

2026 Virtual String Teachers Summit Schedule

FULL SCHEDULE

Session Format Key

Listen and Learn (45 min) – A blend of lecture-based instruction, interaction, and case studies

Learn and Play (45 min) - Hands on learning experience with the speaker; have your instrument ready to join online.

Express Talk (15-minute presentation/5-minute Q&A) – A TED style talk given by 1 person that explores a single idea with practical teaching or performing tips, projects or state/student chapter ideas to exchange.

New Music Reading Session (45 min) – We will view scores and listen to recordings of new music

Roundtable (45 min) – Committee-facilitated presentation or discussion

Monday, July 13

DATE	TIME (EDT)	SESSION FOCUS AREAS	SESSION FORMAT	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER(S)
Monday, 7/13	11:00 – 11:45 PM	KEYNOTE	Listen & Learn	"Why?" Find your Reason and Build on It	As music educators, we live in a world of "shoulds": what students should experience and accomplish, what we should be doing to meet these objectives, how we should show and share the results. With the seeming urgency of <i>should</i> , it can feel like there is no space for <i>why</i> . But to serve this generation of young people well, we MUST build on <i>why</i> . Moreover, we must move past the whys of consensus and canon to find and face those that live deep within us as individual music makers. In this keynote, Allyssa Jones, Founder of Rising Tide Music Press, shares her journey from <i>should</i> to <i>why</i> , and offers insights to support our own.	Allyssa Jones, Rising Tide Music & Arts / Rising Tide Music Press
Monday, 7/13	12:00 – 12:45 PM	Wellness College/Univ	Learn & Play	Resonant Teaching: Integrating Body Awareness into String Pedagogy	Experience a fresh, dynamic approach to string teaching that starts with the body. This interactive online workshop helps you tap into flow, resonance, and ease using principles of the Alexander Technique. Explore how simple shifts in awareness can open space in the body, free the arms, and enrich your sound—while giving you practical tools to help students feel balanced, curious, and engaged with their whole selves in their music-making.	Heather Gardner, Heather Gardner Studios

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Monday, 7/13	12:00-12:45 PM	Studio & Chamber Music Student	Listen & Learn	Starting Double Bass Players	The double bass is not an oversized violin, yet we teach it that way. Between the fourths tuning, large physical scale, the need to shift nearly immediately, and the two options for bows, the double bass is quite different pedagogically. We will cover basic stance, posture of both hands, effective tips for developing tone, and discuss what does not translate well from the violin methods.	Gaelen McCormick, University of Rochester, Eastman Community Music School
Monday, 7/13	12:00-12:45 PM	School Orch Representation, Inclusion, and Accessibility	Learn & Play	We Don't Speak the Same Language! Recruiting English Language Learners	Teaching music in a transient and highly diverse environment can provide a unique set of obstacles, including communication, recruiting, retention, and musical growth. The demands for English-Language Learner (ELL) courses have continued to soar and music educators must find new ways to engage this population in music making at school. This session will break down the language barriers and provide tips to recruit and retain ELL students into your ensemble.	Angela Ammerman, Univ of Tennessee
Monday, 7/13	12:00-12:45 PM	Music Industry Showcase Yamaha Corporation of America	Learn & Play	How to Teach Harmony, Improvisation, and Arranging in Orchestra Class: A Play-Along Practice Party	Explore practical ways to use Yamaha electric string instruments to help orchestra students move beyond prescribed parts into creative, confident music-making. In this play-along session, teachers will experience three immediately usable approaches to improvisation, groove, and harmony that work in real classrooms. Participants will play muted throughout, try simple "cheat code" exercises, and leave with templates and step-by-step worksheets they can adapt to songs and styles.	Christian Howes, Yamaha Corporation of America
Monday, 7/13	12:00-12:45 PM	College/Univ	ASTA Committee Roundtable	Post-Graduation Pathways for Music Majors	This virtual roundtable invites string educators and higher-education faculty to discuss the diverse post-graduation pathways available to music students—and how collegiate programs can better prepare them for these futures. Conversation will explore teaching, performance, community engagement, arts leadership, and nontraditional careers, with an emphasis on alignment between undergraduate training, evolving professional realities, and sustainable career preparation for string musicians.	Johanna Gamboa-Kroesen, and members of the College Committee

