

# NC ASTA NEWS

Alla Corda—NC Chapter Newsletter

February 2017

## Bob and Pam Phillips Strings Pedagogy Workshop

There was a wonderful turn out for Bob and Pam Phillips's visit to Appalachian State in November. In addition to participation of two fifth grade beginning string classes and their teachers from the Watauga County public schools, there were "Future String Teachers of America" (our School's ASTA student Chapter) as well as local private studio teachers, and music education, performance, and music therapy students.

The two-day event started off with a classroom comprised of Music Industries Majors and a discussion of careers in music business. The group then transitioned to the large orchestral rehearsal space where Bob took nearly fifty beginning string players through drills and a plethora of string playing basics. Standing around the fringe of this energetic "mob" were music education majors, who were able to observe Bob's sage, seasoned instructional techniques. And this was just the beginning....

A new music Reading session ensued Friday evening, and on Saturday sessions discussing issues about copyright, vibrato exercises, improvisation in just about any style!, and bow techniques that make any string section sound great. All in all, everyone had fun and learned a lot at the same time.



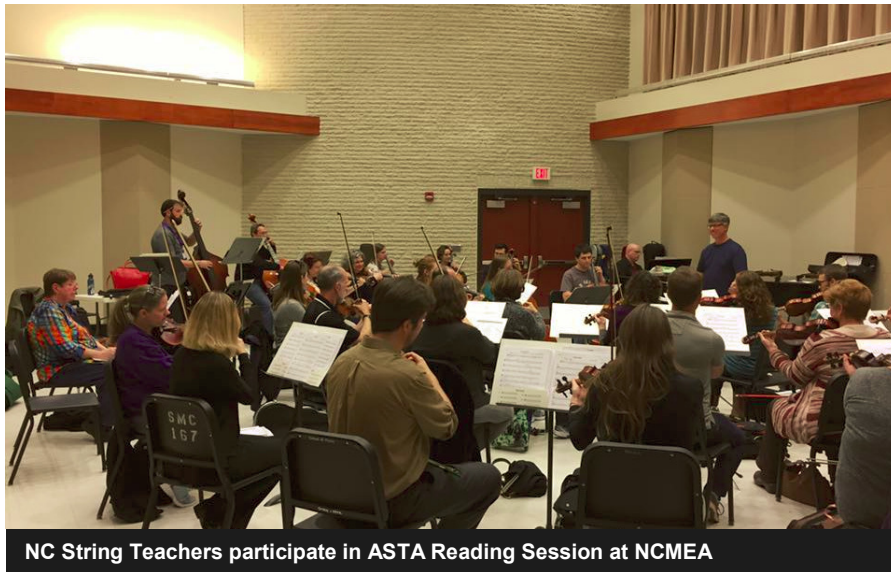
*Bob Phillips works with local string educators at workshop, in Boone, NC.*



**Bob Phillips working with local 5th graders at Appalachian State**

### In This Issue

- Highlights from Fall 2016
- NCMEA Events
- NC ASTA Updates
- Member Accomplishments
- NC ASTA Member Sessions



## Scott Laird Wins ASTA National Award

ASTA Gives the Elizabeth A. H. Green award annually to a teacher with a distinguished career in a school orchestral setting. This year's winner is Scott Laird, instructor of music and fine arts coordinator at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, where he directs the orchestra and teaches courses in classical guitar and piano, music history, and recording technology.

He has been an active string educator, clinician, and conductor for nearly 30 years, and his orchestras have been recognized for their superior and musically mature performances. Laird also serves as an educational specialist for D'Addario Bowed Strings, Coda Bows, and NS Design Electric Violins, and is noted for his pioneering work with electric bowed string instruments in the orchestra classroom.



## NC-ASTA Events at NCMEA

NC-ASTA hosted a couple very successful events at NCMEA in November.

The New Music Reading Session on Saturday afternoon was very well attended, and Scott Laird led the group through a wide variety of pieces that JW Pepper very kindly supplied for the event. Special thanks to Rebecca MacLeod and her assistants for organizing the event and obtaining the music.

The annual NC-ASTA Social at the Old Fourth Street Filling Station was outstanding as usual. In addition to lots of people in attendance and good food, this year Scott Laird's Broad Street Collective provided music throughout the social hour, and two NC-ASTA Solo Competition winners each performed very beautifully. The two soloists were Emilia Sharpe, violin, who performed the Bach E major Partita Preludio, and Sarah Bryant, bass, who performed the Bach G major Prelude. Thanks to Brooks Whitehouse for organizing the solo competition and arranging for the winners to perform.

Another annual tradition at the Social Hour is the awarding of door prizes, and thank you to Aaron Craven for overseeing this and the various NC-ASTA members who arranged for businesses to donate items for us to use as door prizes and assisted in distributing the prizes. This year items were provided by a wide range of companies including Winston-Salem Violins, The Band Company, D'Addario, J.W. Pepper, Moore Music, Jackson's Music, Triangle Strings (Pasewicz String Instruments), North Carolina Symphony, and Music & Arts. We really appreciate all of the companies who support us by supplying items for the social!

