

Band Stand

The Official Newsletter of the New York State Band Directors Association



Vol. XXXIII, No. 3

June, 2025





Band Stand

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2025-2026

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Bandstand Editor	Jennifer Pham

Editor's Note:

As the school year comes to a close I reflect on the wonderful learning opportunities this year has brought, the musical moments I've shared with students, and the lasting relationships I've formed with fellow directors across the state through NYSBDA. With just a few weeks left in the year I hope you all find a moment to reflect on the difference you've made in the lives of your students, especially those who are about to start their next journey after high school.

Wishing you all a restful and relaxing summer!

Jennifer Pham
Band Stand Editor



From the Podium

By Andrew Pease, *NYSBDA President*



Change is afoot on the NYSBDA board! Thanks to your approval at the Symposium, we have a new slate of officers rotating in on June 1. Of note, Jackie Kovacs from Maine-Endwell High School will be your new President. Jackie has served the NYSBDA board as Region 3 Rep, Vice President, and President Elect, and so has been responsible for our professional development programming at the local and state levels. Her band work has been recognized with many NYSSMA golds and the NYSSMA Established Educator Award in 2024. She is also a phenomenal saxophone player and an amazing hang. I know you will all love working with her, so please join me in congratulating Jackie on her new role!

We also have a new Band Stand editor! Jennifer Pham from Vestal High School has been our Region 3 Rep for several years, and has now stepped into the Band Stand role. Please welcome her, and also please send immense gratitude to our outgoing Band Stand editor, Hilary Boyer, who has given many years of dedicated service to the NYSBDA board. You can see the full list of the new board members in this issue.

This also means that, by the time you read this, I will no longer be your President. It has been one of the great honors of my life to serve you all in this role. I have said it so many times, but I firmly believe that New York is the greatest state for band. We strike an amazing balance between performance excellence and human connection. I go to a ton of conferences, and the NYSBDA Symposium is my favorite conference every year. Everyone there seems so curious, open, and connected, and our students consistently dazzle with their honor band work. In short, NYSBDA members support each other and lift each other up, all in the ultimate service of our students, and I am so grateful to work in such a positive and nurturing professional environment. You are not fully rid of me yet: I begin my two years as Immediate Past President, then another two as Past President. I will also continue to curate the Living Legend series at the Symposium - look for an announcement about exciting developments there soon! Thank you so very much for allowing me to serve.

Much of this issue will include a look back at the Symposium, while another sizable portion will preview our continuing partnership with the Conn Selmer Institute in the form of CSI Northeast. This is taking place at Ithaca College on August 12-14, 2025. [Registration is already open!](#) A big highlight this year will be our brand new Elementary Honor Band, chaired by Jessica Williamson and conducted by Jackie Kovacs and our amazing Executive Director, Michael Struzik. We will also have incredible clinicians, a fun excursion, and the return of the Directors Band, so come prepared to learn, hang, and play.

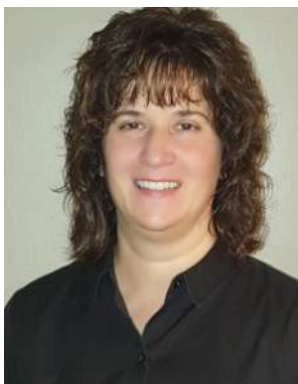
May the final days of your school year be filled with beautiful music, and may your summer offer endless opportunities for renewal and relaxation. Thank you for all you do.

Signing off,

Andy Pease
Outgoing NYSBDA President

Symposium 2025 Review

By Jackie Kovacs, *NYSBDA First Vice President*



The 2025 NYSBDA Symposium was a great opportunity to share the Power of Music in our schools and communities. The symposium was filled with clinics, conversations and music that exemplified the power of music. 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 our membership. Many of the clinics from the symposium will be available on the NYSBDA website in the members section!

Our 2025 Keynote speaker, Mr. **Zachary Arenz**, NYS 2024 Teacher of the Year, shared his passion for music and reaching students through the power of music. In his keynote speech, “Passion in Education: The Power That Music Brings to our Schools” Mr. Arenz shared a reminder that our passion for music is our superpower. Students are inspired to learn by teachers that share their passion. As music educators we help ignite students’ passion and connect them to their humanity.



In addition to the keynote, Mr. Arenz shared a clinic on Restorative Practices in Schools and Our Music Classrooms. Teachers need to get to know and help students feel connected and welcomed, not just teach music. Your classroom is the community. Start by building positive reinforcements through affective language. The teacher and students habitually use positive reinforcement through compliments during lessons and rehearsals. Modeling this and encouraging students to share is the best way to build a foundation of support for each other and engage students in music.

Just as Mr. Arenz encouraged us to build communities, in Recruitment and Retention - Get Them and Keep Them! Ms. **Erin Cole Steele**, Clinician and MS Honor Band Conductor, shared tips and techniques to building bridges between grade levels, involving students in mentoring programs, literature selection and working with students to build ownership in the program. All of the ideas shared can be implemented in any level of instruction, but are a great way to give middle school students the opportunity to succeed and celebrate their ability to be leaders.



Symposium 2025 Review

Continued

Score Study vs Rehearsal Plan, **Mike Struzik**, **Genevieve Ruhland**, and **Phil Pandori** shared their use of score study and how they prepare their rehearsals. They each selected a score and “dissected” the process they use to prepare and rehearse with their students. Through this process, attendees were able to learn several tricks of the trade to bring back to their classrooms.

