Spring 2025



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#### **CIRCULATION**

ASTAMembers in California
President, Editors, Advertisers,
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668

# 

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### **CalASTALeadership**

**PRESIDENT** SAN FRANCISCO SECTION SECTION PRESIDENTS **BAKERSFIELD SECTION** Stephanie Holmes stephanieeleanorholmes@gmail.com **Amy McGuire** gypsyvln@gmail.com (661) 858-9332 PRESIDENT ELECT SAN DIEGO SECTION Dr. Thomas Loewenheim FRESNO SECTION Jennifer Albrent jenniferalbrent@gmail.com (559) 278-7547 tloewenheim@csufresno.edu LOS ANGELES SECTION **SECRETARY** Laurie Niles SAN DIEGO SECTION laurieniles@gmail.com Rebecca Zimmer Huber rhspeech@gmail.com **TREASURER Gay Currier** SACRAMENTO SECTION SACRAMENTO SECTION **Michael Feeney** Gcurrier7@gmail.com mffeeney@earthlink.net (916) 928-9996 PAST PRESIDENT Kathleen Balfe SAN FRANCISCO SECTION LOS ANGELES Robert Becker kathleen.balfe@gmail.com SECelbeckervla@gmail.com SOUNDPOST EDITOR SAN FRANCISCO SECTION Griena Choi-Trask STOCKTON SECTION **Lawrence Huang** matrixbach77@gmail.com goodyviolin@yahoo.com (925) 979-5539 WEBMASTER SACRAMENTO SECTION CODA LIAISON SAN FRANCISCO SECTION Kimberly Cole Feeney kcolefeeney@gmail.com Lawrence Huang matrixbach77@gmail.com (916) 928-9996 (925) 979-5539 MEMBERSHIP CHAIR ASTACAP NORTH SAN FRANCISCO SECTION COORDINATOR **Stephanie Holmes** jamesgreening36@gmail.com stephanieeleanorholmes@gmail.com James Greening-Valenzuela ASTACAP SOUTH COORDINATOR **TBA** HISTORIAN/INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE TBA



#### **Individual Membership Application**

Please complete all applicable fields on the registration form. If you have any questions, please contact Member Services. We look forward to welcoming you to the ASTA community.



703-279-2113



www.astastrings.org



Fax form: 703-279-2114 Mul form: 4155 Chain Bridge Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030

Who recruited you to join ASTA?
RECRUITER NAME
RECRUITER CITY/STATE
RECRUITER E-MAIL ADDRESS

Mem	bershi	p Cat	tegory
			01

- Professional member
- o Student member: full time student (Plance provide expected Graduation Date (MMYY)]
- o Senior member: age 62 or older
- Dual: two professionals at same address [Please complete two separate forms]

#### Contact Information

- o Mr. o Mrs. o Miss o Ms.
- o Dr. o Prof. o Other\_

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LASTINAME
EMAIL ADDRESS		
PRIMARY PHONE o V	ORK • HOME	
CELL PHONE		
	s where you will receive corr o Home o School/Worl	-
HOME ADDRESS		

STREET			
CTTV	OTATO	7870	_

COUNTRY

#### SCHOOL/WORK ADDRESS

(Required for Professional & Student Members)

SCHOOL/ORG, NAME		DEPT/MAIL STOP	
STREET			
CTTY	STATE	ZIP	
COUNTRY			

#### Tell Us About You

(Required for professional/senior and dual members)

#### What is your primary profession?

- o Higher Private Studio Education Performer O K-12
- Music Admirástrator
- Conductor o Student Retired
- o String Enthusiast

What year did you start teaching music? \_\_\_

#### What level do you teach? (Scient all that apply.)

- o Elementary [K-5] Middle [6-8]
  - (Undergrad & Graduate)

o Piano

Woodwind

- o Adult High School [9–12]
- What is your primary instrument? o Violin o Guitar o Viola
  - o Brass Percussion
- o Cello o Double Bass o Harp

#### ASTA State Chapter

Your membership dues include state chapter membership. To find your state information, vint utituastastrings.org.

