American String Teachers Association

4153 Chain Bridge Road Fairfax, VA 22030 www.astaweb.com (703) 279-2113 asta@astaweb.com

ASTA Collegiate Student Chapter Handbook

ASTA Mission Statement

The American String Teachers Association promotes excellence in string and orchestra teaching and playing. ASTA pursues its mission through:

- An open sharing of ideas;
- Benefits, services and activities responsive to the needs of all members;
- Development of strong state leadership and chapters;
- Enhancement of the image and visibility of string teaching and study;
- Advocacy for string education; and
- An inclusive community of string teachers and players.

A Message from the President

Greetings ASTA Student Members,

Student members are our most important members as you are our future teachers, performers and enthusiasts.

Whether you choose private studio or school teaching or become a performer, you have chosen a career where you can share your passion for music and teaching with others. Being an ASTA member allows you the opportunity to network with others who share this love for our profession and learn from some of the master teachers of our times. Getting active in your ASTA student chapter and volunteering with your state chapter will give you good experience as you enter the professional world. In order for our art form to survive we need to stick together and have a better understanding of our different specialties within the string world. There is no better place to start this than in the university setting.

Best of luck to you and let me know if I can be of any assistance!

Mary Wagner
ASTA President
Fairfax County Public Schools
mscello@cox.net

General Information

Student membership is open to any full-time student attending a public, private or parochial school, college or university. Membership in ASTA can be a very meaningful and rewarding experience. As a student member you receive our quarterly journal, American String Teacher; have networking opportunities through our e-communities and MySpace page; receive recognition through our journal, website and awards program; are eligible to attend conferences and workshops sponsored by ASTA at a special student rate; and may take advantage of all the national member programs that ASTA has to offer.

Membership as an individual student has many advantages, but membership in a student chapter adds strength through unity in order to become a strong voice for string music education. Through student membership you can show your support for the improvement of string education and performance. You can help ASTA work for you and your goals; most important, you can be actively involved in making things happen.

Should you ever need student chapter assistance, please contact the national office:

American String Teachers Association

4153 Chain Bridge Road Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: (703) 279-2113 Fax: (703) 279-2114

E-mail: <u>asta@astaweb.com</u> Web: <u>www.astaweb.com</u>

General Information, Continued

| National Office Staff | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Donna Sizemore Hale, Executive Director | donna@astaweb.com |
| Beth Danner-Knight, Deputy Director, Conferences and Member Services | beth@astaweb.com |
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| Bridget Murphy, Membership & Conference Coordinator | bridget@astaweb.com |
| Kristin Mortenson, AST Editor | ASTarticles@astaweb.com |

Student Chapter Leadership on the National Level

Marjorie Bagley, Student Chapter Liaison

Marjorie Bagley is currently Assistant Professor of Violin at Ohio University, and has served on the faculties of the Manhattan School of Music, the Perlman Music Program, Utah State University, the Brevard Music Center and the Kinhaven Music School. She has given master-classes at many schools, including the University of Michigan, Carnegie Mellon University, Williams College, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and the State University of New York Buffalo. Her solo appearances include concerti with the Utah Symphony, the Little Orchestra Society at Lincoln Center, the Ann Arbor Symphony, the North Carolina Symphony, and the University of Michigan Symphony. As founding member and first violinist of the Arcata String Quartet, she has been heard throughout Europe and North America, and has collaborated with members of the Tokyo, Emerson, American, and Guarneri String Quartets. The Arcata Quartet can be heard on the VOX label. Ms. Bagley is a frequent recitalist and plays in several chamber music groups, including a trio with Kenneth Cooper and Michael Carrera, and the Cardinal Trio with Gail Berenson, Head of the Keyboard Division at Ohio University. She is also a member of the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra in Columbus, Ohio. Her primary teachers were Pinchas Zukerman, Patinka Kopec, and Stephen Shipps.

