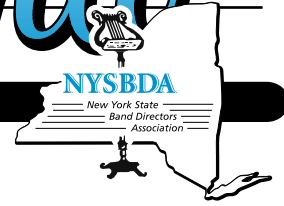


# Band Stand

The Official Newsletter of the New York State Band Directors Association



Volume XXVIII, No. 3

June 2019

## HAPPY SUMMER!

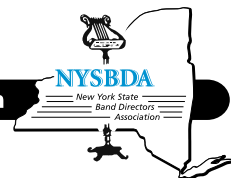
- 2019 NYSSMC Preview
- 2019 NYSBDA Award Winners
- 2019 NYSSMC Schedule and Presenters
- 2019 NYSSMC Directors' Band Application



**Dr. Robert Ambrose**  
NYSSMC Directors'  
Band Conductor



**Dr. Robert Duke**  
NYSSMC  
Keynote Speaker



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NYSBDA HAS A NEW ADDRESS

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# From the Podium...

## Bradley Morrison, President



With the arrival of spring, we head into the busiest time of year for many of us - spring concerts, festivals, competitions, parades and graduations. This spring also marks the end of my term as president of NYSBDA. As I think back on the past two years, there are so many people who have helped to contribute to our success as an organization. One very important person to NYSBDA is Mike Struzik, our Executive Director. There is no aspect of what we do as an organization that Mike isn't involved in, and his expertise and experience have proven to be immense assets to our organization. I would like to extend my thanks to Mike on behalf of the entire Association for the many hours of work he puts into NYSBDA.

I'd also like to thank Mike Cordaro, our 1st Vice President. Mike stepped into this role late, which meant planning our Symposium with limited time. Mike did an excellent job, as evidenced by our outstanding clinics, sessions and performances. Mike Cordaro has many years of experience on the NYSBDA board, and I'm happy to be handing over the role of President to him at the end of the year. I'd also like to extend a special word of thanks to Mike Cordaro and Mike Struzik for handling things at the symposium in my absence this year, as I was unable to attend.

Another member of our executive board who will be making a transition this year is Dr. Andrew Pease. Andy will be transitioning from the role of 3rd VP to 1st VP. We thank Andy for all of his work in preparing the Summer Conference sessions for NYSBDA the last two years, and look forward to his work on the upcoming Symposium in March of 2020. Taking over Andy's spot as 3rd VP is Jacquelin Kovacs. Jackie has served as a region representative, and will now be taking over the planning the NYSBDA Sessions for the upcoming NYSSMA Summer conference. This includes our Directors Band. A highlight of the summer for many of us is playing with the Director's band, and, if you haven't had a chance to join us in the past, I hope you will be there this summer. I look for-

ward to seeing you all there!

In addition to our members who will be changing roles, we have some people who will be stepping down from the NYSBDA Board at the end of this year as well. We thank Phil Pandori for his many years as member at large. We thank Jennifer Vannier for her work as a region representative, and we owe a large debt of gratitude to Jeff Soper, our Band Stand Editor for the work he has done in helping to bring our publication to new levels of professionalism! We thank each of you for the time you have spent contributing our NYSBDA and recognize the outstanding work you've done on behalf of all of our members.

As we bring the year to a close I'd also like to send a special word of thanks to all of our Region Representatives. This year we had a wonderful increase in the number of region workshops held throughout the state. These workshops provide our members with not only valuable professional development, but also the time and space to build collegial relationships with one another. The hard work of our Region Representatives has helped to increase our effectiveness as an organization, and for that I am truly thankful.

I wish you all a successful end to the school year and a relaxing and re-invigorating summer, and I hope to see many of you at the NYSSMA Summer Conference in August.



# 2019 NYSBDA Symposium Review

## Michael Cordaro, First Vice President



Energized!!!! That is how I always feel after attending our Symposium in March. This energy is generated by the attendees, excited about learning something new to bring to their students; the clinicians, wanting nothing more than to affect a colleague to be better; and our students who were selected to participate in our honor bands, eager to have a wonderful musical experience. I hope that you also have walked away with a similar experience.

Our symposium has and will always be a great one for band directors because of all the work and care your executive board take in putting this together. We have kept true to our belief that students come first, and one of the best ways to deliver a great musical experience for them is through the education of their teachers.

