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Greetings from your new AMEA president!

I’m honored and delighted to begin this journey as your new Alaska Music Educators Association president. I have learned many things during my “training period” as president elect the past two years, such as the immense passion all of you have for teaching music. I’ve learned how dedicated and hard working the AMEA board is. I’ve also learned how much fun you all like to have at conferences, and I’ve learned the value of good communication skills to name a few. But one thing stands out in my bucket of new knowledge since I started this presidency. I have a better understanding of the depth of our national organization (NAfME) and how their work supports us.

Did you know that NAfME is one of the world’s largest music educator associations? It has been in existence over 100 years and it is safe to say that the reason we even have music in our schools is because of NAfME. Their headquarters, located in Reston, Virginia, is filled with staff, from the CEO on down to the mailroom assistant, who are dedicated to the support of music educators like you and I. This organization doesn’t just collect our membership dues and publish journals. This organization moves, listens and acts. One example that most of you are probably familiar with is the fact that NAfME (through it’s strength in membership) was able to influence congress with the passage of the new education bill (ESSA). I highlight this fact and bring it up quite often in conversation with colleagues because here is proof that you are getting your money’s worth! I used to be one of those people who would question the worth of my membership. I would see a magazine in my mailbox once a month, and every other year I was allowed to submit my auditions for All Northwest.

As many of you have seen over the years, music is getting the squeeze in some districts….. less offerings, less class time, pullouts, and downright cut altogether. NAfME is listening and responding to these atrocities. They have your back! As ESSA is getting worked out in each state across the country, NAfME is working hard to make sure that music education is supported in each state. Pullouts will be widely discouraged if the school is receiving Title I funding. Professional development support for music educators is now a consideration in the new bill. States will now be required to report how their students are achieving a well rounded education (“well-rounded” includes music) which, in turn, is going to force the school districts to take note of how many students we are serving and what kinds of music programs are offered.

If you feel like your school, or your district is supporting your efforts to give every one of your students the opportunity to make music, then you can thank all those AMEA members before you who saw the importance of membership in such an influential organization as NAfME. If you are facing advocacy issues within your district (program/class cuts, pullouts, etc.), then feel assured that your membership now will have a positive affect for the future of music education. Think of your membership as an investment. “Stronger Together” is NAfME’s theme for this year’s national conference in Grapevine Texas (November 10-13, 2016), and I think this statement rings true in this endeavor to advocate for our students.

I would like to challenge all of you to reach out to a non-member colleague in your building, or in your community. Tell them what NAfME membership can do for the future of music education and for the future of our students. I will personally give out a $10.00 Starbucks card to the first 5 members who succeed in recruiting a colleague to join AMEA. This offer will be valid from now until the end of November. Just email me with the person’s name and the date the person signed up.

Here’s to a stellar school year and I look forward to seeing many of you at All State!

Sincerely,

Connie Oba
Thank you for asking me to represent Alaska at the National Conference as your new President-Elect. For those of you who don’t know me, I’m a local boy that grew up in the Interior and have yet to escape its icy grip. I was raised in Healy, went to college in Fairbanks, and am now currently teaching music and technology at the High-School in Delta Junction.

This was my first time attending the National Leadership Assembly (NLA). I found it to be a productive time. As you are well aware, Alaska can be somewhat isolating. Being able to work with educators from across the county was beneficial in gauging where Alaska and AMEA stands in regards to implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and promoting music education.

For me, the highlight of NLA was Hill Day. Along with our President, Connie Oba, our State Executive, Ginny Reese, and UAA NAfME President, Lydia Sobek, I visited our Legislative Offices to lobby for Music Education in Alaska. Unfortunately, Lisa Murkowski was called to the Senate floor for a vote right before our meeting started. However, her aide Karen McCarthy met with us. She was very knowledgeable with the inner workings of ESSA and informed us that she is searching for find money to fund Title IV of the law. Later this summer I cornered Murkowski at a campaign event she was holding and reminded her that we are still looking for Title IV to be fully funded.

Our second meeting of the day with Dan Sullivan was not as productive. Since he is not a member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Sullivan stated that he does not follow the education laws in detail and defers to Murkowski’s office. Basically, if Murkowski is in support, he’s in support. He is, however, a member of the Armed Services committee so I inquired into his position on the McSally Amendment to the House’s Defense Appropriations bill. He gave an excellent non-answer. Follow up is needed to insure that our government continues to fund and support military bands.

