

# 1998 All-State Summer String Teachers Seminar Highlights

by Barbara Flooding

Those who attended the All-State Summer String Teachers Seminar at Winona State University this past August will still have memories of one of the finest Minnesota All-State Summer workshops ever presented. We're very proud of the two "Picks from the Podium" sessions given by Sue Radloff and Kevin Hoeschen as well as the interesting and informative sessions presented by Bob Gillespie and Matt Turner.

Sue Radloff (Austin Public Schools) presented sixteen of her top picks for advanced elementary/junior high string and full orchestra. Included were excellent teaching pieces and arrangements featuring every section (even one with melody for the basses!) of the string orchestra, some fiddle tunes, some seasonal music, even music with narrator. Kevin Hoeschen (Superior High School) presented a list of twenty medium to medium difficult pieces for high school string and full orchestras. Selections provided something for every program and reinforced "tried and true favorites" as well as introducing new literature. I think we would all agree that this year's "Picks" demonstrated strong, solid teaching and interesting and varied program-

ming. Thank you Sue and Kevin for your willingness to share your knowledge and experiences with us!

Bob Gillespie, Associate Professor of Music at Ohio State University (co-sponsored by Hal Leonard and UMI) gave excellent presentations on developing instrument position and left hand skills, as well as bowing skills in the heterogeneous string class. Specific topics included: body posture, left hand shape, finger placement, chromatic alterations (those strange notes out of D major!), shifting, vibrato, bow hand shape, detaché bow stroke, bow direction changes, string crossings, attack strokes, and off-the-string strokes. Dr. Gillespie also presented a session on the comprehensive string method of which he is co-author, *Essential Elements for Strings*.

Matt Turner, considered one of the world's leading improvising cellists, helped us to calm our grad standard "create" fears by presenting sessions on teaching beginning improvisation to the string class. Techniques included everything from simple call and response to actually improvising a simple melody using chord symbols (which required a bit of theory review). We had a lot of fun

working out our new-found improvising skills on Turner's own *Blues for You* and *Stargazer* (Latham) and Darol Anger's Turtle Island String Quartet piece, *Blues For Oaktown* (Shar).

Additional interest sessions were provided by Richard MacDonald (percussion), Steven Heitzeg (Minnesota composer) and Bruce Hangen (All-State Orchestra conductor). Next year's All-State Summer String Teachers Seminar is scheduled for August 5 through 7. Make plans now to attend!

*Barbara Flooding was orchestra director at Apollo High School and North Junior High in St. Cloud for 15 years. This year, her new post is director of orchestras at Edina High School and Valleyview Middle School in Minneapolis. She is also conductor of the Repertory West Orchestra of GTCYS. Barb has a Bachelor of Science and a Master's of Music with emphasis in orchestral conducting and literature. She is finishing a Masters in String Development at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. ‡*