Of course, I would like to thank all our clinicians. Dick DePasquale for “Trumpet Tips for Everyone”; Dr. Brian Doyle who presented “Tune-Up Your Delivery System! Exercises to Enhance Your Musicianship”; Katie Struzik for demystifying the new NYSSMA Manual in her clinic “Everything You Need to Know About the NYSSMA Manual”; Returning for another year Miles DeCastro, who made our repair lives easier with “Put a cork In It!! Save Time and Money by Re-Corking Instruments Yourself.” All of this happened before dinner on the first day. While we were exercising our brains, our Honor Bands were working hard in rehearsal. The day ended with a fantastic Jazz Concert performed by the Micro Big Band, under the direction of Mike Dubaniewicz.

Saturday started early with the High School Honor Concert Band, and Honor Jazz Ensemble, participating in a leadership session with Ron Sutherland. Meanwhile, Dr. Michael Votta, our conductor for the Honor band this year, presented a session to our teachers entitled “Rehearsals, Repertoire and Stuff”. “Creating a Culture of Connection: Developing the Band Family” was presented by our friends from Westhills School District, Elizabeth Buell, Erin Tapia and Corey Riley (NYSBDA 2nd V.P.). To round out the morning Dr. James Tapia presented “Teaching Mentoring College Auditions: Proactive Preparation for Student Success”.

This year I have to give a huge thank you to Mr. Ronald Sutherland who delivered an amazing Keynote address that was inspirational, informative, and motivating. The next presentation given by our 2019 Living Legend, Dr. Michael Haithcock, was incredibly informative. Without a doubt we realized why he is a living legend.

Taking a break from the educational portion, Saturday afternoon we had our first Honor Band performance. The 2019 Middle School Honor Band under the direction of Dr. Karen LaVoie, chaired by Omar Williams, presented their program which included: Choreography by Robert Sheldon; “On An American Spiritual,” by David Holsinger; “An Irish Ayre for Winds,” by Warren Barker; and “Olympia Hippodrome,” by Russel Alexander.

After the concert our Executive Director Michael Struzik, and our former Executive Director Dave Wilber, combined their over 60 years of teaching experience in a Round Table discussion aimed at new or prospective teachers, to give them some insight into our glorious profession. Our evening concert featured the Eastman Music Educators Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Bill Tiberio. What a great way to end the day.

Sunday, our last day of the Symposium, is all about our living legend and our High School Honor Bands. While our Honor Bands were putting the final touches on their programs and getting a chance to sound check in the Ballroom, Dr. Michael Haithcock led a Directors Band reading session and conducting clinic, before sitting down for an interview with our esteemed Gary Stith.

Our Symposium ends with the fantastic concerts of our High School Honor Bands. Our Jazz Ensemble, Directed by Pete Malinverni and chaired by Tim Savage performed: “A Night in Tunisia” by Dizzy Gillespie, “ Bag’s Groove” by Milt Jackson, “ Kid’s are Pretty People” by Thad Jones, “April in Paris” by Vernon Duke, “ Groove” by Oliver Nelson, and “Skylark” by Johnny Mercer and Hoagy Carmichael.

Our Symposium was brought to a grand ending with our High School Honor Band performance, under the direction of Dr. Michael Votta, chaired by Jason Rottkamp. The program was “Overture to Candide” by Leonard Bernstein and “Carmina Burana” by Carl Orff. It was a truly moving performance.

This fantastic Symposium could not have been possible without the tireless work of the entire executive board, our wonderful clinicians, and of course you, our amazing teachers of New York State. Congratulations to all of the Honor Band Students, teachers and parents. Special thanks to our newly elected executive board. I wish you all the best of luck in your new positions. The future of our organization is now in your hands.

# Professional Development at the NYS Summer Conference

**Andrew Pease**

**Summer Conference Chair - Third Vice President**



*The 2019 NYSBDA Summer Conference Preview  
Sunday, August 11 - Tuesday, August 13, 2019*

This year's summer conference will see us returning to the Albany Hilton for a chance to reconnect, both with each other and the music we love. As in past years, we will run the ever-popular Directors' Band and present several sessions by noted clinicians from around the country.