- Dean Shannon
Going to the National Hill Day Summit this past summer was a very eye opening event for me. I got to meet students from all over the country that had the same aspirations and passion for music education as myself, and it was a wonderful experience to talk to them and hear about music education across the nation. I made connections with people I never dreamed of ever having the chance to even meet, let alone connect with!

When the AMEA officers and I went to Capitol Hill and spoke with Alaska’s senators and their staff, I was pleasantly surprised by the support we met from almost everyone. It seemed that each of them had some story to tell us about how music had either impacted their lives or the lives of family members. It was gratifying to see that people do actually realize that music education is a valuable and important thing.

I was utterly blown away by the whole summit, I honestly did not want it to end! I learned so much about the education bills and the status of music education in our government, while simultaneously experiencing the wonders of our capital city and making life/career altering connections with some of the most precious people I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. I am so thankful I got to go to the National Hill Day Summit, I believe it helped me become a better music advocate and teacher, and I would not have traded that experience this summer for anything else.
We are well into the 2016-2017 school year and chances are the anticipation and excitement of starting a new year are beginning to wane, for us and our students. This week at my school we begin the required series of testing that lasts throughout the rest of the year. We have far too many meeting and committee assignments that do nothing to help me improve as a music educator. In fact, they take time and attention away from what I need to do in planning for my students and building my program. It is annoying and it’s easy to start slipping into having a snarky attitude about a lot of things.

It would be good for us all to make time to stop and Reflect on why we became music educators. Were you inspired by a special music teacher? Who was that person? Have you ever told them how much they influenced you? Did you get excited as a young student about selecting an instrument to play in either band or orchestra, or were you that kid who loved to sing? Do you remember being in an ensemble, either in public school or college, that feed you intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually? Were you selected for an All State or a NW Division Honor Ensemble? Have you traveled with a music group and performed in a world class concert hall? Do you have lifelong friends that you met while making music?

I don’t know anyone who chose to study music education who expected to be rich or famous. We loved how music made us feel, how it validated us as a person, and we wanted to share that with others. Being a teacher, and especially a music teacher, is a calling. You are part instructor, part coach, part conductor, part counselor, part recording engineer, part travel agent, part event planner, and part surrogate parent. It can be daunting to fill all of those roles for all of your students. Some kids we reach and make a big difference and some we don’t. But we never give up, not even when they pull kids out of our rehearsals for tests, or student council activities, or athletic events, or debate tournaments, etc. etc. etc.

So, how to Rejuvenate? I do think that self-reflection and allowing yourself to be peaceful, no matter what happens to disrupt your plans, can be a big help. I also know that attending your state conferences and interacting with colleagues is valuable on many levels, both professionally and personally. I am excited to be able to attend several conferences in the NW Division States this year. I hope you are planning to attend our own NW Division Conference, February 16-19, 2017 in Bellevue, WA.

Our Headliners are; “Dr. Tim” Lautzenheiser, Collegiate General – Jeremy Woolstenhulme, Orchestra – Jim Solomon, Elementary – Paula Crider, Band – and Eph Ehly, Choral. The Friday Night Concert will feature Seattle area artist, Gail Pettis and Just for Kicks, a vocal ensemble of NW music educators; Kirby Shaw, Randy Crenshaw, Kirk Marcy, and Vijay Singh. There will be a wide variety of sessions to choose from, concert hours, and of course the NW Division Honor Ensembles Gala Concerts.

In doing my own self-reflection, I realized there are several of you that I still owe a Starbucks gift card. I was a little distracted this summer with a total shoulder replacement. Fun times! Not to worry, I’ll get that taken care of asap! See YOU in Bellevue!
UAF Department of Music: Fall 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day &amp; Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 6</td>
<td>Town Hall Meeting</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 8</td>
<td>Tatsuya Nakatani workshop</td>
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<td>Saturday, September 10</td>
<td>Dr. Han Masterclass</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 15</td>
<td>Fiddle Fest - Final Concert</td>
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<td>Sunday, October 4</td>
<td>FSU – National Parks Concert</td>
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<td>Thursday, October 6</td>
<td>Music at One</td>
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<td>Dr. Celaire Studio Recital</td>
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<td>Sean Braendel Student Recital</td>
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<td>Music at One</td>
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<td>Zaill Bailey and Dr. Eduard Zilberkant Recital</td>
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<td>Saturday, November 5</td>
<td>Dr. Celaire and Friends Recital</td>
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<td>Sunday, November 6</td>
<td>FSU – Concert with Zaill Bailey</td>
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<td>Wind Symphony Concert</td>
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<td>Sunday, December 4</td>
<td>FSU – Holiday Concert</td>
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<td>Masterclass With Kathryn Eberle</td>
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<td>Dr. Hall Studio Recital</td>
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<td>Friday, December 9</td>
<td>Choir of the North Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 10</td>
<td>FYO Concert</td>
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<td>Free</td>
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ATTENTION MUSIC STUDENTS