The connections music making provides is found through communication. In Using Sign Language in Band, **Amy Hoxie** and **Ina Ayala**, clinicians, shared how they originally incorporated sign language in band to assist a hearing impaired student. Through use of sign language, they were able to create an environment for students to participate fully in rehearsals without having the hearing impairment as a barrier. An amazing result was not only assisting the hearing impaired student, but also became a great communication tool that all students embraced. The session provided sign language instruction for simple directions for use while rehearsing. It also provided pictures and explanations of how to properly utilize the signs. I personally started slowly incorporating sign language into my rehearsal first thing Monday morning. The results were amazing to experience. Now even the students communicate nonverbally, using sign language.



Jazz for the Students in the Room, **Dan Shaut**, Clinician, shared effective warm-ups, developing jazz skills in the ensemble and improvisation development for varied levels. Dan demonstrated techniques to get the students engaged and playing, meeting them at their level of musical experience. He encouraged us to have students- Imitate, Emulate, and Create. The best tool for learning is listening. Encourage students and always share examples of quality music in all jazz styles. While learning jazz, the students find their power in themselves to be expressive on their instruments.



What Does That Thing Do? Handy Repair Tools for the Band Room and How to Use Them, Mr. **Miles DeCastro**, Crane School of Music, shared tools that work for you! As always Mr. DeCastro approached the repairs and tools with a great sense of excitement and humor. Tools that looked intimidating were demonstrated and demystified. Mr. DeCastro's sessions are always a highlight of the symposium.

Symposium 2025 Review

Continued

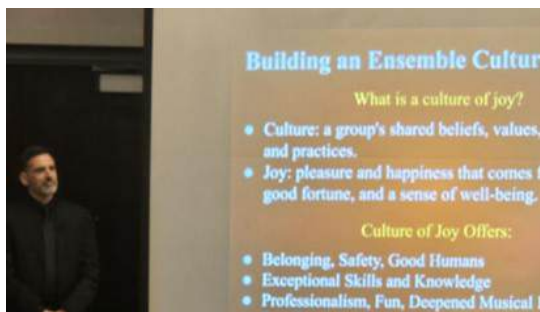
The Friday evening concert featured Mr. **Greg Evans** and the **Binghamton University Harpur Jazz Ensemble**. The students were energized and engaged. Following the performance, many honor band students talked with the performers about their experiences in jazz band and at college.



In the session, How to Drive the Bus: Big Band Drumming 101, Mr. **James Dragovich**, HS Honor Band Conductor and clinician, was an early morning kick-start with an interactive clinic that provided a framework for guiding your set players for success. From the ergonomics of the set-up, to building from prior knowledge for solos and fills, and using rudiments. Listening is essential! Each handout provided information to build on skills to ensure balance of the playing, maintaining the pulse and finding the melody of the song being played.



The Keys to Unlocking Your Brass Chops, **Allyson Keyser**, clinician, provided a great session on techniques and “how to’s” for trumpet chops. The demonstration included tricks to get students to use air and increase the air speed. She also discussed and demonstrated how tongue placement is really three ranges, low= “oh”, mid= “ah” and high= “ee”. Using tongue placement assists the performer to keep their embouchure steady and gain endurance. Clinic handouts and QR Code links provided warm-ups and exercises to use with our students.



Building an Ensemble Culture of Joy, Syracuse Youth Wind Symphony, Ms. **Erin Althen** & Mr. **Greg Borsz** engaged in an amazing performance clinic on the origins of their ensemble. Through their performance and interactive student stories, they shared how the music is building joy, not only in their ensemble but in their relationships with each other. The ensemble has only been together for a short time. At each rehearsal they strive to cultivate shared beliefs and values while establishing traditions to build joy. Students are engaged in a safe place that encourages professionalism and excellence in music making. All of which bring a sense of well-being and happiness from shared success.



Back and Forth: Rhythm and Pulse through Movement, **Emma Gierszal**, presented a great clinic with many demonstrations and techniques used from applying Grunow’s, Azzara’s, and Gordon’s concepts of Time, space, weight and flow. Using these concepts, the music teacher can guide the percussionist to play with pulse

Symposium 2025 Review

Continued

Middle School Band: It's Not Rocket Science...Or is it?, Mrs. **Kris Gilbert** shared her toolbox of techniques that build a strong foundation for middle school students. Some often overlooked included ideas about classroom arrangement, organization of equipment, posters and signage in the room; everything to set the space for learning. Another idea was guiding students to success through the 6 P's of rehearsals- Prepare, Plan, Pacing, Practice, Performance and Patience. Mrs. Gilbert also took time to discuss the ideas of the attendees, it was a great way to learn from each other.



NYSBDA at the Collegiate Level, Teaching Through the Years, **Aidan Carney**, C-NYSBDA President, hosted a panel of music educators with diverse backgrounds and years of experience. The round table setting provided the opportunity to share with preservice teachers and teachers in their first few years of professional experience. Interested in more information and the activities of C-NYSBDA? Check out their section of the NYSBDA website at [C-NYSBDA](https://www.nysbda.org/c-nysbda).