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Monday, 7/13	12:00-12:45 PM	Representation, Inclusion, and Accessibility	ASTA Committee Roundtable	Teaching for Representation, Inclusion, and Access in Complex Times	<p>In this conversation, members of the Representation, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee will engage attendees in a candid dialogue about what it means to sustain inclusive, accessible, and representative string classrooms in today's shifting educational and political landscape. As we navigate increasing constraints around curriculum, equity work, and student support, this roundtable invites participants to share real challenges, ask honest questions, and explore responsive strategies that center student identity, belonging, and access.</p> <p>The committee recognizes that this work can feel isolating, urgent, and at times uncertain. This session aims to build collective clarity, offer practical approaches, and strengthen a network of educators committed to doing this work with intention, care, and courage -- both within and beyond traditional ASTA spaces.</p>	Natalie Frakes, Jovonie Tejero-Holmes and members of the RIA Committee
Monday, 7/13	12:00-12:45 PM	New Music Reading Session	Learn & Play	K-12: Women Composers	We will view scores and listen to recordings of new music! Join us and contribute in the chat!	Jennifer Drake, Boise Phil Youth Orchestra
Monday, 7/13	12:00-12:45 PM	Studio General Co-Host Session: Music Teachers National Association	Listen & Learn	Studio Management Basics: Essential Topics to Revisit Annually	We have all adapted our teaching for new generations and challenges. Equally important are up-to-date studio policies and business practices, delivered with clarity and consistency. This includes policies and procedures, finances, legal and tax updates, communications, marketing, and professionalism. An annual refresh keeps a studio vibrant, relevant, and meeting the needs of students and parents. Times change, but strong business practices never go out of style!	Karen Thickstun, NCTM, retired – Butler University and Butler Community Arts School
Monday, 7/13	1:00-1:45 PM	School Orch General	Listen & Learn	Building Student Agency in Orchestra Rehearsals	This session explores how student-driven rehearsal structures rooted in play and Montessori-inspired practice can develop independence, confidence, and equity in orchestra classrooms. Through real-world classroom examples and technology-supported strategies, participants will learn plug-and-play routines for rhythm literacy, sight-reading fluency, sectional leadership, and inclusive learning design that support diverse learners and limited practice realities while strengthening ensemble culture from the inside out	Annie Ray, Annandale High School

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Monday, 7/13	1:00-1:45 PM	Studio & Chamber Music Student	Learn & Play	Why You Never Really Used the Frog of Your Bow	Most violinists have heard “Use the whole bow—reach the frog!” but few truly understand how. This interactive session reveals a systematic, body-based approach to mastering bow control at the frog. Through demonstration and guided group practice, participants will retrain hand balance, unlock two key forearm tendons for stability, and replace gripping tension with relaxed awareness—transforming tone production and right-arm coordination for all levels.	Xun (Richard) Xu, The Bow Doctor
Monday, 7/13	1:00-1:20 PM	College/Univ Student	Express Talk	From Imagination to Gesture: A Psychomotor Approach	Discover how Albert Markov’s Imagination–Execution–Reaction framework can transform music teaching across all instruments by expanding interpretation beyond the written score. This dynamic session shows how psychomotor awareness, mental imagery, and emotional engagement empower students to play with deeper expression and authenticity. Learn practical strategies to unlock your students’ artistic potential and elevate their performances.	Jorge Alves, ESMAE Escola Superior de Música e Artes do Espetaculo do Porto
Monday, 7/13	1:25-1:45 PM	College/Univ Student	Express Talk	Organizing the Bounce	This session offers a structured approach to teaching and performing off-the-string bow strokes—spiccato, sautillé, and ricochet—using targeted viola orchestral excerpts. Drawing on <i>The Artist’s Studio for Strings</i> by Magers, Spinosa, and Rusch, it covers stroke mechanics, bow placement, and musical character. A categorized excerpt guide by tempo, rhythm, and stroke speed provides a dual resource for teachers and performers, turning technical challenges into expressive opportunities in auditions and concert performance.	Brightin Schlumpf, Univ of Northern Colorado
Monday, 7/13	1:00-1:45 PM	Music Industry Showcase				
Monday, 7/13	1:00-1:45 PM	Emeritus	ASTA Committee Roundtable	Do Teachers Ever Retire? Exploring Purpose, Planning, and Life Beyond Teaching	Retirement is more than a financial decision—it’s a personal and musical transition. This session helps educators reflect on what retirement truly means by examining financial readiness, emotional identity shifts, and ongoing musical purpose. Participants will consider essential questions, complete practical planning “do nows,” and explore ways to build a retirement resume that includes passions, service, and creativity. Designed for teachers at any stage, this session supports thoughtful planning for a fulfilling and intentional next chapter.	Linda Cherniavsky & Betsy Mailszewski, and members of the Emeritus Committee

