



# MENTOR'S DESK

## “Self-Mentoring” Resources

by Jane Linde Capistran

Last fall the Concordia College Student Chapter of ASTA invited President-Elect Kirk Moss to present at our first meeting. We combined with the ASTA chapter from Minnesota State University at Moorhead and Dr. Moss gave the students a virtual tour of the ASTA website. This website is a great place to start when looking for mentoring tools, resources and information on your own. Many of you may be familiar with its offerings, but allow me to highlight some links on the website that may be useful in your search for teaching tips.

The website [www.astaweb.com](http://www.astaweb.com) has a sidebar menu with many selections. **Member Resources** has several categories of mentoring importance. Note the following:

*Searchable Directories.* Select a city, state and instrument to find a studio teacher. You may also search for a string industry (business) in your area. These contacts may be very valuable for you and your students.

*ASTA Certificate Advancement Program (ASTACAP).* A complete and thorough skill-based and repertoire requirement for individual instruments. Students are rewarded for successfully completing each level. The requirements could be helpful when planning standards and assessments for your orchestra program as well.

*Alternative Styles DVD.* A two-disc DVD that can be used in the classroom to bring many styles of playing to the students—fiddle, jazz, rock, mariachi, etc. Also, great links to all the artists who are on the DVD.

*Professional Development—String Teacher Enrichment Program (STEP).* A 45-hour comprehensive course completed by attending two ASTA conferences over a four-year period. Samplings of topics that are explored are recruiting, pedagogy for all levels and instruments, classroom management, improvisation and many more.

*Publications.* A host of valuable ASTA literature available for purchase – covering topics from conducting to intonation to string maintenance.

Another source I invite new teachers to explore is the series *Teaching Music Through Performance in Orchestra* Volumes 1-3, available from GIA Publications. Their website is [www.teachingmusic.org](http://www.teachingmusic.org). These collections offer words of wisdom, practical advice and excellent repertoire analysis from many successful string educators in the United States. Companion CDs of string literature go along with all three volumes. (I have to point out that my daughter Madeline, violinist, was in the Michigan State University Orchestra when Volumes 2 and 3 were recorded!)

Visit the website where you can view the table of contents and listen to samples of the CDs. If you aren't able to purchase one for your school or your own library, you can visit your area college and/or university library, where they may be on the shelf.

These two sources are only the tip of the iceberg when looking for mentoring guides on the web or in texts. Readers—please pass on other web/text sources to me and I can share them in the next *Mentor's Desk*. Also, thanks to some of you that have responded to my call to be a mentor. A reminder that we can all use a mentor at some point in our teaching—all you have to do is ask.

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