

AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL STRING PROJECT CONSORTIUM

MEDIA FACT SHEET

Overview

The National String Project Consortium is a music education and teaching program sponsored by the American String Teachers Association (ASTA WITH NSOA) to help alleviate the shortage of public school string teachers and expand music education programs for grade school children.

Beginning in the third grade, children gain the opportunity to study a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello, or bass) at a participating local university or college campus. Teachers in the String Project are undergraduate music majors who gain valuable hands-on classroom teaching experience under the supervision of the program's Director and a Master Teacher—seasoned public school string teachers who teach and advise the undergraduate teachers.

- In 2001, public schools could not fill 25 percent of vacancies for string music teachers. As aging teachers move closer toward retirement, the number of vacant and unfilled jobs is expected to rise.
- More than half of the undergraduates who participate (55%) say they will teach music immediately following graduation. Another 39 percent say they'll teach immediately following completion of graduate school – two clear signs that the ASTA WITH NSOA National String Project is achieving its goal of eliminating the shortage of string teachers in the United States.
- By 2004, the National String Project will give an estimated 3,600 children per year the opportunity to study stringed instruments.
- On average, participating grade-school children are nine years old. Most children are learning to play the violin (69%), followed by cello (15%), viola (14%), and bass (2%).
- Fees for the children to participate are kept very low so that every child who wishes to participate can do so. Many of these programs attract a diverse racial and ethnic blend of children from the communities they serve.

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Participating Colleges/Universities

Arizona State University	University of Georgia
Ball State University	University of Hartford/The Hartt School
Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music	University of Kentucky
California State University (Sacramento)	University of Massachusetts at Lowell
Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam	University of Memphis
Illinois State University	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lawrence University Conservatory of Music	University of North Texas
Marywood University	University of Oklahoma
St. Cloud State University	University of South Carolina
Texas Tech University	University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
University of Arizona	University of Texas (Austin)
University of Dayton	University of Texas at San Antonio
	University of Wyoming
	Weber State University

About ASTA WITH NSOA

The American String Teachers Association (ASTA) was founded in 1946 in order to promote excellence in string teaching and playing. In 1998 it unified with the NSOA (National School Orchestra Association). With more than 11,500 teachers, professors, orchestra directors, administrators, and performers nationwide as members of the organization, ASTA WITH NSOA is the leading professional association for its industry. ASTA is a non-profit corporation under Section 501(c)3 of the IRS Code.

For More Information

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