

## **What's New with ASTACAP?**

\*ASTACAP in Northern Virginia will take place Saturday, 7 May 2016.

\*ASTACAP in the Blacksburg area will take place Saturday, 14 May 2016.

Visit the VASTA Website ([www.vastaweb.org](http://www.vastaweb.org)) for details, applications and updates.

***Contact Carol Stone through the VASTA website if you are interested in beginning a new in-person ASTACAP event in your area.***

The ASTA Certificate Advancement Program (ASTACAP) is one of ASTA's cornerstone member benefits (second in popularity only to the National Conference) and growing fast. Why? Designed specifically for the American string studio, ASTACAP provides the invaluable opportunity for a student at any of eleven levels (Foundation through 10) to prepare a program of scales & arpeggios, etudes, and pieces to be played for an exemplary examiner who then provides ample written constructive feedback for the student to go over with his or her teacher. Student participants benefit greatly from preparing and performing a broad demanding program each year. Successful students are awarded a certificate from ASTA to note their progress and celebrate a job well done in a nationally recognized and esteemed program.

The 2015 ASTACAP Handbook (newly detailed, organized and user-friendly) released in September 2015, is the result of hundreds of hours of work by ASTACAP devotees and string specialists. Currently a FREE resource [available to ASTA members online ([www.astaweb.com](http://www.astaweb.com)) under Member Resources] the 2015 Handbook clearly explains:

- What ASTACAP is and how it benefits teachers and students
- How to introduce ASTACAP in your studio or begin an in-person ASTACAP event in your area (including a timeline and all necessary forms)
- How to use the new online ASTACAP option
- How to train to become an in-person ASTACAP examiner or Registered National ASTACAP Adjudicator using online training courses that are currently offered through ASTA free-of-charge.

In addition, the 2015 Handbook provides a carefully conceived curriculum (for violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp, and, soon, guitar) including:

- Specific recommended goals for achievement at each ASTACAP level
- An extensive array of level-appropriate materials for the study of scales & arpeggios, etudes, and pieces including, now, eclectic and alternative styles.

**Questions?** Contact Carol Stone: [mentor.astacap@astaweb.com](mailto:mentor.astacap@astaweb.com)

***Wishing you a happy and successful year of teaching!***

Carol Stone  
Lead, ASTACAP National Mentoring Sub-Committee  
Chair, ASTACAP Virginia  
Treasurer of the Board, ASTA/VA