- A ticket must be purchased to attend a Fairbanks Symphony concert. See Dawn or George in the Symphony Office, Davis Concert Hall, about student ticket prices or for more information about ushering in exchange for a free ticket.
- All other events on the list are FREE to music majors and minors who are enrolled in Recital Attendance. Bring your recital attendance card to all events.
- If you are interested in ushering for a department event that has an admission fee, please contact the Music Department office. Two users are needed for each event. If you bring a friend to help usher, the friend gets in free.

For more information, contact Laurie Long
Phone: 474-6968
Email: lelong@alaska.edu
MUSIC AT UAA

UAA Music programs foster excellence in the preparation of music students for graduate school, teacher training or other careers in music. We offer our students a well-rounded Bachelor of Arts degree program as well as two distinctive Bachelor of Music degree programs with emphases in music education, performance and jazz.

Upcoming Concerts

University Singers
October 15, 2016

Jazz Week Benefit
October 26, 2016

Guest Artist Stephen Drury
November 11, 2016

Guitar Studio Recital
November 17, 2016

Lutterman & Smith in Concert
November 20, 2016

Savitri & Dr. Miracle
December 16-18, 2016

For more information about our educational programs and a full listing of concerts, visit www.uaa.alaska.edu/music

UAA is an EEO/AA employer and educational institution.
Falcom Greear is a junior at Homer High School in Homer, Alaska. Falcom is currently singing in the all-call Concert Choir and the audition-based Swing Choir at HHS, has previously participated in KPBSD Borough Honor Choir, ASAA All-State Honor Choir and Solo/Ensemble Festivals, as well as NAfME All-Northwest and Nationals festivals. He is planning to audition for ACDA Nationals to sing with his peers under the direction of Eric Whitacre at ACDA Nationals in Minneapolis this coming March. He has also participated in the Homer Nutcracker productions for the past 3 years, in Pier One Youth Theatre productions of *Annie* and *Honk!,* in the Pier One community production of *Les Miserables,* and in Homer High School productions of *Pirates of Penzance* and *Working.* In his “spare” time, Falcom teaches Zumba classes at the school and community schools levels, has previously been on the HHS Cheer team, and is beginning the process of searching for the right school to pursue his passions in the performing/theatrical arts and makeup artistry.

Raleigh Van Natta has been a band student under the direction of Deborah Sounart (Kenai Central High and Middle Schools) for four years. Raleigh plays the alto saxophone in the concert band and the pep band, as well as the tenor drums in the Drum Line and the pep band.

Raleigh’s musical accomplishments are many. For the first time, he was selected for the National Honor Band in Texas this November. He was a member of the Alaska All-State Honor Band his freshman, sophomore, and junior years. Raleigh has received numerous Superior ratings at district Solo &Ensemble festivals for both solo & ensemble performances.

As a freshman, his alto saxophone solo was chosen for 1st place Command Performance at the ASAA State Solo & Ensemble Festival; in spring 2016, his alto saxophone solo was again chosen 1st place Command Performance and his exhibition woodwind trio received 1st place Command Performance.

In addition to his school activities, Raleigh performs in the community with the Kenai Peninsula Community Orchestra; the Redoubt Chamber Community Orchestra; and the Kenai Performers pit-orchestra.

Along with diligently practicing his instrument, Raleigh is a dedicated and serious student, applying himself with discipline and skill to thrive on tough and challenging projects.
Mukluk Melodies: Region Reports

Region 1
Ron Horner,
Elementary
Greetings from Region 1. Its great to be starting off a new year. New students, new music and new challenges.

We also have two new music teachers in our Region. I’d like to welcome Dane Grondin to Dillingham and Bary Beckett to Kotzebue. I’m really looking forward to working with these guys and hope to see them during our Spring Festival. As we move through the first quarter of school I’d like to wish you all the best. I hope you have a wonderful year!