The Southern Tier Concert Band, under the direction of Mr. Robin Linaberry and Mr. Barry Peters, performed Saturday Evening. In Celebration of the Wind Band: A Concert for our Community, showcased literature that helped establish the wind band movement. Selections included, American Overture by Joseph Willcox Jenkins, Third Suite by Robert Jager, Air For Band by Frank Erickson, Masque by W. Francis McBeth, Slava! by Leonard Bernstein and Commando March by Samuel Barber. A highlight of the concert was solo saxophonist Daniel Miller on A Gershwin Fantasy, arranged by Ralph Martino. The audience was extremely receptive to the performance and engaged in conversations with the performers following the concert.

The 2025 Living Legend, Dr. Rodney Winther, retired University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, displayed emotion and energy for the conducting clinic and the Interview with the Legend with Dr. Andrew Pease. Dr. Winther shared the power music still has in his life. During the conducting clinic, he guided the conducting volunteers to bring out the emotion in the music, while making connections with the ensemble. A lifelong learner, Dr. Winther continues to find ways to share music making experiences in his life. It was inspiring to hear his stories and philosophies of music and music education.



Along with all of these sessions, the highlight of the Symposium continues to be the honors on ensembles. Saturday afternoon showcased the Middle School Honor Band under the direction of Dr. Erin Cole Steele. The honor band performed music representing diverse composers; Verity March by Laura Estes, Bamboo Warrior by Christina Huss, Three Minutes to Midnight by JaRod Hall, Choose Joy by Randall D. Standridge, and Uniquely You by Adrian B. Sims. Sunday at the Symposium culminated with the High School Honor Bands. The Jazz Band Concert, under the direction of conductor Mr. Steven Wilson, performed charts in a variety of styles including Dayspring by Frank Foster, Gravy Waltz by Ray Brown/Steve Allen arr. by Mark Taylor, In A Mellow Tone by Duke Ellington, It's Just Talk by Pat Metheny arr. by Bob Curnow and To You

Symposium 2025 Review

Continued

by Thad Jones. The High School Honor Band with conductor, Mr. James Dragovich, performed Celebration Fanfare by Stephen Reineke, To Soar With Angels by Vincent Oppido, and Russian Christmas Music by Alfred Reed.

Planning for the 2026 NYSBDA Symposium is already in the works. Mark your calendars to join the NYSBDA community on March 6-8, 2026! The Symposium will be back at the DoubleTree Carrier Circle, Syracuse, New York. The 2026 Symposium will include the premiere of the NYSBDA Commission Project with Randall D. Standridge! A level 5 piece to be performed by the High School Honor Band. Randall D. Standridge will also be the keynote speaker for 2026!

Interested in sharing a clinic session in 2026? Use this [google form](#) to submit a proposal for the NYSBDA Symposium 2026. 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. Check out our [NYSBDA](#) Website for more information.

Jackie Kovacs,
NYSBDA President Elect
presidentelect@nysbda.org



Elementary Honor Band Festival

We are excited to share that there will be a NYSBDA Elementary Honor Band Festival added to our 2025 CSI Northeast event! The NYSBDA Elementary Honor Band Festival is a one-day event taking place at the CSI Northeast Conference at Ithaca College on Wednesday, August 13, 2025. Selected 4th and 5th grade students from across New York State will prepare four pieces of music in advance and come together on the festival day to collaborate and perform a concert for family and friends in Ithaca College's Ford Hall.

2025 Guest Conductors

Michael Struzik



Jacquelin Kovacs



Elementary Honor Band Schedule - Wednesday, August 13th, 2025

8:30 - 9:00 am	Registration in Whalen Center (School of Music)
9:00 – 11:30 am	Rehearsal (breaks at the discretion of the conductor)
11:15 - 12:00 pm	Lunch
12:15 – 2:45 pm	Rehearsal (breaks at the discretion of the conductor)
3:00 – 3:45 pm	Guest Artist Performance in Ford Hall
4:00 – 4:45 pm	Final tuning and instructions
5:00pm	Concert in Ford Hall in the Whalen Center (School of Music)



Program

Summit Fanfare.....	William Owens
Musical Mayhem.....	Robert W. Smith
Hope Rising.....	Tyler Grant
Notorious Machine.....	Bob Grice

Conn Selmer Institute Northeast Preview

By Corey Riley, NYSBDA First VP

CSI Northeast in Ithaca, NY August 12-14, 2025



Year one of any new venture is a beautiful process of discovery, we learned how the identity of the Conn Selmer Institute Northeast would unfold, and what role it would play for band directors from New York State and the Northeast. I believe we witnessed an incredible partnership providing excellent professional development and community for Northeast Band Directors. Year two is our chance to reflect on our maiden voyage and begin to grow, innovate, listen to feedback, and take action. I am happy to report that, in partnership with Conn Selmer and Ithaca College, NYSBDA has worked tirelessly to ensure the return of what we hope to be a valuable Summer experience and annual tradition.

We invite you to participate in CSI Northeast: an inspiring professional development experience presented through a unique collaboration between the Conn Selmer Institute, the Ithaca College Bands, and the New York State Band Directors Association (NYSBDA).

This enriching event will be held on the picturesque campus of Ithaca College from August 12th to 14th, encompassing two and a half days of focused learning and engagement. CSI Northeast is thoughtfully designed to empower, educate, and elevate the skills of music educators, administrators, and college students through an immersive and comprehensive program.

