



Florida Chapter-American String Teachers Association Newsletter

The String Section

November 2014

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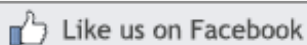
Vivian Gonzalez honored as Grammy Foundation Music Educator Semi-Finalist

Grammy Announcement

Vivian was also recognized by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics and Lady Antebellum. In addition, Ms. Gonzalez presented at the NAFME National Conference in Nashville in late October.

Quick Links...

Our Website



National ASTA

Treasurer's Report
Special Projects Grants

Auditions for the FLASTA Middle School Honors Orchestra will take place on December 2, 2014 at

Greetings!

One of the things I have always appreciated about ASTA, and what has become even more apparent to me as I am more actively involved with them, is that ASTA is all about community. You are hard pressed to find another organization that not only embraces every sector of the string music world, but seeks to build meaningful and supportive relationships within these groups. Whether you are a studio teacher, or in public or private schools, or in the university, or in youth orchestras, or perform professionally, or work in the music industry-- there is a place for you in ASTA. We exist to support and promote your sphere of influence, and we do this financially, through providing workshops, networking, advertisement for your events, as well as providing great musical benefits to our members. We are looking forward to hosting the National ASTA Convention in Tampa, Florida in 2016, and I cannot think of a better time for all of our string teachers in Florida to come together and showcase the kind of dynamic, vibrant string community that exists here. We exist for you and your string colleagues, and the more we can bring our family together, the more impact we are going to make.... for ALL of our students, and the ones we aim to reach in the future. Encourage your string colleagues to join today!

Sincerely,

Brian Powell
President, FLASTA

Cello Seminar with Nicholas Anderson

University of Miami, February 20-22
by Melissa Lesniak

I caught up with Nicholas Anderson, cellist and teacher from New York, who will be presenting his special weekend seminar for cellists at UM in February. The following is what we discussed.

ML: First of all, who is invited to be in the seminar?

South Miami Middle School,
6750 SW 60 St., 305-661-
3481, starting at 4:30 PM.
Contact [Tinder Burris](#) for
more details.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Stringbabies

New "Stringbabies" tutor book will make the Viola a more popular instrument for young people.

Young musicians can now learn the viola with a new edition of the highly acclaimed "Stringbabies" music teaching method, published by "Stringbabies" creator, Kay Tucker who lives in Horsham, West Sussex. The viola has been in steady decline because fewer young people are taught to play it; Kay's new teaching method will help reverse this trend.

Kay created the Stringbabies approach 10 years ago, initially for cello and two years later completed a version for violin; now she has added an edition for the viola. Her unique method, which employs the use of shaped notation and soft toys for the youngest students, has gained a strong reputation for enabling budding musicians from as young as 3 years to be able to read and comprehend musical notation at the same time as learning to play a stringed instrument and compose.

In creating a version of this highly successful program for viola, Kay is meeting a gap in the market for viola playing and teaching. She said 'many viola players start off on the violin and then convert. I am hoping to promote the ideal that viola players can start at a very young age and right from the start. The viola is a most beautiful instrument, with a unique autumnal tone, quite unlike the violin and cello, and deserves to be promoted as much as possible'.

NA: The seminar is for all cellists in the South Florida area - or anywhere else! It's for professionals, students and amateurs of all ages and levels. It's of particular interest to cello teachers, many of whom have found that it gives them powerful new tools for helping their students.

ML: What is the Breakthrough about?

NA: It has to do with the physical relationship between the body and the cello - and how to play more naturally and easily, with less tension and blockage. It turns out that the same principles that make us more expressive and artistic, also solve the problem of stiffness and pain in playing.

ML: What's different about this Breakthrough, and where did it come from?

NA: It's based on my many years of work with the late master teacher Margaret Rowell in California. She was an innovative genius who devised a unique approach to these problems - and it produces remarkable results. In my own forty-plus years of cello teaching, I've researched all the methods I can find, and I've never seen anything even close to this one.

ML: Was she well-known as a teacher?

NA: Yes. She taught many prominent and successful cellists, including Paul Tobias, Bonnie Hampton, Irene Sharp, and Scott Kluksdahl. She was an honoree at Starker's Eva Janzer Cello Center in Indiana. She received the ASTA Distinguished Service Award in 1977. She was brought to New York to be a judge for the Naumburg Competition. The list goes on.

ML: What about your own background?

NA: I divide my time between giving recital and concerto performances here and abroad, and teaching. I've been giving the Breakthrough Cello Seminars for several decades now, because I think the material makes such an important difference for cellists. I'm also vice president of the Violoncello Society, Inc. of New York.

