

Band Stand

The Official Newsletter of the New York State Band Directors Association



Vol. XXXII, No. 3

June, 2024



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From the Podium

By Andrew Pease, NYSBDA President



Summer is almost upon us, and with it, some time to reflect and recharge. It can be a bittersweet season, as we see the culmination of months or even years of hard work come to fruition in our students, while also watching many of them graduate and move on. We contend with this sort of planned loss every year, and it never gets easier. All we can do is keep looking forward, knowing that we will create amazing, memorable experiences for our future students, always treasuring the best of what has come before.

I invite you to take some time to seriously reflect upon this year. What were some highlights? What didn't work? What will you do differently next year? What new thing worked so well this year that you absolutely must do it again? What was some of your favorite (and least favorite) music that you were involved in? What really made your students' faces light up? How do you see your program growing and changing over the next several years? Your answers will help focus you and set your goals for the coming year. Personally, I hope to do a better job incorporating mindful breathing into my rehearsals, and I will continue to fight the urge to over-program my concerts!

As you seek to reflect and unwind this summer, NYSBDA has an amazing opportunity for you that we believe will both feed your soul and help you grow professionally. We are partnering with Conn Selmer and Ithaca College to present the Conn Selmer Institute Northeast, happening on August 16-18 at Ithaca. This will feature world class clinicians, including Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser, and a Directors' Band led by Dr. Paula Crider. There will also be an optional evening excursion to a winery! So in addition to the amazing professional development and camaraderie, you will get to take in the stunning natural beauty of the Finger Lakes region. HUGE thanks for this event go to our First Vice President, Corey Riley, who has been so incredibly proactive and imaginative in the planning of this event. Ithaca and Conn Selmer have also been a dream to work with. Details for everything about his conference are in this issue. So please join us for what is sure to be a memorable event in August. Personally, I will be attending the conference and then extending the trip into a Finger Lakes vacation for my whole family!

Look for more from NYSBDA in the coming months, especially from your Region Representatives. Also, consider whether you would like to serve on NYSBDA's board. Our next round of elections happens at the Symposium (March 7-9 in Syracuse). The board does AMAZING work serving you and your students, and we would love to add your voice to it. Please get in touch with me or another board member if you are interested in serving.

Best wishes for the last days of the school year, and I hope to see you in Ithaca in August!

Andy Pease
NYSBDA President
nysbdapresident@nysbda.org

Symposium 2024 Review

By Jackie Kovacs, *NYSBDA President Elect*



The 2024 NYSBDA Symposium *Building Community Through Band* was an amazing weekend. The snow on Thursday melted by Friday and attendees and the honor bands descended on Syracuse. Thank you to the NYSBDA Executive Board, Region Representatives and members for all of the assistance during the symposium. The band directors in New York State are a community willing to support and share best practices. The success of the symposium is the strength of the membership. Thank you for scheduling time in your busy schedules to expand your horizons and learn.

During our time together we explored director self-care, instructional strategies, quality repertoire and space for student voice. Ideas on how to build community and ideas that could be implemented in your classroom and rehearsals immediately. This started on Friday with the session **Balancing Pedagogy with Practice: Experiences of Middle School Band Directors**, Dr. Lauren Diaz, Hofstra University, clinician. Dr. Diaz shared tools and techniques that create opportunities to develop our ensembles using sound pedagogical practices in a performance based setting. The emphasis was on nurturing the students to be prepared for the expectations of high school, providing activities and engagement for their growth and musical development that was relevant to their experiences.

Way Back “Wind-Band-sday”, Mr Matthew Cool and Mrs. Marni Conte, the conductors of the Williamsville South Wind Ensemble, presented an amazing performance clinic which highlighted the growth of the students’ voice in the ensemble. What started as a way to assess the plethora of literature in their music library, evolved into a student driven discussion and evaluation of music, performance technique, insight into composers, ideas surrounding the music and so much more. Through this process, the students engaged in sight reading the literature, developed their musicianship skills and critical thinking skills to evaluate each composition. This initiative is now a staple in the ensemble’s yearly activities.

For percussionists and non-percussionists, **Improve and Empower Your Percussion Section: Technical Depth and Resources for All Standard Percussion Instruments**, with Mr. Brandon Bromsey, clinician, provided insight to develop technical consistencies that apply across the entire percussion section. Brandon provided resources and demonstrations for developing percussionists at all levels. An emphasis was on well-rounded percussionists working with students on non-pitched, mallet instruments and timpani. At the end of the session Brandon engaged with the participants and demonstrated various techniques on the timpani.

Dr. Marcia Bornhurst Parkes, clinician and NYSBDA founding member, clinic **Create and Connect: Ideas and Strategies for Building Community in Band** shared a wealth of knowledge and life experiences which shaped her teaching and engagement in the classroom. The successes in her classrooms and ensembles were the direct result of intentional planning to create opportunities for students and the school community. Dr. Bornhurst Parkes reminded us that community is built by “knowing your band members personalities and interests, supporting their academic and musical potential and providing a safe space for their hopes and dreams”.