Denese Odegaard, National Executive Board Secretary

Denese Odegaard has taught in the Fargo Public Schools (Fargo, ND) for twenty years as a 5th-9th grade orchestra instructor. Within her twenty-five years of teaching experience in North Dakota, duties have included elementary general music, junior high school choir, and beginning strings through ninth grade orchestra. Odegaard served as President of the Fargo-Moorhead Area Youth Symphonies, the North Dakota String Teachers Association, the North Dakota Music Educators Association and is currently their State Manager. On a national level, Odegaard served on the MENC committee which published the Standards and Benchmarks for Composition and Arranging publication and is a member of the MENC Government Relations Task Force. She is Secretary of ASTA and is chairing the ASTA No Child Left Behind Committee. On a state level, she served on the committee for writing the state Fine Arts Standards, was a member of the Arts Education Task Force and is currently on the North Dakota Curriculum Council. At the district level, Odegaard is a member of the orchestra curriculum writing team, the District Assessment Committee and Curriculum Council, and a mentor to new teachers. Odegaard was the North Dakota String Teacher of the Year in 2005 and was the recipient of the Lois Bailey Glenn Award for Teaching Excellence from The National Music Foundation in 2006.

National Member Programs and Information

ASTA offers numerous member programs each designed to help fulfill the goals of the ASTA mission. A comprehensive list of member benefits and program information can be found on the website at www.astaweb.com. Updates occur regularly so bookmark the site!

Discovering Strings and Orchestras

ASTA's newly launched community outreach program that will partner volunteer string clinicians with youth groups in grades one through three. Students will participate in five sessions that range from group string lessons to academic lessons to field trip outings. To learn more about this program and how you can get involved visit the Community Outreach section of the ASTA web today! Clinicians are needed for this program and this is a great opportunity for student chapters to do some community service work while learning important recruiting skills.

Merle J. Isaac Composition Contest

The purpose of ASTA's Merle J. Isaac Composition contest is to encourage the composition, publication, and performance of music of quality for the benefit of school orchestra programs. The **senior division** is open to composers aged 19 and above. Composers are invited to submit an original, unpublished composition that is suitable for a **string or full orchestra** at the elementary, middle/junior high school or high school level. Visit the ASTA website for guidelines and application.

The selection process: in the Preliminary Round, all entries are screened (score analysis) by a panel of three judges. Compositions selected for the Final Round are rehearsed and performed by a school orchestra for a panel of five judges. ASTA reserves the right to declare that a winner does not exist if the entry requirements and the musical standards are not fulfilled. The deadline for the contest is **January 15**, **2008**.

Outreach Grants

Grants are available to start community initiatives or local projects within your community. Projects should be geared towards students in an urban or rural setting to engage needy students in string activities.

Senior Division of the National Solo Competition

This competition is open to students ages 19-25 in the instruments of bass, cello, guitar, harp, viola, and violin. The biennial competition is held in odd years. Guidelines are published in the February issue of the *American String Teacher* in the year preceding the competition, and are also posted on our website. Participation is open to ASTA members and their students. Most state units hold preliminary state level competitions to select national semi-finalists. Contact your state competition chair or chapter president for more information. Contact information for state level competitions is also available on the ASTA website.

Available Job Openings

ASTA receives requests to post available string and orchestra teaching jobs around the country on our website. Listings on the website usually include job requirements, salary range, background information about the school/organization seeking candidates and their application process. ASTA posts these available positions for up to two months, but exact timing from the employer may be shorter and changes can occur quickly, so check the site often for the most up-to-date information.

Expanding Your Education at the National Conference

ASTA's annual national conference gives students valuable career building blocks. Not only does each conference contain a wealth of knowledge in areas such as pedagogy, techniques, alternative styles and general interest topics but also those pertinent to teaching in various setting like K12, Private studios and at the university level. It also gives students the opportunity to interact with leading educators in the field, both scholarly and socially.

Plus don't forget about the first rate performances, exhibit hall and social activities available.

The 2008 conference will bring you performances from Joshua Bell and Jeremy Denk, the National High School Honors Orchestra, and the Shanghai Quartet.

AST Journal

American String Teacher (AST), the official ASTA quarterly journal, is mailed to current members each February, May, August, and November. These journals provide a valuable wealth of content to both current string educators and those embarking on the profession. Each issue has approximately three feature articles related to teaching aspects, and instrument specific forums, plus regular columns of Teaching Tips, Showcases, Reviews, My Turn, Member2Member, Notes, and Association News. Start building your library of resources with these amazing articles and information. Note: ASTA can not replace issues of the AST due to an outdated address, so please be sure to advise the office immediately of any address changes. Back issues, if available, are \$15.00 each.

