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Spring, 2006

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# **Iowa String Teachers Association**

Journal – March, 2006

President: Martin Clancey  
President-Elect: Julia Trahan  
Secretary: Kelly Daza  
Treasurer: Joe Hall  
Member At Large East: Joshua Reznicow  
Member At Large West: Eleanor May-Patterson  
Historian: Michael Fanelli  
Journal Editor: Julia Trahan

In This Issue:  
President's Message  
Ballot for Election of Officers and All-State  
Conference Information and Pre-registration form  
District Honor Orchestra Report  
Teacher of the Year Applications

Please send journal submissions via email to:

Julia Trahan

[trahanj@uni.edu](mailto:trahanj@uni.edu)

or via US Mail:

Julia Trahan

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Steamboat Rock, IA 50672

President's Message:

It's already well into February as I write this. We have been through the All-State Festival (Thanks, Ted and Eleanor for doing another great job!), three District Orchestra Festivals (Northeast, Southeast, and Northwest). In addition to all of the extra "stuff", most of us have jobs that require a lot of our time and attention on a daily basis. We prepare our students for Solo and Ensemble Contests, Orchestra Festivals, and Large Group Contests. Additionally, some of us have, or are taking trips with our groups either in or out of the state. We have parent groups to meet with, concerts to prepare for, recommendations to write, grades to average, lesson plans to write, committees to work on, student teachers to oversee, recruiting, etc. I don't know about you, but there never seems to be enough time to get to it all, because, on top of everything, we want everything done perfectly!

I have been so busy with the day-to-day business of being a high school orchestra director that I am really looking forward to our state convention in May. I'll get to spend a couple of days with people who understand what my life is like. I'll get to hear some really good music from some of the best orchestra programs in the state. I'll be able to attend sessions on topics that interest me, instead of sessions on raising reading and math scores. I'll also have the opportunity of receiving recertification credit for attending sessions that are educational as well as entertaining.

As president of our state chapter, it falls upon me to put the finishing touches on the schedule for convention. The biggest problem I've had to deal with is fitting everything into the amount of time I have with which to work. Three days of sessions and concerts have to fit into two days. Some sessions will just not fit this year and some really good groups will have to be turned down for this year due to lack of time. Still, the other board members and I have come up with a very interesting and exciting convention schedule. There will be something for everyone from elementary through college teachers as well as studio teachers. We'll have sessions on jazz, harp, bass to name just a few as well as judge training provided by Alan Greiner of IHSMA.

Please make a plan right now to attend this year's convention. The dates are May 12-14 at the Hotel Fort Des Moines. Come and enjoy what we have to offer. Support your state ASTA chapter and the board that works very hard to provide its members with the kinds of events that we think you want.

A full conference bulletin and registration form will be mailed to members soon. If you have questions or need more information about the conference, please feel free to contact me by phone at 319-558-3928 or by email at [mclancey@cr.k12.ia.us](mailto:mclancey@cr.k12.ia.us).

Best wishes for a great spring semester!

Sincerely,  
Martin Clancey  
President

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
***Iowa String Teachers Association Annual Conference***  
***May 12-14, 2006***  
***The Hotel Fort Des Moines***  
***Des Moines, IA***

### **2006 ISTA Conference Bulletin:**

Join your colleagues for another phenomenal year at the 2006 ISTA Conference on May 12-14. The three-day event will be jam-packed with sessions that will interest just about everyone. There will be sessions for classical and alternative styles performers to K–12, private studio, and university teachers, as well as students at all levels. The ISTA conference is the place to enhance your skills and knowledge of string-related topics—not to mention a terrific opportunity to network, meet up with old friends, and, of course, meet some new ones.

We know you'll find the sessions at the conference to be informative as well as entertaining. Topics will include traditional pedagogy, issues for school string and orchestra teachers, classical and non-traditional performance, university-level training of future string players and educators, and alternative styles techniques, to name just a few.

#### **In addition to the education sessions, there will be:**

- Grand Opening Concert and Reception to officially kick off the conference and honor this year's Teacher of the Year
- Master classes for every instrument taught by Tony Arnone, cello; Fred Halgedahl, violin; Michael Kimber, viola
- Exhibit Hall dedicated to the string industry and string-related items
- Performances by invited performing groups including the UNI Faculty Quartet, ISTA Honor Invitational Orchestra
- Student Chapter Pizza Party
- Music Industry Showcases
- Outstanding evening performances by Honor Orchestras from around the state

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us for a great conference!

