

# Band Stand

The Official Newsletter of the New York State Band Directors Association



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# Band Stand

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***Editor’s Note:***

Wow! What a year! What a summer! After this school year, the summer was much needed. It was filled with fun memories with family and friends. Something that has made going back to work easier this year was the CSI Summit. The new partnership with CSI and NYSBDA made an incredible few days in Ithaca that made you feel rejuvenated and full of fresh ideas for the new school year. NYSBDA is already coming up with plans for the summit and while I can’t say anything yet, I am so ecstatic for these opportunities to come! I am so grateful to be a part of an organization that is committed to being a great resource for those wanting to become a better teacher, and for the opportunities it is creating for students. This year when things get tough, let us go forth with love and gratitude in our hearts because it makes every day that much better.

Best Wishes for a Wonderful School Year,  
 Hilary Boyer  
 Bandstand Editor  
 bandstand@nysbda.org

# From the Podium

By Andrew Pease, NYSBDA President



The new school year is here, and with it, new students, new opportunities, and new challenges. I know that many of you are ready for anything, though, based on the WILDLY successful conference that we had in Ithaca this summer. As I write this, I am still giddy from everything that went so RIGHT in our partnership with Ithaca College and the Conn Selmer Institute, from the outstanding sessions, to the amazing fun of Paula Crider and the Director's Band, to the incredible Moanin' Frogs, to the genuine camaraderie we all felt amongst each other. And of course, the natural beauty of the Finger Lakes region is unmatched - those of us who attended the evening excursion got to experience that in full! None of this would have been possible without our outstanding partners in both organizations, particularly the Ithaca band team of Daniel Cook, Ben Rochford, and Aaron Burgess, as well as Erin Cole Steele and Beth Horton from Conn Selmer. We owe extra special thanks to our own First Vice President, Corey Riley. He began his position as our previous summer conference disappeared, and he immediately started generating new solutions. His endless ideas and energy resulted in this terrific conference. The NYSBDA board and our partners were all smiles at the end of the experience, so we are thrilled to announce that it will happen again next summer! Look for those dates to appear in the coming weeks.

I am also thrilled to announce that NYSBDA has adjusted its region map by adding two new regions. Region 10 will serve Suffolk County on Long Island, represented by Christina Helbock from Brentwood, leaving Nassau County on its own in Region 8. Region 11 will consist of Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, and Columbia Counties, represented by William Tonissen from White Plains. This will leave the western portion of the Lower Hudson Valley in Region 7 with Nicole Redeker, including Rockland, Orange, Sullivan, Ulster, and Greene Counties. (Region 8 currently has no representation, but look for that to change in the near future!) In every region throughout the state, look for professional development and connection opportunities. Many of the regions either host their own workshops (e.g. Region 1 on October 17) or work within Area All States, so be on the lookout for something near you this year. And if you have an idea for something that would benefit other NYSBDA members, contact your region rep! They are all listed among the officers in this issue.

This Band Stand contains important information about our High School and Middle School Honor Bands, as well as a call for proposals for the upcoming Symposium, March 7-9, 2025 in Syracuse. There are many other exciting projects in the works. To hear about them, reach out to a board member, or visit our booth at the NYS-SMA Winter Conference in Rochester this December. We will have our Equity Score Library on display, and we will be introducing three sessions at the conference. Also consider whether you would like to serve NYSBDA as a board member. Our next elections happen at the Symposium, so contact me if you are interested in serving on the best band board in the whole darn world. It's possible I'm a little biased, but the entire NYSBDA board is just a dream to work with. Anticipated openings include Treasurer, First Vice President (Summer Conference coordinator), and more, so please do not hesitate to reach out.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Rochester. May your bands be curious, engaged, balanced, and FULL until then!

Andy Pease  
NYSBDA President  
nysbdapresident@nysbda.org

# Conn Selmer Institute Northeast “Wrap Up”

By Corey Riley, *NYSBDA 1st Vice President*



It has been close to a year of work that began with the devastating cancellation of a storied conference and culminated in the maiden voyage of a magical event. When one door closes it provides us an opportunity to look for new doors to open. As we walked away from the conference we attendees were filled with excitement and the whispers of endless possibilities heading into the future swirling through the air. The first annual Conn Selmer Institute Northeast is a wrap!

I would like to thank the board of the New York State Band Directors Association for their support and hard work. The professional development provided by our members across the state was phenomenal and well received. I continue to be inspired by the ideas of music educators in the state of New York.

I want to thank Daniel Cook, the Director of Bands at Ithaca College for being such a gracious host and partner. His vision of what this event could be became a reality because of his ability to connect all of the pieces and do the work. He has only been in NY for a year and is already creating waves of energy that will only build over time. I was so grateful to paddle into that wave this year and to help create something beautiful with him. A huge thank you to those on his team that helped with the planning of this event Aaron Burgess and Benjamin Rochford. Ithaca College was both an ideal location and a picturesque destination.

One of those pieces that Daniel Cook helped connect was the Education Division of Conn Selmer headed by Erin Brodie Cole Steele. She is a powerhouse and we are so lucky to have had the opportunity to partner with her and her team. This event was set up for success because of the support of Conn Selmer Education and Erin’s leadership. The talent, experience, and knowledge brought into our state by their clinicians will make an immediate impact on our programs.