#### Dues Payment

- o \$116: Professional Member o \$57: Student member o \$85: Semor Member
  - (age 62 or older)
- o \$162: Dual

#### "ADD ON"

o \$15: Membership certificate o \$7: Membership pin TOTAL

#### PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Check—make payable to ASTA (U.S. funds only) Check No.
- o Visa o MasterCard o American Express

CARD NO. CVV EXE DATE

NAME ON CARD SEGNATURE (PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION)

By completing this form, I confirm that this information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Dues are nontransferable and nonrefundable. There is a 330 charge for all items returned from the bank.

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### <u>President's Message</u>

Hello CalASTA members!

I hope your fall is off to an amazing start. I wanted to let you know about a special performance opportunity for California Educators at this year's conference in San Francisco February 25-28, 2026. 2026 ASTA National Conference Invited Ensemble Performances are open for application to Cal-ASTA members. Performances will take place in the large hallway spaces in different parts of the hotel, adjacent to our conference session rooms and NOF performance spaces. Conference attendees will be able to gather and watch performances throughout each conference day. With the conference being in your backyard, this is an excellent opportunity to feature string performing groups from across California

SAA. The combined number of accepted groups is currently TBD.

ASTA National Conference Invited Ensemble Selection Process Information/Considerations:

- · Performance Quality. Each group must upload two recordings in the application.
- · Compatibility with the performance venue.
- · Variety of performing group genres. ASTA prides itself on supporting string teaching and performing in all styles and genres. We welcome groups from traditional, fiddling, rock, jazz, classical, and other styles to apply.
- · Variety of ages and abilities. As string teachers supporting all learners, we welcome groups regardless of age and abilities. Mixed-age groups, community groups, college chamber ensembles, and student groups are all welcome.
- · All string instruments and instrumentation are welcome.
- · Priority consideration is provided to California resident ensembles. The ensemble director must be an ASTA member at the time of submission and performance.
- This opportunity is open to all ensembles in the state NOT already performing at the conference (for instance: NOF group or session demonstration group).

Instruments and Performance Needs

- · No instruments will be provided; the group is expected to come ready to perform at the event.
- · No piano or keyboard will be provided. If needed, the group must bring it with them, along with extension cords for electric support as needed. Music stands and chairs will be provided.
- · Preference is for acoustic or nearly acoustic ensembles due to sound bleed in the conference space. Electric instruments are welcome so long as levels are monitored throughout the performance and requests for adjustments are honored.
- · Given the size of the performance space available, groups can be NO LARGER than 20 players.

- · ASTA National Conference Registration Information:
- · The Ensemble Director must be registered to participate in the conference.
- · Invited Ensemble performers will receive complimentary conference registration for their performance day. If you wish to attend additional conference days, paid registration will be required.
- · For those traveling as an ensemble with minors

In December, a Minors Release Form will be sent to have families complete. In January, a Chaperone and Bus/Travel Form will be sent for the directors to complete. Application closes October 1, 2025

#### **Application LINK:**

https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/0198768977ac7b0a9b74eb8938c10dbf

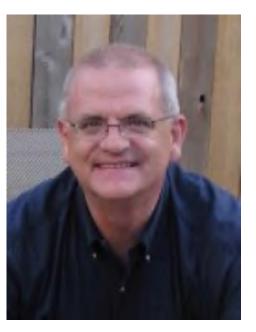
Application notifications will be sent by November 2025

I would like to invite you to submit your pre-collegiate and collegiate students to be considered for the Student Master Classes at this year's conference in San Francisco February 25-28, 2026.

Here is the application link: https://www.astastrings.org/site/2026-conference-mc-application. Deadline to apply is October 1.

I am also the membership chair. We currently have 706 members. The Cal ASTA membership is divided in 7 sections; Bakersfield (21 members), Fresno (22 members), Los Angles (334 members), Sacramento (40 members), San Diego (32 members), San Francisco (231 members) and Stockton (26 members). The easiest way to continue your membership is to go to the ASTA website: https://www.astastrings.org/. Registration is now open for the National Conference in San Francisco, February 25-28. We are fortunate to be the host state of this extraordinary event this year. I encourage everyone to attend. I always learn so much and enjoy interacting with educators across the country. I wish you a productive fall and I hope to see all of you in San Francisco in February.