Please contact me at [wcslechta@yahoo.com](mailto:wcslechta@yahoo.com) if you have questions or want more information about these annual events.

Bill Slechta  
NC-ASTA President

## Anita Hynus Recognized in SB&O's 50 Directors Who Make a Difference



Anita Hynus was recognized as the North Carolina representative on SBO's 19th Annual '50 Directors Who Make a Difference'. She is the orchestra teacher at Martin GT Magnet Middle School in Raleigh, NC.

When asked how she hopes to make a difference in students' lives, Hynus replied: "I hope that my students see the joy that I get out of helping them learn and explore music and playing an instrument. Music is more than just notes on the page to me, it's heart."

The rest of the feature can be found here:

<http://sbomagazine.com/resources/1434-directors-who-make-a-difference/5614-sbo-presents-the-19th-annual-50-directors-who-make-a-difference.html>



Steve Eggleston works with students at Southeast Strings Festival

## A Message from the President

NC-ASTA members, here are a few updates:

1. If you are going to be attending the national ASTA conference in Pittsburgh in early March, please watch your email for information about NC-ASTA gatherings.
2. If you are on Facebook, please feel free to join the NC-ASTA Group on Facebook and post news about good things that are happening for strings and orchestras in NC to share with your colleagues. I would like to see our Facebook Group become more active celebrating all of our successes, so please help and see if you have a "good news" item to share.
3. Please continue to watch for periodic email updates from NC-ASTA that we hope provide you with information that you find helpful or interesting. I expect to have the NC-ASTA email updates sent to you from a new email address specifically for NC-ASTA News sometime later this winter or spring.
4. I want to thank all of you for your continued support of NC-ASTA and ASTA! I hope that you will feel free to contact me by email at [wcslechta@yahoo.com](mailto:wcslechta@yahoo.com) if you have suggestions or ideas for ways to improve our organization or if you would like to volunteer to participate in our state leadership. Together we can work to strengthen our community of school string teachers and orchestra directors, studio teachers, university faculty, string performers, orchestra conductors, collegiate string students, string enthusiasts, and many others who promote strings in NC.

Bill Slechta  
West Cary Middle School  
NC-ASTA President

# NC-ASTA Member Presentations at ASTA National Conference

Thursday, March 2nd 9:45 AM-10:45 AM—Room 404/405

## Approach, Arrive, Depart: Strategies for Developing Expressive Ensembles

In this demo group session, the clinician will offer techniques and tips for approaching and developing musicianship and expressiveness in young string and full orchestra ensembles of all grade levels and ages. These practical and effective strategies have been developed over many years with a particular eye toward cohesive, expressive ensembles. Topics will include direction of line, accuracy vs. accurate placement, note grouping and speech patterns, style period concepts, groove, breathing and movement, bow technique, and approach to bow direction. The demonstration will include ensemble repertoire for a variety of grade levels.

Scott Laird, North Carolina School of Science and Math

Thursday, March 2nd 1:00 PM– 2:00PM - Room 404/405

## Effective Rehearsals: Combining Artistry with Pedagogy

High school orchestra directors are frequently expected to fill the role of both conductor and string teacher. This learning lab focuses on effective rehearsals that incorporate detailed musical expectations, excellent non-verbal instruction, clear goals, specific feedback, and effective pacing. It includes demonstrations of favorite rehearsal strategies that promote artistry.

Rebecca MacLeod, University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
Kevin Gerald, University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
Sarah Lavelle, North Allegheny High School

Friday, March 3rd 8:15 AM—9:15 AM—Room 306/307

## MUSIC INDUSTRY SHOWCASE: Harnessing Electric Strings Technology To Become A Creative Strings Player

Violinist, educator and music entrepreneur Christian Howes explains the pros and cons of going electric with pickups, mics or solid body instruments, how to use amps and PA's, how to take control of your sound using effects, and how to apply looping on stage, in lessons and in the practice room.

Presenter: Christian Howes

Friday, March 3rd 1:30 pm– 2:30 pm—Room 306/307

## Chamber Music Study: The Bedrock of Large Ensemble Success

Transformation and cultivation of your middle/high school or college orchestra into a well-tuned, expressive unit can be promoted by integration of small chamber ensembles into your school's curriculum. Structured study of quintets, quartets, trios, and duos require students to improve their reading and listening skills, while it also develops leadership, musical accountability, and finer sense of musical style.

Nancy Bargerstock, Appalachian State University  
Eric Koontz, Appalachian State University

## Contact Us

### President:

William Slechta  
wcslechta@yahoo.com

### Past-President:

Rebecca MacLeod  
rbmacleo@uncg.edu

### President-Elect:

Aaron Craven  
aaron.craven@fcds.org

### Treasurer

Palma Rajki  
palma.rajki@gmail.com

### Secretary

Courtney Guthrie  
Courtney1.guthrie@cs.k12.nc.us

### Newsletter

Jessica MacNair  
Jessica.macnair7@gmail.com

"To enrich lives through the joy of teaching and playing stringed instruments."