We will also see a leadership change. I am stepping into the role of 1st Vice President of NYSBDA, so I will be working with Jackie Kovacs, our new 3rd Vice President, to share responsibility for this conference. Together, we will do our utmost to create a memorable and inspirational few days for all of you.

This year's Directors' Band will be led by Robert Ambrose from Georgia State University. He has guest conducted all over New York State and the world, from Australia to Finland to Singapore. You may remember him from his series of appearances with the United States Army Field Band when they toured New York in the fall of 2016. Fun fact: he has also appeared in concert as an electric guitar soloist!

To register for the Directors' Band, use this Google Form. Questions can be directed to Jackie at [jmko-vacs11@yahoo.com](mailto:jmko-vacs11@yahoo.com). This is always a highlight of the conference, giving us an opportunity to work with a distinguished and dynamic conductor while making beautiful music with colleagues from all over the state, so I hope you will join us! The Directors' Band kicks off its first rehearsal at 4pm on Sunday (note the time change from last year).

The conference begins in earnest on Sunday at 1pm, with a presentation by the Ambassador Trio. These three clarinetists will perform on and speak about auxiliary clarinets and their potential to achieve a fuller clarinet sound in your bands.

At 2:30, Brett Richardson from the University of the Incarnate Word in Texas will lead a session on score study, focusing on ways to delve deeper into scores amidst the many daily demands of a busy band director. This will be followed immediately by the NYSBDA general meeting at 3:45, and the first Directors' Band rehearsal at 4.

At 8pm, we will have a very special concert event: the New York State Summer School of the Arts Orchestral

Studies Orchestra will bring 90 of the finest high school musicians in the state to our conference to perform – an opportunity not to be missed!

Monday morning begins at 9 with a reading session led by William Tonissen from White Plains High School and Brian Doyle from the Crane School of Music. This session will expose participants to music at all levels by female and minority composers, with the aim of allowing us to more fully represent our students with the music we play.

At 10:30, Jonathan Sweet from Purdue University in Indiana will lead us through his daily ensemble warmup, with suggestions for several tools to use to improve overall ensemble playing by focusing on fundamentals.

After the 1pm Keynote Address, Robert Ambrose will lead a session on rhythmic accuracy, both for our ensemble and for ourselves. This will combine individual practice suggestions with practical and tested rehearsal techniques.

The next Director's Band rehearsal begins at 4. We will take a short break around 6 to move our setup to the upstairs ballroom, where we will have a dress rehearsal that will be over by 6:45. Then we will join our choral and orchestral colleagues in the Directors' Ensemble concert. Make sure you sign up so you can be a part of this amazing event! Also, be sure to save time (and room) for the excellent NYSSMA reception that happens afterwards! This is completely free for all registered conference attendees.

The last day of the conference opens at 9 with a session by Holly McCoy who teaches in the Syracuse City School District. She will present the "ABCs of Instrumental Music," covering 26 (or more, I'm told) practical strategies for success in an instrumental music classroom.

Our final session, on Tuesday at 10:30, will feature Shane Helfner from Port Washington attempting to remove some of the mystery from that most exotic of band instruments, the oboe.

This is sure to be an event to remember. We look forward to seeing you there!

# **NYSBDA Directors' Band**

NYS Summer Music Conference 2019

Sunday, August 11th & Monday, August 12th

Albany Hilton Hotel

The 2019 NYSBDA Directors' Band will be led by Robert J. Ambrose, Director of Bands at Georgia State University. Any NYSBDA member may join us for this amazing, intensive experience! Dr. Ambrose is a dynamic conductor who is comfortable in a variety of genres, so it is sure to be a memorable program.

Register online using our handy Google Form – the sooner, the better!

We will send out music in advance, once we have a clear idea of our instrumentation.

There will be two rehearsals and a dress rehearsal before the concert, which is scheduled for **Monday, August 12th at 8:00 pm**. In order to have the best instrumentation, we are asking that if you are interested, please fill out the Google Form. Please register for the main conference as well. This will give you access to our reading bands and the many fine clinics detailed here.

We are asking for a firm commitment before we send out music. Knowing the talent we have in our membership, it should be an amazing musical experience. Larger percussion equipment will be provided. Percussionists are expected to bring smaller equipment based on the parts assigned.

