

# **Non-String Players Teaching Strings: Then and Now – A View from Two Generations**

**Thursday, December 18, 2003  
11:00 AM  
Williford Room**

***Presenters:***

***Jeffrey S. Bishop, Shawnee Mission (KS) Public Schools  
John Clinton, Oklahoma Center for Arts Education/University of  
Central Oklahoma***

## **2003 Midwest Clinic**

**An International Band and Orchestra Conference  
57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
Hilton Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois  
December 16-20, 2003**

**Non-String Players Teaching Strings: Then and Now - A View from Two Generations**  
**Presenters: Jeffrey S. Bishop, Shawnee Mission Public Schools**  
**John Clinton, Oklahoma Center for Arts Education, University of Central**  
**Oklahoma**  
**Thursday, December 18, 2003**

- I. Introduction and Experiences of the Presenters
- II. The Basics: What you need to know to get started at each level
  - A. Elementary Strings
    - 1. Recruiting, Retention, and the Role of Personality
    - 2. Professional Relations
    - 3. Rehearsing: Now What?
      - a. Room Logistics: Teaching in the Restroom?
      - b. Tuning: How, When, and Why?
      - c. Philosophical Debate: Technique or Music
      - d. Literature
  - B. Middle Level Strings
    - 1. Before Rehearsal (Summer-time Blues)
    - 2. Rehearsal Set-Up and Etiquette
    - 3. Admit What You Don't Know
    - 4. Literature
  - C. High School Strings
    - 1. Before Rehearsal
    - 2. Professional Relations: Who's Feeding Whom?
    - 3. Rehearsal Procedures
    - 4. Literature
- III. So You're Hooked: Now What?
  - A. Lessons? For YOU and Your Students!
  - B. Literature: Getting to Know the Beast
    - 1. ASTA with NSOA Reading Folders
    - 2. MENC Super List

- 3. Colleagues
- C. Technical Exercises for Each Instrument
  - 1. Technique Books for Each Instrument
  - 2. Technical Implications for Each Instrument
    - a. Composing/Arranging for Strings
    - b. "Why is \_\_\_\_\_ so hard on \_\_\_\_\_?"
- IV. Applying What You Already Know as a Band or Choir Teacher
  - A. Breath = Bow
  - B. Posture Perfect
  - C. Make it Look Right – WYSIWYG
  - D. Why Does the Band Get All the Cool Stuff? Other Ideas...
- V. How to Sound Like a String Player (Annoying the Conductor 101)
  - A. The General Terms from Band/Choir
  - B. Bowing Terms – The Real Story
  - C. Other Terms
- VI. Resources for the String Teacher

## **GENERAL REFERENCE**

American String Teachers Association (1986). *String Syllabus: Violin, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass*. Bryn Mawr, PA: Author.

Hopkins, Michael (2001). *The String Pedagogy Notebook: A Resource for Teachers and Performers* compiled by Michael Hopkins <http://www.uvm.edu/~mhopkins>

Music Educators National Conference (1988). *The Complete String Guide: Standards, Programs, Purchase, and Maintenance*. Reston, VA: Author.

## **BOWING**

Gigante, Charles (1986). *Manual of orchestral bowing*. Bryn Mawr, PA: American String Teachers Association.

Green, Elizabeth A. H. (1980). *Orchestral bowings and routines* (2nd ed.). Ann Arbor, MI: Campus Publishers.

Rabin, Marvin, & Smith, Priscilla (1992). *Guide to Orchestral Bowings Through Musical Styles*, video. Madison: University of Wisconsin.

## **FOR PARENTS**

Fink, Lorraine (1977). *A parent's Guide to string instrument study: Helpful information for families with children studying orchestral string instruments*. San Diego, CA: Kjos West.

## **REHEARSAL TECHNIQUES**

Clinton, John (2002). *Rehearsing the Whole Orchestra—Getting the Most Out of Your Full Orchestra*. Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic. Unpublished presentation.

Re Gattiker, Irvin (1977). *Complete book of rehearsal techniques for the high school orchestra*. West Nyack, NY: Parker Publishing.

## **STRING/ORCHESTRA TEACHING**

Colwell, Richard J. (1992). *The Teaching of Instrumental Music (2nd ed.)*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Cook, Clifford A. (1957). *String teaching and some related topics*. American String Teachers Association.

Dillon, Jacquelyn A. & Kriechbaum, Casimer B., Jr. (1978). *How to design and teach a successful school string and orchestra program*. San Diego, CA: Kjos West.

Green, Elizabeth (1992). *Teaching String Instruments in Classes*. Bryn Mawr, PA: American String Teachers Association.

Lamb, Norman(1990). *Guide to Teaching Strings (5th ed.)*. Dubuque, IA: Wm. C. Brown Publishers.

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Rabin, Marvin (19 ). *Rabin on Strings*, video. Madison: University of Wisconsin.

Rolland, Paul & Mutschler, Marla (1974). *The teaching of action in string playing: Developmental and remedial techniques*. Urbana, IL: Illinois String Research Associates.

Suzuki, Shinichi (1983). *Nurtured by love: The classic approach to talent education (2nd ed.)*. Smithtown, NY: Exposition Press.

Tanglewood String Symposium (Louis Krasner, Chairman) (1965). *String Problems, Players and Paucity*. Syracuse, NY: Berkshire Music Center with the Cooperaton of the School of Music, Syracuse University.