Region 2
Amanda Gray,
Elementary
We are off to a great start to the school year in Region 2! Delta Elementary School kicked off the year in its general music classes and Beginning Band has already begun, with increased numbers once again. Delta Junior High School is also off to a fantastic start with its Band an Choir; we are looking forward to collaborating on a piece with the High School for the Veteran’s Day presentation!

Dean Shannon,
Secondary
The Delta High Choir recently performed at the Fort Greely Chapel as part of their 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony. This is the second year that the choir has been able to participate. Next on Delta’s docket is finishing audition recordings for All-State and preparing for our Veteran’s Day presentation.

Region 3
Chrissy Hardman,
Elementary
Kicking off the year with high band numbers and new schools, Region 2 Elementary folks are off to a great year.

Even out in Sutton, a school with 62 students, they are thriving with a general music program, band program, and choir program. One of our big events that helps get students excited is a combined Band Night at Pioneer Peak Elementary. We had nine elementary schools attend and were able to enjoy collaborating with Teeland Middle School’s Jazz Band to impress the crowd. Matanuska Music, a local music store, is always supportive of our band nights and made sure to help display instruments and sell books and supplies. The orchestra program in the Mat-Su area is growing as well and has been a staple at some schools such as Birchtree Charter, a Waldorf school, with orchestra offered for grades 4-8. They are also expanding into choir and hand chimes. Speaking of expanding, a new elementary school opened this fall, Denainna elementary, bringing with it some shifting and addition of music teachers this year. A new building was also finished to replace the old building for Iditarod Elementary. We did say goodbye to a longtime music teacher, Steve Moore, who retired last spring. We wish him the best in his next adventures being a grandpa & retiree!

Toby Lambert, Secondary
Greetings and welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. Here in the Mat-Su Valley, we have had a very successful start to our school year. So, here are some things that our music teachers would like to share with all of you.

From Houston Middle School, Barbara Carroll said that her school is adding a Jazz Choir to their ensemble list. This will be the 2nd middle school jazz choir in the Valley. Both the Jazz Choir and the Jazz Band will be participating in the Mat-Su Jazz Festival in April. To go with that, their groups will be hosting a Jazz Coffee House and Art School In April as a fundraiser. Barbara Carroll wanted to share that the Houston Middle School Choir will be joining the Big Lake Elementary students in singing Christmas carols at the Houston Senior Center in December. This is not only a great chance to share the student’s talents with the community but also recruitment for the middle school.

From Wasilla High School, Ashley Wedge and Sara Guhl sent me a note saying that their school year is off to a great start. They are already preparing for a jazz tour trip to Seward this September. This will include both the Wasilla High School Jazz Choir and Jazz Band.

Stan Harris sent a note that the Palmer High School Music Departments continues to grow. Being he is working as the only music teacher at Palmer High School, he noted that he has 67 Symphonic Band members, 90 Symphonic Choir members, 28 Jazz Band Members, 40 Concert Choir members, 24 Jazz Choir members along with theory class, guitar class and drama class. There are 8 regular concerts (for jazz and regular groups each quarter). Not to be bored, Stan has planned their annual Madrigal Feast in December, Mat-Su Jazz Festival (April 7th-8th), large tour over spring break, talent show and three theater performances. A note about the Jazz Festival, if you are interested in attend the Mat-Su jazz festival, please contact Stan Harris for info (it is open to school outside the Mat-Su). His email is stanley.harris@matsuk12.us . We would love to include your group in the festival.

Colony High School is working hard as well. Jamin Burton has the Colony High School Marching Band performing at the football games every weekend. This group is preparing to marching in the Nov. 2017 Macy Day Parade. Jamin has open this performance to student throughout the Mat-Su Valley. Lani Monds took one of her choirs to the Alaska State Fair and performed for the fair with only two weeks of practice. Both teachers will be working with Brian Mead and Toby Lambert this winter with the school production of Disney’s Tarzan which will be performed at the Glenn Massey Theater in February. This will be a Colony High School/Colony Middle School combined performance.

Colony Middle School had their first band concert on September 12, choir concert on September 13 and orchestra concert on October 3. We have a concert tour in early winter, talent show in mid-December along with pep band and hand bell ensemble starting later this quarter. The jazz choir will be performing for the Alaska State (continued)
**Region Reports, Toby Lambert, cont.**

Superintendent’s Conference being held in the Mat-Su later in September. Our steel drum ensemble is preparing to travel to Trinidad and Tobago in February to learn and perform there. The theater department is presently getting ready to perform *Disney’s Lion King Jr* at the end of October and early November. As well as a group of CMS and CHS students just got back from New York City where the worked with Broadway actors, choreographers and producers for a week of theater classes.