Publications

ASTA now carries a wealth of string publications in a growing library of new and revised resources. A variety of texts are available covering topics such as Pedagogy, Classroom & Orchestra Instruction, Private Studios, Research, Resources, Music and CDs, and Compendiums. Publications can be ordered securely on-line using your VISA or MasterCard (www.astaweb.com) or through our publications order form found in each journal.

Chapter Recognition and Communication

Wouldn't you like to see your chapter highlighted in the next issue of the *AST* journal and on the ASTA national website? Student chapters are encouraged to submit chapter news and activities to the national office for inclusion. If your chapter planned a successful event, take some pictures and submit it to the office. Other student chapters are always looking for new ideas. Please send these to Mary Jane at maryjane@astaweb.com. Chapter members are also encouraged to submit articles for the journal. ASTA would like to feature articles from the student perspective. Preparing for student teaching, working at a string project site, mentoring public school students, practicing ideas, preparing for auditions, ideas on advocacy or alternative styles are topics that would be of interest. Complete submission guidelines can be found on the website.

ASTA also encourages our chapters to communicate with one another. Learn what other chapters are doing and how they successfully increased chapter participation, planned and executed community outreach initiatives, worked with their local state officers, network with local educators, and more.

Chapter Recognition and Communication (continued)

ASTA lists all of our active chapters on our website with live links to any website you may have, and the email address for the chapter contact. The chapter, along with advisor and current chapter president are listed in each issue of the AST journal. Please be sure to send National your updated officers after each election you hold.

ASTA Student E-Newsletter

A student chapter e-newsletter is sent twice a year to all student members. Included is information of particular interest to student members. The student chapter liaison is always looking for articles for this newsletter – any and all suggestions are needed.

Outstanding ASTA Chapter Award

ASTA has created a new way to recognize chapters who are making a difference in their community. Annually, ASTA selects one student chapter that is actively involved in promoting strings in their university or college campus and the surrounding community. Areas that contribute to the award process include: chapter newsletter, a webpage, fundraisers for activities, supporting local school programs and local private teachers, working on projects with your state chapter and hosting chapter meetings at your campus.

The selected chapter will be presented the award at the 2008 national conference during the student chapter session and social being held in Albuquerque, New Mexico this February. If you would like to have your chapter considered for the 2008 award, please completed the application found on the ASTA website and return it to the national office no later than December 1, 2007.

Advocacy and Outreach

Advocacy is an important aspect of the American String Teachers Association and has the potential to be an important aspect in your lives as students and professionals. As a student, you can use ASTA's advocacy resources in many ways. Specifically, a program entitled CapWiz is an easy solution to becoming active in advocating music education. CapWiz enables users to do everything from register to vote to sending a letter to individual representatives expressing concerns about pertinent legislation. ASTA has advocacy resources that can also help develop important skills for your future such as multiple PDF files with both speaking and writing tips, an online forum where students can research careers in strings, and a regularly updated page of various job postings around the country. You may visit our website at www.astaweb.com for more information pertaining to these and many other topics.

Involvement in Your State Chapter

Payment of your national dues also provides membership in your state chapter of ASTA. State membership dues are already included in the price of national dues and are sent to each state unit on a quarterly basis. Each state chapter offers its members a variety of services such as newsletters, educational seminars and workshops, websites, etc. Get involved at the local level and learn what many educators in your area are willing to share about their experiences and tips for teaching success! Email your state president and see what you can do to help. Getting to know teachers in your state can give you contacts for jobs when you graduate.

Insurances

Instrument insurance with preferred rates for ASTA members is available through the Merz-Huber Insurance Company. A current ASTA membership is a prerequisite for ASTA's discounted insurance plan.

Group insurance plans are available through DSP Financial. Insurance coverage includes dental, business overhead expenses, disability, term life insurance, and more to come. Details on the exact plans and coverage that are available can be found on the website: www.astaweb.com/membership/LifeInsurance.html, or by directly contacting Dave Pozzi at 800-433-8369 or dspfinancial@comcast.net.