**2006 ISTA Conference Schedule (subject to change)**

**Friday, May 12, 2006**

6:00 PM	Registration	The Temple for Performing Arts 4th Floor
7:00 PM Concert	4A High School Honor Orchestra, West Des Moines H.S.- Phil Peters Presentation of the 2006 Teacher of the Year ISTA State Invitational Orchestra - Dr. Jerry Owen, Conductor (Students selected from ISTA District Orchestra Festivals. Concert to feature 2005 ISTA Composition Competition winning composition Reception honoring the ISTA Teacher of the Year	

**Saturday, May 13, 2006**

8:00 AM	Middle School String Reading Session, Martin Clancey	
9:00 AM	ISTA Exhibits Open CONCERT/DEMO - Andria Savage, Cedar Rapids McKinley Middle School Introducing Harps into Your Orchestra Program: An overview of basic technique, maintenance and what to do when they don't have a part. "Sibelius: Practical Applications for Orchestra and Band Directors- Greg Smith	Independence Hall 320 302
	IHSMA ADJUDICATION: Large Group Specialist Certification Alan Greiner, IHSMA Executive Secretary Presiding	Wedgewood
10:00 AM	Mark Hartman, Central College Developing the Fingers and the Mind: An Approach to the Technical Development of String Players Based on Jazz Harmony	3??
11:00 AM	CONCERT: 3A High School Orchestra, Waverly-Shellrock – Lori Nelson	TBA
12:00 PM	Lunch/visit exhibits	
1:00 PM	CONCERT: Alternative String Group, Dubuque Fiddlers - Ann Duchow IHSMA Basic Adjudication Certification Alan Greiner, Executive Secretary	320 Capitol
2:00 P.M.	TBA	
3:00 PM	CONCERT/DEMO - John Hall, Cedar Rapids Kennedy High School Teaching bass in the public school program-getting your bass players on track for success	TBA
4:00 PM	IHSMA Judge Certification, Alan Greiner, IHSMA Executive Secretary	TBA
5:00 PM	CONCERT: 4A Junior High, Pleasant Valley Jr. High – Robert Swinney	TBA
6:00 PM	Dinner (On your own)	
7:00 PM	High School String Reading Session	Independence Hall
8:00 PM	Master Classes for all Instruments Anthony Arnone (cello), Michael Kimber (viola), Fred Halgedahl (violin), TBN (bass)	TBA
9:00 PM	UNI Faculty String Quartet	TBA

**Sunday, May 14, 2006**

8:00 AM	Continental breakfast	Independence Hall
8:30 AM	Membership meeting	Independence Hall
9:00 AM	Studio Teachers' Roundtable Discussion	Independence Hall
10:00 AM	Joanie Mercy, West Music How to purchase electronic strings and accessories	
11:00 AM	Allison French, Eastman Strings How to purchase a step-up instrument	

### **N.E.I.S.T.A. District Festival**

On January 7, 2006 at Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids, a new chapter of ISTA history was begun. At 8:00 a.m. that morning 65 string students from the northeast quadrant of the state assembled to participate in the first I.S.T.A. sponsored District Orchestra Festival. Schools represented that day included: Kennedy, Washington, and Jefferson High Schools from the Cedar Rapids Community School District, Linn-Mar, Mount Vernon, Waterloo West, Dubuque Senior and Dubuque Hempstead, and Waverly-Shell Rock high Schools. The festival conductor was Dr. Rebecca Burkhart from the University of Northern Iowa. The concert selections included:

Voyage	John Corigliano.
Fantasia on "Greensleeves"	Vaughn Williams/Greeves
Sinfonia #8 in D Major	Mendelssohn
1 <sup>st</sup> Movement	
Symphony No. 25 K. 186	Mozart
1 <sup>st</sup> Movement	

Congratulations to all the students and their directors for making this first festival so successful. The directors included: John Hall, Josh Reznicow, Lori Nelson, Chris Smith, David Patterson, Ann Duchow, Natalie Brown, Tablitha Kaminsky, and Martin Clancey.

Seventeen of those students will be traveling to Des Moines on May 12, to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual All-Iowa High School Honor Orchestra Festival. The Festival Concert will be the "kick-off" for this year's 2006 I.S.T.A. Convention. Dr. Jerry Owen of Coe College in Cedar Rapids will conduct the festival orchestra. Selections for the concert will include a premiere of the work that Dr. Owen wrote as the winner of the I.S.T.A. Composition competition, as well as other selections by American Composers.