That is all that I have to share at this time. We want to wish you the best with this school year. We will be back later to share more.

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**Region 3, South**

**Jonathan Dillon, Elementary**

First, we have a number of elementary music staffing changes to announce for Region 3 South.

On the Kenai Peninsula: welcome to Mark Turner, who is teaching music and art at Seward Elementary and Middle Schools; and welcome back to Mary Simonds, who is teaching music and other subjects in Anchor Point. In Kodiak, we would like to welcome: Tyler Barnes from Kotzebue (originally from Colorado); and Marian Hotopp from Maine.

Second, Crista Cady of the Kaleidoscope School of Arts and Science would like to share that nine members of the staff at her school will be traveling to the national Orff Association conference in Atlantic City in November to further refine their considerable efforts and skills in arts integration. For more info: ccady@kpbsd.org.

Third, I would like to share that Mountain View Elementary, which is where I teach, will be hosting a three-day performing arts workshop with the Young Americans show choir from California, who will be on an Alaskan Tour in March 2017. As a Title I school, we’ve committed to raising funds for each of our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students to participate in this program, regardless of their ability to pay the regular registration fee. For more info: jdillon@kpbsd.org.

Fourth, a number of our Kenai Peninsula elementary school music programs are again collaborating with the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra for the upcoming *Link Up* concert. Children sing, dance, and play recorders alongside our community orchestra in this concert performance, which features students from all over our district. For more info: www.kpoalaska.com.

Fifth, Audra Faris of Nikiski North Star Elementary would like to share that, having attended a “Little Kids Rock” professional development program this summer, she is launching a modern band program in which her elementary students learn to play the guitar, bass, drums, and other modern instruments in an ensemble setting—the program is just starting, but she has already reported a number of successes. For more info: afaris@kpbsd.org.

Sixth, the Kodiak music teachers have asked me to share that they are presenting a music faculty recital for their community this weekend. Additionally, the Kodiak crew is participating in the Munaret Project, a collaborative arts program including local Elders, the Alutiiq Museum, the Kodiak Arts Council, and a number of local artists. The Kodiak folks are also very excited to put their class set of ukuleles and new world drums to good use this year. For more info: lsmelser01@kibsd.org and edan001@kibsd.org. (continued)
Lastly, I have some big news from Tina Moore, who teaches in Homer. Paul Banks Elementary is piloting a new program this year called Preludes in which all first grade students will receive violin instruction as part of the school day. The Preludes program is inspired by El Sistema and by Lorrie Heagy’s JAMM (Juneau Alaska Music Matters) program. As the program builds, Tina hopes that they will be able to expand the program to other grade levels. For more info: tmoore@kpbsd.org.

Region 4
Robin Hopper and Cati Hopper, Elementary

Greetings from Region 4!

The Anchorage School District has several positions last year that went unfilled, which is very unusual. This year, we are happy to have all positions filled with certified music specialists!

ASD has completely revamped their STEM Science Kits this year, and elementary Classroom Music Specialists have been asked to develop ways to integrate the arts into the STEM lessons. (For instance, the 1st grade STEM kit has a unit about sound and vibration.)

Dr. Bruce Wood, the Fine Arts Director has revamped the ASD’s Large Group Festivals. Most school districts of our size have on average, about 14 large group festivals a year. We have over 70 .... Some festivals have been retired, and a few new ones have been treated to take their place, so that now I believe we are somewhere in the vicinity of 50 festivals. Still a large number, but it’s a bit more manageable.

We are busy preparing our 4-6th grade students for the first of two Young People’s Concerts presented by the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra; one the fall, and one in February.

Region 5
Sarah Martinson, Secondary

This year we’ve welcomed three new high school music teachers in the Southeast region. Teaching band and choir, Justin Long is new to Craig High School. Drew Brown is the new band and choir teacher at Metlakatla High School. Lastly, Mark Ruppelt joined the Thunder Mountain High School staff in Juneau, teaching orchestra and choir. Tragically, Mark passed away from a heart attack on October 1st. The community at Thunder Mountain is grieving while pulling together substitutes and support for their music students. All of the teachers in Region V send their love and condolences to his family and students.