# Conn Selmer Institute Northeast “Wrap Up”

*Continued*

Dr. Paula Crider set the tone for the event as our keynote speaker and kicked it off with her presentation, **In Praise of Teachers**. She also provided three other sessions, **Beyond the Notes**, entering into that rare atmosphere where truly meaningful music making is possible, **Back to the Future - If I Only Knew Then, What I Know now!**, a look back on her university years, sharing a wealth of knowledge gleaned through the school of hard knocks, epiphanies and from caring and inspiring teachers, and **Hidden Gems**, a reading session focused on lesser known literature that she is passionate about.



Reading Band Literature

While many things changed from past Summer Conferences, one thing we were dedicated to keeping is the Director’s Band. Dr. Paula Crider and attendees had the opportunity to rehearse and commune in Ford Hall, which was a beautiful space filled by a group larger than I have ever seen at Summer Conference. All in all 32 pieces were read at the conference, which you can view following the QR code included in this article. The opportunity to get our instruments out and make music together was a highlight of the event.

We had two additional reading band sessions lead by NYSBDA Members:

## “Recognizing Those How Have Been With Us All Along”

*Presented by Bradley Morrison*

The focus was on under-represented composers throughout history. Women and People of color have always been writing music. If we are going to honor their contributions to music we need to ensure that their music continues to be played.



# Conn Selmer Institute Northeast “Wrap Up”

*Continued*

## “Reading from Experience”

*Presented by Corey Riley, Amy Hoxie, Erin Cole, Jessica Williamson, Andy Pease, and Erin Althen*

In this reading session six presenters introduced one piece they feel passionate about and have rehearsed with an ensemble. The goal was for presenters to communicate information about the composer, highlight compositional techniques to focus on in rehearsal, and share wins and struggles their ensembles experienced throughout the rehearsal process.

The curriculum for the event was mindfully curated to address a wide range of topics, including presenters from the Conn Selmer team, the Ithaca College team, our NYSBDA Membership, and folks traveling in from across the region.



Day 1:

**Holly McCoy** presented a roundtable: Warming Up To Each Other fostering a discussion of warm-ups and other Rehearsal Techniques. **Daniel Cook** gave a presentation on musical artistry offering a tangible model for teaching expression and musicality. **Miles DeCastro** shared all of his tricks for surviving a concert day woodwind repair emergency. **Dr. Michael Francis Smith** presented on Strategies for Enhancing Retention in Beginning Band and Onward. **Beth Fabrizio** gave a hands-on demonstration of warm-ups and fundamental exercises for flute, clarinet and saxophone and how they will upgrade the sound of your ensembles. **Mackenzie Bufis and Patty Sampson with The Elephant Alliance** shined a light on an important conversation around sexual abuse in music education, providing strategies to improve learning environments and prevent the abuse of students.

Day 2:

**Beth Fabrizio** presented on selecting our repertoire for band/ small ensembles and solo instruments, always a challenge from year to year. **Kris Gilbert** shared ideas on composing with young ensembles. **Benjamin Rochford** spoke about the similarities between a conductor and a coach, exploring the blend of artistry and strategy to lead your ensemble and team towards excellence. **Sondra Braeutigam and Laura Del Rosso** gave an exciting clinic



# Conn Selmer Institute Northeast “Wrap Up”

*Continued*



on how to start a culturally-relevant and standards-based modern band that closed with a jam session involving attendees. **Aaron Staebell** shared with us literature for intermediate bands that are often overlooked, but great tools for teaching, engagement, and performance.

Day 3:

**Tom Zlabinger, Kris Gilbert, and Kevin Heathwood** introduced the concept of a spectrum that includes concert band, jazz band, and modern band, discussing the similarities and differences and how to transfer the experience and knowledge from one to another. **Erin Cole** led a conversation around recruitment and retention that included strategies that work and we can build on and strategies that do not work that we can learn from. **Abby Ferri and Micah** shared their project commissioning a multi-level piece for students grades 5-12, creating a new work that can be played by multiple grade levels combined or independently as a stand alone piece. **Aaron Burgess** gave a presentation on reframing Walter Beelers

pedagogy for today’s band director connecting us to Ithaca College’s rich history and what we can learn from it.

One aspect of the Summer Conference in which we received feedback on how to improve with this redesign was additional time for collegiality, family, and adventure. The ability to hold CSI Northeast in Ithaca opened so many doors to improve on that aspect of our experience. In line with those requests, we organized our first excursion to a local winery, **Brightleaf Vineyards**. With gorgeous views, good wine, and even better company, it was an incredible way to unwind and connect after day two of the conference.



# Conn Selmer Institute Northeast “Wrap Up”

*Continued*

**The Moanin’ Frogs!** closed out the conference with an unforgettable performance. Their artistry, creativity, and entertainment chops left us all walking away on a high note. From a wild version of Bohemian Rhapsody, to a bass saxophonist riding a unicycle as they performed as the soloist on Queen of the Night, from Magic Flute, their performance was certainly a highlight of the event.



As we wrap-up the 2024 Summer Conference, The Conn Selmer Institute Northeast, we are eager to hear from attendees on how we can improve future events. You can find a QR code to the post event survey below. I want to send a heartfelt thank you to our members who place their trust in NYSBDA to provide meaningful professional development to its members each year. We strive to continually bring value to the membership of our organization and we believe that together, organized, we can do great things for bands in New York State, for students in New York State, and for band directors across this great state. We hope to see you at our Symposium in March and at next year’s Conn Selmer Institute Northeast.

Have a great start to your school year!

Sincerely,

Corey Riley



CSI Northeast  
Post Event Survey



# Seen at CSI Summit



# Commission News!



NYSBDA is proud to announce that we are reinstating our Commission Project. NYSBDA has a great history of commissioning works from new and established composers for wind band music. While this program has been on hiatus since before COVID, we're proud to announce that we are back, and back strong!