Rehearsal Schedule: Sunday, August 11th 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm  
Monday, August 12th 4-6:45pm

Concert: Monday, August 12th, 8:00 pm  
Concert Dress: All Black

Fill out online on the [NYSBDA Website](#):

We are looking forward to a great performance!

NYSBDA 3rd VP  
Jackie Kovacs  
jmkovacs11@yahoo.com

# 2019 Summer Conference Schedule

## Sunday, August 11th

**9:00am - 12:00pm**

NYSBDA Executive Board Meeting

**1:00-2:15pm - Ambassador Trio**

### "A Unified Sound"

Improving individual and ensemble performance with auxiliary clarinets.

**2:30-3:45pm - Brett Richardson**

### "Make Your Mark: Steps Towards Better Score Study"

As conductors, time spent on score study dwindles among the myriad responsibilities we face day-to-day as administrators and teachers. And unfortunately, music teaching (and class preparation) makes up a very small percentage of a typical school day. In this clinic, Richardson will present a systematic approach to highly efficient score study that will make your rehearsals more efficient, positive, and ultimately, more focused on the music!

**3:45-4:00pm**

**NYSBDA General Membership Meeting**

**4:00-6:30pm - Robert Ambrose**

**Directors' Concert Band Rehearsal**

**8:00pm**

**NYSSSA School of Orchestral  
Studies Orchestra Concert**



## Monday, August 12th

**9:00-10:15am - William Tonissen & Brian Doyle**

### "Reading Band Session"

William Tonissen and Brian Doyle will be exploring the music of under-represented composers (bring your instrument!) This reading session will focus on the music of women and minority composers. The goal of this session is to expose participants to repertoire that directors can use to diversify their programming to better represent the students they teach.

**10:30-11:45am - Jonathan Sweet**

### "The Daily Playing Warmup: Structuring Fundamental Training to Maximize Rehearsal Potential"

The goal of this presentation is to present real-world warmup exercises to enhance what is happening in the pieces of music the ensemble is developing. Too many times, we as directors go through the motions of fundamental training because we feel that we must spend the time in the pieces. The opposite is true: you must spend time with fundamental training, the results will be astronomical! Through this clinic, easy methods of training will be introduced including: tone-generator and metronome use, effective long tone strategies, lip-slurs and technique, articulation, and chorale use. These examples can be used for indoor or outdoor rehearsals. With the proper structure, you can do all of this in less than 15 minutes per day!

**12:00pm-1:00pm**

**County Presidents Meeting**

**1:00-2:00pm**

**Conference Keynote Speaker- Robert Duke**

**2:30-3:45pm - Robert Ambrose**

### "Developing Rhythmic Accuracy and Awareness in Your Ensemble: Techniques and Strategies"

This clinic will provide techniques and strategies for band and orchestra directors to assist in developing their students' rhythmic sensitivity within the large instrumental ensemble. Also addressed will be techniques to aid the conductor in his/her own rhythmic accuracy. Strategies for identifying and fixing the most common rhythmic errors will be discussed and modeled. To conclude, recommended literature that assists in teaching rhythmic sensitivity will be discussed.

**4:00-6:45pm - Robert Ambrose**

**Directors' Concert Band Rehearsal**

**8:00pm**

**Directors' Ensemble Concert**

NYSSMA MEMBER RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING  
CONCERT

## 2019 Summer Conference Schedule continued

**Tuesday, August 13th**

**9:00-10:15am - Holly McCoy**

### **"ABCs of Instrumental Music"**

Simple, basic tips and shares from both the Band and Orchestra room. From A to Z, you will receive 26+ ideas, activities and/or words of advice to take back for your lessons, rehearsals and instruction.

**10:30-11:45am - Shane Helfner**

### **"Demystifying the Oboe"**

This clinic will help answer many of the questions that band directors have regarding oboists and their sound production. We will discuss strategies to help oboists play more in tune, how to blend more in their section, go over warm ups that teachers can use with their students, and more. We will also discuss how to adjust reeds so students are able to get a more responsive sound and play at appropriate dynamics. The goal is to help directors feel more comfortable and have more strategies they can use in the classroom.