This year NYSBDA is putting an emphasis on an area of our profession that we feel could use more PD support: Elementary Band. Jessica Williamson, our Elementary Honor Band Chair, has organized a brand new state level honor group for elementary band students to be held in tandem with the CSI Northeast event. Over 90 students from across the State of New York will travel to Ithaca to take part in this exciting opportunity, conducted by **Mike Struzik** and **Jackie Kovacs**. We have put a special emphasis on clinics and reading bands supporting young band concepts this year, and we hope these efforts will work to fill the gap that exists in this area.

While we missed him last year, we are so grateful for our keynote speaker, **Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser**, who will be joining us this year for the entire conference and sharing his wisdom and expertise. We also have two other exciting Conn Selmer Educational Clinicians **Dr. Shelley Jagow** and **Richard Saucedo** who will be leading reading sessions, conducting the directors ensemble, and presenting.



Conn Selmer Institute

Northeast Preview

Continued...

Dr. Shelley Jagow is a Professor of Music at Wright State University and a sought-after artist clinician for several prominent music companies, presenting workshops, performances, and conducting honor bands. A published author on music education and performance, she has also performed on notable recordings and radio programs and coached the Avion Saxophone Quartet. Richard Saucedo is a highly accomplished retired Director of Bands from Carmel High School, where his ensembles garnered numerous state and national accolades in concert band, jazz band, and marching band, including a BOA National Championship in 2005. Now a renowned freelance arranger/composer for Hal Leonard and the Blue Devils and Cavaliers drum corps, he is also an educational consultant for Music for All and Bands of America and serves as Chief Judge for BOA marching band competitions.



Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser
Senior Vice President of Education,
Senior Educational Clinician
Conn Selmer, Inc.



Richard Saucedo
Senior Educational Clinician
Conn Selmer, Inc.



Erin Cole Steele
Director, Division of Education, Senior
Educational Clinician
Conn Selmer, Inc.



Shelley Jagow
Professor of Music
Wright State University



Beth Fabrizio
Conn Selmer Educational Clinician
Conn Selmer, Inc.



Daniel Cook
Director of Bands & Conductor, Ithaca
College Wind Ensemble
Ithaca College

Conn Selmer Institute Northeast Preview

Continued...

We also have a Conn Selmer artist, [Camille Thurman](#), ‘an accomplished composer, esteemed saxophonist, vocalist, and unique interpreter of the jazz tradition, she is quickly becoming one of the leading standard bearers of the art form. Her distinct musical approach to classic and original repertoire, which highlights her craft as a powerhouse singer and instrumentalist, is a captivating blend of tradition and innovation. She makes a considerable and dynamic contribution to the legacy of jazz while paying tribute to its heroes through her music.’

We hope that you are able to join us for this incredible experience of 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 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.

Mark your calendars, and visit the conference page at <https://csi.connselmer.com/csi/northeast> to register now!

Corey Riley
First Vice President



Summer Conference Tuesday, August 12th	
Track A	Track B
Hockett	Beeler
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Registration LOCATION	
9:00-10:20 Keynote Hockett MUSIC EDUCATORS: SHEPHERDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TO ARTISTRY Tim Lautzenheiser	
10:30-11:30 Reading Band Ford Hall Shelley Jagow	
11:30-2:00 Lunch On Your Own	
1:00-1:50 PLANTING AND GROWING YOUR SAXOPHONE SECTION - TOP 10 FERTILIZERS! Shelley Jagow	1:00-1:50 REMOVING THE MENTAL BLOCK: PLAYING IN A VARIETY OF KEY AND TIME SIGNATURES IN MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND Peter Gehres
2:00-2:50 TEACHING STUDENT LEADERSHIP WITHIN A CULTURE OF JOY Erin Althen & Corey Riley	2:00-2:50 IMPROVISATION FOR ANY AGE: BEYOND THE NOTES AND RHYTHMS Aaron Staebell
Coffee Break 2:50-3:30	
3:30-4:20 TBA Daniel Cook	3:30-4:20 COMPOSING & ARRANGING FOR CONCERT BAND Bradley Hartman
4:30-5:20 READING BAND Ford Hall Richard Saucedo	
5:30-6:20 READING BAND - YOUNG BAND LITERATURE Ford Hall	

Summer Conference

Schedule

Summer Conference Wednesday, August 13th	
Track A	Track B
Hockett	Beeler
8:00-8:50 ONE PERSON MAKES A DIFFERENCE Tim Lautzenheiser	
9:00-9:50 PRACTICE MAKES PROGRESS Beth Frabrizio	9:00-9:50 THE KEYS TO UNLOCKING YOUR BRASS CHOPS PART TWO: DEBUNKING COMMONLY USED CATCHPHRASES AND PROVIDING PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES Alyson Keyser
10:00-11:00 DIRECTORS BAND REHEARSAL Shelley Jagow Richard Saucedo Daniel Cook	
11:00-12:30 Lunch On Your Own	
12:30-1:20 BRAVE BEGINNINGS: TEACHING ELEMENTARY BAND WITH THE END IN MIND Courtline Whittemore	12:30-1:20 THE ABC'S OF FUNDAMENTALS Beth Frabrizio
1:30-2:20 MUSIC CLUE: REHEARSAL DETECTIVE - WHO DID IT/ HOW TO FIX IT? Shelley Jagow	1:30-2:20 THE MAGIC OF SINGING WITH YOUR BAND Andy Pease
Coffee Break 2:20-3:00 3:00-3:50 Ford Hall Conn Selmer Guest Artist Performance	
4:00-4:50 THE WARM-UP WEB: CONNECTING CONCEPTS AND CREATING COMMUNITY Jennifer Greene	4:00-4:50 BAND BESTIES 1+1=3+ Lindsay Williams
5:00 - 6:00 CONCERT Ford Hall NYSBDA Elementary Honor Band CSI Northeast Directors Band	
Optional Excursion To Be Determined	