Our next commission will be with Randall Standridge. Randall will be writing a level 5 work for Concert Band. By participating in the commission, you will receive an advance copy of the piece, and your ensemble and director names will be listed in the score of the piece. Participation in the commission is limited to 16 ensembles.

The piece will be composed and delivered to participating ensembles in December of 2025, and the piece will be premiered by the NYSBDA High School Honor band at the Symposium in the spring of 2026.

If you have any questions or would like to participate, please contact the NYSBDA Commission Chair, Bradley Morrison [bmorrison@ossiningufsd.org](mailto:bmorrison@ossiningufsd.org)

## NYSBDA Executive Board

2023–2024

President	Andrew Pease
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1st Vice President	Corey Riley
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Secretary	Genevieve Ruhland
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Region 6 Rep.	Alessandra Shellard
Region 7 Rep.	Nikki Redeker
Region 8 Rep.	
Region 9 Rep.	Stephen Souza
Region 10 Rep.	Christina Helbock
Region 11 Rep.	William Tonissen
At Large/HS HB	Bradley Hartman
At Large/MS HB	Omar Williams
At Large/HS JE	Austin Day
At Large	Chloe Elentári
Collegiate Chapter	Aidan Carney
Bandstand Editor	Hilary Boyer

# 2025 NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band Preview

*Omar Williams, Chairperson*



The 2025 NYSBDA Statewide Middle School Honor Band will rehearse and perform at the NYSBDA Symposium **March 7 & 8, 2025** at the DoubleTree and Embassy Suites in Syracuse, NY. Approximately 100 middle school musicians from New York State will be selected for the Honor Band.

Ms. Erin Cole Steele has accepted the invitation of the NYSBDA officers and executive board to guest conduct the NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band. We are ecstatic to welcome her energy and expertise at this year's Symposium.

After the cancellation of the 2020 NYSSMA Solo Festival, NYSBDA created an online application form which excluded the requirement for students to submit an adjudication form. We will continue to use this policy so it is NOT required to have participated in last year's NYSSMA festival in order to apply for the NYSBDA Honor Band this year. We are working toward greater inclusion, equity, and representation in our ensembles from around the state. Honor Band selection will be based on band director recommendation and the criteria submitted in the nomination application.

The first criterion of the Honor band is, "Wind and Percussion students who demonstrate outstanding musicianship, accomplishments and exceptional musical interest," and only recommend students who truly fit that description. Also, while we realize that plans change, please only nominate students who plan to participate, if selected.

**NEW:** NYSBDA will be doing nominations through Da Capo. You may be familiar with the program through nomination processes such as all-counties and area-all states in your region. This should be completed by the nominating band director. We are also asking that the 2025 Commitment Form be filled out and signed by the appropriate parties. We anticipate this to be included in the Da Capo program but in case of technical issues it may be necessary to upload a copy for each student who you nominate. The 2025 Commitment Form can be found here: [COMMITMENT FORM](#). It is assumed selected students will participate in Honor Band. **DO NOT** nominate students if they do not intend to participate or if there are any conflicts. A copy of the student's 2024 NYSSMA Solo Evaluation may be submitted with each application, if applicable. Teachers should write a recommendation based on the student's abilities. **Nominating Band Directors must be current or new members of NYSBDA in order to have students selected.** Any applications received from non-members or inactive NYSBDA members as of the application deadline will not be considered.

**The deadline for submitting online applications is Friday, October 25th**

Band directors will be **emailed** the names of students accepted or selected as alternates for the Middle School Honor Band by Tuesday, November 12th, 2024. An all-inclusive, non-refundable participation fee of \$275.00 per student is due by December 15, 2024. The \$275.00 participation fee includes: music, guest conductor, rehearsal/performance spaces, shared room, meals and an audio recording of the concert. In order to ensure the safety of all participating students,

# 2025 NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band Preview

*Continued*

NYSBDA Honor Band members are required to stay overnight on Friday at the Embassy Suites regardless of the proximity of their home to the hotel. Students will be housed two or three per room with chaperones and supervision provided by NYSBDA.

In addition, each school district with students participating in the Honor Band is expected to have an **authorized school chaperone** in attendance at the Symposium. Part of the responsibilities of the band directors, in addition to attending the Symposium, will be to actively participate in the student experience. All band directors will be asked to volunteer a few hours of their time during the Symposium to assist with supervisory duties of the Honor Band.

Students from the same school may not necessarily be assigned to the same hotel room and will need to stay overnight in the assigned room. Please make sure that students/parents are aware of this before applying for membership to the Honor Band.

Four meals, (Friday lunch, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and Saturday lunch) at the hotel are included in the participation fee.

Music will be sent to band directors at their school addresses for distribution to Honor Band members by **Thursday, January 2, 2025**. This will allow Honor Band members approximately nine weeks to thoroughly prepare their music prior to the first rehearsal.

The NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band will rehearse for approximately ten hours. Registration will take place the morning of Friday, March 7 from 10:30-11:30 AM (Percussionists from 10:00-10:30 AM). Rehearsals will commence after lunch and continue through the afternoon with breaks for sectionals and dinner. At the conclusion of rehearsal on Friday evening, the Honor Band will be provided with free time, an ice cream social, and attend the Friday night guest concert. On Saturday, the Honor Band will rehearse during the morning and afternoon in preparation for their afternoon concert, with breaks for lunch. The detailed schedule will be sent later this school year.