Symposium 2024 Review

Continued

And yet, even if opportunities are created and students are engaged, they sometimes still leave our programs. There is quality instruction, supportive space and positive intentions, and for different reasons, students may choose to not participate. In **The Exit Interview: Attrition in the Band Program and How We Respond**, clinician Mrs. Elizabeth Buell shared practical tips and suggestions to help students find their own path. If students decide to leave the program, Mrs. Buell engages the student in a conversation. She implored how it is essential to continue to build a relationship with the student. This “interview” is an opportunity to find out the reasons, discuss what might be most beneficial for the student and assist them in the decision making process. It gives voice to the student and fosters a relationship, even if that student does not remain in the program. Hearing from the student, allows the teacher to also reflect and address any bias or concerns that can be addressed.

Put a Cork in it! did not disappoint. Mr. Miles DeCastro, instrument repair technician at The Crane School of Music, State University of New York at Potsdam, brought his knowledge of instrument repair, his great personality and ability to demystify the process of re-corking instruments. Miles shared quick and efficient technique to re-cork a clarinet and a saxophone neck. From how to “squeeze or beat the pith” out of a sheet of cork with a rawhide mallet, to measurements, using duckbill pliers and sandpaper to get the cork just right. Contact cement was also highly recommended, especially if you could not afford the hot air tool. Attendees left feeling a sense of awe at how easy Miles demonstrated the repairs and gained confidence in their ability to tackle a cork repair.

Friday evening was filled with energy from the **Bear Mountain Brass Band**. This nine piece brass band played traditional jazz and blues songs as well as arrangements of modern rock and pop songs in the style of a New Orleans marching/brass band. NYSBDA very own Jazz Honor Band Chair, Mr. Austin Day is a member. His tenor saxophone chops are truly impressive. The audience was thrilled to hear the band and their soloists. The music was amazing and the band members had the audience on their feet.

Saturday kicked off with self-care with **Healthy Conducting- Back to Basics**, Dr. Shayna Stahl, University of Kentucky, clinician. Dr. Stahl got us up and moving, finding our way back to the basics and analyzing our conducting movements. Guiding our movements and drawing attention to areas of tense muscles helped identify what each individual needed to address. This reflection will help promote healthy and long-lasting conducting careers. Our daily obligations often get our attention and time. Dr. Stahl reminded us to start the day to remember to focus on our well-being.

How to Organize A Successful Band Council continued with “student voice” in the music program. Mr. Phil Aguglia builds community in his band, engaging students to take on responsibilities and ownership of the ensemble. Phil shared a well organized action plan which motivates student leaders. The session shared a plan from the advisors position, ensembles action plan, student executive team and the outline of events throughout the year.

Dr. Jennifer Greene, conductor, and the Binghamton University Wind Symphony, started the first day of their spring break sharing their experiences in, **Is there Life After High School Band?** This performance clinic highlighted the repertoire which included, *Legends of the Galaxy*, *A Cosmic Fanfare* by Chandler Wilson, *Fate of the Gods* by Steven Reineke, and *Star Ship* by Yukiko Nishimura. The student musicians then shared some of their stories, what brought them to BU, how continuing with music was essential to their lives and how remaining an active participant in music will continue to shape their futures.

Symposium 2024 Review

Continued

During **Clarinet Essentials-Foundations for a Flourishing Clarinet Section**, Dr. Julianne Kirk Doyle, clinician, shared tips and tricks to train a FUNdamentally engaged clarinet section! At any age it's always beneficial to focus on the basics; posture, hand position, tone production, sound initiation, articulation, embouchure, tongue position, intonation and finger fluency. Dr. Doyle demonstrated with some of her students from Crane who made the trip to share in the session. Working with the students was a great way to let participants see how she works to build strong sections with a focus on technical skills. Dr. Doyle reminded us that students who experience success on many levels flourish in your ensemble.

A highlight of the symposium continues to be the NYSBDA Middle School, High School and Jazz Honor Bands. In addition to rehearsal times, the students attended a leadership workshop with Mr. Sutherland. Mr. Sutherland engages students to understand their roles in creating positive musical experiences in their ensembles. The Middle School Honor Band, under the direction of Dr. Cheldon Williams, performed on Saturday. The High School Honor Jazz Band, under the direction of Mr. Dennis Mackrel, performed on Sunday followed by the High School Honor Band, under the direction of Dr. Shayna Stahl.

NYSBDA at the Collegiate Level is flourishing. Mr. Aiden Carney, C-NYSBDA President, clinician, and a panel of past and present C-NYSBDA executive board members, including Victoria Cusumano and Julie Williams shared pathways to collegiate NYSBDA membership. The session shared organizational ideas, planning events and networking. The NYSBDA collegiate chapters are strong and work together to build the band community across the state. If your college does not have a C-NYSBDA chapter, please reach out to Alessandra Shellard, Region 6, at ashellard@ichabodcrane.org for more information.

The Saturday evening concert showcased the **Crane Wind Ensemble** with conductor Dr. Brian Doyle. The performance included newer diversity-oriented works by composers from our lifetime. The audience, which included the honor band students, was exposed to a variety of band literature that expanded the listeners' experience. Here is a link to the [Concert Program and Notes](#).