Information Sources

The ASTA web site is continually being updated with news of upcoming conferences, events and competitions, jobs in the string community, community outreach efforts, membership information and much, much more. Be sure to visit www.astaweb.com often for the latest information. If you haven't been to the site visit us today as we have a brand new look and navigation!

Share information with ASTA and other student chapter members on message boards at our members-only e-Communities and also on MySpace page. These are both excellent ways to access quick information on a variety of topics, concerns or challenges many face on a daily basis. In addition, many student chapters have their own websites, which are listed on ASTA's web site. Visit the student chapter section of the website to click and connect with other students from around the country.

Careers in String Teaching

This ASTA project, supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), is designed to encourage string students to pursue a career in string teaching. ASTA has created and published several media pieces to help string educators encourage their students, engage students in string teaching, and provide a forum for future string teachers. Visit www.careersinstringteaching.com for details.

Ways to Help ASTA in Your Daily Activities

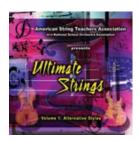
Online
Shopping at
Your Favorite
Sites

As college students and young professionals, disposable income to make monetary contributions to your profession is often limited. Did you know that just by accessing some of your favorite online shopping sites from ASTA's site your purchase will make a contribution to ASTA. There is no additional cost for this program.

Major retailers have partnered with ASTA to help support our outreach initiatives. For every purchase you make with them, they have agreed to send ASTA a percentage of your purchase to ASTA's Foundation. There is no additional cost to you. Your price does not include this additional amount and no hidden fees. If the item is on sale when you view their site, it will be on sale when you access it through our link. In order for ASTA to receive the contribution, you **MUST** access their through ours. As you visit our website, simply click on the store logo and you will be directed to their store.

Ultimate Strings
Benefit CDs --

Only \$9.95 Each! Ultimate Strings is a three-part series of CDs to benefit the National Foundation to Promote String Teaching and Playing. Acclaimed artists in the string world have generously donated their tracks to help support ASTA's educational and outreach programs. CDs are \$9.95 each and are available for purchase in the ASTA bookstore.



Ultimate Strings, Volume 1: Alternative Styles is the first CD in a series of three. Volume 1 featured tracks by Grammy-winning fiddlers Mark O'Connor and Alison Krauss, Grammy-nominated fiddler Darol Anger, jazz violinist Christian Howes, fiddler Matt Glaser with pianist Bevan Manson, electric violinist and Emmy-winning composer Mark Wood, the Grammy-nominated Hampton (Rock) String Quartet, and more!



Ultimate Strings, Volume 2: Classical Virtuosity features world-renowned classical soloists, including Joshua Bell, Midori, Rachel Barton Pine, Jeffrey Solow, Emanuel Vardi, Gerald Klickstein, Gary Karr, Janos Starker, and Lynne Aspnes.

Visit the ASTA Online Bookstore today to get your copies!

Special Offers for Student Members

National Conference Registration Offer

If 10 or more student members from your chapter register for the conference at the same time (must be sent in same package) by the early-bird registration date (December 1, 2007) each student member will pay \$75 for the three- day conference (Thurs-Sat). Note: Preconference sessions and concert/event tickets are additional. To qualify for this special rate you must all register together in the same package, no refunds can be issued for the group rate, be sure to send together in one package. This package **MUST** be received by December 1, 2007.

Work at Conference and Receive Complimentary Registration --

A \$97 Value!

ASTA is seeking a limited number of students to work at the conference in exchange for complimentary student registration (*preconference sessions, concert/event tickets extra*). You must work a minimum of 16 hours during the conference, which is scheduled in blocks of at least 4 hours at a time.

Note: *ASTA does not provide assistance with travel, lodging or meal expenses.

Tasks You May Perform as a Volunteer Worker:

- Pre-conference set-up Tuesday & Wednesday (includes stuffing registration packets, organizing registration boxes, moving boxes and light equipment);
- Working at the registration desk checking attendees in and providing information;
- Being a runner to check on A/V equipment, and room set-ups;
- Changing session signs;
- Helping to decorate the exhibit hall, and other events;
- Taking tickets to concerts;
- Assisting with the National Orchestra Festival;
- Dismantling and repacking music stands;
- and more.

To volunteer to work at the conference, please contact Deanna at deanna@astaweb.com or complete the application form from our website, under the National Conference section.