## **\*NEW EMAIL ADDRESS\***

Questions or concerns related to the NYSBDA Statewide Middle School Honor Band program should be directed to **Omar Williams, Middle School Honor Band Chairperson via email at [MSHB@nysbda.org](mailto:MSHB@nysbda.org)**.

Additional Middle School Honor Band information and forms are available via the NYSBDA website ([www.nysbda.org](http://www.nysbda.org)). Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding the NYSBDA Statewide Middle School Honor Band.

Musically Onward,

Omar Williams  
Chairperson  
NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band

# Middle School Honor Band

## Conductor and Bio

Erin Cole Steele is the Director of the Division of Education and Senior Educational Clinician for Conn Selmer Inc. In addition, she is an Academic Associate at Arizona State University's School of Music, Dance, and Theatre. Previously, Erin was the Director of Bands at Tapp Middle School in Cobb County, Georgia (1995-2017) where she was named Teacher of the Year. Under her leadership, the Tapp Band received numerous accolades including performing at the 58th annual Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. During her tenure at Tapp MS, she commissioned four pieces of music 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 commissioning Eric Whitacre's "The Seal Lullaby."



Erin is a contributing editor for Hal Leonard's Essential Elements for Band. She has written chapters for three editions of the GIA publication series Teaching Music Through Performance and most recently wrote a chapter for the book Rehearsing the Middle School Band by Stephen Meyer.

Erin is an active guest conductor and speaker. She has presented sessions at the Midwest Clinic on several occasions as well as state and international conferences. She has served as the guest conductor for numerous All-State and regional honor bands, appearing in over 30 states. She served as the conductor for Youth Bands of Atlanta from 2011-2017 and a conductor for the "Encore" Music Camp for several years. She was the founder and administrator of the Cobb County Summer Band Camp in Georgia. Erin has served as a clinician for the Music for All Summer Symposium and is currently on the teaching faculty and executive director for The Conn Selmer Institute.

Erin Cole Steele earned her bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Georgia in 1995. While at the University of Georgia, she played cello, flute, and piccolo in the University Symphony Orchestra, chamber groups, Symphonic and Concert Bands, and the Redcoat Marching Band. Erin's professional affiliations include Phi Beta Mu, Sigma Alpha Iota, and the National Band Association from whom she was awarded the Citation of Excellence three times (2015, 2008, and 2003).

As a passionate supporter of school music programs, she continues to remain active in instrumental classrooms throughout the country and enjoys traveling for guest conducting and speaking engagements. Erin now resides in Scottsdale, Arizona where she and her husband Andrew enjoy hiking and biking on the weekends.

# 2025 NYSBDA High School Honor Band Preview

*Brad Hartman, Chairperson*



The 2025 NYSBDA Symposium will be held on March 7 - 9, 2025 in Syracuse, NY. Approximately 120 student musicians, grades 9 – 12 from across the state, will be selected for the Honor Concert Band. This year, we are thrilled to have Mr. James Dragovich as our conductor.

*Who is eligible?* You can nominate any of your deserving students, grades 9 – 12, who performed a NYSSMA level V, VI, or All-State solo during the 2022-2023 school year for the High School Honor Band. Students that have already been selected for a 2023 NYSSMA All-State instrumental group ARE NOT eligible. One of the goals of the Honor Band is to provide an additional All-State level experience to the many eligible and worthy student musicians that are not selected for NYSSMA All-State. The NYSBDA Officers and Executive Board encourage NYSBDA members to submit applications of students who are qualified and interested in achieving a wonderful musical experience. I invite any of my colleagues that have not yet nominated their deserving students to do so this year. I can guarantee you that your attendance at this symposium will be rewarding for both you and your selected students.

This year, after your valuable feedback and the amazing work of our Executive Board, we are pleased to share that we will be shifting to DaCapo for our Honor Band Registrations this year! More information on nominations will be forthcoming. **Nominating Band Directors must be current or new members of NYSBDA in order to have students selected.**

Questions related to the NYSBDA High School Honor Concert Band should be directed to [hshonorband@nysbda.org](mailto:hshonorband@nysbda.org). Thank you for your consideration and have a wonderful school year!

# High School Honor Band

## Conductor and Bio

Mr. Dragovich was a band director for the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools for thirty-three years, twenty-nine spent as

director of bands at George W. Hewlett High School. Under his direction, the Hewlett bands received numerous awards and recognitions. Both the Hewlett High School Wind Ensemble and Concert Band received gold ratings at NYSSMA Festivals, the Hewlett Marching Band received a first place award in the NYC Columbus Day Parade and the Hewlett Jazz Orchestra performed at many jazz festivals and conferences including the 2014

NYSSMA Winter Conference. All of his high school ensembles toured on a regular basis and performance destinations included Walt Disney World, Montreal and Quebec Canada, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Carnegie Hall and Puerto Rico. During his public school tenure Mr. Dragovich served as a cooperating teacher to over forty college students, all of whom are enjoying careers in music education.

Mr. Dragovich received his bachelor's degree in Music Education with a concentration in Percussion from Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus. Upon graduation Mr. Dragovich was offered a graduate assistantship to continue his studies at LIU, where he

graduated with a master's degree in Music Education. He went on to serve on the music faculty of LIU Post teaching percussion methods for thirteen years. Mr Dragovich also studied at Hofstra University where he received a master's degree in Wind Conducting. While attending Hofstra he served as the graduate conducting associate to both the Hofstra Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. Upon his graduation Mr. Dragovich joined the Hofstra faculty and taught both brass and percussion methods on the graduate and undergraduate level for nine years. As a conductor Mr. Dragovich has commissioned and conducted the world premieres of numerous works written for both symphonic band and jazz ensemble. Guest soloist with his ensembles include Stanley Drucker, Joseph Alessi, Mike Davis, Cecil Bridgewater, John Riley, Jack Schatz, Dave Pietro, Pete McGuinness, Jim Snidero and Mike Carubia, to name a few. As a performer Mr. Dragovich has always maintained an active schedule and has worked with many entertainers and jazz artists including Billy Eckstine, Jerry Vale, the Four Freshman, Clem DeRosa's Mighty Swing Machine, Ray Alexander and the Four Aces, in addition to various bands, orchestra and theater productions in the metropolitan region, including his own 17 piece jazz orchestra.