Musically, Stephanie Holmes President, Cal ASTA



# Calasta Accounting Report Michael Feeney Treasurer

# ASTA Fiscal Year Accounting Report California Chapter Fiscal Year 2025 (7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025) Prepared by Michael Feeney, State Treasurer

INCOME	Rebates from National	6,390.35
	State Solo Competition Entry Fees	450.00
	CBDA Conference Contribution from National	287.50
	Total Income:	7,127.85
EXPENSES	Rebates to Sections	7,081.43
	State Solo Competition Expenses	7,016.97
	CBDA Conference Booth Expenses	604.00
	Website Support	632.21
	Miscellaneous	89.00
	California Government Registration	25.58
	Total Expenses:	15,449.19
	Actual July 1, 2024 Bank Balance	16,134.69
	Less Outstanding Checks as of 7/1/2024 (-)	0.00
	Calculated July 1, 2024 Bank Balance	16,134.69
	Plus Income (+)	7,127.85
	Minus Expenses (-)	15,449.19
	Calculated June 30, 2025 Bank Balance	7,813.35
	Add Outstanding Checks as 0f 6/30/2025 (+)	0.00
	Actual June 30, 2025 Bank Balance	7,813.32

### Fresno Section



Our spring 2025 round of activities has been satisfyingly hectic so far! First up was our annual Chamber Music Workshop on March 15, held once again at Sierra Vista Middle School, and once again attracting a record number of participants. Seventy-three young musicians joined us this time out! Students aged 5 through 18—47 violinists, 10 violists, 15 cellists, and 1 bass player—enjoyed a full day of sightreading and rehearsing, topped off with a casual performance for friends and families.

Everyone had a great time!

Our coaches were both ASTA and non-ASTA teachers, including Erin Adams, Nick Anton, Julia Copeland, Yuliya Hess, Emma Hill, Darien Marquez, Melissa McGlumphy, John Morrice, Dalton Morris, José Quinones, Judy Robinson, K.C. Simba-Torres, Jackson Snead, Cynthia Stuart, and Sarine Topaldjikian. This is a wonderful event and we love the venue which is ideal for this project. We had used this facility for a number of years successfully when the pandemic forced the school to close its doors to us. But we were able to resume using the school for our workshop starting in 2023 and hope to continue for many more years.

Next, on April 5, we enjoyed our Annual Student Recital at University Presbyterian Church. Forty players performed in a surprisingly eclectic program that ranged from Suzuki Book One to an electrifying, memorized rendition of the Handel-Halvorson Passacaglia by brothers Asher (violin) and Christian (cello) Moore, plus an unexpectedly plangent account from Cade Peckham of the first movement of the Andres Martín concerto for double bass, with orchestral accompaniment supplied by a quintet of strings. Outstanding!

The students represented our local ASTA teachers Bruce Bransby, Lianna Elmore, Yuliya Hess, Thomas Loewenheim, Laura Porter, Judy Robinson, Kamilah Simba-Torres, Cynthia Stuart and Limor Toren-Immerman. Many thanks to accompanists Jordan Williams and Arsen Jamkotchian as well as to Julia Copeland who supplied the programs and works miracles with her computer.

Our annual student solo competition took place on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at the Wahlberg Recital Hall in the Music Department of the California State University, Fresno. The competition was open to string players (Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Classical Guitar and Harp) who are students of active FresnoASTA members.

We modelled our competition to align with the State competition and have three age divisions: the Novice division, age 12 and under, the Junior division, age 13-18, and the Senior division, age 19-25. Students were asked to perform two works, one from the Classical or Baroque period, and another one from a contrasting period. All solos will be performed without piano accompaniment to make it fair and will have to be played from memory. The judges for this year's competition were the critically acclaimed violinist Ken Aiso, violin, and one of the most recognized cellists, László Mező.





