

Band Stand

The Official Newsletter of the New York State Band Directors Association



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Editor’s Note:



Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year - a brand new year full of new possibilities and potential. I hope that summer has left you rested, rejuvenated, and ready for music making with your ensembles. August brought the NYSBDA membership fantastic professional development opportunities as well as a brand new Elementary Honor Band. Nothing encapsulates the joy of music making better than young players filling Ford Hall stage for the first time under the batons of master teachers. I hope that you can approach this school year with the same spark as you fill your band rooms with music.

Best Wishes for a Wonderful School Year,
Jennifer Pham
Bandstand Editor
bandstand@nysbda.org

From the Podium

By Jackie Kovacs, NYSBDA President



Welcome Back! It's a great feeling to have the 2025-2026 school year off and running! Years ago, when I was first introduced to NYSBDA, it was a result of the local Broome Co./Region 3 members encouraging me to get involved. This grew into having students participate in the Honor Bands, serving as Region 3 Rep, Vice President positions, President Elect and the honor to now serve the NYSBDA membership as President. Over the years I have had the opportunity to serve alongside many music educators that I now consider my mentors and friends. Each person brings experience, knowledge and insight which provides us with perspective to help us all grow. It is this enthusiasm and energy of NYSBDA that keeps me coming back for more.

If you were able to attend the NYSBDA/Conn Selmer/Ithaca College Summer Conference, I hope you found it rewarding. The collaboration between three amazing organizations continues to provide professional development for our state and beyond. These opportunities would not be possible without the dedication of the Conn Selmer Institute, Ithaca College Department of Music and our NYSBDA board. Congratulations to Corey Riley on a successful conference. The hours "behind the scenes" are greatly appreciated. The summer conference made history too. For the first time, the NYSBDA Elementary Honor Band rehearsed and performed. Bravo to Jessica Williamson, Elementary Honor Band Chair, for making this dream a reality. It was a great experience for me to co-conduct with Executive Director, Michael Struzick. We found an enthusiastic group of young musicians, prepared and ready to perform. Thank you to all of the teachers who assist in preparation and for the families and guardians who traveled to Ithaca to provide this opportunity to their students. Moving forward, NYSBDA will strive to offer more experiences for our teacher and students. Please share your thoughts and ideas to help us grow.

Looking ahead, NYSBDA is proud to be sponsoring two sessions at the NYSSMA Winter Conference: Dec. 4-7th in Rochester, New York. Come out to support Bradley Morrison, Student Lead Instrument Repair, Friday at 1:15p.m. in the Convention Center, Cascade ABC and Erin Althen and Greg Borsz- Building an Ensemble Culture of Joy, Saturday, 10:45a.m. in the Convention Center, Cascade DEF.

The March Symposium is March 6-8, 2026 in East Syracuse at the DoubleTree. Honor Band applications are now open and can be located in this Bandstand. Throughout the state, region representatives will be offering various workshop sessions. Check the website for Regional Workshops- Region 1, Richard Goss, Oct. 16, 2025 and others. If you have an idea or are interested in presenting, please reach out to your region rep. C-NYSBDA continues to build bridges for our collegiate members. NYSBDA is proud to have C-NYSBDA chapters at Hofstra University, Ithaca College, SUNY Fredonia and SUNY Potsdam. Reach out to Alessandra Shellard (Region 6 Representative, Collegiate Advisor) or Aidan Carney, C-NYSBDA President for more information.

As we move into the school year, please consider this your invitation to reach out to other colleagues who should be involved! Start with your school district colleagues, current student teachers and at your county level. Just like it happened to me, it just took an invitation. The NYSBDA Executive Board and Region Representatives are here to serve you, our membership. Best wishes for a rewarding school year.

Jackie Kovacs
NYSBDA President

Conn Selmer Institute Northeast “Wrap Up”

By Corey Riley, *NYSBDA 1st Vice President*



Year two of any new venture is a chance to reflect, grow, innovate, listen to feedback, and take action. We are thrilled to report that the second annual Conn Selmer Institute Northeast, held on the picturesque campus of Ithaca College from August 12th to 14th, 2025, has once again provided an invaluable Summer experience and reinforced what we hope will be an annual tradition. This inspiring professional development experience continues to be a unique collaboration between the Conn Selmer Institute, the Ithaca College Bands, and the New York State Band Directors Association (NYSBDA), fostering professional development and community for Northeast Band Directors.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the board of the New York State Band Directors Association for their unwavering support and dedicated efforts. Their commitment ensures the continuous provision of meaningful professional development to our members across the state. Our thanks also go to Dr. Daniel Cook, the Director of Bands at Ithaca College, for his continued gracious hosting and partnership. His vision for this event has been instrumental in its continued success. Furthermore, we recognize the significant contributions of the Education Division of Conn Selmer, led by Erin Cole Steele, Director, Division of Education and Senior Educational Clinician. The talent, experience, and knowledge brought by Conn Selmer’s clinicians continue to make an immediate impact on our programs.

This year, NYSBDA placed a special emphasis on Elementary Band, an area we feel warrants more professional development support. To this end, Jessica Williamson, our Elementary Honor Band Chair, organized a brand new state-level honor group for elementary band students. Over 90 students from across New York State traveled to Ithaca to participate in this exciting opportunity, conducted by Mike Struzik and Jackie Kovacs. We intentionally included clinics and reading bands specifically supporting young band concepts to fill the existing gap in this area. The group’s performance was truly inspirational, leaving the hall filled with tears of joy and pride beaming on the faces of directors and parents.