NYSBDA membership was honored to have **Dr. Matthew Arau**, as the 2024 NYSBDA Symposium Keynote Speaker. During his clinic session, *Edge of Your Seat Rehearsals. Engaging All Students Always*, Dr. Arau shared strategies for engaging students to collaborate and lead, essentially becoming part of the community. Understanding the who, why, how and what of rehearsing will provide the foundation for a dynamic rehearsal experience. Create an environment which is well paced, with purpose, have students responsible for their ensemble, engage students in singing, moving, listening, change things up, use positive language, and provide quality repertoire. As teachers, we need to take care of ourselves, be prepared and value each student. In his Keynote, *Making JOY Your Tonal Center – The 6 Keys to Fulfillment and Wellbeing in Teaching, Music Making, and Life*, shared “six keys to keep the joy alive in teaching while centering our personal wellbeing, sense of worth, and true power to make a transformative difference in the lives of our students.” Unlocking JOY involves gratitude, contribution, purpose, care, communication and community. Students need to feel valued in our classrooms. Every student can contribute no matter what their level of musicianship. Collaborating with students on the vision and goal of the ensemble will build community. In the community you build, students will have a safe space to learn and grow and take risks. Communication creates connections with students on many levels. Continue to celebrate the students' successes. Check out more from Dr. Arau at his website, www.upbeatglobal.com

Symposium 2024 Review

Continued

NYSBDA was extremely honored to host our **2024 Living Legend Dr. Frank Ticheli**.

Our guest conductors working with Dr. Ticheli were Jennifer Pham, Vestal Central Schools, Alexander Gray, Director of Bands - Pawling High School, Arianna Durkin, William Street- Lancaster Central School, and Kevin Heathwood, Townsend Harris High School- NYCDOE.

The conducting clinic with Dr. Ticheli featured the following selections; *Grainger: Irish Tune from County Derry*, *Ticheli: Amazing Grace*, *Joy Revisited*, and *Cajun Folk Songs, mvt. 2 (Belle)*.

The ensemble was composed of the symposium attendees, as you can believe, the ensemble was large and well balanced. Each conductor had the opportunity to conduct the ensemble and work with Dr. Ticheli. The interaction of the conductors, ensembles and Dr. Ticheli was great to experience. Following the conducting session, the ensemble was thrilled to have Dr. Ticheli to conduct *Joy Revisited*. After the conducting session, Dr. Andy Pease, NYSBDA President, hosted the interview with our Living Legend, Dr. Frank Ticheli. Dr. Ticheli shared about his life and career in music. His stories started with his pursuit of music and how it evolved with trumpet performance, music education and composition and his other passion in architecture. His growth as a composer developed during his time pursuing a doctoral degree at Michigan through his composition professors. As one can imagine after thirty-two plus years at University of Southern California. The interview can be found on the NYSBDA website.

Planning for the 2025 NYSBDA Symposium is already in the works. Mark your calendars to join the NYSBDA community on March 7-9, 2025! The Symposium will be back at the DoubleTree Carrier Circle, Syracuse, New York. As always, NYSBDA is here to support and serve our band director community. Please reach out to share how NYSBDA can better serve your needs.

Jackie Kovacs,
NYSBDA President Elect
presidentelect@nysbda.org



Dr, Jennifer Greene conducts Binghamton University Wind Ensemble, Symposium 2024



Dr. Arau Clinic, Symposium 2024

Conn Selmer Institute Northeast Preview

By Corey Riley, NYSBDA First Vice President

CSI Northeast in Ithaca, NY August 13-15, 2024



When one door closes it creates an opportunity for another door to open. When NYSSMA announced that the NYS Summer Music Conference would be taking a hiatus, we all felt the absence of what future years would bring without the collegiality and connection this event has provided in the past. Being that I was entering the role of managing our elements of the conference, I quickly went to work gathering feedback from members and seeking out opportunities to fill the void. *When one door closes another opens.* Dr. Daniel Cook, the newly hired director of bands at Ithaca College helped to connect Erin Steele Cole and Conn Selmer with NYSBDA, and the first annual Conn Selmer

Institute Northeast was born.

We could not be more excited for this maiden voyage of what we believe will be a very special annual event. Based on the feedback of our membership, we strived to create an opportunity that encourages connection, networking, professional development, adventure, and joy. The location is both beautiful and presents an opportunity for music teachers across the state to experience what Ithaca College can provide our students going into music. The schedule is packed with quality presentations, reading sessions, and performances, but still has room for the exploration of Ithaca, and connection with our colleagues and friends. Finally, we have worked with Conn Selmer to bring in exceptional clinicians to enhance the curriculum.



Tim Lautzenheiser



Dr. Paula Crider



Beth Fabrizio



Dr. Daniel Cook



Erin Cole Steele

We are so grateful for our keynote speaker, **Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser**, who will be joining us for the entire conference and presenting on a variety of topics, from building cultures of excellence to making the most of our rehearsal time. We also have **Dr. Paula Crider** leading the directors band. Dr. Crider, Professor Emeritus at The University of Texas, is an internationally recognized guest conductor, lecturer, clinician and adjudicator. From the feedback provided by our membership, the directors band was a highlight of past Summer conferences so we very much wanted to retain that model. This year, the directors band will focus on literature that Dr. Crider is passionate about, and she will work through her rehearsal process with us, digging in deep on strategies and best practices. We also have a Conn Selmer artist, [The Moanin' Frogs](#), a dynamic saxophone sextet, closing the conference with a performance.