Chamber Music Workshop 2025

Student Recital 2025

We had a total of twenty-one students who entered the competition and enclosed are the winners of this year's competition:

NOVICE DIVISION: First Prize: Alice Feng, violin (student of Dr. Limor Toren-Immerman), Second Prize: Raphael Loewenheim, cello (students of Dr. Thomas Loewenheim) and Asher Moore, violin (student of Dr. Limor Toren-Immernman), Third Prize, Eliana Demsey, viola (student of Dr. Limor Toren-Immernman).

JUNIOR DIVISION: First Prize: Daniel Lien, cello (student of Dr. Thomas Loewenheim), Second Prize: Natalie Han, cello (student of Dr. Thomas Loewenheim), Third Prize: Atom Paz, violin (student of Dr. Limor Toren-Immernman), HONORABLE MENTION: Emmanuel Loewenheim, violin (student of Dr. Limor Toren-Immernman).

SENIOR DIVISION: Second Prize: Aranza Partida, cello (student of Dr. Thomas Loewneheim).

The winner of this year's \$1,000 Hildred Minich Scholarship from the Fresno Musical Club was Atom Paz, violin. All 1st, 2nd & 3rd place, and Honorable Mention recipients are qualified to attend the California ASTA State competition.

We are now hard at work planning the events for the upcoming season and look forward to the musical activities our students will participate in this year.

Respectfully,

Dr. Thomas Loewenheim

President, CalASTA Fresno Section



### Los Angeles Section

#### SPECIAL ELECTION:

We will be holding a special election October 1-7 for a new President-Elect to replace Gail Mellert, who resigned from the position on June 21 for family reasons. We are taking nominations through September 10 (here is the submission page) and will announce candidates on Sept. 17. The new President-Elect will become President when Laurie Niles' term is completed on July 1, 2026. We are grateful to Gail Mellert for her service; she will remain on the board as our Grants Chair.

BOWED STRINGS COMPETITION, chaired by Trina Carey Hodgson and Logan Hodgson 108 Students representing 50 teachers completed applications for the preliminary round, and 39 participants advanced to the Finals Round, which took place in-person, May 24 at Cal State Fullerton. Here is a summary of the winners:

The Noumi Fischer Prize - \$200 and solo performance with Olympia Philharmonic, went to Jacob Sun, who won first prize in the Novice Violin division.

Here are all the winners:

#### VIOLIN:

Novice – Violin 1st Place\* Jacob Sun (Elmer Su) 1st Place\* Li Li (Elmer Su) 2nd Place\* Zackary Lee (Moon Lee) 2nd Place\* Winson Shen (Eunhee Kim) 3rd Place Xuandi Wang (Landi Sheng)

Junior I – Violin
1st Place\* Audrey Lee (Moon Lee)
1st Place\* Leonora Vukovitz (Deborah Vukovitz)
2nd Place\* Adam Liu (Joan Kwuon)
3nd Place\* Sylvie Kim (Hwi-Eun Kim)
HM Kevin Wu (Joan Kwuon)

Junior II – Violin 1st Place\* Jiyu Lee (Hwi-Eun Kim) 2nd Place\* Nicole Lin (Joan Kwuon) 3rd Place Jessie Cai (Linda Rose) HM Caleb Fong (Samuel Fischer) HM Seaena Kim (Eunhee Kim)

#### **CELLO**

Novice – Cello 1st Place\* Jasper Ji (Yoshika Masuda) 1st Place\* Lioma Quoit Minematsu (Sangwon Cho) 2nd Place Hannah Yoon (Jenny Oh) 3rd Place Lucas Kim (Ashley Kim) HM Xierni Ma (Rachel Coosaia)

Junior I – Cello 1st Place\* Xuanrui Gu (Clive Greensmith) 2nd Place\* Bryan Tseng (Sarah Koo Freeman) 2nd Place\* Lucas Lee (Sarah Koo Freeman) 3rd Place Sophia Slott (Sarah Koo Freeman) HM Jeremy Lee (John Ott)