Every high school program in the region will meet soon at the 2016 Southeast Honor Festival. We are hosting choir director Brennan Baglio, from Northwest College in Wyoming, band director Keith Hodgson of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and orchestra director Rich Moore of Juneau-Douglas High School. 170 auditioned students from the region are representing our 11 high schools at the 3-day festival in late October. We are lucky to be hosted by Jason Muccino and the community of Haines.

Our students are gearing up for the ASAA All-State Festival in November. Congratulations to our 47 regional students who will be attending the festival. Large fundraising efforts are underway! Additional congratulations to the Sitka High School band for being accepted as a performing ensemble at the NAFME convention in Bellevue this February. Looking forward in the year, we are all getting ready for our regionally-hosted Sitka Jazz Festival in February, the Northwest-NAFME conference in February, and our Southeast Music Festival in April, which will be hosted this year in Sitka.

Region 6
Melanie Bieniek, Elementary

The elementary general music teachers are up and running for the 2016-2017 school year. We had the opportunity to meet for professional development at the beginning of the school year and have another inservice scheduled for this Monday. The emphasis of this PD is multicultural activities which include songs from around the world, international treats during the break, and finishing up with world drumming! It should be great fun!

Ticasuk Brown Elementary School has already had their first school musical celebration with our Constitution Day Assembly. All the students in the school had the opportunity to sing patriotic songs, learn about the Constitution, and have a good time. Much thanks to our orchestra students for providing accompaniment to our musical adventures.

We would also like to welcome Nichole Lawrence the new general music teacher at Crawford and Anderson Elementary. Best of luck with your first year with the FNSBSD.

Region 7, South
Karen Strid-Chadwick, UAA

Through the efforts of Dr. John Lutterman, low string professor, UAA Department of Music hosted (for the third year) the Sitka Music Festival concerts in the recital hall Sept 9, 10 & 11 and 16, 17, 18 with masterclasses open to students and the public.

For fall semester current collegiate members include Trish Sullivan, president, Lydia Sobek, vice-president. Trish told me they are in the planning stages of their club events for the year. (continued)
Following are the up-coming events for music for fall semester (excluding UAA Wind Ensemble, dates are currently unavailable).

- **Wednesday, October 26th at 7:30pm**
  UAA Jazz Combos
- **Friday, November 11 at 7:30pm**
  Guest Pianist Stephen Drury
- **Thursday, November 17 at 7:30pm**
  Guitar Studio Recital
- **Sunday, November 30 at 7:30pm**
  John Lutterman & Tim Smith in Concert
- **Saturday, December 3 at 7:30pm**
  Univ. Singers & Sinfonia in Concert

Please don’t hesitate to call if you or your students have questions about any of our degree programs. E-mail me and I can direct you to the appropriate faculty member or you can access information concerning the UAA Music Department, degree programs, faculty and up-coming concerts on the Department web site (http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/music).

**Region 7, North**

**Joseph Bishop, UAF**

Hello everyone, my name is Joseph Bishop and I am the president of the UAF NAfME chapter. This will be my fifth and final year as a Music Education major and I will start my student teaching in the fall semester of 2017.

This is not my first position as an officer in UAF NAfME, either. The previous year, I was the multi-media officer for the group. This year as president, I hope to do a lot more in terms of activism in the Fairbanks community and getting out to know the local schools and teachers. We’ve already gone out to Fairbanks Montessori and are planning an instrument petting zoo for the learning center on campus. I am excited for the semester!

**ASAA**

**Cam Bohman**

**ALL-STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL**

November 17-18-19, 2016
East and West Anchorage High Schools

**Gala Concert:** Saturday, November 19, 6:00 PM at West Anchorage High School

**Guest Conductors:**
- All-State Band: Kirt Saville, Brigham Young University, Utah
- All-State Mixed Choir: David Fryling, Hofstra University, New York
- All-State Orchestra: Douglas Droste, Ball State University, IN
- All-State Treble Choir: Jason Huneycutt, Nixa High School, MI
**Orff Corner**
by the
Alaska Orff Chapter

**Why should you join our chapter? Benefits!**

By becoming a member of the Alaska Orff Chapter you can:

- Help bring nationally known clinicians to Alaska to present and bring wonderful ideas and lessons that you can use in your own classroom.

- Receive a discount on Orff Chapter workshops. Our workshops are wonderful professional development opportunities where you will gain lots of new materials, while having fun and earning credits!

- Receive invitations to member sharing sessions. At sharing sessions you can gain ideas and share lessons with your colleagues.

- Collaborate with fellow teachers to enhance your career.

