

## **SAGWA FY06 Annual Report**

SAGWA has implemented changes in 2007 in order to become more technologically advanced and serve the needs of our membership. We sponsored the Annual String Festival, four summer Institutes, and a flute workshop. We also monitored the website, executed fundraising plans, and welcomed new Board members. The following categories were the areas of focus this year.

### **Fundraising**

Fundraising continues to be the biggest area of concern for the Board. With ever-rising costs and a society that does not put arts education first, fundraising must become our most important mission.

The Board has very little experience with grant writing and formal fundraising, but we have made a couple of attempts. We are hoping to find a new Board member who either knows more about the subject, or would like to learn. Our membership in the Washington DC Cultural Arts Association affords us many contacts, but we seem to lack the know-how in using those contacts to our best advantage.

Tracie Jacquemin and her family foundation donated \$3000 once again this year in a matching grant. We are so fortunate to have their support! If it were not for them, our scholarship funds would have run dry long ago.

Those funds help us to continue to provide scholarship help to those in need in our SAGWA community. Here now is Lerna May-Frandsen, Scholarship Chair, to report on the work of the scholarship committee this year.

### **Website**

Our volunteer Webmaster, Corri Ling, has tried to keep up with the demands of our increasingly important website. ([www.sagwa.org](http://www.sagwa.org) or [www.Suzukimusic.org](http://www.Suzukimusic.org)) You can find general information about SAGWA, e-mail any Board member or Committee Chair, get event information as well as brochures and register online, see photos taken at events, find local youth orchestras, links to other helpful musical websites, and much, much more! We are currently reviewing proposals for a new website design to better serve our membership.

### **Newsletter**

Newsletter Editor, Norma Scogin, has had her work cut out for her this year. She is adept at putting together the newsletter, but gathering articles is an arduous task! We are always in need of reports, pictures, and other items of interest for the newsletter.

The newsletter printing costs have been rising steadily and that expense seems needless in the electronic world in which we live. The Board took this into consideration and

decided to join the current trend and go to an electronic newsletter. Hopefully this will allow the newsletter to come out in a more timely manner, even when we don't have as much information.

## **Dues & Membership**

The current SAGWA membership is over 700. We want to thank Linda Gutterman, our Membership Chair, for going down the electronic path with us as we transition to online membership purchases. The current dues for SAWGA are \$35, including a \$4 donation to the event scholarship fund and a \$5 donation to the lesson scholarship fund. Members may write off \$9 as a tax-deductible donation.

## **Events**

### ***String Festival***

The String Festival was held in April this year at the spectacular Music Center at Strathmore. About 550 students participated in the Saturday rehearsal at The Bullis School and the Sunday concert at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, MD. ([www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org)) Our clinicians were Brian Lewis, Mark Mutter, Sarah Montzka, and David Holmes. We also offered two extra classes & rehearsals on Sunday morning at Strathmore. The weekend went very smoothly and everyone is excited about returning to the Bullis School and Strathmore in April 2008!

### ***String, Piano, Flute and Guitar Institutes***

Our Piano Institute, GWSPI, had a fantastic week of lessons, classes, and concerts. Director, Susan Matson, initiated a financial incentive program that provided for a discount for previous attendees who invite a friend. The Board is aware that piano institutes are, by nature, more expensive than flute or string institutes, and we support this institute. It is a beloved week for its attendees!

The Flute Institute ran very smoothly and was another great opportunity for our SAGWA students to study with the best clinicians from around the country. The week was outstanding in every way and we are so proud of our Flute Committee and their long-term dedication to this project.

The String Institute has a long-standing reputation of excellence and is always very well attended. They did very nicely in their new location, the Columbia Institute of Fine Arts in Falls Church, VA. They had a small loss this year due to increased costs, but have no trouble covering that as they have always run with a profit.

The Guitar Institute was well received despite low enrollment numbers. It is always hard to start a new project of this nature, but Director Nate Fischer worked very hard to

promote the institute. It was a part of the well-known and sponsored Alexandria Guitar Festival, which allowed it to be financially viable.

Jonathan Snowden International Flute School held its eleventh summer course in Alexandria, VA, this year. This event is usually held in Bath, England. There were 19 participants from North America, Germany, and Spain. Jonathan Snowden also presented a recital at the Lyceum, which was co-sponsored by the Flute Society of Washington, DC, and the Flute Division of SAGWA.

### ***The Board***

We are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated Board members with great ideas and the energy to pursue them. New Board members, Stephanie Flack and Susan Fuller, have been a great asset to our team and we look forward to them taking leadership positions in the future.

This Board is always looking to improve SAGWA in every way possible, but the vision requires funding. Our current dues alone will not suffice to fill all of the needs of this non-profit in an ever-changing economic and technological world. One solution we adopted is a central bank account instead of 10 smaller bank accounts, which allows all monies belonging to SAGWA to be in one account earning interest.

The Board continues to stand together as volunteers who have a vision for SAGWA. As SAGWA looks toward 2008, we hope that other members and friends will use their own talents to further the musical education of the young people of the greater Washington DC area.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Taylor  
SAGWA Board Chair