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Monday, 7/13	1:00-1:45 PM	Eclectic Styles	ASTA Committee Roundtable	Eclectic Styles Jam & Jaw	Join the Eclectic Styles Jam and Jaw for a hands-on virtual round table that blends playing and talking shop. We'll start with quick, low-pressure fiddle and hip-hop play-alongs designed for immediate classroom transfer. Then we'll jaw about how to share creative, style-diverse activities in the string classroom. We will explore ASTA Connect as a means to keep ideas and collaborations flowing beyond the session with colleagues across the country. <u>Bring your instruments and creative ideas!</u>	George Nicholson, Philip David Reesman, Harry Hunt Jr., and members of the Eclectic Styles Committee
Monday, 7/13	1:00-1:45 PM	New Music Reading Session	Learn & Play	K-12: Grade 1-2	We will view scores and listen to recordings of new music! Join us and contribute in the chat!	Charilyne Rojas, Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra
Monday, 7/13	1:00-1:45 PM	College/Univ Student Co-Host Session: College Music Society	Panel Discussion	Experiential Music Education Learning Labs: Addressing Music Educator Preparation and Attrition Through Experiential Learning Frameworks	Pre-service teachers are entering the profession at a time of crisis in classroom education with a shortage of qualified teachers and alarming rates of attrition for early-career educators. Now more than ever, institutions must find innovative and efficacious approaches to prepare students for the profession. This session, sponsored by The College Music Society, draws attention to the value of experiential learning for emerging teachers in a lab setting such as the String Project model.	Molly Wilkens-Reed, Virginia Tech; Jeffrey Loeffert, Executive Director, The College Music Society; Sarah Best, Director of Operations, The College Music Society; Katherine Lewis, Professor of Viola and Director & Master Teacher for the Illinois State University String Project; Elena Bolha, Orchestra Director at Founders Classical Academy of Las Vegas
Monday, 7/13	2:00-2:45 PM	Conducting College/Univ	Listen & Learn	Cooking up a Great Rehearsal	This session is focused on how to give directives and feedback like a top chef. Using the idea of how to instruct like a cooking tutorial, unlock a sense of flow and redirect listening and energies to the musical ingredients and the ultimate taste test. Music is nourishment, and engaging your ensemble to listen to the music as a great meal being prepared can shape the rehearsal experience to be efficient and exciting!	Renee Gilliland, Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra

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Monday, 7/13	2:00-2:45 PM	School Orch Representation, Inclusion, and Accessibility	Listen & Learn	Navigating Emotional Risk in the Beginning Orchestra Classroom	What is emotional risk and how does it affect our teaching? Learning how students perceive and respond to emotional risk can inform much of what we (and our students) do in our classrooms. In this session, we will discuss concepts and strategies to scaffold emotional risk, helping all students feel safe and welcome to fully participate in active music making.	Terri Felton, Madison Metropolitan School District
Monday, 7/13	2:00-2:45 PM	Eclectic Styles Representation, Inclusion, and Accessibility	Listen & Learn	The Mother Tongue(s) Method: Creating a Multi-lingual Musical Year	There are many musical languages throughout the world, and learning from a 'native speaker' through a guest artist residency can be an inspiring, humanizing way to create musical, cultural, and personal relationships. Using a case study of a residency that taught son jarocho Mexican folk music traditions, we'll discuss how to design and implement an effective guest artist residency for multi-level string ensembles using local resources that culminates with an energizing, memorable performance.	Benjamin Van Vliet, Upper Valley Music Center
Monday, 7/13	2:00-2:45 PM	Music Industry Showcase Connolly Music Company	Listen & Learn	Matchmaking for Musicians: Finding the Right Instrument, Strings & Setup for Student Success	Every student is different—and the right setup can make a lasting impact on confidence, comfort, and musical growth. In this workshop, you'll learn how to select instruments, strings, bows, and accessories that best support students at every stage. We'll cover setup essentials, string selection, playability, value, and long-term development, along with practical strategies for advocating for quality equipment within school budgets. Leave with actionable tools to help students thrive and progress.	Mitch Moehring, Connolly Music Company
Monday, 7/13	2:00-2:45 PM	ASTACAP	ASTA Committee Roundtable	Strengthening ASTACAP Through Innovation, Training, and National Engagement	ASTACAP proposes enhancing repertoire standards by expanding advanced-level lists and enabling online submissions to upload unlisted scores for examiner verification. We will launch virtual guidance for members in using the new handbook, site exams, online systems, and community feedback channels. Finally, we seek to re-identify the ASTACAP nationally by encouraging inclusion in college and youth orchestra audition requirements, fostering dialogue that grows participation and strengthens ASTA membership through broader teacher engagement across regions and institutions.	June Xu, Marcy Trentacosti, and members of the ASTACAP Committee