At present Mr. Dragovich is Director of Bands at Five Towns College where he directs the college wind ensemble and jazz orchestra. He also conducts the Nassau Suffolk Jazz Band, is an adjudicator for Music in the Parks, Festivals of Music and the Long Island Music Festival while serving as a guest clinician for Educational Tours, Inc. He is a member of the Board of Directors for Best Bands and Choirs International and the American Chamber Ensemble. Mr. Dragovich works as a BOCES Artist in Residence and serves as the state treasurer for the New York State Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society and is the percussion editor for the School Music News, a publication of NYS-SMA. He is also a co-director of Percussion on The Sound (POTS!) A pre-collegiate program for percussion students and presents a week-long residency each summer at Five Towns College. Mr. Dragovich continues to be in demand as a guest conductor, clinician and performer while maintaining his own teaching studio specializing in concert percussion, drum set, and instrumental conducting. He presently resides in Amity Harbor, NY with his wife Mindy where he enjoys cycling, gardening and being Izolda's grandpa!

# 2025 NYSBDA High School Honor Jazz Ensemble Preview

*Austin Day, Chairperson*



The 2025 NYSBDA High School Honor Jazz Ensemble will rehearse and perform during all three days of the Symposium to be held March 7, 8, and 9, 2025 in Syracuse, NY. Eighteen Grade 9-12 student jazz musicians from across New York State are expected to be selected for the Honor Jazz Ensemble, which will perform on Sunday 3/9/25 at 12:00 noon.

We are thrilled to announce that saxophonist and educator, **Steve Wilson**, has agreed to conduct the twentieth edition of our High School Honor Jazz Ensemble this coming March. Steve Wilson has brought his distinctive sound to more than 150 recordings and ensembles led by such celebrated artists as Chick Corea, Ron Carter, George Duke, Dave Holland, Michael Brecker, Dianne Reeves, Bill Bruford, Gerald Wilson, Joe Henderson, and Charlie Byrd among many others. He is regularly cited in the Downbeat Magazine Critics and Readers' Polls in the soprano and alto saxophone, and flute categories. Wilson is currently a touring member of Grammy-winning ensembles led by Christian McBride, Maria Schneider, Billy Childs, and Buster Williams. His work in film includes "Lulu On The Bridge" as artistic consultant to Harvey Keitel, and on soundtracks for the anime series "Cowboy Bebop." With nine recordings under his name, he leads two acclaimed quartets – Wilsonian's Grain and The Analog Band. Wilson is Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at City College of New York, and co-director of the Ravinia Steans Music Institute Program for Jazz.

For more information and a full bio, check out:

[www.stevewilsonmusic.com](http://www.stevewilsonmusic.com)

Selection of the High School Honor Jazz Ensemble is decided upon by a committee of NYSBDA Board members after a careful review of submitted applications, resumes, and director recommendations. **NYSSMA Jazz Solo Evaluations** will be given preference in the selection of this ensemble. **Students who did not perform a NYSSMA Jazz solo are still eligible to be recommended.** Students may also submit a video-recorded jazz audition (optional) containing the student performing a prepared piece and/or improvisation from the Level 5 or 6 listings in the current NYSSMA Manual. Please include a list of doubling capabilities for reed players.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** NYSBDA Honor Band Nominations will now be completed through DaCapo. This process should be completed by the nominating Band Director. Links to all application materials can be found on the NYSBDA webpage ([www.nysbda.org](http://www.nysbda.org)), on the Honor Bands subpage. As part of this year's nomination process, we are asking that our 2025 Commitment Form be completed and signed by the appropriate parties. This document must be uploaded to the online application for each student you nominate.

**The 2025 Commitment Form can be found here:**

[2025 NYSBDA Commitment Form.pdf](#)



# 2025 NYSBDA High School Honor Jazz Ensemble Preview

*Continued*

Only students who definitely plan to participate, if selected, should apply. 2024 Conference All-State Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Jazz Ensemble Rhythm Section, or Orchestra participants are not eligible to apply, as one of the missions of the NYSBDA High School Honor Jazz Ensemble is to give more students an all-state quality performance experience. Students notified as “Alternate” for Conference All-State are eligible to apply. **Online application forms must be completed no later than October 25, 2024**, but directors are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible. **Nominating Band Directors must be current or new members of NYSBDA in order to have students selected.**

Band directors will be mailed notification of students accepted for the High School Honor Jazz Ensemble by November 12, 2024. An all-inclusive, nonrefundable participation fee of \$375.00 per student and a signed commitment letter are due by December 15, 2024. The \$375.00 participation fee covers music, guest conductor, hotel room, meals, gratuities, and a digital download of the performance recording. All Honor Jazz Ensemble members will be expected to stay overnight in Syracuse on Friday and Saturday, March 7 and 8, regardless of the proximity of their home to the hotel. **Each school district with students participating in the Honor Jazz Ensemble is expected to have a teacher in attendance at the Symposium to provide chaperone and supervision coverage.**

The NYSBDA officers and executive board encourage NYSBDA High School Band Directors to submit applications of qualified and interested students for possible selection. We are confident that under the distinguished direction of Steve Wilson, the 2025 High School Honor Jazz Ensemble will prove highly memorable (and fun)!