Junior II – Cello 1st Place\* Sophia Yoo (Sarah Koo Freeman) 2nd Place\* Sabrina Chang (Sangwon Cho) 2nd Place\* Verena Lo (Benjamin Lash) 3rd Place Kiersten Cannella (Rachel Coosaia) HM Yulin (Emily) Shen (Coco Yanan Hu)

Senior – Cello 1st Place\* Tatum Hodgson (Trina Carey Hodgson)

#### **VIOLA**

Novice – Viola 1st Place Owen Lo (Albert Wu) 2nd Place Hanson Wei (Yangyu Chen) 3rd Place Ivy Peng (Yanghu Chen)

Junior I – Viola 1st Place\* Fengwei Yu (Leslie Ho, Gina Coletti) 2nd Place \*Vitali Sei Taira (Michael Larco) 3rd Place Peter Lee (Michael Chang) HM Gracie Park (Solim Chin)

#### **NEW STUDENT CHAPTER:**

We are extremely happy to report that ASTA-LA member Johanna Gamboa-Kroesen, who is Assistant Professor of Music Education at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, established a new Student Chapter at UCLA during the last academic year, with help from a grant from our Section that subsidized their membership dues for the first few years. The UCLA Student Chapter had 11 members by the end of last academic year, and their activities included monthly meetings and having guest speaker Lauren Deutsch, who spoke with them about setting up private studios. Johanna has joined as a member of our ASTA-LA Board, and she will serve as our Student Chapter Liaison. She aims for as many of the students as possible to attend the ASTA Conference in San Francisco this spring. Our next goal: get a Student Chapter started at USC and as many of our local universities and colleges as possible!

ASTACAP: Our ASTACAP Chair, Celine Gietzen is working with Site Coordinators from all around the LA area to set up days in the spring for in-person ASTACAP exams, mostly in the month of March. Our Site Coordinators include:

Nick Alvarez (Viewpoint School Calabasas)
Louise Brown (Pasadena Christian School)
Cheryl Scheidemantle,(Polytechnic School Pasadena),
Gary Hung (CSU Fullerton)
Celine Gietzen (Woodland Hills)

Diana Ray-Goodman (Woodland Hills)

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Oct. 1-7 Special Election

Spring 2026: Harp, Guitar and Bowed Strings Competitions

Spring 2026: ASTACAP in-person exams at various locations in the LA metro area

Spring 2026: Regular Election for President-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary

Respectfully submitted, Laurie Niles Preside, CalAsta Los Angeles Section



#### MIKE CURB

COLLEGE OF ARTS, MEDIA, AND COMMUNICATION

### California State University, Northridge Department of Music



Situated in Los Angeles, the string program at CSUN cultivates a vibrant curriculum and nurturing environment for its dynamic and diverse student body.

#### **CSUN String Faculty**

#### Lorenz Gamma, Violin

Head of String Studies Director of Chamber Music

#### Roberto Cani, Violin

Concertmaster, L.A. Opera

#### Wendy Richman, Viola

Founding Violist.

International Contemporary Ensemble

#### Diane Roscetti, Cello

Director, CSUN Honors String Quartet Program

#### Jory Herman, Double Bass

Los Angeles Philharmonic

#### Allison Allport, Harp

Los Angeles Studio Musician



csun.edu/music







@stringsatcsun

### San Diego Section



#### **ASTA Recital News!**

The San Diego Section held two ASTA sponsored String Recitals for members and their students giving all the opportunity to perform an "in person" recital which was held on Saturday, February 7th 2025 at the Incarnation Lutheran Church located at 16889 Espola Rd in Poway and on Saturday, April 26th at 4pm also at the Incarnation Lutheran Church in Poway. Both recitals were for no fees and was a generous donation through the Incarnation Lutheran Church. Future recitals will however be fee based thru the church so other locations in the San Diego area will be researched so these recitals can continue to be offered for all ASTA members and their students. We are grateful for the time the church was able to offer these nonfee based recitals.

