



Florida Chapter-American String Teachers Association Newsletter

The String Section
October 2015

Greetings!

This is a HUGE year for Florida ASTA! From March 2 through 5, our state string community will be hosting the National ASTA Conference in Tampa. This is an event that happens for us every one or two decades, and you will see one of the largest gatherings of string professionals and artists all in one place. As you peruse through our most current newsletter, you will see that we have a lot of string activity happening in Florida. This is always the case, and we are involved in every corner of our state nurturing string education outreach to thousands of teachers and students every year. It is no wonder that we are a desirable place to host a major string convention (and the weather also helps, of course!). I encourage you to invite all your students and string colleagues to join ASTA this year and be part of what we are doing. FLASTA is all about promoting string education and performance, and we are here to equip you and support you in what matters most to you in our profession. Help us be the best resource we can be....become involved, encourage others to join- share your talent, passion, and experience with us! I look forward to seeing you at the convention!

Brian Powell, DMA
FLASTA President
Asst. Professor of Double Bass and Music Education
Frost School of Music
University of Miami

In This Issue

[South Meets North](#)

[Bach Parley String Academy](#)

[Patriotic Tour](#)

[Outstanding Educator Honored](#)

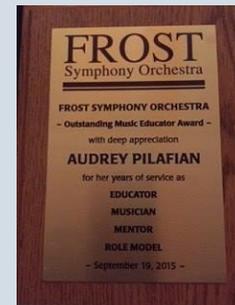
FLASTA South Meets North

September 26, 2015
Miami, Florida

FL-ASTA South Meets North.....by Tinder Burris

This month, I had to privilege to travel to Tallahassee, Florida to

Outstanding Educator Honored!



Audrey Pilafian, cello teacher extraordinaire, received a surprise honor at the UM Frost Symphony Concert program of Mahler's Fifth Symphony on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015.

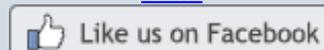
Maestro Thomas Sleeper announced he would be recognizing an outstanding music educator in the community with an award presentation. Ms. Pilafian was the first to be chosen for this award and received a plaque and flowers, along with a standing ovation.

The award was also presented on Ms. Pilafian's birthday, Sept. 19!

Ms. Pilafian thanks Mr. Sleeper and the Frost Symphony Orchestra for being awarded this special recognition, and is honored and humbled by this prestigious award.

Quick Links

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[ASTA](#)



Alhambra Orchestra

1) CONCERTO COMPETITION:

visit my daughter perform on the cello with the FSU Symphony Orchestra and their Director, Alex Jimenez, featured performers at the ASTA Convention, in Tampa. They performed the Schubert 8th Symphony; a stunning performance, to say the least.

I also had the opportunity to meet up with the effervescent, Ms. Valerie Arsenault, Music Director of The Tallahassee Bach Parley based at St. John's Episcopal Church, a historic building in Downtown Tallahassee across the street from the Capital building. The Tallahassee Bach Parley is a series of concerts featuring Baroque music on period instruments held in the sanctuary of the church. "Parley" means "a conversation" giving Valerie, who speaks with wit, knowledge and light-heartedness, the opportunity to educate and converse with concert goers about the instruments and music they are about to see and hear before the concert begins.

In addition, The Tallahassee Bach Parley has launched the String Academy which offers lessons on violin, viola and cello using the classroom facilities of the church. "Our mission is to cultivate in young people and appreciate of and achievement in music and to nurture positive character development," said Valerie. "In addition to providing high quality music instruction we help our students develop leadership, focus, determination, and responsibility." Valerie and faculty members, Caroline Holden, Miriam Barfield and Zlatina Staykova are committed to teaching string students of all levels and backgrounds.

On the weekend of my visit the String Academy hosted their 2nd week of the FMEA/FOA "All-State" workshops to assist middle and high school string students prepare for their upcoming audition. "We help students polish their audition skills so that in addition to being technically prepared, students learn to handle the pressure of an audition. We plan to host more workshops in the future, as well as masterclasses to give our students all kind of learning experiences." The students in the workshop I attended came from different Tallahassee public and private schools and diverse socio-economic backgrounds. There was a family who drove all the way from Georgia to attend, as well.

What a thrill for me to experience a weekend in North Florida where great things in music and music education happen every day and a big THANK YOU to Valerie Arsenault and The Tallahassee Bach Parley String Academy for including me.