**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:** Questions or concerns about the NYSBDA Statewide High School Honor Jazz Ensemble should be directed to **Austin Day, High School Honor Jazz Ensemble Chairperson via email at [jazzensemble@nysbda.org](mailto:jazzensemble@nysbda.org).**

# Jazz Ensemble Honor Band

## Conductor and Bio

Saxophonist and flautist **Steve Wilson** has brought his distinctive sound to more than 150 recordings and ensembles led by such celebrated artists as Chick Corea, Ron Carter, George Duke, Dave Holland, Michael Brecker, Dianne Reeves, Bill Bruford, Gerald Wilson, Joe Henderson, and Charlie Byrd among many others.

He is regularly cited in the Downbeat Magazine Critics and Readers' Polls in the soprano and alto saxophone, and flute categories. Wilson is currently a touring member of Grammy-winning ensembles led by Christian McBride, Maria Schneider, Billy Childs, and Buster Williams. His work in film includes "Lulu On The Bridge" as artistic consultant to Harvey Keitel, and on soundtracks for the anime series "Cowboy Bebop". With nine recordings under his name, he leads two acclaimed quartets – Wilsonian's Grain and The Analog Band.

Wilson is Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at City College of New York, and co-director of the Ravinia Steans Music Institute Program for Jazz. Much in-demand as a clinician he has been a visiting artist at institutions throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, China, and Japan.



# CALL FOR CLINICIANS AND PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

The New York State Band Directors Association (NYSBDA) is pleased to announce application procedures for participation in the annual **NYSBDA Symposium in Syracuse, New York**, March 7-9, 2025. If you are interested in presenting your own clinic or having your group present a performance clinic, on this topic or any other, please follow these application procedures:

I. Forward a letter of application by Monday, October 28, 2024 to Jackie Kovacs at [presidenelect@nysbda.org](mailto:presidenelect@nysbda.org)  
Or use this link: [Application Google Form](#)

Please include the following information in your letter:

Individual Clinic:

1. Your name, home address, phone numbers and email.
2. Your clinic title and brief description.
3. Date and location of last clinic presentation, if applicable.

Ensemble Performance Clinic:

1. Your name, home address, phone numbers and email.
2. Your clinic title and brief description.
3. General information: Name of ensemble, number of players in the performing group, special honors the group has received, copies of recent programs, and any additional information you feel would be helpful in the selection process.

II. Sample Performance requirements for Ensemble Performance Clinic: Please submit two or three representative musical selections in digital format, preferably via web links (e.g. YouTube, SoundCloud, Google Drive, etc.). These may be from any time in the last 2 school years (2021-present).

III. Applicants should be aware of the following:

The selection process is entirely at the discretion of the NYSBDA board. Each accepted individual or organization accepts clinic date & time, as well as length (typically 60 minutes) and format as prescribed by NYSBDA. NOTE: PERFORMING GROUPS MUST PRESENT A PERFORMANCE CLINIC AND NOT JUST A PERFORMANCE.

Each accepted applicant/organization is responsible for procuring their own transportation and meal arrangements. NYSBDA provides one night of hotel accommodation to each presenter (NOT ensembles). All presenters are expected to be members of NAFME or one of its affiliates (e.g. NYSSMA or another state organization) at the time of presentation.

IV. Groups will be notified of acceptance by NYSBDA by December 8, 2024.

# Brooklyn Wind Symphony Represents New York in Korea and Japan

By Jeff W. Ball

Following our successful trip to Chicago to perform at the 2022 Midwest Clinic, the Brooklyn Wind Symphony (BkWS) had the opportunity to apply to perform at the 20th World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles Conference (WASBE). This WASBE conference would take place in 2024 from July 16th to 20th in the city of Gwangju-si, Gyeonggi-do in the Republic of Korea. The leadership of BkWS thought we might want to visit more than just the conference city in Korea, if we decided to go all that way. We decided to add a visit to Japan onto our itinerary, with the goal of finding a partner organization in Tokyo with which we could perform a joint concert. Hopefully, as travel within East Asia is fairly inexpensive compared to the cost of the long flight, this would make the trip more palatable to our membership.

The next step was to poll our members and see if they were actually interested in this trip. While we would have limited financial aid available, the majority of our members would have to self-fund this trip - not a small ask. To our great surprise, the ensemble voted overwhelmingly (94%) to apply for WASBE.

The main requirement of a successful application to perform was the submission of a recent full performance of the Brooklyn Wind Symphony. We luckily had our performance from the 2022 midwest clinic, so we just submitted that as our application. It was a great honor to be one of 20 bands from around the world, and one of four from the United States, to be accepted to perform on the main stage at the 20th WASBE Conference.

Now we needed to find a group to partner with in Japan. Wind band culture is very strong in Japan. There are hundreds of community bands in each region. However, finding a group to partner with in mid-July proved very difficult. The first round of the All-Japan Band Competition takes place in late July and early August all over the country, and this competition is the largest wind band competition on Earth. Most Japanese ensembles are working very hard to prepare for this competition during the time we would be on tour. Thankfully, our friend Inoue Manabu put us in touch with the wonderful Omiya Wind Symphony, a non-competitive community music organization, to partner with us.