- Receive a Alaska Children’s Music Camp scholarship, which can be used to send one of your students to camp.

**A Wonderful Fall Workshop - September 29-October 1, 2016**

AK Orff chapter members were fully engaged with the integration of movement and improvisation at a recent workshop presented by clinician, Chris Judah-Lauder (pictured left center), past-president of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association.

People from all over the State came to participate. There was an impeccable demonstration of the process for teaching and very engaging activities that can be used for older students. Workshop attendees explored songs and activities that enable creative outcomes through a collaborative effort with emphasis on process, accountability, assessment, extensions, and classroom management. Teachers learned through the Orff-Schulwerk philosophy, which is an approach to building musicianship in every learner through the integration of music, movement, speech, and drama.
AOSA National Conference

If you’re looking for a professional development conference to attend, this is the one! Conference is November 2-5 at the Atlantic City Conference Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey. To find out more information about the AOSA conference you can visit this link: [http://aosa.org/annual-conference/](http://aosa.org/annual-conference/)

At the national American Orff Schulwerk Association conference you will:

**Learn to engage student creativity**
The Orff approach excels in what children need to experience in order to be creative: success, curiosity, originality, and satisfying relationships. The Schulwerk combines these in an organic outcome that leads to deep learning and creativity, an invaluable skill as children grow into contributing members of society.

**Learn how to incorporate 21st Century Skills and the Common Core into instruction**
It is important, as music educators, to be knowledgeable about current trends in education and to be leaders in our school sites. Orff Schulwerk teachers have been teaching the 4 C’s of the 21st Century Skills for decades: communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity. Specific conference sessions have been planned to meet this topic of interest.

**Select from over 150 professional development sessions**
Expert Schulwerk practitioners present active, hands-on music making that allows you to further develop your musicianship and teaching process.

**Learn effective research based strategies**
Research shows that play is the work of childhood. The Schulwerk is based in exploration, imitation, and creation, which are hallmarks of playful learning. Orff Schulwerk teachers have been implementing these strategies for decades and continue to be on the forefront of best practices. Come and learn from the best in field!

**Network with colleagues from around the world**
See how educators from around the globe incorporate the successful Orff approach in their teaching. Be renewed by eye-opening and thoughtful conversations with educators from many kinds of teaching environments.

**Experience high quality performing groups**
Only the best of the best are selected to perform at the AOSA Conference. Come hear groups that will uplift your spirit, spark your creativity, and inspire you to expand your own performing group’s repertoire and ability. Energize and rejuvenate your teaching. As soon as you get back to work, you can start implementing the teaching strategies and process that you have learned. You will be learning from the best at the AOSA conference and your students are the beneficiaries!

You can use Amazon Smile to help the Alaska Orff Chapter!
You can now support the Alaska Orff Chapter anytime you shop on Amazon. Instead of amazon.com, start at smile.amazon.com and search Alaska Orff. You can also visit this link, [https://smile.amazon.com/ch/92-0118326](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/92-0118326).

For more information about membership and upcoming Alaska Orff Chapter events visit our website at: [alaskaorffchapter.org](http://alaskaorffchapter.org) and like us on Facebook!
Alaska Native Music and Dance in Culture and Education

By Lauralee Honkola

A Brief History

Traditional Alaska Native music and dance are primarily sociocultural and historically have played a key role in achieving heightened social cohesion among the native cultures of Alaska (Johnston, 1976, p. 34). Williams (2005) states, “Native people are deeply spiritual people; historically, they had a rich ceremonial life that was profoundly expressed through music and dance — core means by which people communicate their identities and beliefs” (p. 33). Music and dance have been and currently are essential parts of Alaska Native culture and act as a badge or symbol of who they are and what they believe (Johnston, 1976, p. 54; Williams, 2005).

After contact with western civilization (late eighteenth century to present) Alaska Native music and dance traditions struggled to survive the cultural shift that ensued. Developments such as trading posts, Christian missionaries, western education and western government had far reaching effects on Alaska Native culture. Traditional culture was not viewed favorably by and held no value for most westerners. Alaska Native language and ceremonial ways became a punishable offense in many communities around the state.

A consequence of this loss of value in traditional culture has been that much of the pre-contact music and dance was forgotten. The music currently surviving is that which Mishler (1981) describes as “contact-traditional,” music that is reflective of the cultural shift of the Alaskan Natives since first contact with western civilization (p. 5). Since the 1960’s, the beginning of the native solidarity movement, there has been a resurgence of interest in Alaska Native culture, music and dance. In the words of Squartsoff (2015),

“The people are becoming proud of who they are through trial and error and a great deal of effort to recover their cultural identity” (p. 7).