Bach Parley String Academy

Website: www.TallahasseeBachParley.org/StringAcademy
Email: StringAcademy@TallahasseeBachParley.org
Phone: (850) 270-3485

The Bach Parley String Academy brings music and life lessons to downtown Tallahassee.

The Tallahassee Bach Parley is known for dynamic performances using period instruments presented with lively commentary in a relaxed concert atmosphere. Their newest project, the Bach Parley String Academy, focuses on the process of making music more than the final performance. This new music school offers lessons on violin, viola, and cello at the central location of Saint

Alhambra Orchestra in Miami is accepting entries for its annual concerto competition, open to middle and high school students in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe counties. Players of any orchestral instrument are eligible, which includes strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, piano, guitar or harp. CDs and application forms due December 15th. Contact Helen Hauser, hhauserjd@aol.com to get an application form.

2) CHAMBER MUSIC WORKSHOP -- Adult amateurs and advanced student chamber players are invited to Alhambra Orchestra's annual weekend chamber music workshop on January 8-10, 2016, at the University of Miami. Instructors will be the Bergonzi String Quartet and other U. of Miami faculty. Mostly strings, but pianists are welcome, as well as wind players who want to work in mixed groups. Pre-formed groups accepted, or we will find compatible players for unmatched registrants. Modest tuition, and some scholarships available. The weekend concludes with a participants' recital. Contact Helen Hauser hhauserjd@aol.com or Bob Gavilo bgavilo1@gmail.com to get a brochure and application form.

Join Our Mailing List!

Kids Go for B'roque



Tallahassee Bach Parley announces "Kids Go for B'roque" Competition and Concert

The Tallahassee Bach Parley announces "Kids Go for B'roque" 2016, an annual competition and honors concert for musicians 18 years old and younger and currently studying with a private teacher. Strings, winds, pianists, vocalists, guitarists, and small chamber ensembles are welcome to audition playing pieces of the Baroque period, 1600-1750.

Applications are due February 8, 2016 and auditions will be held Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the Florida State University College of Music. A panel of three judges will select those students who will



String Academy Faculty

John's Episcopal Church downtown.

The inspiration for starting the String Academy came last February.

"My colleagues Caroline Holden, Miriam Barfield and I were talking about our teaching, and after further discussion about possibilities with Betsy Calhoun, Director of Music at St. John's, we realized that together we can create a new music academy which will be mutually beneficial to the students, the teachers, the Bach Parley, and St. John's," says Valerie Arsenault, who is the

President and Music Director of the Tallahassee Bach Parley.

"Our mission is to cultivate in young people an appreciation of and achievement in music and to nurture positive character development," said Arsenault. "In addition to providing high quality music instruction we help our students develop leadership, focus, determination, and responsibility."

The faculty are all experienced, professional performing musicians with graduate degrees. Caroline Holden teaches violin, Zlatina Staykova teaches cello, and Miriam Barfield and Valerie Arsenault teach violin and viola. Together, this group of active performers and teachers will provide students with individual lessons, performance opportunities, masterclasses and workshops.

Workshops bring students together to learn about special topics in their musical development. The first two Bach Parley String Academy workshops focused on preparing students to audition for the Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA) "All-State" Orchestra auditions to be held at the end of September. Open to all community string players, these workshops help improve preparation and performance skills. Working with each of the String Academy teachers in breakout sessions, students practiced scales, sight-reading and the required musical excerpts they will record later this month during the actual All-State auditions.

"We help students polish their audition skills," said Arsenault, "so that in addition to being technically prepared, students learn to handle the pressure of an audition. We plan to host more workshops in the future, as well as masterclasses to give our students all kinds of learning experiences."

Bach Parley String Academy students of all levels will have ample opportunities to perform, which develops their musicianship and gives them the experience of preparing a piece to high standards. Performance opportunities also create wonderful live music experiences for the community.

Another part of the mission of Bach Parley String Academy is to bring together students of different backgrounds through the study and performance of music.

"Now that we are open and teaching students, our next goal is to establish a scholarship program to reduce the cost for students who could otherwise not afford private lessons," says Arsenault. The String Academy is planning several fundraising initiatives and is accepting donations on their website at www.TallahasseeBachParley.org/StringAcademy.

perform in a prestigious honors concert that allows them to showcase their skills in a celebration of Baroque music. Each judge will provide the entrants with written feedback about their audition to be shared with each child's music teacher as an opportunity for discussion and education.

