

# NC ASTA NEWS

American String Teachers Association—NC Chapter Newsletter

January 2016

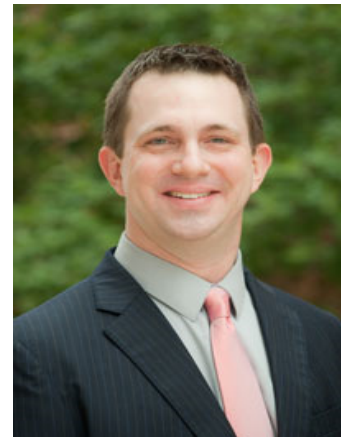
## Southeast Honors String Festival and Teachers Conference

The 6th Annual Southeast Honors String Festival hosted at UNCG is an intensive three-day (January 22-24, 2016) festival for students in grades 9-12, as well as middle and high school orchestra directors. Dr. Doug Droste, Artistic Director of the Muncie (IN) Symphony and Director of Orchestras at Ball State University, will serve as guest clinician.

The String Teachers Conference features clinics on topics including string pedagogy, instrument repair, and effective rehearsal techniques, presented by members of the UNCG Music faculty and guests. The fee for all participating string directors and private teachers is \$65, which includes the festival fee, refreshments, and parking. Participants may earn 1.5 units of North Carolina Certificate Renewal Credit. The String Teachers Conference is a terrific opportunity to grow and develop as teachers and musicians under the guidance and inspiration of our outstanding clinicians.

Check out our website to see the specific clinics offered this year:

<http://performingarts.uncg.edu/string-festival/teachers-conference> .



*Conductor Doug Droste is recognized as possessing an “obvious joy” for making music and a “sure sense of timing” when on the podium.*



Dr. Kevin Gerald conducts Southeast Honors Orchestra Students

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Gate City Camerata performs Piazzolla's Four Seasons with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg

## Lets Go Bulls!

The West Cary Middle School String Orchestra performed the National Anthem before a Durham Bulls minor league baseball game at the end of last school year. Over 100 West Cary students, parents, and teachers attended the game as an enjoyable end-of-year activity and celebration. This was the third time in four years that the orchestra has had this opportunity.

The String Orchestra is the name for the combined Intermediate Strings/Advanced Strings class at West Cary Middle School. Last year, this orchestra included 46 students ranging from students with one year to seven years of experience playing a string instrument. Bill Slechta has been the Orchestra Director at West Cary since January 2010.

## Highlights From 2015

### Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg in Residence at UNC Greensboro

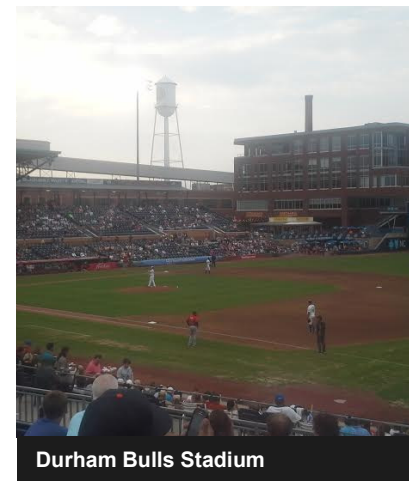
World-renowned violinist, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, was in residence at UNC Greensboro in October for several days of masterclasses, sessions with students, rehearsals, and a special performance as part of the University Performing Arts Series. This concert, on October 23 in UNCG's historic Aycock Auditorium, featured Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg as soloist and concertmaster with the UNCG Gate City Camerata and as soloist with the UNCG Symphony Orchestra.

Visit the University Performing Arts website for more information, including ticketing for future university sponsored events.

### Hough Orchestra Performs at Davidson UMC

The Hough Symphonic Orchestra filled the choir loft at Davidson United Methodist Church during the Sunday morning services on September 20th. This was the third year that the school orchestra performed at DUMC. The orchestra performed the following selections and some other prelude music: On a Hymnsong of Phillip Bliss, A Mighty Fortress, and Sheep May Safely Graze.

Director Bill Myers says: "This outreach to the local community is great for the community and the students in the orchestra. The congregation is always very appreciative of the orchestra - standing ovations are a great way to start the year! It is also likely to be the largest audience that we perform for each year. Furthermore, it generally produces gigs for students in the ensemble for other events (ex. Christmas, Easter, and Weddings)."



Durham Bulls Stadium

## NCASTA Solo Competition

The Annual ASTA state competition will be held on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at UNCSCA's Watson Hall. The Junior division is open to players 18 and under, and the Senior division to ages 19-25.