Summer Conference Thursday, August 14th	
Track A	Track B
Hockett	Beeler
8:30-9:20 BUILDING A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE Tim Lautzenheiser	
9:30-10:20 TBA Erin Cole	9:30-10:20 TEACHERS' PERCEPTIONS OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE INSTRUMENT SELECTION PROCESS Aidan Carney
10:30-11:20 CREATIVITY THROUGH COLLABORATION Mark Brenner	10:30-11:20 PUT A CORK IN IT!!! (HANDS ON EDITION) Miles DeCastro
11:30 - 12:20 USING THE TONAL ENERGY TUNER IN YOUR REHEARSALS TO HELP YOUR STUDENTS FALL IN LOVE WITH TUNING Richard Saucedo	11:30 - 12:20 Dr. Tim Collegiate Conference Tim Lautzenheiser (For College Students)
End of Conference	

NYSBDA Equity Score Library

The NYSBDA Equity and Inclusion Committee is seeking YOUR recommendations for band literature written by underrepresented composers. We are assembling the Equity Score Library and will purchase recommended scores for display at NYSSMA Conferences and the NYSBDA Symposium. The goal of the Equity Score Library is to support these composers and to highlight their work. The library is on display at the NYSSMA Winter Conference, the NYSBDA Symposium, and the New York State Summer Music Conference.

[NYSBDA Equity Score Library Form](#)
[Link to NYSBDA Equity Score Library](#)



Who's Who?

Panelists and Clinicians at the 2025 Conn Selmer Institute Northeast



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 AttitudeConcepts, 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*.

Richard L. Saucedo retired in 2013 as Director of Bands and Performing Arts Department Chairman at the William H. Duke Center for the Performing Arts at Carmel High School in Carmel, Indiana. During his 31-year tenure, Carmel bands received numerous state, regional and national honors in the areas of concert band, jazz band and marching band. Under his direction, Carmel's Wind Symphony I performed at the Music for All National Concert Band Festival three times (1992, 1999, and 2004) and was named the Indiana State Champion Concert Band most recently in 2013. The group also performed at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago during December of 2005. The Carmel Marching Greyhounds finished in the top ten at the Bands of America Grand National Championship for 17 years under Saucedo and were named BOA National Champions in the fall of 2005. Carmel



became one of the few schools to win a BOA National Championship and perform at the Midwest Clinic in the same year in 2005. The Marching Band was the Indiana Class A State Champion four times. The Indiana Bandmasters Association named Mr. Saucedo Indiana's "Bandmaster of the Year" for 1998-99 and he was named the "Outstanding Music Educator" in the state of Indiana for 2010 by the Indiana Music Educators Association. Mr. Saucedo's accomplishments have been highlighted in articles by *HALFTIME* and *SCHOOL BAND AND ORCHESTRA* Magazines. He was inducted into the Music for All "Hall of Fame" in 2015 and recently was inducted into the Drum Corps International "Hall of Fame" (2022). Mr. Saucedo is a freelance arranger and composer, having released numerous marching band arrangements, choral arrangements, concert band works and orchestral compositions. He is currently on the writing staff at Hal Leonard Publishing. He is currently the music ensemble coordinator for the Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps in Concord, California and is the Brass Arranger/Composer for the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps in Rosemont, Illinois. Mr. Saucedo is an Educational Consultant for "Music for All" and "Bands of America." He is a member of the Conn-Selmer Division of Education and currently serves as Chief Judge for Bands of America marching band competitions.

Dr. Shelley Jagow is Professor of Music at Wright State University (Dayton, OH). As an artist clinician with Conn-Selmer, Vandoren, Meredith Music, and GIA Music, "Dr. J" enjoys working with school bands and presents clinics, performances, adjudications, and serves as honor band conductor at various events. Shelley served as coach for the WSU student Avion Saxophone Quartet, which can be heard on Apple Music. Shelley has



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performed on the Emeritus Recording label, National Public Radio Performance Today, and America's Millennium Tribute to ADOLPHE SAX. She is a contributing author to Teaching Music Through Performance in Band series, and is author of several books: 1) Developing the Complete Band Program (2nd ed), 2) Tuning for Wind Instruments: A Roadmap to Successful Intonation, 3) Intermediate Studies for Developing Artists on the Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone and Bassoon, and 4) The Londeix Lectures a 13+ hours DVD set archiving the lectures of Professor Jean-Marie Londeix.



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 Hunsberg-

er 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 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 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.