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Monday, 7/13	2:00-2:45 PM	Community Music	ASTA Committee Roundtable	The Business of Community Music: From Vision to Sustainability	Building on the conversations initiated at the National Conference roundtable and the May e-webinar, this session invites the Community Music Committee and participants to further explore the practical business dimensions of community music. Together, we will deepen our focus on the structures, strategies, and decision-making that support sustainable, mission-driven community music programs.	Danielle Girard, and members of the Community Music Committee
Monday, 7/13	2:00-2:45 PM	New Music Reading Session	Learn & Play	Studio (Solo & Chamber Music): Music by Historically Excluded Composers	We will view scores and listen to recordings of new music! Join us and contribute in the chat!	Sophia Han, Florida State Univ & Jovonie Tejero-Holmes, Tejero-Holmes Foundation / College of Southern Nevada
Monday, 7/13	2:00-2:45 PM	School Orch Studio Co-Host Session: Midwest Clinic	Learn & Play	Arco-Bowlo!	This interactive session will provide strategies and tricks for setting up the bow hold for all stringed instruments. Participants will use a variety of easily accessible materials to prepare their students for using the bow including egg cartons, dowel rods, rubber bands and smoothie straws. Once the bow hand is set up, the focus will shift to sound production and various bowing techniques. Be sure to have a large rubber band or 2 regular-sized rubber bands for this session!	Anna Radspinner, Williamsport Area School District
Monday, 7/13	3:00-3:45 PM	Representation, Inclusion, and Accessibility Community Music	Listen & Learn	Kapwa in Practice: Filipino Music, Community, and the String Ensemble	This session shares a personal and pedagogical journey of bringing traditional Filipino music into U.S. youth orchestras through the Filipino value of kapwa—shared humanity and relational responsibility. Through community collaboration, student-centered rehearsal practices, and authentic cultural dialogue, participants will explore how transnational music-making can deepen student belonging, elevate community voices, and transform ensemble culture in meaningful, sustainable ways.	Johanna Gamboa-Kroesen, UCLA

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Monday, 7/13	3:00-3:45 PM	School Orch Student	Listen & Learn	Peer Mentorship Between Middle and High School Feeder Orchestra Programs	Facilitating peer mentorship between middle-school and high-school orchestra students builds community, boosts retention, and eases the transition for younger players. This session offers practical strategies to design, implement, and sustain a mentorship program combining rehearsals, peer-led chamber coaching, and leadership training – creating a supportive pathway from feeder programs to high-school ensembles.	Mary Elizabeth Henton, The Lexington Philharmonic
Monday, 7/13	3:00-3:20 PM	Studio & Chamber Music Wellness	Express Talk	Reframing the Why: Humanistic Reasons for Music Lessons	Join this session to reframe the “why” of music lessons. Instead of relying on brain-based claims, explore how teachers may use language and strategies to highlight the deeply human benefits that make music a lifelong companion. This presentation will inspire teachers to articulate the value of music lessons based on what we know - that students continue as music makers not because it makes them smarter, but because it helps them become more fully themselves.	Merlin Thompson, Teach Music 21C
Monday, 7/13	3:25-3:45 PM	Studio & Chamber Music Community Music	Express Talk	Leading from the Start: Autonomy in Multi-Level Young Ensembles	Imagine a 4-year-old giving the breath cue to start a mixed-level ensemble. Impossible? This session challenges traditional hierarchies by presenting a fully student-run performance model—pairing young violinists with peer pianists of the same age, rather than adult accompanists. Discover the “Rotating Leader” protocol and inverted repertoire strategies that allow these young partnerships to breathe, cue, and listen autonomously. Learn how to turn passive players into active musicians without a conductor or teacher on stage.	Yung-Yu Lin, Hainan Normal University
Monday, 7/13	3:00-3:45 PM	Music Industry Showcase Guardian Travel Group and Guardian Strings	Listen & Learn	Travel and Strings: How to “Navigate” Touring with your Ensemble in a Rapidly Changing World	Travel shouldn't be scary. In many respects, the changing world can provide better opportunities and savings. Matthew Granger, Guardian's CEO, will be available to share best practices and time will be saved for audience questions and discussions.	Matthew Granger & Gretchen Pearson Nerad, Guardian Travel Group

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Monday, 7/13	3:00-3:45 PM	Conducting	ASTA Committee Roundtable	Deep Dive: The Art of Score Study	Join the ASTA Conducting Committee for a collaborative virtual score study session designed to deepen musical insight and strengthen rehearsal planning. Conductors will share a score to explore together, sharing ideas on interpretation, gesture, phrasing, and pedagogy. This interactive session fosters community learning and professional growth, offering fresh perspectives on familiar works while celebrating the collective process of discovery that lies at the heart of great conducting and teaching.	Tammy Yi, Tanya Chanphanitpornkit, Gene Dowdy, Joel Schut, Jeff Grogan, Bruce Walker, Renee Gilliland, Rotem Weinberg, Mark Laycock, Rachel Dirks
Monday, 7/13	3:00-3:45 PM	Wellness	ASTA Committee Roundtable	Life Demands & Daily Pressures	Do you feel overloaded? Stressed? Pulled in different directions? Nothing left in the tank? Join the Wellness Committee for an interactive town hall focused on personal and professional stressors during challenging times. Participants will have the opportunity to share experiences, explore strategies, and actively participate in discussions. Time will be allotted to consider ways that the Wellness Committee can facilitate support.	Renny Tallman, Noelle Rader, and members of the Wellness Committee
Monday, 7/13	3:00-3:45 PM	New Music Reading Session	Learn & Play	K-12: Grade 3-4	We will view scores and listen to recordings of new music! Join us and contribute in the chat!	Beth Neitzert, Huron School District
Monday, 7/13	3:00-3:45 PM	General Co-Host Session: American String Teachers Association	Listen & Learn	More than a Stick: Exploring the World of Bows	The bow is often treated as secondary to the instrument, yet it is the primary driver of tone, articulation, and student success. In this engaging, demonstration-based session, Jason Day bridges the gap between the repair shop and the classroom, helping educators better understand how the bow influences sound and technique. Participants will explore bow anatomy, materials, and balance through real-world examples, while learning to identify common issues that hinder student progress. Practical strategies for improving tone production, teaching bow fundamentals, and selecting appropriate bows for developing players will be shared. The session also covers essential maintenance, including when to rehair and how to extend a bow's lifespan. Attendees will leave with immediately applicable tools to troubleshoot problems, support student growth, and make more informed equipment decisions in their programs.	Jason & Jenna Day, Day Violins