The repertoire requirements for both divisions is 1 movement of Bach, and two contrasting works. The auditions are 10 minutes for the Juniors and 15 minutes for the Seniors. *Please note, this year memorization is required for Bach, and for all concertos.*

Applications will be available on the state chapter website by February 1. For further information, please write Dr. Brooks Whitehouse at

[whitehouseb@uncsa.edu](mailto:whitehouseb@uncsa.edu)



This is a stock photo. Do you wish it was a photo of a cool event lead by an NC ASTA member? Send photos of any one of the great things you do to [Jessica.macnair7@gmail.com](mailto:Jessica.macnair7@gmail.com) to see them published in the next NC ASTA newsletter!

## NC ASTA Sponsored Events

### NC-ASTACAP

The Board is happy to announce that NC ASTA will be holding two ASTA CAP examinations this spring: in Durham and Charlotte. Over the last 12 years the ASTA Certificate Advancement Program (CAP) has proved to inspire and structure student learning nationally. It is not a competition, but rather an evaluation process that provides a gauge for private string students to measure their progress annually.

The 11-level ASTA CAP Syllabus (2015) is available for free to all current ASTA members at: [astaweb.com](http://astaweb.com). At the examination, students are graded and receive comments on solo repertoire (e.g. left and right hand technique, intonation, tone, rhythm, style, etc.), specific technical requirements (scales, arpeggios, and an etude) and sight reading. Memorization is strongly suggested for all students, but is no longer mandatory. For more information, refer to the ASTA CAP Handbook [here](#).

**Date: Saturday, April 30th, 2016**

**Location: First Presbyterian Church  
305 East Main Street , Durham, NC  
(919) 682-5511**

**Site Coordinator: Mary Kay Robinson  
Cell phone: (201) 951-1966  
Email:marykayrobinson47@gmail.com**

**Date: Saturday, May 21st, 2016**

**Location: Myers Park High School,  
2400 Colony Rd, Charlotte, NC  
(980) 343-5800**

**Site Coordinator: Nancy Bargerstock  
Cell phone: (828) 773-7727  
Email: bargerstocknancy@gmail.com**

The ASTA CAP flyer can help explain the program to students and parents and can be posted on bulletin boards at music schools or mailed to parents and teachers.

[http://www.astaweb.com/App\\_Themes/Public/Libby/ASTACAP\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.astaweb.com/App_Themes/Public/Libby/ASTACAP_flyer.pdf)

## NC ASTA Scholarship

The North Carolina American String Teachers Association String Education Scholarship has been established to encourage preservice string teachers to become professionally active through our state service organization, NC-ASTA. The scholarship will be awarded to one college junior or senior scheduled to student teach in the spring or fall of the following year. Eligible applicants must play a string instrument and currently be enrolled in a music education program at an accredited North Carolina College or University. **The recipient of this award will receive \$1,000 towards tuition to offset the costs incurred during student teaching as well as a one-year student membership to ASTA.**

More information can be found [here](#)

## Member Accomplishments

### 2016 ASTA National Conference

NC ASTA members Scott Laird, Dr. Rebecca MacLeod, Christen Blanton Mack, and Mark Dillon will all be presenting at the ASTA National Conference in Tampa Bay March 2nd-5th. The name and date of each presentation is below, more information can be accessed [here](#)

#### **Pedagogy from the Podium**

**Friday 1:45 p.m.-2:45 p.m. – Room: 18**

**Presenter:** Scott Laird, North Carolina School of Science and Math

#### **Achieving an Artistic Vibrato in the String Class**

**Thursday 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. – Room: 13**

**Presenter:** Rebecca MacLeod, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

#### **Finding a Place in the Circle: Navigating Your Community Jam Session**

**Saturday 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Room: 1/2**

**Presenter:** Christen Blanton, The University of North Carolina, Greensboro; Mark Dillon, The University of North Carolina Greensboro; Holly Riley, The University of North Carolina Greensboro

## ArtsGreensboro 2015 Arts Educator of the Year

NC ASTA member Donald Walter was named the ArtsGreensboro 2015 Educator of the Year. The award was established in 2006 and recognizes one outstanding arts educator in the Guilford County School System each year. Walter has been the co-director of the Northwest Guilford Middle School Bands and Orchestras since 2007.

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

## Contact Us

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I think it would be wonderful to get a newsletter out twice a year, and in order to do that, I need event information from members! It would be great to include a guest column on string teaching/pedagogy each newsletter as well. Please send photos, event information and ideas or proposals for a column to the e-mail above!

- Jessica MacNair