ML: Is the seminar like a lecture?

NA: No - it's very interactive and "hands-on" for every person in it. The participants are all seated in a semi-circle with their cellos out, so that I can physically teach everyone, and I also have them work with each other in various ways. Everybody comes out of it with a tangible new experience with the cello.

ML: How does someone register or find out more about it?

NA: Just send an e-mail to info@cello-seminars.com, or feel free to call me at (212) 678-1540.

[Event Information](#)
[Nicholas Anderson Bio](#)

FLASTA Annual Luncheon and Awards

FLASTA Members met for their annual luncheon and awards presentation last month in Orlando

The innovative Stringbabies approach has twice been a finalist for the Rhinegold Music Teacher Award for excellence in Music Education and is now being delivered in four music services as well as by individually trained teachers throughout the UK and in the USA. Kay's work has drawn much praise from professionals throughout the music profession, including the famous solo percussionist, Dame Evelyn Glennie.

NOTES:

Stringbabies creator, Kay Tucker is available for media interviews. She lives in Horsham, West Sussex. Photo attached to this email shows Stringbabies creator, Kay Tucker with her new books.

For more information contact:
 Kay Tucker: Tel: 01403 256226 & 0773 0876 311 Email: kay.tucker@o2.co.uk
 Website: www.stringbabies.com
 Additional contact: Jenny Cain (PA)
 Email: jenny@stringbabies.com

Be Better with Bergonzi

Alhambra Orchestra, in Miami, announces its 11th annual weekend chamber music workshop on January 9th to 11th, for string players but also mixed ensembles such as piano quartets. Ideal for chamber music lovers of all ages, from young students to retirees. Faculty from University of Miami's Bergonzi String Quartet.

Low tuition, and some scholarships available for fulltime students. Register by Dec 15th.

To get a registration form, contact Helen Hauser hhauserjd@aol.com or (305) 342-2777.

during the FOA/FLASTA Conference. During the luncheon the following individuals were recognized: Melissa Lesniak- National Kudos Award, Vivian Gonzalez- Studio Teacher Award, Samuel Chadwick- New Teacher Award, and Matthew Stott- School Teacher Award.



Melissa Lesniak, National Kudos Award, and Vivian Gonzalez, FLASTA Studio Teacher Award

The keynote speaker for the conference was ASTA national president Dr. Stephen Benham. FLASTA

President Brian Powell presented on bass technique.



Rafael Ramirez from Music Education Tools and Professor Pamela McConnell

Additional presentations were given by FLASTA members Terice Allen, Judy Evans, Jeanne Halberg, and Al Hudson. After the FOA and FLASTA general meetings, FLASTA members gathered for the annual luncheon and awards presentations.



FLASTA Luncheon Attendees

ASTA @ FSU

Chamber music has taken a front seat of

importance
this fall at
Leon High
School in
Tallahassee.



In conjunction
with Florida
State
University and Dr. Brenner works with Tallahassee students
the FSU

student ASTA chapter, Leon began an after-school chamber
music program that places FSU music education student
coaches with LHS student musicians. Modeled after Chamber
Music Connection (Worthington, Ohio), the nine-week program
includes a weekly coaching, weekly rehearsal time, and master
classes with local area teachers and visiting guest artists,
notably Dr. Shannon Thomas of FSU and Dr. Brenda Brenner of
Indiana University. The program concludes with a final concert
on November 22.

The FSU ASTA chapter sponsored a two-part series on
effective chamber music coaching presented by Dr. Kasia
Bugaj, Professor of String Education, and Mr. John Thayer, Leon
HS Orchestra Director. The workshops outlined a pedagogical
approach to chamber music and chamber music coaching and
allowed attendees to apply their newly acquired coaching skills
in a controlled real-life setting.

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On October 22nd and 23rd, the FSU student ASTA chapter
hosted Dr. Brenda Brenner at the Florida State University.
During her visit she worked with FSU students and string
players throughout the Leon County area. Her visit was
bookended by two pre-college master classes at FSU and a
local high school. She presented two workshops on effective
ensemble rehearsal techniques, during which FSU music
education students played secondary string instruments, while
some got to conduct and receive feedback. Finally, in a session
that stretched far beyond the allotted time, the string education
majors had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Brenner in an
informal setting and ask her about anything related to her broad
experience in studio, pre-college, school, and university
teaching. The faculty and students of FSU and Leon High
School really enjoyed her visit and hope that she can come
back again soon!

Sincerely,

Melissa Lesniak
Past President & Newsletter Chair
Florida Chapter
American String Teachers Association