"The Tallahassee Bach Parley is committed to showcasing the talents of our region's young musicians," says President and Music Director Dr. Valerie Arsenault. "'Kids Go for B'roque' allows them to benefit from the preparation needed to perform to high standards, receive valuable feedback from prominent judges, and perform a concert of Baroque music for the community."

The "Kids Go for B'roque" concert will be held at 3 PM, Sunday, March 13, 2016 at Longmire Recital Hall at the FSU College of Music. Admission is free, and families are encouraged to attend to support the efforts of these talented young musicians. For the past several years the Florida chapter of the American String Teachers Association (FLASTA) and Legacy Toyota have generously sponsored "Kids Go for B'roque."

The Tallahassee Bach Parley presents a five-concert season of Baroque music performed on period instruments as well providing lessons for violin, viola, and cello at the Bach Parley String Academy. For more information about the Tallahassee Bach Parley and "Kids Go for B'roque," including guidelines and applications, please visit www.tallahasseebachparley.org/KGFB.

Conferences



Local teachers attended workshops across the state during September in preparation for the ASTA conference to be held in Florida this year! Sessions were led by Past President Bob Phillips and President Stephen Benham and

"I am thrilled to work with my students and the other faculty members," says Arsenault. "We want to make sure that all children in our community have access to good music education."

In the spring, the Tallahassee Bach Parley will hold "Kids Go for B'roque," an annual competition and honors recital featuring musicians 18 years old and younger playing pieces of the Baroque period, 1600-1750. Strings, winds, pianists, vocalists, and small chamber ensembles are welcome to audition. A panel of three judges will select those students who will perform on the concert. Auditions will be on February 20, and the final concert on March 13, 2016.

For more information about the Bach Parley String Academy and the Tallahassee Bach Parley, visit www.TallahasseeBachParley.org.

"Patriotic Tour" A Huge Success!



While most school children spent their summer glued to ipods, texting relentlessly and playing endless computer games, the members of the Tampa Bay Golden Strings, directed by Eden Vaning-Rosen, spent the summer rosinning their bows and giving back to their community! The "Patriotic Tour," created and sponsored by the Violin Book.com, has become an awesome vehicle to raise community awareness of string programs and performances, and has spearheaded an unprecedented demand for string groups as community favorites. The Golden Strings, comprised of 6 year old beginners through awesome teen-aged violinists, violists and cellists, marched in the Safety Harbor Fourth-of-July Parade, performed the National Anthem (and a requested encore by the Mayor on live TV!) at the Pinellas Park City Council meeting, and honored members of the Sheriff's department with stirring Patriotic Tunes at a special High Point YMCA luncheon.

"There is no reason to stop our Patriotic Tour because July 4th is over," said nine-year-old violinist Arlette Vaguera, "because there are brave men and women who put out the blazing fires, face bullets, and put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe. We need to thank them, and we'll be out there all year long to tell them we appreciate them, through our music!"

But that wasn't all this young group of musical "Ambassadors of Good Will" did this summer. They performed a special concert at Clearwater's Centennial Celebration, at Mease Manor's Mother's Day Celebration, at Tampa's Steinbrenner Field for "Christmas in July" and recently at Clearwater's "First Night in the Stacks" gala for the opening of the new Countryside Library. "At first it was hard learning five Patriotic Tunes, twelve Christmas Carols, and a concert of all classical music, because I've only played one year. But I worked hard and I did it! Now I feel like I can do anything in life!" said 10 year old violinist Mirtha Montero.

The group is now working on a "Smoking-Hot" Country Fiddling program complete with dance steps to perform at Palm Harbor's "Dogtoberfest" and the calls for Christmas Programs are pouring in.

"With many parents expressing concern over their children spending way too much time on computers, getting no exercise,

included topics such as bowing artistry, developing tone, and the ASTA national string curriculum.



[FLASTA/FOA Conference](#)

[National Conference](#)

[Suzuki Training](#)

and often exhibiting ill manners, it's important to get back to basic human values." says director Eden Vaning-Rosen. For this reason she has combined her private string students with the students from the High Point YMCA Musical Alternatives program she directs, to create a program that's focused on providing quality community service, offers plenty of exercise, fosters personal integrity and social skills, raises grade point averages, and is fun!

For more information of the program, call 727-442-6828, or email edenvaning@ebaru.com.

Sincerely,

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Florida Chapter- American String Teachers Association