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Tuesday, July 14

DATE	TIME (EDT)	SESSION FOCUS AREAS	SESSION FORMAT	SESSION TITLE	SESSION DESCRIPTION	PRESENTERS
Tuesday, 7/14	11:00 – 11:45 PM	KEYNOTE	Listen & Learn	Collaboration in Action: Stories, Partnerships, and Possibilities	Helen Cha-Pyo explores collaboration as a purpose-driven practice beyond traditional string education, sharing real examples of partnerships that use music to foster human connection and meaningful context. This interactive session invites shared dialogue, questions, and collective brainstorming as we explore together how collaboration can expand opportunities and deepen connection, purpose, and community.	Helen Cha-Pyo, Wharton Arts
Tuesday, 7/14	12:00-12:45 PM	Student Studio & Chamber Music	Listen & Learn	Initial Positioning (Violin/Viola): A Quick Guide for String and Non-string Players	The application of an individual approach and natural, functional movement, opens the door to violin and viola techniques, through combining the understanding of psycho-physiological aspects of the learning processes and applying objective rules in establishing a successful foundation. The session will focus on the correlations between correct hand and body positions and development of the following instrumental techniques: intonation, shifting, vibrato, digital agility, bow-arm technique, as well as common mistakes and solutions for correcting them.	Larisa Elisha, Georgia Southern Univ
Tuesday, 7/14	12:00-12:45 PM	Studio & Chamber Music Representation, Inclusion, and Accessibility	Learn & Play	Strings of Belonging: Strategies for Reimagining the Canon	Imagine a world where every student sees themselves in the music they play. This session explores culturally responsive repertoire that fosters technique and creates genuine belonging. Although cello-focused, the session's hands-on activities present repertoire selection, arranging, and sequencing strategies adaptable to any instrument. Participants also receive guidance on evaluating sources, and sharing accurate cultural context. Together we will learn to "expand the score" and design pathways that acknowledge a wider musical world.	Bianca D'Avila do Prado, Music Institute of Chicago/Northwestern Music Academy & Hilary Glen, Colgate University
Tuesday, 7/14	12:00-12:45 PM	Representation, Inclusion, and Accessibility School Orch	Listen & Learn	Developing 'Serious' Musicians: Identity Development & Serious Leisure Perspective	The Serious Leisure Perspective (Stebbins) holds that people who pursue serious hobbies develop an identity around them. As musicians, we embrace the idea of music as a part of our identity, shaping our lives through rehearsals, memorable performances, and community. Most of our students become leisure musicians. We will explore the idea of musical identity development and its implications for how we teach, interact, and build diverse future musicians and belonging —now.	Déz Ramos-Smiley, Virginia Commonwealth University/Chesapeake Public Schools

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Tuesday, 7/14	12:00-12:45 PM	Music Industry Showcase Carray Music Press, LLC	Learn & Play	Fun, Rewarding (& Sometimes Goofy) Artistic Development at Every Level!	Carray Music Press LLC offers original solo, duo, chamber and large ensemble works of diverse style and artistic quality, fostering specific areas of articulation and expression for growing musicians of all levels. Come look, listen and play with us!	Monty Carter, Carray Music Press, LLC
Tuesday, 7/14	12:00-12:45 PM	K-12 (School Orch)	ASTA Committee Roundtable	Recharge & Refocus: Practical Self-Care for K-12 Orchestra Teachers	This roundtable discussion will focus on practical self-care strategies for K-12 string educators, including setting healthy boundaries, managing workload, and preventing burnout. We will also explore how AI tools can save time with lesson planning, communication, and more. Participants will discuss ideas and strategies for creating sustainable careers in music education.	Jami Kleinert, Jeana Peterson, and members of the K-12 Committee
Tuesday, 7/14	12:00-12:45 PM	Research	ASTA Committee Roundtable	Emerging String Researcher Speed Talks	Join us as student and early-career researchers engaged in string research present their work in a speed talk format.	David Miller, and members of the Research Committee
Tuesday, 7/14	12:00-12:45 PM	New Music Reading Session	Learn & Play	K-12: Eclectic Styles	We will view scores and listen to recordings of new music! Join us and contribute in the chat!	Duane Padilla, Punahou Music School
Tuesday, 7/14	12:00-12:45 PM	Studio & Chamber Music General Co-Host Session: European String Teachers Association	Learn & Play	From Weaknesses to Improvement: Launching a New ESTA International Pathway for High-School Success	This lecture presents practical, remedy-focused solutions to the most common weaknesses observed in students at the end of high school. The study is grounded in practice-based research conducted in Portugal and across Europe, combining classroom evidence with teacher training insights. Participants will explore actionable, remedial strategies to improve learning outcomes and engagement. Contributions from attendees are welcomed and discussed. This lecture also marks the launch of a new ESTA International online workshop starting in autumn.	Jorge Alves, ESMAE Escola Superior de Música e Artes do Espetáculo do Porto & Laura Richie, Univ of Chichester