Recitals will continue to be offered and encouraged and will be posted as soon as the new locations can be confirmed available and the dates.

#### Board Members Participated in a Performance Tour to Europe and will return again the next summer of 2026.

Two of our board members traveled to Europe this summer to perform in Budapest, Hungary and Salzburg, Austria with the Poway Symphonette. We participated in the Salzburg Cantus International Music and Cultural Festival and the Poway Symphonette was featured as the official "Orchestra in Residence" for the festival for the 5th year in a row. We will be returning the next summer of 2026 to perform in Southern Germany and again at the Cantus Festival in Salzburg, Austria. The performances are charity concerts with proceeds going to children in hospice, families in need and seniors in need. For high school students looking for volunteer opportunities in their college application process, this is a wonderful opportunity to participate in as a performer and in participating in volunteering. Contact Ulli Reiner if you are interested in joining this non-competitive performance opportunity which includes historical sight-seeing as well. Check out the Poway Symphonette website for the You Tube performance videos and the photo gallery from our past performance tours. http://powaysymphonette.com



Poway Symphonette performs at the Inner-City Church of the Blessed Mary Mother in Budapest, Hungary July 2025



High School Students in the Poway Symphonette receiving medals for participation in the 2025 Cantus International Music Festival in Salzburg, Austria

#### **Board Meeting!**

Several informal board meetings via phone and zoom calls have been held when needed and will continue to update the board members and San Diego members on upcoming events for next year.

#### **Upcoming ASTA Events!**

I am also chair of the Rancho Bernardo Library Discovery Concert Series with eight Saturday afternoon concerts offered from September 2025 through May 2026. Our concert in February will be titled for The Love of Music and will be an educational concert and lecture by Jennifer Albrent who will talk about ASTA in bringing more awareness to the local community along with student performers. We are very excited about this upcoming program, and more information will be posted.

A Winter Chamber Music Recital is in the works for spring 2026 and Jennifer Albrent will be the organizer.

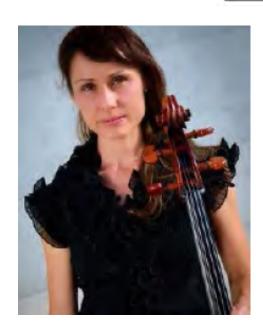
Stay tuned for these events and more to come. Warmest wishes as you gear up to the new school year, lessons, rehearsals and performances! Happy Fall Season to all!

Warmwishes, Ulli Reiner President, CalASTASan Diego



Poway Symphonette performs with five choirs in the Mozarteum Concert Hall in Salzburg, Austria as part of the Cantus International Cultural and Music Festival on July 4, 2025

### San Francisco Section



In July we had our first general membership picnic potluck and meeting at Tilden Park.

This year for our in-person board meeting, we opened it up to the members who chose to attend. Thirteen members attended, of which seven were not on the board.

We have a few names on the list for "Fly on the Wall," a program allowing less experienced teachers to observe the teaching studios of more experienced teachers, and are hoping to expand.

Teachers Symposiums: We have not had great attendance in the past, and are considering putting the symposiums on hold for now to use our funds for other ventures.

Irene Sharp Scholarship: Our two students from last year are continuing, and we have chosen two new scholars as well.

Solo Competition: The ASTA State Solo Competition is slated for August 2026. A date of Sunday, May 3, 2026 was decided upon for our branch competition. Lawrence will act as the liaison for this event, and Sonoma State University was suggested as a venue. Preliminaries will be via video submission, with volunteer judges. Judges for the finals will be paid.

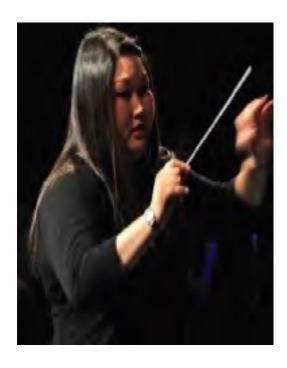
ASTACAP: James will remain as ASTACAP Coordinator. Proposed in-person evaluation date for Contra Costa/East Bay students is Sunday, March 15, 2026.