**6.30.19 - 7.13.19**

# Crane Youth Music

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## ***NYSBDACC Corner***

### **NYSBDACC Fredonia Chapter**

The NYSBDA Chapter at Fredonia is alive and well! This Semester the E- Board took a trip to Pine Valley Elementary School for an instrument "petting zoo". We demonstrated Woodwind and Brass instruments to prospective band students and we let them try them out! This was a success and the cooperating teacher reported that many students had signed up as a result of the petting zoo! This is one of many events that NYSBDA has done this year. We also are co-hosting a secondary instrument concert where Music Education majors get a chance to perform on a secondary instrument. This is a really fun concert and gets us lots of publicity and enrollment in our collegiate chapter for the upcoming year. We also sponsored and funded Brian Usifer (Broadway music director) as a guest composer and conductor for the SUNY Fredonia Wind Ensemble on March 4th. Our chapter is growing more and more and next semester we plan on hosting a conducting workshop with Dr. Carrie Pawelski and Dr. Paula Holcomb where we will explore middle school band literature. We look forward to hosting more events on campus and in the community, and growing our membership in the next coming years!

Devin Vogel  
President of NYSBDA, SUNY Fredonia  
Collegiate Chapter



# Who's Who at the 2019 Summer Conference



**Dr. Robert J. Ambrose** currently serves as Director of Bands at Georgia State University located in Atlanta. He has conducted across the United States as well as in Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan. Ambrose has strong professional ties to the Finnish music commu-

nity. He is frequently engaged in that country as a guest conductor, teacher, master clinician, and lecturer. Dr. Ambrose is the Founder and Music Director of the National Chamber Winds in Washington D.C. and the Atlanta Chamber Winds. In 2016, Dr. Ambrose was invited to spend ten days on tour as a guest conductor with the United States Army Field Band. Ambrose is the only civilian in history to be invited to guest conduct a premiere American military band on tour. Ambrose's wind band arrangements are published by C. Alan Publications, Sannabelle Publications, and Fennica Gehrman (Finland). His transcriptions appear on several state music lists. As a guitarist, Ambrose has performed in dozens of jazz ensembles, combos, rock bands, and pit orchestras. He studied formally at Boston College, Boston University, and Northwestern University, where he received the Doctor of Music degree in conducting.



**The Ambassador Trio** is a professional clarinet trio with members Dr. Patrick Englert, Dr. Jack Liang, and Dr. Jeremy Ruth. The trio formed in 2013 while all members were graduate

students at Arizona State University, and since then have performed internationally throughout North America and Europe, including conference performances at the International Clarinet Association's ClarinetFest and the College Music Society National Conference. As part of their mission to expand the repertoire for clarinet trio through commissions, the trio has studied auxiliary clarinets extensively, resulting in several new works that utilize the auxiliary voices in a unique and effective manner.

**Holly McCoy** the Instrumental Music Teacher at Meachem Elementary and Clary Middle School in the Syracuse City School District. She plays French horn in a professional music educator's ensemble out of Syracuse called Central Winds. She also performs with the Syracuse University Brass Ensemble, New Hartford Citizen's Band, and she loves to play for local High School musical productions on both the French horn and trumpet.



**Dr. Brett A. Richardson** serves as the Coordinator of Music Education/Director of Bands, Instrumental Area Coordinator, and an Assistant Professor of Music at the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) where he teaches courses within the music education curriculum, conducts the Wind Ensemble and Concert Band, directs the

Marching Cardinals, and administers all facets of the UIW Band program. Richardson holds the Doctor of Music degree in Wind Conducting from the world-renowned Indiana University Jacobs School of Music where he was a student of Prof. Stephen W. Pratt. He also holds a Master of Music with emphasis in Wind Conducting from Texas A&M University-Commerce under Dr. Brad Kent and a Bachelor of Music Education from Stephen F. Austin State University under Prof. Fred J. Allen. Other professional mentors include Jeff Gershman, David W. Campo, Christopher Anderson, Brian Britt, Steve Smith, Julie Jezek, Jimmy Clark, and Deb Scott. Prior to his appointment at UIW, Dr. Richardson proudly served as an Associate Instructor with the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music Department of Bands/Wind Conducting and as the Resident Conductor for the Southern Indiana Wind Ensemble, a community wind band based in Bloomington, Indiana. Previously, he served as the Assistant Director of Bands and Instructor of Music at his alma mater, Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. A product of the music education tradition in Texas public schools, Dr. Richardson began his career as a music educator as part of the Clear Creek and Lewisville Independent School Districts.

