



Session Descriptions 2010

Introducing...Two New MNSOTA Events!

Presented by Ray Shows and Cristina Seaborn

Ray and Cristina will introduce two new events that MNSOTA will sponsor in 2010-2011: a chamber music competition and an alternative styles/eclectic strings festival and competition. Bring your questions!!

All-State Violin Sectional

Presented by Peter McGuire

Watch Peter McGuire, violinist in the Minnesota Orchestra and former member of the MN All-State Orchestra, work with the current group of violinists in the All-State ensemble.

Observe the All-State Orchestra Rehearsal

Presented by the MN All-State Orchestra and Allen Tinkham

Workshop participants will be encouraged to take notes on rehearsal techniques for further discussion during the “shop talk” dinner on Friday evening.

Politics and Orchestra—The Endless Game

Presented by Dr. James Hainlen

Politics in education are what people like to complain about, ignore, or worse - give up on, in frustration. But, politics are a reality in education and in life. Travel time, teacher to student ratio, room access, instrument storage rooms, access to wind and percussion players, concert dates - all are political issues because they involve the “allocation of values”. This session will be geared towards presenting clear ideas on becoming more effective in political conflicts. We will also discuss real-life issues that the participants are willing to bring to the session so the group can brainstorm effective responses. Feel free to email your situation to Jim ahead of time, too: j.hainlen@comcast.net

Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Judging Certification Clinic

Presented by Carl Lipke, Bill Webb, and Chris Franson

This workshop will be of interest to all people who judge at solo/ensemble or large group contests, prepare their students for contest, or assess students on a regular basis. Several student soloists and a small chamber orchestra will perform, and a Master Judge will lead a discussion of how best to assess the performance according to MSHSL official criteria.

At the end of this session, participants will be on the road to becoming official MSHSL music judges. A registration fee of \$8.00 will need to be paid and a written test will also need to be submitted (either online or mailed in) soon after the workshop to complete the process, for those who wish to do so.

Sessions with Elliot Del Borgo:

- ***Efficient Rehearsal Technique***
More productive rehearsals through careful problem solving and efficient use of time from the warm-up to the conclusion of the rehearsal. Emphasis is placed on the Gestalt approach and creating a rewarding performance experience for the players.
- ***Effective Warm-Up Techniques***
Strategies that will take less than 10 minutes and efficiently prepare the students for an intense rehearsal. These will include musical, physical, and mental exercises that will make the most of rehearsal time.
- ***Impress the Judges—Get Higher Contest Scores***
Specific ways to have your ensemble make a positive impression in contest situations. From the selection of literature to set-up and avoidance of the most common performance pitfalls.
- ***10 Easy Improvements for Your Band or Orchestra***
Very basic ways in which to make your band or orchestra sound better without being part of a long-range program.

Meet the All-State Orchestra Conductor

Presented by Allen Tinkham, music director of the Chicago Youth Symphony

Alternative Styles Reading Session/Jam Session

Presented by Cristina Seaborn

Bring your instrument, and explore "Alternative Styles" arrangements for strings (fiddle, folk, rock, Latin, jazz, contemporary) including those with optional improvisation sections and/or rhythm section. If you wish, bring a tune for the group to learn by ear. No improvisation experience is necessary to have a great time!

Improvisation Made Easy

Presented by Cristina Seaborn

This session will explore ways to help you and your students reach a higher comfort level with the "lost" art of improvisation. Cristina will be using the *Improvisation Made Easy* books by Jody Harmon. This is a great way to prepare for the 2011 ASTA alternative styles competition or the new 2011 MNSOTA Eclectic Strings event!

Perform-Connect-Reflect: Three Keys to Maximizing Student Performance in Ensemble Classes

Presented by Dr. Wendy Barden

This session examines time-tested, research-based strategies that will help you engage individual students and increase individual learning in large ensembles. Maximize student performance by incorporating these practical and easy to implement ideas into your orchestra -- working differently, not harder. Sub-topics under the three keys, Perform-Connect-Reflect, include:

- Framing comprehensive, standards-based rehearsals
- Providing individual feedback to improve performance
- Assessing music learning in addition to performance skills
- Developing rapport with students
- Guiding results-oriented independent practice outside of class
- Promoting students' self reflection on their learning.