Formation of a Student Chapter

Planning an Organizational Meeting

- 1. Appoint or request a faculty sponsor who is a member of ASTA to help plan a meeting and to serve as advisor for the chapter.
- Select a date and time when most students will be free and likely to come to a meeting. Select a convenient location at your school. Your sponsor will be able to assist you in this.
- 3. If possible, the meeting should include a short program of good string music or an interesting speaker. This will help attract a more diverse group of string students. Be sure to leave ample time for an organizational discussion.
- 4. Invite by mail, bulletin board, email or telephone, all string players (violinists, violists, cellists, bassists, guitarists, and harpists) and all other potential members who may be interested in teaching strings and orchestra. Carefully outline the program and purpose of the meeting.
- 5. Invite any local members of ASTA, faculty and professionals, as well as members of any nearby student chapters. They should be able to contribute their ideas and own experience.

At the Meeting

- 1. Have all who attend sign a registry. After the program, invite them to stay for the organizational meeting.
- 2. Discuss benefits of having an ASTA chapter.
- 3. Distribute membership forms.
- 4. Collect membership forms, proof of student status, and checks for new members only.
- 5. The faculty sponsor should take nominations for officers: President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer.
- 6. Appoint committee chairs now or at the second meeting.

 Committee chairs may include membership, social, newsletter and community outreach.
- 7. Name your chapter.

Formation of a Student Chapter, Continued

At the Meeting (continued)

- 8. Establish a chair and committee to draw up a constitution and bylaws. Samples of both are included in this handbook.
- 9. Establish a date, time and place for the next meeting, at which time a proposed constitution and bylaws may be presented and election of permanent officers may take place.

Before the Second Meeting

The committee assigned to write the proposed constitution and bylaws should:

- Establish the offices of the chapter, including job descriptions.
- Provide for a regular review of the officers. Define what elections are to be held and when offices are to change hands.
- Establish enough officers to ensure an active and healthy chapter.
- Consult with ASTA state officers. Obtain a copy of their constitution. You may find information of great value to your chapter.

At the Second Meeting

- The chair of the constitution and bylaws committee should present the proposed constitution and bylaws for membership review and ratification. A final and ratified copy may be forwarded to the national office.
- 2. Election of officers should take place.
- 3. The secretary/treasurer should continue to accept membership applications and fees for new members and forward to the national office.
- 4. Hold a brainstorming session. Place and prioritize all ideas on a list for further and future comments. Set a date to meet with committee members to assign meeting dates, activities and projects.
- 5. Send a flier announcing the next meeting and program to all members and post it on the school activity bulletin board or email a reminder.
- 6. A healthy chapter sponsors its own events. However, do not neglect the possibility of cooperative projects with other student organizations or with the state organization.

Formation of a Student Chapter, Continued

Future Meetings

- ASTA chapter meetings provide time to make music with friends and to become involved in the world of string and orchestra teaching and playing.
- 2. Keep the National ASTA Chapter Liaison informed of your local activities.
- 3. Send chapter news and photos to the communications manager at the National Office.
- 4. Since the financial needs of each chapter vary, it is recommended that these needs be identified early in the year. Suggestions for funding-raising projects should be solicited from the membership and plans to implement a project should be well established.
- Each Student Chapter must submit a year-end financial state to their ASTA State Chapter President & Treasurer. Contact them directly for the exact due date in June.

Suggested Student Chapter Activities

Based on chapter reports, the items below list successful activities and projects that ASTA student members have sponsored.

Musical Meetings

- 1. Informal chamber orchestra music reading sessions.
- 2. Informal chamber music concerts.
- 3. Sharing chamber music with the community (i.e., school, library, civic group, senior center or church).
- 4. Organizing a series of noon concerts (informal—bring your own lunch).
- 5. Assisting with high school or middle school festivals.
- 6. Assisting with high school or middle school sectionals, rehearsals or concerts.
- 7. Appearing as guest soloists at school programs.
- 8. Helping an elementary teacher demonstrate instruments at a recruiting event.
- 9. Volunteering as ushers at local symphony or chamber concerts.
- 10.Running an orchestra rehearsal with student conductors and students playing on secondary instruments.
- 11. Practicing teaching skills by teaching others.