Peter Gehres has been a band director at Circleville Middle School in Pine Bush, NY for the past six years. In this position he directs the Jazz Ensemble, the 6th Grade Band, and teaches brass and percussion lessons for grades 6 through 8. In 2023, Peter was honored to conduct the All-County Elementary Band in Ulster County. He graduated from Ithaca College in 2019 with a B.M. in Music Education and from the University of Florida in 2023 with an M.M. in Music Education. In addition to his full-time teaching job, Peter maintains a full private brass studio and works as a professional trumpeter in the Hudson Valley. He is a regular performer with the Woodstock Playhouse Pit Orchestra (principal trumpet) and the New York Wind Symphony and has been invited to play with groups such as the Woodstock Symphony Orchestra, the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra, and the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra.



Aaron Staebell (@aaronstaebell on Instagram // @aaronstaebelldrums on TikTok)

"Probably not what you are expecting." "Renegade jazz". "Energized, eclectic and a weirdo that you don't want to miss." "A concoction of jazz, hip hop, avantgarde, rock, and more." "A combination of conservatory training, raw emotion and a clever sense of musical storytelling."



Aaron Staebell hails from Buffalo, NY and has lived in Rochester, NY since 2001. Jazz legend Bob Brookmeyer described Aaron as having “swing, energy and musicianship to a remarkable degree” and said, “I would hire him. My utmost praise.” 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.

As a performer, Staebell is active as both a drummer and percussionist. He has played with such visionaries as Bob Brookmeyer, Maria Schneider and Tony Malaby. He has performed with smooth jazz trumpeter Rick Braun, jazz trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, and is a member of the Dave Rivello Ensemble, and world music quartet The Rita Collective. He also spent time as the drummer for the Brownman Electryc Trio (Toronto, CA) and hip-hop syndicate “Gruvasylum” featuring Mad Dukez. His playing has been described as “honest, unpredictable and refreshing” and he is a frequent first-call for recording sessions, musicals, concerts and a wide range of freelance projects.

His debut album “Bending and Breaking” was released in June of 2011, and was met with outstanding reviews. Bruce Lindsay of All About Jazz called it “a debut filled with energy, enthusiasm, and invention, signaling the appearance of yet another talented newcomer on the scene.” It was named by iTunes to its “New and Noteworthy” list on the day it was released. The success of the release led to Staebell being a featured interview guest on popular jazz podcast “The Jazz Session” with Jason Crane. Staebell’s latest project is a collection of pieces called “Harriettstown”; a musical tribute to the town in the Adirondack Mountains that his family has called home each summer since the later 1970s.

His playing can be heard on other recent releases: an album by trumpeter Dave Chisholm called “Instrumental”, which combines a suite of 8 songs with a 200 page graphic novel. Staebell also plays on another Chisholm record called “Calligraphy”, and a release from Ben Thomas featuring free jazz legend Tony Malaby called “Endless Mountain Regions”. He is featured on a recording from Las Vegas-based composer Jennifer Beller called “Stay”, which includes the solo piece “After Hours”.

Recent works for percussion include The State of Things for percussion quartet and laptop, The Seven Virtues for percussion trio, and The Mysteries of Harris

Burdick, for percussion quartet and projected images. His self-published book, *Alternative Solos for Snare Drum*, makes use of contemporary techniques, notation and sounds within the snare drum solo repertoire.

His latest publication, *Inspired By Masters*, is a collection of solos for the young drumset student, all inspired by different famous jazz drummers. The book was recently selected to appear in the NYSSMA Manual. Staebell’s teachers have included Rich Thompson, John Hollenbeck, John Riley, Tom Davis and Bill Dobbins. He has studied in workshops with Bob Brookmeyer, Maria Schneider, Tony Malaby, Claire Fischer and Mark Helias.

He spent 15 years as a public school music teacher, and has been on staff for the WGI “A class” finalist Hilton Indoor Percussion. He spent three and a half years as the Manager of Educational Resources for Hal Leonard LLC, the world’s largest music publisher. Currently, Staebell is Assistant Professor of Jazz at Ithaca College, directing the jazz ensemble and teaching the drumset studio, as well as serving as Visiting Lecturer of Drumset at Cornell University. He lives in Rochester, NY with his partner Sarah, and their two children. Their music consulting collective, Sounds of the True North, works with school music programs across the Northeast, presenting workshops, guest conducting, and finding ways to imbue music programs with creativity and community. You can connect at aaronstaebellmusic.com or soundsofthetruenorth.com.

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.

Jennifer Reynolds Greene has been an instrumental music educator, specializing in bands, for more than thirty years. Currently, she is the Wind Symphony Director at Binghamton University (SUNY). For the majority of her career she held a position at Fayetteville-Manlius High School,



a suburb of Syracuse, New York, where she taught Concert Band, Studio Music, Music Theory 2, AP Music Theory, brass and percussion lessons, and chamber ensembles. As a director, Dr. Greene's bands have performed nationally in San Antonio, Atlanta, Orlando, Washington D.C., and Chicago, earning consistently high ratings and awards. She has served as a guest conductor for several honor band festivals and has toured four times with the American Music Abroad program. As a music educator, Dr. Greene is an active member of the New York State School Music Association for which she is an adjudicator for majors and All-State brass, a member of the Manual Selection Committee, and the Zone 3 Representative. On the local level she has served as President of the Onondaga County Mu-

sic Educators' Association and has hosted several All-County and regional events, both large ensemble and solo festivals.