Summer Conference Tuesday, August 13th	
Track A	Track B
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Registration	
9:00-10:20 Keynote BUILDING A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE Tim Lautzenheiser	
10:30-11:30 Reading Band TBA	10:30-11:20 Roundtable: Warming Up To Each Other Holly McCoy
1:00-1:50 Musical Artistry (And a Practical Guide to Develop It) Daniel Cook	1:00-1:50 Surviving a Concert Day Woodwind Repair Emergency Miles DeCastro
2:00-2:50 Beyond The Notes Dr. Paula Crider	2:00-2:50 Breaking Barriers: Strategies for Enhancing Retention in Beginning Band & Onward Dr. Michael Francis Smith
3:30-4:20 The Elephant in the Room: Preventing Sexual Misconduct in Music Education Mackenzie Bufis	3:30-4:20 The Trifecta: Flute, Clarinet and Saxophone fundamentals for your ensembles and beyond Beth Fabrizio
4:30-6:30 Directors Band Dr. Paula Crider	4:30-5:20 The Many Hats You Will Wear Erin Cole Steele
	5:30-6:20 Building a Culture of SEL in the Diverse Classroom Kathryn Spangler
End of Day 1 Dinner on Your Own <i>NYSBDA Executive Meeting 6:30-8:30PM</i>	

We hope that you are able to join us for this incredible opportunity for professional development in the Finger Lakes. This is a regional conference inviting directors from all over the Northeast, so be sure to invite your out of state colleagues, too. Teachers do not need to be a members of NYSBDA to attend this conference, but in-state directors are encouraged to join and take advantage of all that our membership provides throughout the year. The final piece to this conference is an optional excursion planned for the evening of day two to Bright Leaf Vineyards. For an additional fee, participants can enjoy snacks and an open wine bar while networking with conference attendees.

Mark your calendars, and visit the conference page at <https://csi.connselmer.com/csi/northeast> to register now! Lodging information is provided on the landing page. We hope to see you all there!

Summer Conference Wednesday, August 14th	
8:00-8:50 MUSIC EDUCATORS: SHEPHERDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TO ARTISTRY <i>Tim Lautzenheiser</i>	
9:00-9:50 Band Together - Composing With Your Ensembles <i>Kristen Gilbert</i>	9:00-9:50 BACK TO THE FUTURE- If I Only Knew Then, What I Know Now! <i>Dr. Paula Crider</i>
10:00-11:00 Reading Band TBA	10:00-10:50 Strategies for Empowering and Promoting Ensemble Community <i>Daniel Cook</i>
11:00-12:30 Lunch On Your Own	
12:30-1:20 Elementary and MS band roundtable: Recruit, Retain, Reward, Revive, Renew <i>Meghan Cabral</i>	12:30-1:20 Prep for your Rep <i>Beth Fabrizio</i>
1:30-2:20 Let's Rock! Enhancing Your Music Program with Modern Band <i>Sandra Braeutigam</i> <i>Laura Del Rosso</i>	1:30-2:20 Finding the Middle Ground: Intermediate (and outstanding) Repertoire for Bands <i>Aaron Staebell</i>
3:00-5:00 Directors Band <i>Dr. Paula Crider</i>	3:00-3:50 Maestro Mentality: The Conductor as Coach <i>Benjamin Rochford</i>
	4:00-4:50 Recruitment and Retention: Get Them and Keep Them! <i>Erin Cole Steele</i>
Optional Excursion Bright Leaf Vinyard	

Summer Conference Thursday, August 15th	
Track A	Track B
8:30-9:20 Reframing Walter Beeler's pedagogy for today's band director <i>Aaron Burgess</i>	
9:30-10:20 MAKING THE MOST OF OUR REHEARSAL TIME! <i>Tim Lautzenheiser</i>	9:30-10:20 Commissioning Multi-Level Music for Students Grades 5-12 <i>Abby Ferri</i>
10:30-11:20 Hidden Gems <i>Dr. Paula Crider</i>	10:30-11:20 Suggesting a Spectrum: Shared and Differing Aspects of Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Modern Band <i>Tom Zlabinger</i>
Lunch 11:30 - 1:00	
1:00-2:00 Conn Selmer Artist Performance The Moanin' Frogs	
End of Conference Optional Post-Concert Gathering	



Who's Who?

Panelists and Clinicians at the 2024 Conn Selmer Institute Northeast

Tim Lautzenheiser



Tim Lautzenheiser serves as Senior Vice President of Education for Conn Selmer, Inc. His career spans ten years of college band directing at Northern Michigan University, the University of Missouri, and New Mexico State University. After serving as Executive Director of Bands of America, he created Attitude Concepts, Inc. to accommodate the many requests for student leadership workshops, convention speaking and professional development presentations for educators. Tim's books, produced by G.I.A. Publications, are best-sellers in the music profession. He is also co-author of Hal Leonard's popular band method, Essential Elements.

Paula Crider

Paula A. Crider, Professor Emerita, The University of Texas, is an internationally recognized guest conductor, lecturer, clinician and adjudicator. She has enjoyed engagements in 47 states and 9 foreign countries. Dr. Crider is Past President of the National Band Association and The American Bandmasters' Association. She serves as Senior Educational Consultant for Conn-Selmer, Inc., has served as Director of Music for the London's New Years Day Parade, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Midwest Clinic. Awards and honors include: The Distinguished Service to Music Award, two "Eyes of Texas" Awards for distinguished teaching, Phi Beta Mu International Hall of Fame, the Sudler Legion of Merit, Texas Bandmaster of the Year, and the Midwest Medal of Honor.