Representing the North East District (N.E.I.S.T.A.) will be the following students:

Maggie Loeffelholz, Cedar Rapids Washington  
Danielle Engmark, Cedar Rapids Washington  
Christine Augspurger, Dubuque Hempstead  
Teddy Covey, Dubuque Hempstead  
Nick Ruhter, Dubuque Hempstead  
Grace Moonen, Dubuque Senior  
Kiley Godsey, Linn-Mar  
Brandon Schlueter, Linn-Mar  
Sarah Kaufmann, Linn-Mar  
Andrew Clancey, Jefferson  
Erik Turnquist, Jefferson  
Anna Lehmann, Jefferson  
Laura Van Ginkel, Jefferson  
Karen Lichty, Mount Vernon  
Victoria Levasseur, Kennedy  
Bryn Sumner, Waterloo West  
Maurisa Amiable, Waterloo West

Congratulations to these fine students and their directors and teachers for their hard work! Next year's festival is scheduled for January 13, 2007 at The University of Northern Iowa.

### **Northwest Honor Orchestra Festival**

On January 19, 2006 the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual NW Iowa Honor Orchestra Festival took place at Dordt College in Sioux Center. This also marked the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that Dordt College hosted the festival.

In November, students were selected on the basis of taped auditions, which included two excerpts and a solo of the student's choice. Middle school students were also selected by taped auditions, which included for them scales and a solo. Each school is guaranteed at least 2 students in the ensemble.

The selected students were placed in seating order from their audition score. 50 string players were selected for this honor in the high school and 39 students in the middle school. Band personnel for the high school symphony were selected on the recommendation of their band or orchestra directors.

This year, the conductor for the high school symphony was Dr. Rebecca Burkhardt from the University of Northern Iowa. She directed the ensemble in the performance of Toccata by Frescobaldi, the Montagues and Capulets by Prokofieff, and Hungarian Dance No. 5 by Brahms. 17 students from the ensemble were selected to represent Northwest Iowa in Des Moines for the State Honors Orchestra.

Also taking part in this festival was the Middle School Honor String Orchestra. This is their 5<sup>th</sup> year of existence. The conductor this year was Martin Clancey from Jefferson High School in Cedar Rapids. He conducted the group in the performance of Elementals by Doug Spada, Ave Verum Corpus by Mozart and The Barber of Seville by Rossini.

The participating schools and directors included: LeMars Community/Ted Hallberg, MOC-Floyd Valley/ Laura Haverdink, Orange City Christian/Dixie Wielenga, Sioux Center Christian/Nancy Vermeer, Sioux City East/Eleanor May Patterson, Sioux City North/Tom Miller, Sioux City West/Kristin Zwart, Storm Lake Schools/Carol Peterson, Unity Christian High School/Melody Dewit, and Western Christian High School/Lyle van Ravensway.

Next year's festival is scheduled for January 25, 2007 at Dordt College.

### **Southeast Iowa District Honors Orchestra Festival**

The Southeast Iowa District Honor Orchestra Festival was held Saturday, January 14, 2006 at West High School in Davenport. Thirty students from six high schools in the area participated: Pleasant Valley High School(Bettendorf), Davenport Central, North, and West High Schools, Iowa City West High School, and Oskaloosa High School. Our conductor was Dr. Daniel Baldwin from Luther College. The orchestra performed \*Suite from "Abdazer" by Purcell, Concert Grosso in C Minor, Op. 6 No. 8 by Handel, and Rumanian Folk Dances by Bartok.

Seating auditions were held during sectionals. The participating directors ran the sectionals, and two other area string teachers listened to auditions. Students and directors had a productive day. Although we had a few rocky moments, and changed some of the repertoire on festival day, we got the event started, and that was worth doing. We are looking forward to next year's festival.

## **First Long Distance Fiddling Apprenticeship to be Presented at the National ASTA /with NSOA Conference in Kansas City**

When Amy Sadler returned to teach at the same Raytown Middle School, Missouri that she had attended, she was glad to continue the extra curricular ensemble that she had enjoyed as a teenager. *The Bridge Club* played all kinds of “fun” music and it was there that Amy was first introduced to fiddling.

Being a violist, however, meant that Amy was relegated to mostly harmony lines and playing back-up “chunks” and so, as she continued to play, fiddling fell by the wayside.

When arrangements of fiddling tunes became available Amy was eager to introduce the music she loved to her students, but she knew that this was not how she had learned to fiddle.

When she got an e-mail through the Missouri chapter of ASTA last spring, offering a middle school string teachers an opportunity to become a long distance apprentice of New England fiddlers Dudley and Jacqueline Laufman, Amy was the first to e-mail them.

The Laufmans, who live in Canterbury, New Hampshire are professionally known as *Two Fiddles*. Their idea was to work with a string teacher in the Kansas City area and present a workshop together with some of her students at the 2006 National ASTA Conference.

