.

- **Group Insurance Programs**

Through the Forrest T. Jones Co., ASTA members are eligible for a variety of insurance coverage, such as liability, life, auto, identity theft, health, and more. Visit www.ftj.com/ASTA for details.

- ***String Research Journal***

Members enjoy online access to ASTA's scholarly publication, the *String Research Journal*. Printed copies are also available at a member discount.

- **National Orchestra Festival**

High schools and middle schools are eligible to compete in the ASTA National Orchestra Festival.

- **State Chapter Membership**

ASTA membership dues include membership in your state chapter. State chapter membership offers many benefits, including local networking, conferences, workshops, newsletters, and more.

- **ASTA National Conference**

As an ASTA member, you receive a substantial discount on national conference registration fees. Our annual conference is designed to benefit string professionals of all levels and styles.

- **Professional Development Programs**

ASTA offers professional development hours and/or college credit for those attending the ASTA National Conference.

- **String Industry Council**

The String Industry Council builds a bridge between string teachers and players and companies that support the string community. The String Industry Council Directory helps ASTA members find string products and services. Many Council members also offer discounts to current ASTA members.

- **Student Chapter Activities and Communication**

Student chapters are encouraged to communicate with one another by linking with the ASTA website or submitting chapter news or articles of interest to the ASTA national office for publication. News, articles, or information about your chapter activities should be submitted to the student chapter liaison at the national office.



Formation of a Student Chapter

Planning an Organizational Meeting

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

At the Meeting

1. Have all who attend sign a registry. After the program, invite them to stay for the organizational meeting.
2. Discuss benefits of having an ASTA chapter.
3. Distribute ASTA membership forms.
4. Collect membership forms, proof of student status, and checks for new members only.
5. The faculty sponsor should take nominations for officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
6. Appoint committee chairs now or at the second meeting. Committee chairs may include membership, social, newsletter, and community outreach.
7. Name your chapter (usually the name of your university).
8. Establish a chair and committee to draw up a constitution and bylaws. Samples of both can be found on the student chapter page on www.astastrings.org.
9. Establish a date, time, and place for the next meeting, at which time a proposed constitution and bylaws may be presented, and election of permanent officers may take place.

Before the Second Meeting

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

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

At the Second Meeting

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



Future Meetings

1. ASTA chapter meetings provide time to make music with friends and to become involved in the world of string and orchestra teaching and playing.
2. Keep the Student Chapter Liaison at the ASTA national office informed of your local activities.
3. Send chapter news and photos to the Student Chapter Liaison at the ASTA national office.
4. Since the financial needs of each chapter vary, it is recommended that these needs be identified early in the year. Suggestions for fundraising projects should be solicited from the membership, and plans to implement a project should be well established.

Suggested Student Chapter Activities

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

Musical Meetings

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

Social Meetings

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

Projects

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

Sponsor

1. Invite guests: public school teachers, studio teachers, symphony members, or a college conductor. Each person could talk about their current position in regard to job description, preparation time, rehearsal or lesson time, paperwork, salary, benefits, contract length, etc.
2. Form master classes for area school string and orchestra programs. Popular guest speaker topics include:
 - How to build your resume
 - How to survive the first year of teaching
 - How to market yourself as a freelancer
 - How to set up a private studio
 - Injury prevention
 - Conquering stage fright
 - Teaching chamber music
 - Practice tips
 - Technology
 - Improvisation
 - Surviving student teaching
 - Rehearsal techniques
 - Choosing music that works
 - Fiddle music
 - Jazz
 - Auditioning tips
 - Portfolios
 - Practice interviews
 - Emergency string repairs

3. Invite a middle school or high school group to come to your campus. Have the group perform, give coaching sessions, tour the campus, and perform for them.
4. Host a middle school string festival for students with two and three years of experience.
5. Sponsor a forum of public school teachers to share their expertise and answer questions.
6. Sponsor talks by faculty or community teachers on Suzuki/Rolland/Alexander methods.
7. Have a fundraising event.
8. Provide side-by-side opportunities for younger string players to sit and play with your members.
9. Host a reception honoring music faculty and classmates.
10. Sponsor a series of semi-formal recitals.

Membership and Conference Applications

To continue to grow and prosper, ASTA needs more members like you! If you know of someone who would like to be—or should be—a member, please pass along his or her contact information to the ASTA national office at membership@astastrings.org or 703-279-2113.

Prospective members may also join online at www.astastrings.org/Web/Membership/Individual_Membership.aspx.

Be part of a community as unique as you are. Join us at the ASTA National Conference. Visit www.astastrings.org/nationalconference for more details. There's a special discounted student rate for those registered in an ASTA Student Chapter.

Members of a student chapter receive a discounted conference rate—beyond the normal student discount—if they register as a group by submitting their conference forms and payment together to the ASTA national office. Contact membership@astastrings.org for more information.

Thank you for your commitment to the string profession!

