

Welcome, from the Board !

This *MNSOTA Handbook and Directory* contains all the registration forms and information for all MNSOTA events this year. We hope you will find it helpful to have everything in one place. Please browse through and mark your calendar now. *You will not get additional mailings!*

Please take a moment to check that your directory listing is correct. Send information additions and corrections to our Membership Coordinator, Cindy Johnson 516 West Lake St., Winona, MN 55987, 507-452-0258, MNSOTAmembership@gmail.com. Members with e-mail will get reminders of our MNSOTA events, so make sure we have your e-mail address!

As you browse our membership list, think of the colleagues with whom you teach. If someone is not a member, please tell them about MNSOTA, give them a membership form and encourage them to join.

Members are encouraged to participate in the on-going process of teacher education as offered through the varied events of the Minnesota String and Orchestra Teachers Association and to share their knowledge and love of music pedagogy and performance among colleagues.

MNSOTA is dedicated to encouraging young teachers at the beginning of their career. Our teacher education events are *free* to student members. Please invite college students to the All-State Teacher Workshop and the Fall Clinic. Our Mentor Program is designed for teachers at the beginning of their career and teachers in new teaching circumstances. Ask to be connected to a mentor.

We appreciate the business and school members as well as the individual members. Subscriptions to MNSOTA's *String Notes* magazine are available to libraries for \$15 per year.

Covid Considerations: The MNSOTA Board has been working hard since Covid closures in March to bring events and teacher training opportunities to students and their teachers. Although some spring and summer events were cancelled, others have taken place virtually. We are excited at the range of opportunities our volunteers are undertaking for the coming year—on line, or hopefully in person by winter/spring. MNSOTA is committed to following national, state and local guidelines for health and safety during the Covid pandemic. Because changes to events may need to be made on short notice, the latest information will be available on our MNSOTA.org website and included in our weekly email reminders to members.

Coronavirus icon used in the background was created by José Manuel de Laá from the thenounproject.com

ASTA's MISSION

The American String Teachers Association promotes excellence in string and orchestra teaching and playing. ASTA pursues its mission through: an open sharing of ideas; benefits, services and activities responsive to the needs of all members; development of strong state leadership and chapters; enhancing the image and visibility of string teaching and study; advocacy for string education; and an inclusive community of string teachers and players. We provide professional development, career building and support, and a community of peers for all teachers of stringed instruments.

Our Impact and Vision:

Enriching lives through universal access to fine string playing and teaching. ASTA supports string education and music for everyone—we believe arts education is essential.

Our Core Values:

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

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