“What drew me to contact them was that they were offering a program that included viola, cello and bass on an equal par with the violins. All my students could learn authentic fiddle tunes together!”

When Amy called the Laufmans she became even more interested.

“Jacqueline got me very excited about everything my students could learn with fiddle tunes and gave me specific ideas of new ways that I could approach teaching the dances and tunes by ear.”

The Laufmans sent Amy a copy of their book and CD *White Mountain Reel, With and Without Calls*. This popular text includes 12 New England tunes with the steps for dancing. The accompanying CD has tracks of the tunes played by an authentic New England “string band,” with Dudley calling the dances. Another set of tracks includes only the music so that teachers or students can call the dances themselves. They also sent a set of *White Mountain Reel Companions*, which are the same tunes arranged for Violin, Viola and Cello/with bass line. The viola, cello and bass can be heard on the CD that accompanies these books.

“This allowed all my students to participate in these fiddling lessons and made it almost effortless for me to teach tunes and dances to our after school club, *The Blue Jay Fiddlers*, and even my lessons groups.”

“I try to teach as many tunes by ear as I can but I am glad to have the Lead Sheets to help my students, who have learned to play by reading music, to learn these tunes. The tunes are so short and memorable that after only a short time my string players can play them without the music!”

Dudley maintains that these dances are about socializing, not aerobics or making dancing patterns on the floor. “The idea is that everyone can participate, from the youngest child to the oldest grandparent. Even people in wheelchairs can join in on the fun!”

“Although this experiment with a long distance apprenticeship has worked well, we are looking forward to being able to work in person with Amy and her string students. We wished that we could

find a venue where all of the students and their families ~ and anyone else in the greater Kansas City area ~ could meet together to dance and play fiddle.” The *Kansas City Folk Arts Alliance* has given everyone that opportunity by arranging for *Two Fiddles* to do a barn dance at the *Merriam Community Center* on Saturday night. Students are encouraged to sin-in with the Laufmans’ band.

In addition, *Two Fiddles* has also offered another apprenticeship with them as a contribution to the Conference’s Silent Auction and will be sharing their music and teaching ideas in a Showcase and at the Poster Session.

**Jan Farrar-Royce** has been a performer, string teacher and conductor for more than 30 years and has been described in the American String Teachers Journal as “a leading authority on bringing fiddling into mainstream string curriculum.” She is completely a term on the national Alternative Styles committee.

## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING November 19, 2005 1:00 PM**

**Schemann Building- Iowa State University**

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**President-** Martin Clancey  
**Past President-** Derek Claussen  
**Western Iowa Representative-** Eleanor May-Patterson  
**Eastern Iowa Representative-** Josh Reznicow

**President Elect-** Julia Trahan  
**Treasurer-** Joe Hall  
**Secretary-** Kelly Daza  
**Historian-** Michael Fanelli

- I. **CALL TO ORDER- Marty Clancey**
- II. **APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES – Kelly Daza** We weren’t able to approve the past minutes due to technical difficulties.
- III. **TREASURER’S REPORT – Joe Hall** Discussed switching web server to PowWeb from Comlink for a \$200 savings.
- IV. **MUSIC MENTORS OF IOWA –** We discussed combining our efforts with IAAE who are working to put together a list of first year teachers.
- V. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT - Marty Clancey** Conference planning is under way. Great events are scheduled and he encouraged people to attend.
- VI. **ALL STATE REPORT- Ted Hallberg** Kids seemed unprepared in some sections. There will be chair auditions in the future in some sections where they weren’t normally happening. There was a lot of discussion regarding the audition process. The discussion focused on whether or not the auditions should be blind (Students behind a screen and some time of name replacement on ballots.) Some of the cites had poor conditions which seemed to distort the sound. We agreed to create a survey for teachers to fill out and ISTA would take the majority decision to the All State Board for consideration.
- VII. **IDEAS-**
- VIII. **PRESIDENT ELECT’S REPORT- Julia Trahan** Julia would like to see younger prospective string teachers at the conference. We could do this by providing free admission to the conference to college music majors. She also suggested starting student ISTA chapters in various colleges
- IX. **JOURNAL EDITOR’S REPORT – Julia Trahan** We need more journal articles to put out another publication.
- X. **MEMBERSHIP REPORT- Josh Reznicow** Josh is attempting to comprise a list of all Iowa string teachers.

- XI. IOWA JUNIOR HONOR ORCHESTRA REPORT- Candace Wiebener  
Candace wasn't present.
- XII. OTHER BUSINESS

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved- Julia Trahan

Second- Kelly Daza

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