As a musician, Dr. Greene remains active as a freelance hornist and a member of Central Winds: A Music Educators' Wind Ensemble. She has performed with this group since 1993, and served as its General Manager from 1999-2017. As part of the educational outreach of this group, Dr. Greene has presented clinics at Ithaca College, Syracuse University, and the Eastman School of Music. The group has enjoyed working with such conductors and artists as Donald Hunsberger, Mark Scatterday, Steve Peterson, and The Boston Brass, and performing locally and at The Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois, the Texas Bandmasters Association Conference in San Antonio, Texas, and the New York State Band Directors Symposium in Syracuse, New York.

Dr. Greene serves as an adjunct for several institutions, including Onondaga Community College (SUNY) where she designed and implemented the Intro to Music Education course. She also works with the Kent State University Masters of Music Online program advising students in their Capstone projects, in the Research course, and facilitating courses such as Advanced Studies in Teaching Instrumental Music and Technology for Music Teaching and Learning. Her research interests include teacher education as it relates to mentoring and professional development, teaching and learning in a digital environment, and belonging in music ensembles. She has been published in the Journal of Research in Music Education, the Journal of Music Teacher Education, Arts Education Policy Review and the School Music News (NYSSMA). She has presented research at numerous conferences such as the NAFME Biennial Music Research and Teacher Education Conference, the Society for Music Teacher Education (SMTE) Symposium, the Mayday Group Colloquia, NAFME Eastern Division, NYSSMA Winter Conference, the International Society for Music Education (ISME) Conference, and the Narrative Inquiry in Music Education Conference.

Dr. Greene holds her Bachelor of Music Education, Summa Cum Laude, from James Madison University (1990). Her Master of Music degree is from Ithaca College (1991) and her Doctorate of Musical Arts is from Boston University (2015).

Mark Brenner is a retired high school band director, having taught in Levittown, West Hempstead, and Port Washington Schools for 37 years. Mark earned a B.A. from LIU/CW Post, an M.A. with a concentration in Special Education from SUNY



Stony Brook, and a Professional Diploma in Education Leadership and Management from LIU/CW Post. He has conducted concert, marching and jazz bands, pit orchestras, as well as chamber music ensembles. His Wind Ensemble earned Level 6 Gold Ratings at NYS-SMA festivals and performed with Dr. Paula Holcombe from SUNY Fredonia in addition to notable composers Dr. Timothy Mahr and Frank Ticheli. In addition to his work as an instrumental conductor, Mark taught Advanced Placement Music Theory and served as the Port Washington District Coordinator of Music. In retirement, Mark stays busy as a music education clinician, a brass specialist for the Oyster-Bay East Norwich Schools, a NYSSMA brass adjudicator and a composer and arranger of band music. He supervised student teachers from Hartwick College and is an Adjunct Instructor for Suffolk County Community College. Mark performs with the Long Island Wind Ensemble.

Community Concert Band. His guest conducting work has spanned elementary through professional groups in several states and the United Kingdom, including two appearances at Carnegie Hall with bands from Hartwick College and Columbia University. He completed his DMA degree in wind conducting at Arizona State University, studying with Gary Hill, Wayne Bailey, and William Reber. His work there earned him the 2017 American Prize in Wind Band Conducting at the collegiate level. He was a 2025 Grammy Music Educator Award Quarterfinalist.

Dr. Pease started his career in New York City, directing the Columbia University Wind Ensemble and the community band Columbia Summer Winds. He also taught elementary and high school band in New York and Arizona, and remains committed to public education as a board member of the New York State Band Directors Association (NYSBDA). He has additional degrees from Dartmouth College, Teachers College at Columbia University, and Hofstra University. Dr. Pease runs two websites dedicated to the music of the wind band. Wind Band Literature (<http://windliterature.org>) has been used as a repertoire resource for bands around the world. The Wind Band Symphony Archive (<http://windsymphonies.org>) is a dynamic record of all known symphonies written for wind band. Dr. Pease is also a composer and arranger whose works are available at andypease.com/composer.



Andrew D. Pease serves as Associate Professor of Music, Director of Instrumental Music, and Music Department Co-Chair at Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY, where he also directs the Wind Ensemble and Brass Ensemble and teaches conducting, orchestration, and composition. At Hartwick, he spearheaded the creation of

the album, *Stravinsky: Alone No More*, with the Hartwick Faculty Wind Octet, released by Mark Masters. Beyond Hartwick, he is co-conductor of the Catskill Valley Wind Ensemble, a community band also based in Oneonta, and co conductor of the professional Oneonta

Bradley S. Hartman

is a distinguished composer, conductor, and music educator based on Long Island's north shore with his wife, Cheryl, and sons, Adam and Christopher. With a Bachelor of Music from Long Island University, a Master of Arts from Stony Brook University, and a Master of Music in Wind Conducting from Messiah University, he is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts at Five Towns College. His compositions, including *Coolin' Off*, *Lament*, and *Symphony No. 1: A Long Island Portrait*, have earned international recognition, with performances at the Montreux Jazz Festival and Midwest Clinic, and honors from The American Prize. As a conductor, Hartman leads ensembles like



the Smittown Community Band, where he serves as Associate Director and Composer-in-Residence. A 15-year veteran educator in Brentwood Union Free School District, he is a Marquis Who's Who Top Educator and a sought-after clinician at NYSSMA and other conferences. Hartman remains active in NYSSMA and other professional organizations, blending his trombone performance roots with his compositional and conducting expertise.