**Shane Helfner** is the high school band director at Schreiber High School, Port Washington Schools. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music where he received a BM with Distinction in Oboe Performance, and Hofstra University where he received a MS with Distinction in Music Education. He has performed as the principal oboe of the Eastman Philharmonic and Wind Ensemble, the National Wind Ensemble, the All-Eastern Symphonic Orchestra, the All-State Band and Orchestra, the Rochester Opera Factory, the Carl Olsen's Singers Institute, and of the Flower City Society Orchestra where he recorded a soundtrack for the film "Captain Salvation." Mr. Helfner has studied at the Pre-College Division of the Juilliard School of Music, the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, the Banff Center Summer Arts Festival, the LIU Post Chamber Music Festival, and the Hidden Valley Institute of the Arts in California.



**Dr. William J. Tonissen Jr.** is currently the Concert Band Director at White Plains High School. Under his direction, the Concert Band has received Gold Ratings in the New York State School Music Association (NYS-SMA) Majors Festival. He is also the Music Director of the Columbia Summer Winds, and has worked as the Assistant Music Director of the Columbia University Wind Ensemble. Dr. Tonissen has also served as a guest conductor both the United States and Europe (Prague, Check Republic, and Budapest, Hungary) and was recently invited to conduct the Pacific Symphony Orchestra Youth Wind Ensemble. He has taught at the elementary and middle school levels in the State of Michigan and has served as a Band Teaching Artist with Project Music, an El Sistema program based in Stamford, Connecticut. Dr. Tonissen holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Music Education from the University of Michigan and Teachers College, Columbia University and a doctorate in music education from Teachers College, Columbia University. His research interests include student motivation in band ensembles, band methodologies, and pedagogical practices. He has presented his research at the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Conference, the Michigan Music Conference, and the NAFME Eastern Division Conference. He has also published articles in the NYSSMA School Music News.



**Jonathan Sweet** joined the Purdue Bands & Orchestras faculty as Assistant Professor of Bands in the fall of 2017. Sweet received his Bachelor of Music Education from Abilene Christian University in 2004, and earned a Masters of Music degree in Wind Band Conducting from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2013. Prior to his appointment to Purdue's faculty, Sweet served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Kentucky. He taught undergraduate conducting students, marching band techniques, and private lessons in the Euphonium studio. He also conducted the Concert Band, guest conducted the Wind Symphony and Symphony Bands, assisted with the Wildcat Marching Band, and directed the Wildcat Pep Band for Women's Volleyball, Women's Gymnastics, and Men's Basketball. Prior to arriving at the University of Kentucky, Sweet spent 11 years as a public school band director in Texas, where his groups frequently achieved superior ratings, best in class awards, best in festival awards, outstanding visual awards, and outstanding general effect awards. In addition to his teaching experience, Jon has operated a marching band design and consultation business, Sweet Marching, where he has designed over 150 shows since 2004. These designs have included performances at Bands of America Grand Nationals, Bands of America Regionals, and Super Regionals, Texas State, Area and Regional Marching Band Championships, and the University of Kentucky.



**Dr. Brian Doyle** joined the Crane faculty in 2006. He conducts the Crane Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, and also teaches courses in conducting. A Michigan native, he received all of his degrees in his home state. At Michigan State University, he received a BME and two MM (saxophone and wind conducting) degrees. His principal teachers included John Whitwell, Joseph Lulloff and James Forger. At the University of Michigan, he received the AMusD in Wind Conducting under the mentorship of Michael Haitcock. Dr. Doyle's former teaching posts include faculty positions at Indiana University, The University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Duke University, and as a public school music educator in Imlay City, MI. While in North Carolina, Dr. Doyle served as the resident conductor of the Triangle British Brass Band from 1999 until 2002. Dr. Doyle has also served on the summer conducting faculty of the renowned Interlochen Arts Camp, as well as the New England Music Camp. Dr. Doyle now spends his summer as the conductor of the Crane Youth Music Wind Ensemble.

## NYSBDA Executive Board 2019

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