Beth A. Fabrizio



Beth A. Fabrizio holds a Bachelor of Music from the Eastman School of Music in Clarinet Performance and a Master of Music in Conducting, Education and Performance from Ithaca College. She has studied conducting with Rodney Winther and Dr. Donald Hunsberger and Clarinet with Michael Webster, Richard Waller, Stanley Hasty, William Osseck, Carmine Campione and performed in master classes with Richard Stoltzman.

Ms. Fabrizio maintains a private clarinet studio with numerous students pursuing careers in music education, therapy, recording and performance. She herself performed as the principal clarinetist and personnel manager with The Greater Rochester Music Educators Wind

Ensemble, and former Eb clarinet with The Perinton Concert Band. Beth is a freelance performer and is an active artist/ clinician for The D’Addario Corporation and educational clinician with the Conn-Selmer Corporation. She has just recently retired after 36 years as a public-school educator, and most recently from The Hilton Central School District as a director of Bands at Village Elementary. Beth is also presenting educational clinics and workshops thru Fabrizio’s Musical Concepts. Ms. Fabrizio is a charter member of the 2022 Chi Chapter in New York State of Phi Beta Mu Fraternity and its current President.

Ms. Fabrizio has conducted various honor bands and given master classes and clinics across the United States, Europe and Asia. She has taught marching bands and drum and bugle corps for over thirty years. Ms. Fabrizio has been the brass caption head with The Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps, brass coordinator with The Pride of Soka from Tokyo, Japan, brass staff with Boston Crusaders, The Glassmen and Spirit of Atlanta. Beth adjudicates for DCI, WGI, BOA and numerous other state associations.

Daniel Cook



Daniel Cook is delighted to be joining the Ithaca College community as Director of Bands and Conductor of the historic Ithaca College Wind Ensemble. He comes to IC from the University of North Texas faculty, where he conducts the Wind Ensemble, teaches courses in wind band literature, graduate and undergraduate conducting, and serves as Director of Athletic Bands. In this capacity, he is proud to lead the 435-member Green Brigade Marching Band. Cook earned Doctor of Musical Arts with program honors and Master of Music degrees in conducting from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where he studied with Dr. Mallory Thompson. He graduated magna cum laude with the Bachelor of Music degree in music education from the University of Georgia

in Athens. There, he was also recognized as a Theodore Presser Scholar.

Cook's ensemble performances have received acclaim, most recently by such composers as Bryant, Daugherty, Del Tredici, Gotkovsky, Higdon, and Schwantner. Ensembles under his direction have performed at the Florida and Texas state music conferences, Bands of America events, the Texas UIL State contest, as well as at the Music for All National Concert Band Festival. The UNT Wind Ensemble has won first-place recognition for the collegiate American Prize in Wind Ensemble Performance. In addition to his work at UNT, Cook is honored to have held educational positions with the award-winning Dallas Brass Band and Santa Clara Vanguard.

Cook is an active clinician, adjudicator, speaker, and guest conductor. His lecture interests focus on the adaptation of trends in positive psychology to enhance the efficacy of music classroom instruction, and he has delivered talks regarding these topics at state conventions, band director association gatherings, and at the Midwest Clinic. Cook has also participated in prestigious masterclasses, such as the inaugural Reynolds Conducting Institute at the Midwest Clinic, and as a winner/invited conductor for the Young Conductor/Mentor Project sponsored by the National Band Association. He is published in the Teaching Music Through Performance in Band series.

Prior to graduate work, Cook began his career as a public-school band director in Florida, and ensembles under his direction received accolades for their achievements. He was a member of

the Florida Bandmasters Association and chaired numerous concert and marching band events. Additionally, Cook served as staff pianist and organist at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Daytona Beach.

His current professional affiliations include the Collegiate Band Directors National Association, National Association for Music Education, National Band Association, New York State School Music Association, Kappa Kappa Psi, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

Erin Cole Steele

Erin Cole Steele is the Director of the Division of Education and Senior Educational Consultant for Conn Selmer, Inc. Prior to joining Conn Selmer, Erin had a successful career as the Director of Bands at Tapp Middle School in Cobb County Georgia for 22 years. Under her leadership, the Tapp Band had many honors included being selected to perform at the 58th annual Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, Illinois in December of 2004. While at Tapp, Erin commissioned four pieces of music for the band including Robert W. Smith's "The Great Locomotive Chase", Frank Ticheli's "Simple Gifts – Four Shaker Songs". Samuel R. Hazo's "Ascend" and was part of a consortium of directors to commission Eric Whitacre's "The Seal Lullaby". Erin has written chapters for three editions of the GIA publication series Teaching Music Through Performance and is currently a contributing editor for Hal Leonard's Essential Elements method book and interactive website team. Erin is currently in high demand as a guest conductor for honor and all-state bands across the country as well as a clinician and presenter for music conferences all over the world.