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Tuesday, 7/14	1:00-1:45 PM	School Orch College/Univ	Listen & Learn	Revisiting "The Master Teacher Profile": What Constitutes "Effective" Teaching?	In 1989, Bob Culver, then professor of string music education at the University of Michigan, published "The Master Teacher Profile". This series of videotapes with an accompanying manual remains a unique means of evaluating teacher effectiveness by dividing teacher behavior into verbal, co-verbal, and descriptive categories while also accounting for teacher posture and affect. This session will offer participants tips on how they can unpack and incorporate these concepts going into the new school year.	David Saccardi, Louisiana State Univ
Tuesday, 7/14	1:00-1:45 PM	Studio & Chamber Music School Orch	Listen & Learn	String Chamber Music Learning through Educational Concerts in School Communities	Given that students primarily learn music through private lessons, conducted ensembles, and individual practice, I propose an approach to chamber music education for string instruments that provides opportunities to develop collaborative skills and enhance learning processes, potentially transmitted through peers and classmates during educational concerts, as an accessible space for the entire high school community.	David Molina Santos, University of Arizona
Tuesday, 7/14	1:00-1:45 PM	College/Univ Community Music	Listen & Learn	Teaching Tiny Musicians: What You Need to Know	Teaching tiny musicians takes a special kind of approach and can often feel like a prodigious undertaking. Let's spend our time together reviewing the most important aspects of teaching very young children strings so that you come out of the session ready to help your youngest learners and be equipped to set them up for success. From trusting the process to choosing developmentally appropriate repertoire and expectations, we will cover the important stuff!	Molly Wilkens-Reed, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ
Tuesday, 7/14	1:00-1:45 PM	Music Industry Showcase Ultimate Music Theory	Listen & Learn	The Business of Teaching Music: 5 Pillars of Success	Join Best-Selling Author/TEDx Speaker Glory St. Germain - Discover how to increase your income & become an Ultimate Music Theory Expert! Get Ready for Your Most Profitable & Productive Year Yet \$\$\$ The 5 Pillars to Elevate Your Studio ♪ Design Creative Theory Classes that inspire learning ♪ Activate Growth Opportunities that increase enrollment ♪ Build Consistent Strategies that keep students engaged ♪ Structure Teaching Systems that build predictable income ♪ Deliver Meaningful Experiences that create lasting impact	Glory St. Germain, Ultimate Music Theory

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Tuesday, 7/14	1:00-1:45 PM	Mentorship	ASTA Committee Roundtable	How Can I Be a (Better) Mentor?	Have you thought about becoming a mentor? Whether you're a teacher with four or five years of experience gaining momentum, or a seasoned educator seeking fresh approaches to mentoring, this roundtable is for you. We'll explore effective ways to observe a mentee's teaching, locate valuable mentoring resources, and structure consistent, productive meetings. Join the conversation to strengthen your mentoring skills—or to gain the confidence to jump in and give mentoring a try.	Ashley Rudd and members of the Mentorship Committee
Tuesday, 7/14	1:00-1:45 PM	Advocacy	ASTA Committee Roundtable	Teaching, Reaching, Advocating: The Power of String Educators	Join our Advocacy Roundtable to share burning and evolving significant challenges to your program. Meant for all string educators, join national advocacy leaders to help you find solutions. The roundtable will be built around your questions, issues and concerns. We'd love to see you for this wonderful opportunity for a deep dive into advocacy strategies and solutions.	Jenna Day, John Sweat, and members of the Advocacy Committee
Tuesday, 7/14	1:00-1:45 PM	New Music Reading Session	Learn & Play	Studio (Solo & Chamber Music): Music by Women Composers	We will view scores and listen to recordings of new music! Join us and contribute in the chat!	Qiao Solomon, Agnes Scott College & Erin Little, Teachers College, Columbia Univ
Tuesday, 7/14	1:00-1:45 PM	School Orch Representation, Inclusion, and Accessibility Co-Host Session: National Association for Music Education	Listen & Learn	Teaching Through a Culturally Responsive Lens Across the String Orchestra Concert Cycle	This session explores how to apply culturally responsive teaching practices throughout the string orchestra concert cycle—from repertoire selection and rehearsal strategies to performance and reflection. Participants will examine ways to center diverse musical traditions, foster student voice, and build inclusive classroom communities. Practical strategies and real-world examples will support educators in creating meaningful, engaging learning experiences that reflect students' identities while strengthening musical growth, ensemble cohesion, and culturally informed performance outcomes.	LaSaundra Belcher, Wake Forest Community Youth Orchestra & Krissi Davis, Atlanta Public Schools
Tuesday, 7/14	2:00-2:45 PM	College/Univ Studio & Chamber Music	Listen & Learn	Cultivating Artists Through Aural Heritage Practices	This session explores how integrating historic recordings into applied lessons can strengthen students' inner hearing, deepen interpretive awareness, and support their growth as independent artists. Using Aural Education, teachers will learn to guide students through focused listening, reflective journaling, and contextual inquiry.	Eunice Kim, Indiana Univ

