



American Viola Society Local Groups Partnerships

The American Viola Society has had a long history of encouraging growth at the local level. As we continue to meet our ever-changing needs, the AVS is developing a new grassroots model with a lighter administrative profile. Our goal is to encourage and enable the formation of many more local and grassroots groups that can foster interest in the viola, its performance, pedagogy, and repertoire at all levels and abilities in accordance with the AVS Mission to benefit the broader viola community. As the AVS strives to grow its membership we are excited to develop close relationships with all organizations that exist for the general advancement of the viola in education and performance, while striving to increase our instrument's visibility.

AVS Mission Statement*

The American Viola Society is a nonprofit organization of viola enthusiasts, including students, performers, teachers, scholars, composers, makers, and friends, who seek to encourage excellence in performance, pedagogy, research, composition, and lutherie. United in our commitment to promote the viola and its related activities, the AVS fosters communication and friendship among violists of all skill levels, ages, nationalities, and backgrounds.

Benefits of a New AVS Partnering Model for Local Organizations

The AVS is developing new ways to support and highlight viola activity at the local level. Groups that partner with the AVS will have:

- More visibility through AVS promotion of organization activities and events on the new AVS website
- Access to the AVS' growing online member directory for the purpose of encouraging local growth
- Access to member's only resources, including the many scores we are making available, including viola ensembles, viola solo repertoire, and chamber music scores
- Access to orchestral training resources
- Access to the growing AVS online teacher directory
- Access to back issues of the *Journal of the American Viola Society*, and
- That good feeling that comes from knowing that you are a part of a larger effort!

AVS Membership is a very reasonable \$28 for students and \$60 for non-students. Either membership type allows for access to the expanding members-only resources on the website. Of course the *Journal of the American Viola Society* (JAVS) is published in print form twice a year, and there is an online journal published during the summer.

Benefits to the AVS

Building an enthusiastic network at the grassroots level is central to the AVS mission of promoting the viola in the broader viola community. Local viola groups that partner with us can play a vital role.

- The AVS better fulfills its mission if the grassroots activities are dynamic and vibrant.
- The AVS becomes stronger and better able to support local activity when AVS membership is enthusiastically promoted at the local level.

Guidelines for organizations partnering with the AVS

We can all work together for the benefit of both the AVS and the local organizations by urging membership and support in both directions. With this in mind the Executive Board of the AVS has determined guidelines for organizations that wish to be partner organizations with the AVS.

1. A local partner organization of the American Viola Society is defined as any organized group of violists that exists to promote the viola through education, performance, appreciation of, and enthusiasm for all things viola.
2. Symphony Orchestra viola sections, violists in a defined urban area, viola classes from high schools and universities, and any group of individuals that wants to form an organization to promote the viola in accordance with the AVS mission* are welcome and encouraged to apply to become a partner organization.
3. Official local partner organizations must have at least one current AVS member in order to maintain that partnership and access any web related benefits such as event posting, listing of its organization on the website, grassroots organization information, and other information and services available only to registered partner organizations.
4. Local partner organizations must operate with an open door policy for membership, and cannot deny membership to any person based on performance ability, race, ethnicity, or gender identification.
5. Other than as required by number (4) above, the organization is free to set its own guidelines for membership.
6. The local partner organization shall have no financial ties or obligations to the AVS.
7. A local partner organization may set a dues structure as determined by the organization, and dues collection will be solely the purview of that organization.
8. Local partner organizations are free to use the terms “organization,” “society,” or any other title to define their particular organization. However, use of the name “American Viola Society” in the title of a local organization is prohibited.