Aaron Burgess



Aaron S. Burgess is a dynamic conductor and music educator with close ties to the collegiate, public school, and community music arenas. He has been lauded for his exuberant and evocative performances and his collaborative approach to ensemble music making and administration. Mr. Burgess is assistant professor of music education at Ithaca College where he teaches courses in instrumental music

Mr. Burgess has collaborated from the podium with many artists and composers and has commissioned and premiered many new works for winds, strings, and percussion, guest conducted a wide array of ensembles and honor bands, and presented on topics pertaining to conducting and instrumental music education. His work in recent years includes appointments as conductor of the Ithaca College Symphonic Band and the acclaimed Ithaca College Trombone Troupe, music director of the Auburn Chamber Orchestra, resident conductor of the Ithaca New Music Collective, and conductor and faculty member for the Ithaca College Summer Music Academy. Prior to his arrival at Ithaca college, he served on the faculty in the Department of Music at the University of Connecticut and was music director and conductor of the Connecticut Wind Ensemble, an ensemble of professional and collegiate musicians. Mr. Burgess has extensive experience as a public school instrumental music teacher, having served as director of bands in the Southern Cayuga Central Schools (NY), junior high band director in the Trumansburg Central School District (NY), director of bands at Edwin O. Smith High School (CT), and director of bands at Rocky Hill High School, Myrtle Stevens Elementary School, and West Hill Elementary School (CT). His work as a public school music educator includes ensemble and instrumental instruction at all grade levels, elective music courses, competitive marching band, and music program administration.

Mr. Burgess is an honorary member of several professional and honor organizations and has held numerous leadership roles in the Connecticut Music Educators Association including co-chair of the Connecticut All-State Festival. He holds a Master of Music degree in wind conducting from Ithaca College and Bachelor's degrees in music and education from the University of Connecticut.

Meghan Cabral

Meghan Cabral is currently the District Director of Music for the Carmel Central School district. Previously, Meghan spent 15 years teaching elementary and middle school band. Meghan stays active as an author for Music Education Publications including NAFME's Teaching Music, Instrumentalist Magazine, Music Educator's Journal, The Instrumentalist, School Band and Orchestra Magazine (SBO), as well as on many blogs such as NAFME's online blog, Band Director's Talk Shop, as well as Smart Music's online blog. In addition to her article contributions Meghan was a 2017 Grammy Music Educator Semifinalist.



Meghan Cabral is the K-12 Chairperson of Music for the Carmel Central School District in NY.

Meghan conducts the Carmel HS Wind Ensemble and Concert Band. She is an active guest conductor, clinician, presenter, as well as author for music publications. Meghan has presented at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, NYSSMA, CMEA, NJMEA, as well as many other local and regional conferences.

<http://www.meghancabral.com/>

Holly McCoy



Holly McCoy is the Band Director at Henninger High School in the Syracuse City School District in Syracuse, NY. She has 27 years of teaching experience which include teaching in the Instrumental, Vocal and General Music settings. Holly directs the Henninger High School Concert Band, Marching Band, Jazz Band and is also the Director of the NEW Pride of Syracuse City School Field Band.

Holly serves as a Brass Adjudicator for NYSSMA. She also is the New York State Band Directors Association's Treasurer and is the New York State Representative for Women Band Directors Association. Holly has presented at NYSSMA conferences, NAFME (Eastern Division) Conference, MidWest Clinic and other local workshops on subjects that include urban education, classroom management, personalized learning, mentorship and brass and percussion. Holly has had the honor of conducting at a variety of County and City Band Festivals throughout New York State. She has spent her time on the other side of the podium by performing on the horn with the Central Winds (a Music Educators'

Wind Ensemble), Syracuse University Brass, other various community groups and for local school musicals.

Holly enjoys spending time creating, making and talking music with all musicians and is truly thankful for her experiences that this CSI Northeast/NYSBDA Conference will bring.

Aaron Staebell

Aaron Staebell hails from Buffalo, NY and has lived in Rochester, NY since 2001. Having earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Staebell is an in-demand performer, clinician, and composer both locally and nationwide.

Staebell is active as both a drummer and percussionist. He has played with Bob Brookmeyer, Maria Schneider, Tony Malaby, Rick Braun, and Wycliffe Gordon, and is a member of the Brownman Electric Trio (Toronto, CA). He also spent time as the drummer for the hip-hop syndicate “Gruvasylum” featuring Mad Dukez and for jazz vocalist Madeline Forster.

Staebell composes all of the music for Bending and Breaking, his quintet of improvisers. His debut album was released in June 2011 and was met with outstanding reviews. His playing can be heard on two other releases: an album by trumpeter Dave Chisholm called “Instrumental” and Ben Thomas’s “Endless Mountain Regions,” featuring free jazz legend Tony Malaby.

Since 2008, he has been the Composer-in-Residence for the West Shore Central Schools (Harrisburg, PA) “Day of Percussion” and previously held that title at Fairport High School (Rochester, NY). His self-published book, *Alternative Solos for Snare Drum*, makes use of contemporary techniques, notation, and sounds within the snare drum solo repertoire.

He is also active as an educator and lecturer around the region and the country. He has been on staff for the WGI “A class” finalist Hilton Indoor Percussion, and previously held the teaching assistant position at Eastman for the Jazz Drumset studio.



Benjamin Rochford



Benjamin Rochford joined the Ithaca College School of Music in 2016 and currently serves as the Associate Director of Bands. At IC, Rochford conducts the Wind Symphony and Concert Band and teaches courses in instrumental conducting and brass pedagogy. Prior to his appointment at Ithaca College, Mr. Rochford was a Doctoral Conducting Associate and PhD candidate at the University of Florida and also served as Director of Bands at the Valley Grove

School District in Franklin, Pennsylvania. While at the University of Florida, his responsibilities included directing the UF Concert Band, assisting with the athletic bands, and teaching courses in conducting, music education, jazz improvisation, jazz history, and philosophy. In addition, Mr. Rochford managed marketing and promotional materials for the band department and assisted with the UF Wind Symphony and Jazz Band.