We were also able to secure an incredible guest conductor for the entirety of our tour. Dr. Travis J. Cross, director of bands at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), agreed to travel with us in Japan and Korea. He would conduct "DADOHAE: Borrowed Scenery" written by young Korean composer Kang Han Moi. The rest of our tour program was as follows: "The Low Down Brown Get Down" by Omar Thomas, "Mont Fuji" by Toshio Mashima conducted by Inoue Manabu, "Metropolis 1927" by Peter Graham, "Un Cafecito" by Dennis Llinas and "Storm Chasers", a three movement Timpani Concerto by Cathy Likhuta featuring our principal percussionist Alex Jung.

We were able to finalize the following dates set for our tour: July 12 Rehearsal with Omiya Wind Symphony, July 13 Joint Concert with Omiya Wind Symphony, July 14th Rehearsal in Tokyo, July 18th Rehearsal in Namhansanseong Art Hall in Gwangju-si, Gyeonggi-do, July 19th Fringe Concert at Namhansanseong Fortress, and finally the July 20th Main WASBE Performance in Namhansanseong Art Hall. We were hoping to have 40-50 of our 77 members come on the tour - we ended up with 73 members making the trip!

Our tour began with visits to prestigious Japanese band programs for the educators in the group who arrived early. On July 8th, we were able to visit Tokai University Takawanadai High School, one of the top high school band programs in Japan. They have 8 years in a row of “gold” awards at the national finals of the All-Japan Band Competition. When we arrived, the pep band was rehearsing with the cheerleaders and baseball players for an upcoming game. They then had their marching band host an exchange performance with a visiting high school band from Hong Kong. Both bands sounded incredible, but the Takawanadai band was really something else. The thing that always strikes me about Japanese school band programs is how strongly student-led everything is. When they were rehearsing for the baseball game, Hatakeda-sensai was not even in the room - student captains were organizing, running and leading every aspect of the rehearsal. It was also really lovely to see the students from Japan interact with the visitors from Hong Kong. Despite the language barrier, the students seemed to genuinely enjoy each other's company and the Takawanadai students were even able to teach the visiting students some of their choreography for a piece both bands knew. It really shows how music can be a bridge between different cultures.

The following day we had the privilege of observing a rehearsal of the Musashino Academia Musicae Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. James Lambrecht. Musashino is one of Tokyo's major music conservatories, and the wind ensemble is the top of their four wind bands. We were able to get into this rehearsal thanks to Takeda Akira, the conductor of the Omiya Wind Symphony and director of the Musashino Wind Orchestra. This group was incredible. Interestingly, the reason the top group usually employs an American conductor is so that the students are rehearsed in English. The philosophy of the Conservatory is that as the students are performance majors, and many will try to win jobs outside of Japan, they need to be comfortable with English speaking conductors.

We really didn't think anything could match the Musashino Academia Musicae Wind Ensemble, but we were proven wrong the very next day when the Brooklyn Wind Symphony was given tickets to the Tokyo College of Music Symphonic Wind Ensemble Gala Concert in Yokohama. This was my second time attending this sold-out annual event, which features a performance of all of the current year's test pieces for the All-Japan Band Competition. This ensemble, under the baton of rising international prodigy Keitaro Harada, performs at the highest level I have ever witnessed. The highlight of their concert was a 186-piece symphonic wind ensemble performing John Mackey's “Wine Dark Sea” flawlessly. Dear reader, if you ever find yourself in the Tokyo area in mid-July, I highly encourage you to find a way to attend this concert.

After all of these visits and performances, it finally became time for the Brooklyn Wind Symphony to perform. We were thrilled to perform with the fantastic Omiya Wind Symphony at the beautiful brand new RaiBoc Hall. This ensemble is a community organization with multiple ensembles, very much like the Metropolitan Music Community, the organization to which Brooklyn Wind Symphony belongs. The conductors of the Omiya Wind Symphony are amazing - Takeda Akira is on the faculty of Musashino and was the conductor of the Japan Ground Self Defense Force Central Band for 10 years. Director emeritus, Akiyama Toshio, is 95 years old, began his career teaching in the immediate aftermath of WWII, studied in the US with Frederick Fennell, and was one of the leaders in growing the Japanese wind band movement. It was an honor and a privilege to work with these esteemed leaders. The concert was a spectacular success - each group performed a full program and then the ensembles combined, with each conductor taking a piece. After the performance, there was a reception when the musicians were able to mingle as sections and exchange gifts. Many made amazing connections, and we are hoping to host the Omiya Wind Symphony on a visit to NYC in the next few years. After a rehearsal in a central Tokyo office



building - yes, band is such a big deal in Japan that this is a common feature in office buildings - it was time to cross the sea of Japan and head to Korea.

Upon our arrival in Seoul, it was clear that the 20th WASBE conference would be unlike any other wind band conference we'd ever attended. The local festival committee had done an amazing job promoting the conference. Seoul, a city with 2 million more people than New York City, had ads for the WASBE conference in Gwangju-Gyeonggi absolutely everywhere - on the sides of buildings, on LED screens encompassing entire metro stations and on the metro trains themselves. Gwangju-Gyeonggi is best described as a suburb of Seoul, but it is a large city on its own as it is more populous than Cleveland. The conference itself was absolutely incredible. In addition to the 20 main performances in the beautiful Namhansanseong Art Hall, there were many other ensembles of all ages from all over the world performing on an outdoor stage in the newly renamed "WASBE Square" outside the main venue. It was billed as "the Olympics of Wind Band", and it truly lived up to the hype.