CalASTA SF Suzuki Event: A Suzuki-related event was discussed. Danielle and Lawrence were in favor or a "Play-In," where students would pay a fee to participate. Late January was suggested as an ideal time. A venue would need to be arranged.

Text newsletter and event reminders: It was suggested that text reminders regarding CalASTA SF events could be effective in further communication with members.

Student Chapter: It was pointed out by a member who teaches at the SFCM that students would need to choose to form an ASTA student chapter, rather than us organizing the students to do that. I would like to have an informational table at the Conservatory but was not successful over the summer at contacting any administration members. I will try again in September.

Warmwishes, Kathleen Balfe President, CalASTA San Francisco



Griena "Goody" Choi-Trask, President, Cal ASTA Stockton Section

Our section is growing and that is exciting! We now have 20 members and 3 San Francisco section members that work in the Stockton section. We welcome all CalASTA members to participate in any of our events. Our leadership is currently going through a transitional period as work and life has been demanding most of our time. Our President and Secretary have stepped down and our Treasurer has stepped up to become Interim President and Treasurer to keep our section going. We will be having a general meeting next month to get to know each other better and to plan our activities for the year and give others an opportunity to take a leadership role. Our section is looking forward to the future and what our role will be in it.

Submitted by,
Donna Harrison, Interim President and Treasurer
CalASTA Stockton Section

#### BAKERSFIELD SECTION



Greetings to All,

The Bakersfield Section of CalASTA has continued to have two annual events, the Fall String Workshop and the Spring Festival and Competition. We are proud to announce we had three winners for the Spring Festival and Competition on April 5, 2025. Christina Roh, cellist, won first prize and \$100, Nicholas Xin, violinist, won second prize and \$50. Anita Erasmus, violinist, won third prize and \$25 and William Plank, violinist, was honorable Mention. Christina Roh was recommended to go to the state competition for CalASTA in 2026.

In addition to the competition, we had 20 students play in the festival, It was a full schedule and was held at the beautiful Valley Baptist Fruitvale Campus. Our adjudicators were Beverly Moorhead and Jonathan New.

We have already started planning the workshop and scheduling our events for the upcoming school year. Our Fall String Workshop was so successful we are continuing with the same format and we have a rotation of 4 years of music planned. The Fall String Workshop will have five levels including beginners. The beginner session last year was such a hit, there were 60 students for that level and each level had about 15 kids in each. So we are offering beginners again.

The Fall String Workshop will be held in October 2025 at Seibert Elementary School. Music teacher and treasurer Ambra Williams will be our host. This year we are trying an evening/after school workshop. Scheduling around other events has been a challenge but this is such a valuable event for our students, we are willing to try not having it on a Saturday.

We are adding another event this year; we've decided to have a social "mixer". This gathering will provide an opportunity to share different teaching techniques and encourage more people to attend. We would like to schedule it as soon as possible this Fall to encourage new membership. New members are always welcome. The Bakersfield section is looking forward to having another great year of activities.

We will have an election in June, where we will nominate two new at-large board members: Natalie Hensley, music teacher in Bakersfield City School District and Braxton Porter, music teacher in the Panama - Buena Vista Union School District. They re both energetic and highly effective teachers.

Amy McGuire President, CalASTA Bakersfield Section



### **CODA** Message

The California Orchestra Directors Association (CODA) exists "to promote school orchestras in California by providing quality honor orchestra experiences for school orchestra students, facilitating an exchange of instructional strategies and ideas for the school orchestra director, and providing a forum and community for school orchestra directors." With the purpose above clearly in mind, CODA would like to invite all educators to be actively engaged with the organization throughout the year.

First, individuals are encouraged to renew or establish their membership by visiting codaorchestras.org. Membership is measured annually (July 1 – June 30) and all are invited to visit the website to ensure that CODA can stay effectively connected to its members throughout the year.

Next, CODA is proud to sponsor two wonderful honor orchestra experiences for California's students: the December Honor Orchestras and the All-State Orchestras (January ).