Winberg & Salus (199\_). *Stretching for strings*. Bryn Mawr, PA: American String Teachers Association.

Young, Phyllis (1986). *The string play: The drama of playing and teaching strings*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

## Presenters



**Jeffrey S. Bishop**  
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Jeffrey S. Bishop is a sought-after composer of educational literature. His works for string orchestra, full orchestra, and concert band have been commissioned and performed throughout the United States, Mexico, and Europe. He is the recipient of the 1997 National School Orchestra Association Composition Award for his "Symphony for Strings No. 1". Recent Commissions include: "Dialogue for Violin and Cello", commissioned by the Moorhead, Minnesota 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra for their appearance at the 2003 ASTA with NSOA National Conference; "Ballade" for the Olathe, Kansas High School Orchestra for their appearance at the 2003 Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Workshop; and "Upward Into the Castle Dark," for the Texas Music Educators Association Region IX Junior High Symphony. He has nearly two-dozen compositions for band and orchestra published by the Neil A. Kjos Music Company, Wingert-Jones Music, and C. Alan Publications. He is a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

Mr. Bishop is currently in his sixth year as Director of Orchestras at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School in suburban Kansas City. Under his direction, the Northwest Orchestra program has grown from 15 members in one orchestra, to over 85 members in three classes. In addition to the classes that meet during the school day, the Northwest Symphony Orchestra rehearses one evening each week, bringing together the top string and wind/percussion players in the school. The Northwest Symphony Orchestra was selected to perform at the 2002 Kansas Music Educators In-Service Workshop. He is also the director of the Northwest Early Music Ensemble, one of only a handful of instrumental Renaissance ensembles on the high school level in the United States. In addition to his duties as orchestra director, Mr. Bishop is also the Coordinator of Fine Arts at SMNW, where he directs the departments of Art, Music, and Drama.

Mr. Bishop also serves as a Music Director/Conductor with the Youth Symphony of Kansas City. Now in his sixth year with the organization, he conducts the Symphonette Orchestra, the youngest of the full orchestras. The YSKC program also includes two intermediate full orchestras and advanced symphony orchestra, as well as a preparatory string orchestra and two flute choirs.

Mr. Bishop appears often as clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor/composer throughout the United States. Recent appearances include: guest composer/conductor at Northwest Missouri State University; and conductor, Texas Music Educators Association Region IX Junior High Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to his awards as a composer, he has been recognized for his skills as an educator. In 2001 the SMNW Parent Teacher Association awarded him the Lifetime Membership Award in recognition of the growth of the orchestra program. He has served as an online mentor for the MENC Orchestra Member Forum.

Jeffrey is married to fellow string pedagogue Amy Fear-Bishop, Director of Orchestras at Blue Valley High School (Stilwell, KS). Amy maintains an active cello studio in their home in addition to her activities as teacher and conductor. She is the ASTA with NSOA New Music Reading Folders Coordinator. They are the proud parents of three cats and one very spoiled dog. They live in a very fuzzy house in Prairie Village, Kansas.

## Presenters (Cont.)



**Dr. John Clinton**  
Executive Director of the  
Oklahoma Center for Arts  
Education

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John Clinton is the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Center for Arts Education (OCAE) at the University of Central Oklahoma and the Oklahoma A+ Schools. He is also the conductor of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra, a position he has held since 1992. He was the Director of Fine Arts for the Norman Public Schools, Norman, Oklahoma from 1974 until 2001. A graduate of East Central Oklahoma State University, Clinton earned a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Oklahoma. In 1991 he completed a Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of North Texas with emphases in conducting, string pedagogy and sociology.

As the Executive Director for the OCAE his responsibilities include the development of master classes for fine and performing arts teachers, advocacy with policy makers for arts education, collaboration within the University of Central Oklahoma, College of Education, on professional development for arts integration, and leadership within Oklahoma for a comprehensive and cohesive approach to arts education. The Oklahoma A+ Schools initiative is a school reform project that has as its centerpiece the importance of fine and performing arts as well as arts integration in the learning process of all students. This initiative provides preK-12 educators the opportunity to develop strategies and networking in eight essential areas. These areas are curriculum, multi-intelligences, experiential learning, enriched assessment, arts integration, collaboration, school climate, and school infrastructure.

He has presented papers and in-service workshops at the MENC in New Orleans and Kansas City, the Texas Music Educators' Association, the University of Oklahoma "Symposium '95: The Sociology of Music Education: Theoretical Underpinnings and Practical Applications", as well as presentations in Kentucky, Oklahoma and Texas on a variety of arts topics. Dr. Clinton has conducted high school orchestras at the Music Educators National Conference, the Oklahoma Music Educators Association, and the Intermediate Symphony and Band at the National Music Camp in Interlochen. He has conducted All-State and All-District orchestras in Arizona, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas.

Dr. Clinton has received numerous professional honors, including the University of Oklahoma School of Music Distinguished Alumni Fellow, Oklahoma String Teacher of the Year, Governor's Arts Award for Arts and Education, National Federation of State High School Associations Outstanding Music Educator, Oklahoma Music Educators Association "Administrator of the Year" and the Distinguished Service Award from the Art Therapy Association of Oklahoma.

He currently serves on the board of directors for The Midwest Clinic, Oklahoma Arts Institute, Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education, Cultural Development Corporation of Central Oklahoma, Children's Arts Network and the Sooner Theatre, Inc.