Mr. Rochford completed a bachelors degree in Music Education from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania and a Masters degree in Instrumental Conducting from Youngstown State University in Ohio. Mr. Rochford's primary conducting influences include Dr. David Waybright, Dr. Stephen Gage, Dr. Adam Brennan, and Dr. Nathan Rinnert. Mr. Rochford has also participated in conducting symposiums with Ray Cramer, Tom Leslie, Robert Garofalo, and Ed Lisk, Rodney Dorsey and participated in Beethoven conducting master classes with Svilen Simeonov, director of the Sofia Sinfonietta in Bulgaria. He recently was a participant in a conducting presentation by Craig Kirchoff at the South Eastern CBDNA conference in Charleston, SC.

Mr. Rochford served as Director of Bands at the Valley Grove School District in Pennsylvania where he was responsible for overseeing the entire 5-12 instrumental music program. At Valley Grove, Mr. Rochford directed the district's athletic bands, jazz combo, and elementary, middle, and high school bands. He hosted and managed the PMEA District III Jazz Festival in 2012. He has also given presentation in Pennsylvania, New York, and Florida on a variety of topics including jazz improvisation, rehearsal techniques, student motivation, and authentic student self assessment within the paradigm of Harvard Project Zero and Arts PROPEL.

Mr. Rochford is an active free lance trumpet player and has performed with the Erie Philharmonic, Venango Chamber Orchestra, Franklin Silver Cornet Band, and various jazz groups. Mr. Rochford has toured across the United States with wind bands and has performed at Carnegie Hall. Recently, he performed with he American Chamber Winds throughout Italy and Switzerland. He has also performed with a number of notable jazz musicians including Bobby Shew, Wycliffe Gordon, Dennis DiBlasio, George Rabbi, Michael Davis, Dave Pietro, Ingrid Jensen, Ryan Kisor, and Chris Vidala.

Mr. Rochford's professional affiliations include the National Association for Music Education, National Education Association, Florida Music Education Association, Florida Bandmasters

Association, New York State School Music Education Association, New York State Band Directors Association, Jazz Education Network, and the International Trumpet Guild. He was elected into the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society in 2012.

Miles DeCastro

Miles DeCastro is the instrument repair technician at The Crane School of Music, State University of New York at Potsdam, where he teaches courses in instrument repair technology and is responsible for the repairs, maintenance, and inventory of over 1,200 instruments. Outside of Crane he also runs his own woodwind specialty shop called North Country Winds. Prior to joining Crane in July of 2016, he was the general manager at Bridgepoint Music in Menlo Park, CA from 2012-2016, where he led the company to four consecutive NAMM Top 100 Dealer Awards.

Prof. DeCastro has been an active member of the National Association of Professional Band Instrument Repair Technicians since 2007. He recently completed his third term as president of NAPBIRT and has presented clinics on the topic of instrument repair technology in 20 states and three continents.

Miles is a Straubinger Certified Technician, Yamaha Certified Sales Professional, graduate of the Yamaha Service Advantage Program, and he has studied instrument repair and design with Morrie Backun. He serves on the Vendors' Forum Committee of The International Clarinet

Association and is also a member of NAFME, NAMM, and NASA (the saxophone one, not the outer space one).

Miles holds a degree in Music Education from Mansfield University, a Certificate in Band Instrument Repair Technology from Renton Technical College, and an MBA from Clarkson University.



Laura Del Rosso



Laura Del Rosso (she/they) is the Modern Band Director at Lower Manhattan Community Middle School in the New York City Department of Education. They are the founding co-director of the Salute to Music All-City Modern Band and served as the inaugural Modern Band Ensemble Chair for the 2024 Zone 12 Jr. High Area All-State Festival. Passionate about connecting and supporting music teachers all over the city, Laura is one of the NYC Ambassadors for Music Will and works closely with the DOE Arts Office as a Lead Music Teacher for Manhattan. She has presented at the New York State School Music Association Winter Conference, the Modern Band Summit, and as part of the Citywide Professional Learning Team on topics such as expanding access to popular music education

and equitable teaching practices. They facilitate their school's Gender and Sexuality Alliance and is a member of the NYC District 2 Equity Leaders Cohort. Laura is a classically trained clarinetist and taught marching band and private woodwind lessons for a number of years before moving to NYC. She holds a B.A. and M.S. in Music Education from Syracuse University and is currently a master's candidate in School Building and District Administration at Hunter College.

Abby Ferri

Abby Ferri is in her 4th year teaching 4th/5th Grade Band at Washington Irving Intermediate School in the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns. In addition to teaching 4/5th Grade Band, Abby co-teaches the WI jazz band and conducts the high school pit orchestra. In 2022, Abby was selected from among band directors across the state to conduct at the New York State Band Directors Association Conducting Symposium with clinician Jack Stamp. Also a flutist, Abby was a member of the Hudson Valley Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and performed the 50th Anniversary of Karel Husa's *Music for Prague*, with the Ithaca College Wind Ensemble at Lincoln Center in 2019. Abby completed her BM in Music Education at Ithaca College and is currently in the MM Performance - Concentration in Conducting Program at Montclair State University in the conducting studio of Dr. Thomas McCauley. When she is not getting an adrenaline rush from conducting music, she loves to ski double-black slopes in Vermont.