The December CODA Honor Orchestras will be held at the beautiful University of Pacific and will take place on December 5th and 6th 2025. Leading the orchestras this year will be Dr. Eric Dudley from UOP (Symphony Orchestra) and Dt. Ruth Britten (String Orchestra). Audition recordings and application materials are due by Wednesday, October 15th, 2025 for CODA and Allstate High School recordings and Junior High School recordings are due November 3, 2025.

The All-State Orchestras had played significant role in California All-State Music Education Conference (CASMEC). CASMEC will be on January 15th to 18, 2026 in Sacramento. Students this year will be have the opportunity to work under the direction of three committed educators: Ho-Yin Kwok (Symphony Orchestra), Rudy Perrault (String Orchestra) and Juan Felipe Molano (JHS String Orchestra, and Darly Silberman(J HS Concert Orchestra). Please visit codaorchestras.org for audition materials, repertoire selections, or additional information on the above ensembles.

Finally, CODA is committed to serving orchestra educators by arranging for quality professional development sessions and music education opportunities at February's All-State Music Education Conference (CASMEC). Presenters this year will include both nationally recognized pedagogues and leaders from within our communities here in California. In addition, CODA will continue to highlight select student ensembles and is committed to exploring additional opportunities to include more students, directors, and schools at CASMEC.

The members of our CODA board and related committees are committed to serving California's school orchestra programs, students, and educators. Your voice in our organizations matters, so please do feel free to contact either myself, Executive Administrator Trish Adams, or any member of our CODA leadership team with questions or considerations as we continue to work towards supporting the objective noted above.

Thank you for your service to music education in California! Lawrence Huang CODA Liaison



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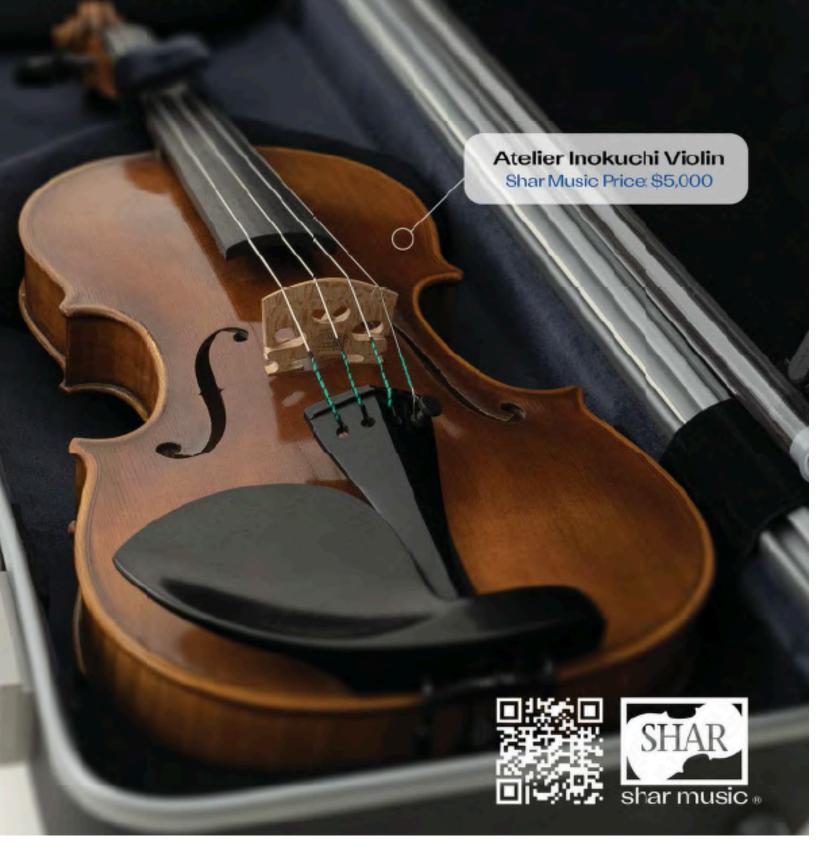
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