Currently we are experiencing a renaissance in traditional music and dance around the state. There are many traditional dance groups that regularly perform at dance festivals and community events. Cultural preservation projects such as the Kingikmuit Dance Festival, King Island Preservation Project (Williams, 2005), and Alutiiq Preservation Project (Squartsoff, 2015) are a few of the many projects that have been created in an effort to document the surviving traditional music and dance repertoires of Alaska Natives.

Alaska Native Music and Dance

The traditional music of Alaska Natives is intimately connected with dance and drumming. Typical performances will incorporate singing, drumming and dancing simultaneously. In fact, it is so common to incorporate these three elements in unison that it would be challenging to understand the role of Alaska Native music in culture without viewing them as one unified element. Each lyric and corresponding dance move is typically of a fixed or improvisational nature depending on the song and the purpose of the gathering in which it is performed.

According to Johnston (1976), group unison story-dancing by both men and women was the primary musical performance among the different Alaskan tribes - with the male drumming ensemble as an essential element (p. 27). The most common themes in story-dance depict hunting episodes, animal behavior, myths, tales and legends (p.29). Other important types of dance are ceremonial (welcome, death, feasting, etc.), name-sake or personal song and game.

Typical features of these dances are either fixed or improvisational motions that go with the lyrics, and the position of the singer/dancer: standing, kneeling, or seated. The most common instruments used are the frame and box drum with beater. Performers’ attire is formal. A typical dance outfit includes a parka and mitts. Additionally performers may wear a mask or a headdress and incorporate dance fans or dance wands in their performance. Some dances, such as the Eagle Wolf Dance (Kakaruk & Oquilluk, 1964), require many other special items such as animal skins, ceremonial poles, etc. The most common location for a performance is the village community hall. Johnston describes the scene,

“At such times the hall is decorated with cultural emblems such as carved dance masks, and is the scene of what might be referred to as a communal mystical [spiritual] experience involving immersion in organized sound and movement. It is not overstating the case to suggest that most aspects of the musical performance appear to be geared toward fostering an altered state of consciousness among the singers, dancers, drummers, and audience present” (1967, p. 30).
The distinction between performer and audience is often blurred as the energy of the performance transports the audience into the song itself and the performance becomes a group experience. This video “New Yupik Dance” goes with the Congdon & Hunt (N.D.) 6th grade lesson plan - Addendum 1.1

Alaska Native Music and Dance in Education

Teaching traditional Alaska Native music in our schools is a valuable way to enrich our students’ learning and understanding in a culturally responsive manner. The group nature of the music and dance lends itself well to music educational settings and it should be encouraged in our music programs around the state. Music educators are well aware of the value of teaching folk and world music traditions in their programs. So why not teach traditional Alaska Native music in the music programs in our state? Unfortunately, a majority of music educators in the state have limited exposure and no musical training in Alaska Native music. Additionally, there appears to be a limited amount of resource materials available to music educators who are interested in including traditional Alaska Native music and dance in their programs. Currently, the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) offers four courses on the topic: Music of Alaska Natives and Indigenous People of Northern Regions (MUS A215), Alaska Native Drum-making Techniques: Inupiaq and Yup’ik Style (MUS A218), Yup’ik Music and Dance Ensemble (MUS A356), and Inupiaq Music and Dance Ensemble (MUS A357). The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) offers three courses on the topic: Alaska Native Music (MUS F223), Alaska Native Dance (ANS F160), and Advanced Native Dance (ANS F360). These courses are currently not required for music majors at either university, but starting Fall of 2016 UAF will require all music majors to take Alaska Native Music (MUS F223).

The most comprehensive Alaska Native music curriculum identified was in the Anchorage School District (ASD). This was developed through funding from the Title VII Indian Education Act. Title VII provides federal funding to meet the unique educational and culturally related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students. This curriculum was written by Congdon and Hunt (N.D.), two ASD music educators, and includes lesson plans for grades 1st through 6th. Each lesson incorporates traditional knowledge and stories with singing, dance, and listening (via iPods). Currently the access is restricted. For the purpose of this paper, permission was obtained to share a lesson plan and the Alaska Native music resource page that are part of this curriculum (See addendum 1.1 & 1.2, for more information on how to obtain this curricu-