Dr. Michael Francis Smith



Michael Francis Smith is an American composer, songwriter, educator and curriculum consultant with 23 years of experience as a K-12 Music Department Chair in two Massachusetts school districts. With a passion for music education, he has presented at prestigious events such as the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago and Music Educator State Conferences in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New York. In August 2024, he will be presenting at the Conn Selmer Institute (CSI) Northeast Conference in Ithaca, New York.

Currently, Dr. Smith is dedicated to nurturing young musicians in Grades 3-5 at the new Intermediate School in Bourne, Massachusetts. His innovative programs, “It’s Time to Play (A Band Instrument)” and “It’s Time to Play (The Recorder),” accelerate student learning and enhance literacy as students sing and play a diverse repertoire of songs. Through his groundbreaking approach, known as “Eleven Leaps to Literacy,” Dr. Smith bridges the gap between General Music and Instrumental Music, unlocking each student’s full potential.

Smith’s music is celebrated for its unifying, uplifting, and accessible nature. Featuring shared melodies and countermelodies across all instruments and voices, it creates an engaging musical experience. His compositions are praised for their intricate yet approachable sound, transcending barriers with their dynamic appeal.

Kathryn Spangler

Dr. Spangler is the Director of Bands for the Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation where she manages all aspects of the instrumental music program. She earned a Doctor of Arts in Music Education and Educational Psychology from Ball State University and is an active clinician, adjudicator, performer, and guest conductor. With twenty six years of experience teaching in urban, rural, k-12, and collegiate environments, Dr. Spangler is a sought after clinician. Dr. Spangler earned her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music Performance and Music Education from Butler University. Her research is focused on developing a culture of SEL in diverse classrooms and student motivation. When she is not teaching, Dr. Spangler enjoys playing saxophone with the Indiana Wind Symphony, the Indianapolis Saxophone Quartet, and the Excalibur Brass Band.



Micah Sprague

Micah Sprague



Micah Sprague is a band director at Sleepy Hollow Middle-High School in the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns. Originally from Sayville, NY, he began his teaching career at Center Moriches High School after graduating with his Bachelors of Music from Boston University. He then moved to the Hudson Valley and has been teaching at Sleepy Hollow since 2004.

During his time in Sleepy Hollow, Mr. Sprague has directed bands from 6th through 12th grade, Jazz Band from 4th through 12th grade, taught music theory and served for 10 years as department chair for the performing arts. His current role includes directing 6th grade band, high school wind ensemble, elementary jazz band, teaching AP music theory, and producing the dramatic arts program. His ensembles have regularly received accolades at festivals including both the SHHS Jazz Band and SHHS Wind

Ensemble achieving gold with distinction ratings at NYSSMA majors.

Mr. Sprague has been very involved in all aspects of music education during his career, with a focus on middle school education. In 2019, he was appointed conductor of the Youth Wind Ensemble of Westchester, Junior Winds. This ensemble explores wind ensemble repertoire and performance techniques for middle school students from across Westchester and Putnam Counties. Mr. Sprague is a founder of the Musicworks program in Tarrytown and continues to serve on the advisory board as the primary administrator of the program. Musicworks, in partnership with the Union Church of Pocantico Hills, provides virtually free private lessons to high achieving music students that could otherwise not afford them. He was also a founding member of the Rivertowns Middle School Music Festival in 2008, which provides high level ensemble performance opportunities to middle school band and orchestra students in Ossining, Sleepy Hollow, Croton and Peekskill.

For 16 years, Mr. Sprague played french horn and was associate conductor of the Hudson Valley Wind Ensemble. This community ensemble is in residence at Sleepy Hollow High School providing both community performances and performance opportunities for high achieving high school students. He is an active member in NYSBDA, NYSSMA WCALE, and WCSMA; presenting at conferences, chairing the Up-County Solo Festival, conducting honor bands, and serving on the board of directors. Mr. Sprague is proud to be a third-generation public school educator and second-generation band director. He currently lives in Mahopac with his two children Clara and Colin, and wonderful wife Alison.

Additional clinicians include: **Kristen Gilbert, Sondra Braeutigam, Mackenzie Bufis, and David Earll.**

NYSBDA Membership Application (2023-2024)

Please make all checks payable to: **New York State Band Director's Association** Please mail to:



NYSBDA
c/o Treasurer
210 Park Street
Sherrill, NY 13461

Active Membership: \$85.00 (\$75 if paid by 10/15/2023)
Student Membership: \$10.00
Retired Membership: \$30.00
Donation: Commission Project..... _____
Donation: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Project..... _____
Total Enclosed: _____

(Please note: All NYSBDA memberships run concurrently from September 1st through August 31st of each academic year.)

Name: _____
Home Address: _____
Home City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
School/Business: _____
School/Business Address: _____
School City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Office Phone: _____ School County: _____
Grade Level (if school): _____ Major instrument: _____

**NYSBDA is always looking for ideas for upcoming conferences and area clinics.
Please share your thoughts and ideas below.**

If you are a new member, please visit www.NYSBDA.org to create an online account by registering and selecting "pay by mail" as the method of payment.

If you are a returning member, please renew your account online and select "pay by mail" as the method of payment. Please make sure that your account information is up-to-date on the website, so we can keep in touch with you.

Contact Jessica Williamson with any questions (membershipinfo@nysbda.org)