Suggested Student Chapter Activities, Continued

Social Meetings

- 1. Breakfast: rap sessions or string/orchestra discussion.
- 2. Lunch: reserve a table at a local cafeteria for ASTA members. Invite faculty, guest clinicians or artists, and teachers to come and talk informally.
- 3. Serve refreshments following a workshop or demonstration concert.
- Host a reception after a string concert to honor soloists or chamber musicians.
- 5. Host a party after an orchestra concert.
- 6. Have a pizza party, volleyball game, etc.

Projects

- 1. Volunteer to assist with summer music camps.
- 2. Organize or assist at a festival of orchestra or solo and ensemble festival.
- 3. Visit, observe, or volunteer in the local school string programs.
- 4. Visit a luthier to talk about string maintenance and selection of instruments for you and potential students. Become acquainted with new accessories and equipment.
- 5. Attend a music conference. Visit the instrument displays to become better informed on student lines.
- 6. Publish a student chapter newsletter for members of your chapter.
- 7. Develop a student chapter web page and link to the national site.
- 8. Promote and be an advocate for music education

Suggested Student Chapter Activities, Continued

Sponsors

- Invite guests: Public school teachers, studio teachers, symphony members, or a college conductor. Each person could talk about their current position in regard to job description, preparation time, rehearsal or lesson time, paper work, salary, benefits, contract length, etc.
- 2. Form master classes for area school string and orchestra programs.
- 3. Invite a middle school or high school group to come to your campus. Have the group perform, give coaching sessions, tour the campus and perform for them.
- 4. Host a middle school string festival for students with two and three years of experience.
- 5. Sponsor a forum of public school teachers to share their expertise and answer questions.
- 6. Sponsor talks by faculty or community teachers on Suzuki/Rolland/Alexander methods.
- 7. Have a fund-raiser.
- 8. Provide side-by-side opportunities for younger string players to sit and play with your members.
- Host a reception honoring music faculty and classmates.
 Sponsor a series of semi-formal recitals.

Suggested Student Chapter Activities, Continued

Popular Guest Speaker Topics

- How to build your resume
- How to survive the first year of teaching
- How to market yourself as a freelancer
- How to set up a private studio
- Injury prevention
- Stage fright
- Teaching chamber music
- Practice tips
- Technology
- Improvisation
- Surviving student teaching
- Rehearsal techniques
- · Choosing music that works
- Fiddle music
- Jazz
- Auditioning tips
- Portfolios
- Practice interviews
- Emergency string repairs

Chapter Structure

Meetings should occur at least once per quarter. Chapter officers should be elected by a simple majority for a period of one year.

Duties of the President

- To preside at general membership and Executive Board meetings.
- To appoint members of all committees, temporary and standing.
- To work closely with the Faculty Advisor and other officers in planning activities of the chapter.
- To supervise and coordinate all activities of the Student Chapter.

Duties of the Vice-President

- To be available to the President at all times and to perform such duties as the President deems necessary.
- To officiate in the place of the President in event of absence.
- To serve as co-chairman of all committees.

Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer

- To keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all Executive Board and general membership meetings.
- To arrange those records for permanent, efficient reference.
- To be responsible for all correspondence of the chapter and the Executive Board.
- To keep an accurate record of all money received or paid out.
- To collect dues and handle all other financial matters.

Duties of the Membership Chairman

- Organize a membership drive on and off campus.
- Plan and organize meeting programs and special programs.
- Work to fulfill the goals of the chapter.
- Assist the other officers in carrying out their duties.
- Serve as parliamentarian.

Membership and Conference Applications

In order to continue to grow and prosper, ASTA needs more members like you! If you know of someone who would like to be a member, or should be a member, please pass along their information to the national office at bridget@astaweb.com or (703) 279-2113 ext. 16. You may also obtain a membership application on our website at www.astaweb.com under the membership section.

After the successes of our past national conferences, ASTA is looking forward to seeing you in Albuquerque, New Mexico in February. Mark the dates on your calendar and join us February 27-March 1, 2008. For further details on sessions, performances, hotel reservations and more, please visit www.astaweb.com under the national conference section. You may register online or print out an application form there as well. The August and November issues of AST will also contain the registration form.

Thank you for your commitment to the string profession!

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