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Tuesday, 7/14	2:00-2:45 PM	School Orch Representation, Inclusion, and Accessibility	Listen & Learn	Generating Student Data that Grows and Nourishes your Orchestra Program	Connect with your inner data geek! Not all information is negative—data mining provides vindication of teaching methods and ammunition to grow healthy, self-sustaining string orchestra programs. This session will examine how teachers can acquire their data, critically analyze results, and increase student productivity while maintaining high pedagogical standards.	Betsy Maliszewski, Caldwell University
Tuesday, 7/14	2:00-2:45 PM	Representation, Inclusion, and Accessibility School Orch	Learn & Play	Using Play-Alongs to Cultivate Cultural Diversity in the String Classroom	String education often lacks accessible, culturally diverse repertoire. This interactive “learn and play” session demonstrates using play-along tracks to bridge this gap for beginners. We will explore how authentic engagement with genres like hip-hop and mariachi fosters student belonging and retention. Attendees are encouraged to bring instruments to experience active music-making strategies that honor diverse backgrounds. Participants will leave with access to substantial amount of resources to build inclusive string classrooms	Justino Pérez, University of Arizona
Tuesday, 7/14	2:00-2:45 PM	Music Industry Showcase Grand Mesa Strings	Listen & Learn	Composing with Purpose: Student-Driven Composing in Large Group Rehearsals	"Composing with Purpose" is an exciting new series for elementary string teachers! This session will help teachers explore this new resource, which provides an entire year's worth of composing activities for beginning string students. Composing with your students is essential for their musical development, and this session will help make it a seamless part of your teaching routine.	Sarah Siegler, Grand Mesa Strings
Tuesday, 7/14	2:00-2:45 PM	Studio	ASTA Committee Roundtable	Using Technology as a Tool for Community Connection	This interactive roundtable invites string teachers to share and explore how technology can be used to build stronger connections with students, families, and fellow educators. Rather than a formal presentation, this session centers on discussion, idea exchange, and practical problem-solving. Topics may include rehearsal and practice tools, video feedback, communication platforms, collaborative projects, and ways technology can support access and engagement without overwhelming teachers or students. Participants are encouraged to bring examples, questions, and favorite tools to share. Attendees will leave with new ideas, peer-tested strategies, and expanded professional connections.	Lindsay Genadek, John Vaida, and members of Studio Committee