The Brooklyn Wind Symphony was able to do two performances as part of the WASBE conference. The first performance was at the 17th century UNESCO World Heritage site Namhansanseong Fortress, located in the mountains just outside of Gwangju-Gyeonggi. This site was used as an emergency seat for the Korean government when Seoul was under threat during the 17th century. It truly was an amazing place to perform.

The final engagement of our tour was the performance on the main stages for the WASBE 2024 conference. Namhansanseong Art Hall was a gorgeous venue in which we gave this performance. Due to the incredible promotion done by the organizing committee this perfor-

mance, along with all of the other 19 main hall performances, was a sell out. It was an incredible thrill to represent our city, state and country on this stage with a full 90 minute performance.

My final days of the trip were spent working with high school and middle school bands in the Kansai region of Japan. It was really great to see these students and directors putting the final touches on their programs for the first round of the All Japan Band Competition. I was even able to see the first day of this competition on my final day in Asia, attending the Hyogo Prefecture Higashihanshin District Tournament. It was really great to see bands of all levels at this event. While the top groups sound as you would expect, performing fiendishly technical works such as transcriptions of Ravel's "Daphnis et Chloe", there were also bands from smaller, less established programs. It was really a joy to see all of these students participating, even from programs that could only field 8-10 students on stage at a time.

This trip was really a fantastic experience for myself and the 73 touring musicians of the Brooklyn Wind Symphony. I really don't feel like I have even scratched the surface of this trip in this article, so I've included some supplemental videos and photos linked at the QR code below. Please also feel free to reach out to me for more information at [jeffwball@mmc.band](mailto:jeffwball@mmc.band) - I'm happy to help in any way that I can.





NEW YORK STATE  
BAND DIRECTORS  
ASSOCIATION



	Most Popular	
<b>Retired</b> <b>\$30/Year</b> (For retired band directors)	<b>Professional</b> <b>\$85/year</b> (For active teachers and associates)	<b>Student</b> <b>\$10/Year</b> (For students enrolled in college music programs)
All the benefits of Professional Membership	\$10 Discount if paid before October 15	Transition to Professional when you begin teaching
Stay involved with NYSBDA and Activities	NYSBDA Annual Symposium	Attend the Annual Symposium (Registration fee waived!)
Share your knowledge and experience with younger professionals!	The BandStand Newsletter	Student College Membership Chapters
Click below to Join or Renew!	Regional Workshops	Access to Member Content on the Website
<a href="#">Join/Renew</a>	Student Eligibility for NYSBDA Honor Bands	The BandStand Newsletter
	Member Only Website Content and Videos	Click below to join or renew!
	Directors Band (Summer Conference)	<a href="#">Join/Renew</a>
	Click below to join or renew!	
	<a href="#">Join/Renew</a>	

<https://nysbdamembers.org>

NYSBDA has moved to Da Capo for membership services and honor band applications.

Visit [nysbdamembers.org](https://nysbdamembers.org) and create your account today!

# Renew Your Membership Today

## NYSBDA Da Capo Instructions

### Membership Registrations and Honor Band Applications

The New York State Band Directors Association is migrating our membership registrations and honor band applications to Da Capo. We hope this will streamline our membership services and increase security of personal data. We also hope it will simplify the honor band application process.

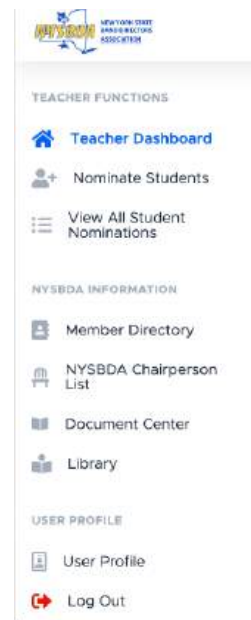
Directions:

1. Visit <https://nysbdamembers.org>
2. Select Register New Account. We are resetting the database so everyone must do this the first year.
3. Enter the access code **nysbda** and select “Register Now”

4. Provide us with your updated information and create your account (This data will be used for the honor band applications which will help streamline that process).
5. Pay your dues through Afini Pay, or download the membership application and pay by mail with a check or PO.

#### FAQs

- Although the membership database is resetting, our email list remains intact. If you provide a different email address through this process, it will be added to our email list. All emails from our past list will remain, unless there is a request to have them removed.
- If you are having issues with the access code, make sure you are using all lowercase characters.
- You will no longer need to enter your director information for each honor band application.
- **You must be an active member and have paid your annual dues in order to register students for our honor bands.**
- Eventually the members only content of the website will migrate to Da Capo's document center, including the clinic video archive.





# HARTWICK COLLEGE HONOR BAND

Saturday, October 26, 2024  
9am-6pm

Anderson Center for the Arts, 41 Clinton Street, Oneonta, NY



## SCHEDULE

9am Check in  
9:30 Rehearsal  
12:00 Lunch  
12:45 Hartwick WE and  
College Q&A  
1:30 Sectionals  
2:30 Rehearsal  
5:30 Concert

## WITH CONDUCTORS



JASON  
NOBLE

guest conductor  
Lehman College



ANDREW  
PEASE

host  
Hartwick College

**APPLY ONLINE BY  
OCTOBER 2:**



[hartwick.edu/honorband](https://hartwick.edu/honorband)

Join us for an intensive day of music making on our beautiful campus! Meet our faculty and the members of the Hartwick College Wind Ensemble. Any experienced band students in grades 9-12 are invited to apply. A \$40 registration fee covers lunch and a t-shirt.

# COLLEGIATE NYSBDA



**Start your C-NYSBDA  
Chapter today!**

Questions?  
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