Erin Althen is a music teacher, performer, conductor, clinician, and author whose life's work is sharing music with students in a way that they connect to the most fulfilling, authentic, and light-filled expression of their being. Ms. Althen is in her twenty-



second year teaching in the Westhill Central School District in Syracuse, New York, where she serves as the Westhill High School Director of Bands and Chair of the Fine Arts Department; conducts the WHS Wind Ensemble, Pit Band, and Pep Band; advises the Tri-M National Honor Society for music; co-advises the Westhill Musical Leadership Academy; and coaches chamber music ensembles.

Ms. Althen is the founder and co-conductor of the Syracuse Youth Wind Symphony; co-founder of the Central New York Music Teacher Mentoring Program, and co-authored *The Sight Reading Book*, a series of 21 sight-reading books carefully aligned with state-specific criteria. Ms. Althen maintains a private flute studio and has performed on flute and piccolo with various music educator wind bands and orchestras. She is active as a clinician and guest conductor and has led honor ensembles and presented clinics to music educators at County, State, and National conferences.

Ms. Althen is the proud recipient of the New York State Band Directors Association (NYSBDA) Outstanding Band Director Award, CMA Foundation Music Teachers of Excellence National Award, National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) New York State Outstanding Music Educator Award, the Westhill Staff Recognition Award and Yearbook Dedication, and is deeply hon-

ored to have been named as one of 25 Semifinalists for the 2025 Grammy Music Educator Award. Ms. Althen holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Music Education with Performance Honors in Flute from Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music, and is a graduate of the Farmington Public Schools, in Farmington, Connecticut.

Corey Riley is in his Eighth year as a music educator in the Westhill Central Schools where he is the Associate Director of Bands at the high school, and conducts the Westhill Symphonic Band and High School Jazz Ensemble. He also teaches brass lessons grades 6-12, music theory, studio music, and advises the Audio Production and Engineering Club.



Corey has served on the board of the New York State Band Directors Association since 2014 in various roles including Web Editor, Second Vice President of Membership, First Vice President, President Elect, and Commission Chair. Corey has presented clinics at several state conferences on a variety of topics and he is the Technical Manager for the Skaneateles Festival. He is also an acting director on the board of the Syracuse Youth Wind Symphony.

Corey performs throughout Central New York with a variety of groups, but he considers the Syracuse University Brass Ensemble his musical home. He is Principal Euphonium and Assistant Director of the group. He graduated from THE Ohio State University in 2010 with Bachelor's degrees in music education and euphonium performance. In his time there, he marched with The Best Damn Band In The Land and performed with the Wind Symphony. He also holds a Masters of Science in Instructional Technology from Syracuse University.

Allyson Keyser is a tenured Professor of Music at SUNY Schenectady County Community College where she instructs the trumpet studio, coaches brass ensembles, teaches core music classes, directs the Wind Ensemble, and is the Winds and Strings Department Chair. Dr. Keyser received her bachelor's degree in music education from Virginia Commonwealth University and her M.M. and D.M.A. in trumpet performance with a cognate in instrumental conducting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she was the trumpet teaching assistant.



In 2017, Dr. Keyser won the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Prior to her appointment at SUNY Schenectady, Dr. Keyser taught trumpet, theory, aural skills, and coached brass ensembles at Virginia Commonwealth University as a sabbatical replacement for her former professor, Rex Richardson. Dr. Keyser currently performs as principal trumpet and assistant conductor of the Capital Region Wind Ensemble. She leads the SUNY Schenectady Concert Brass Quintet, plays principal trumpet with Albany Pro Musica, is a member of the Schenectady-Saratoga Symphony, and often performs with the Albany Symphony, Glens Falls Symphony, and Saratoga Voices among many other fine ensembles in the area. She recently performed with the Lake Geore Music Festival Orchestra and performed and recorded a new work with the American Modern Ensemble on Albany Records.

Dr. Keyser often presents trumpet clinics and conducting workshops at K-12 schools, universities, and music conferences across NY state. Additionally, she presents topics to area music programs on audition preparation, performance anxiety, programming, and alternative careers in music. She performs as an active freelance musician and maintains a trumpet studio of all ages and levels in the Capital Region of New York. Her specialty is working with students who have technical or physical challenges on their instruments, helping them learn to play with ease, and removing roadblocks so that they can fully enjoy the process of making beautiful music with confidence.

Courtne Whittemore (IC '17, '21) is entering her ninth year teaching elementary band in Horseheads, NY. She thinks teaching beginning/elementary band is the best job in the world and has previously presented on this topic at NYS-SMA's Winter Conference and NAFME's All-Eastern Conference. Courtne is excited to be able to bring her passion and experience to CSI this summer!



Gavin Anderson (IC '25) is entering his first full year teaching 7th-12th grade band in Bath, NY. His interests in music education include lifelong musicianship, healthy habits, and building stronger, more resilient young people through music. Gavin is looking forward to sharing his excitement and enthusiasm for music education in Ithaca this summer at CSI Northeast!





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