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Tuesday, 7/14	2:00-2:45 PM	Student	ASTA Committee Roundtable	Bridging the Support Gap: A Student Advisory Committee Conversation	What support do college students need most right now? How can ASTA better champion their for your student chapters? And what ideas should shape the Student Advisory Committee's priorities for the coming year? Join committee members for an open, collaborative discussion focused on identifying needs, sharing insights, and building a stronger student experience. Feel free to tweak or change things. I feel I'm landing properly cheesy but intriguing with the title.	Gabriel Figuracion, Evan Lohbrunner, and members of the Student Advisory Committee
Tuesday, 7/14	2:00-2:45 PM	New Music Reading Session	Learn & Play	K-12: Grade 5-6	We will view scores and listen to recordings of new music! Join us and contribute in the chat!	Joel Schut, Grand Valley State Univ
Tuesday, 7/14	2:00-2:45 PM	General Wellness Co-Host Session: Tennessee Music Educators Association	Listen & Learn	Behind the Baton: Mastering Work-Life Harmony for Music Teachers	Balancing the demands of teaching, performing, and a personal life is no small feat for music educators. This session dives into practical strategies for achieving work-life harmony, helping music teachers sustain their passion without burnout. This session will provide teachers with concrete ideas on how to explore boundary setting skills, value prioritization, and wellness practices tailored for the unique challenges of a music educator's life. Learn how to stay energized, focused, and fulfilled, both on and off the podium.	Allison Cowan, Ravenwood High School (TN) & Johnathan Vest, retired - Coordinator of Music Education for the University of Tennessee at Martin
Tuesday, 7/14	3:00-3:45 PM	Representation, Inclusion, and Accessibility Studio & Chamber Music	Listen & Learn	Play as a Bridge Between Music Pedagogy and Neurodivergence	This inclusive approach to teaching string instruments divides learning into four developmental areas (motor, cognitive, socio-emotional, and language) and uses play as a pedagogical resource to stimulate them and support students. Developed by a professional diagnosed with dyslexia, it combines theory, practical cases, and playful activities that allow assessment of development and identification of potential signs of neurodivergence. The session provides tools and inspiration for teachers to adapt their practice to different ways of learning.	Valeria Bolognani, self
Tuesday, 7/14	3:00-3:45 PM	Studio & Chamber Music College/Univ	Listen & Learn	The Messy Middle: Bridging Middle Schoolers to Dedicated, Beautiful Artistry	Looking to motivate your middle level students and strengthen their long-term commitment to their instrument? Want to raise their playing level, set meaningful SMART goals, and find new teaching resources? In this lecture, we'll show you how to elevate your programming, plan effectively, and bridge your students to new levels of achievement with confidence.	Lydia Miller Choorapuzha, Private Studio & Kelly Parkins-Lindstrom, Private Studio

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Tuesday, 7/14	3:00-3:45 PM	Wellness Student	Listen & Learn	The Teaching Principles of the Havas Approach	The Havas Approach promotes ease of playing through the awareness and elimination of the underlying tensions inherent in playing. Developed by the renowned violin pedagogue Katò Havas (1920-2018), the approach uses natural movements organized through a set of coordinated balances. This workshop will introduce and demonstrate the basic principles of the Havas New Approach. Participants will be invited to experience the "no-hold", the "2 hinges" of the right arm and the "giving" left hand.	Karen Davy, KHANA (Kato Havas Association for the New Approach)
Tuesday, 7/14	3:00-3:45 PM	College/Univ General	Listen & Learn	Why Music Educators Should Take the Lead	Did you know that you have been amassing and rehearsing leadership competencies from the time you produced your first musical notes? Drawing on recent research, this session deepens participants' understanding of the music-leadership connection and demonstrates how the technical, humanistic, and conceptual skills mastered by music educators have been linked to effective leadership, transformative change, and the cultivation of cultures of excellence in 21st-century schools.	Jeanne Porcino Dolamore, BuildingBridges.Music
Tuesday, 7/14	3:00-3:45 PM	General	Listen & Learn	"Imagine a Career with Strings Attached" – Revisited! New ASTA Resources for String Teachers	Thanks to generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a committee of ASTA writers, testers, and artists have been collaborating this year to create and curate activities and lesson plans aimed at recruiting the next generation of string teachers! Join us as we share about the project, learn from the committee members about the process, and launch the resources for the first time at the 2026 Virtual String Teachers Summit!	Lynn Tuttle, ASTA, and members of our project committee (writers, testers, and artists)
Tuesday, 7/14	3:00-3:45 PM	Music Industry Showcase Gloria Justen Music	Listen & Learn	Tunes in Time: New Music for Progressively Building Technique, Knowledge, and Creativity	Violinist-violist-composer Gloria Justen demonstrates how the original pieces in her Tunes in Time Series build technique and musical knowledge in a logical - yet intuitive - way. The learning of intervals, scales, and rhythmic patterns is integrated from the beginning, and students are encouraged to improvise with these elements. Duet parts bring harmony, counterpoint, and rhythmic contrast into the picture as well. The series is available for both one-on-one teaching and for flexible string ensemble.	Gloria Justen, Gloria Justen Music
Tuesday, 7/14	3:00-3:45 PM	New Music Reading Session	Learn & Play	K-12 Historically Excluded Composers	We will view scores and listen to recordings of new music! Join us and contribute in the chat!	Natalie Frakes, Niles West High School

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Tuesday, 7/14	3:00-3:45 PM	Studio & Chamber Music General <i>Co-Host Session: Suzuki Association of the Americas</i>	Listen & Learn	Bring Parents In, Then Ease Them Out: Building Student Independence in Suzuki Lessons	Parent involvement is central to the Suzuki Method, but parents come to lessons with different ideas about what that involvement should look like. This session offers a practical framework for bringing parents into the Suzuki lesson as informed partners, building their confidence at home, and—most importantly—shifting responsibility to the student over time. Participants will leave with time-tested models, games, and vocabulary to strengthen parent education, parent empowerment, and the development of independent, self-directed young musicians.	Kathryn Drake, Ithaca Suzuki Music Education