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



Richard Esposito
Senior Educational Clinician
Conn Selmer, Inc.



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



Shelley Jagers
Professor of Music
Binghamton University



Beth Taberling
Conn Selmer Educational Clinician
Conn Selmer, Inc.



Daniel Cook
Director of Bands & Coordinator, Ithaca
College Band Director
Ithaca College

Conn Selmer Institute Northeast “Wrap Up”

Continued

We were incredibly grateful to welcome our keynote speaker, **Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser**, Senior Vice President of Education and Senior Educational Clinician for Conn Selmer, Inc., who joined us for the entire conference to share his wisdom and expertise. Dr. Lautzenheiser delivered insightful sessions including his keynote, “**MUSIC EDUCATORS: SHEPHERDING TOMORROW’S LEADERS TO ARTISTRY**”, and clinics such as “**ONE PERSON MAKES A DIFFERENCE**” and “**BUILDING A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE**”. He also presented a dedicated “Dr. Tim Collegiate Conference” for college students.



The conference also featured other exciting Conn Selmer Educational Clinicians, including **Dr. Shelley Jagow**, Professor of Music at Wright State University, and **Dr. Elizabeth Peterson**, Emeritus Professor at the University of Illinois. Dr. Jagow and Dr. Peterson led engaging reading sessions and were instrumental in conducting the directors’ ensemble.



One steadfast tradition we were dedicated to keeping was the **Director’s Band**. Attendees had the opportunity to rehearse and commune in Ford Hall, making music together under the direction of Dr. Shelley Jagow, **Dr. Elizabeth Peterson**, and Dr. Daniel Cook. This opportunity to get our instruments out and make music together was a significant highlight of the event.

A highlight of the conference was the Conn Selmer guest artist performance by **Camille Thurman**, an accomplished composer, esteemed saxophonist, vocalist, and unique interpreter of the jazz tradition. Her captivating blend of tradition and innovation made a considerable and dynamic contribution to the legacy of jazz.



The curriculum for CSI Northeast was thoughtfully curated to address a wide range of topics, featuring presenters from the Conn Selmer team, the Ithaca College team, NYSBDA Membership, and other esteemed educators from across the region.

Conn Selmer Institute Northeast “Wrap Up”

Continued

Day 1: Tuesday, August 12th

The first day kicked off with **Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser’s** keynote, “MUSIC EDUCATORS: SHEPHERDING TOMORROW’S LEADERS TO ARTISTRY”. Participants engaged in diverse sessions, including a Reading Band led by **Dr. Shelley Jagow**. Dr. Jagow also presented “**PLANTING AND GROWING YOUR SAXOPHONE SECTION – TOP 10 FERTILIZERS!**”, while **Peter Gehres** discussed “REMOVING THE MENTAL BLOCK: PLAYING IN A VARIETY OF KEY AND TIME SIGNATURES IN MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND”. **Erin Althen** and **Corey Riley** collaborated on “TEACHING STUDENT LEADERSHIP WITHIN A CULTURE OF JOY”, and **Aaron Staebell** explored “IMPROVISATION FOR ANY AGE: BEYOND THE NOTES AND RHYTHMS”. The afternoon featured a session by **Daniel Cook** and “**COMPOSING & ARRANGING FOR CONCERT BAND**” by **Bradley Hartman**. The day concluded with a Reading Band focused on Young Band Literature, led by **Mike Struzik**, **Jackie Kovacs**, and **Erin Cole**.

Day 2: Wednesday, August 13th

Day two began with **Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser’s** clinic, “ONE PERSON MAKES A DIFFERENCE”. Other sessions included “PRACTICE MAKES PROGRESS” by **Beth Fabrizio** and “THE KEYS TO UNLOCKING YOUR BRASS CHOPS PART TWO: DEBUNKING COMMONLY USED CATCHPHRASES AND PROVIDING PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES” by **Dr. Allyson Keyser**. The Directors Band Rehearsal was a key event, led by **Dr. Shelley Jagow**, **Dr. Elizabeth Peterson**, and **Daniel Cook**.

Afternoon clinics featured “BRAVE BEGINNINGS: TEACHING ELEMENTARY BAND WITH THE END IN MIND” by **Courtne Whittemore**, and “THE ABC’S OF FUNDAMENTALS” by **Beth Fabrizio**. **Dr. Shelley Jagow** returned to present “Music CLUE: Rehearsal Detective – Who Did It? How to Fix It?”, while **Andy Pease** shared “THE MAGIC OF SINGING WITH YOUR BAND”. The afternoon also included the highly anticipated Conn Selmer Guest Artist Performance by **Camille Thurman**. Sessions by **Dr. Jennifer Greene** on “THE WARM-UP WEB: CONNECTING CONCEPTS AND CREATING COMMUNITY” and **Lindsey Williams** on “BAND BESTIES 1+1=3+” rounded out the day. The evening culminated with a concert featuring the NYSBDA Elementary Honor Band and the CSI Northeast Directors Band.



Conn Selmer Institute Northeast “Wrap Up”

Continued



Day 3: Thursday, August 14th

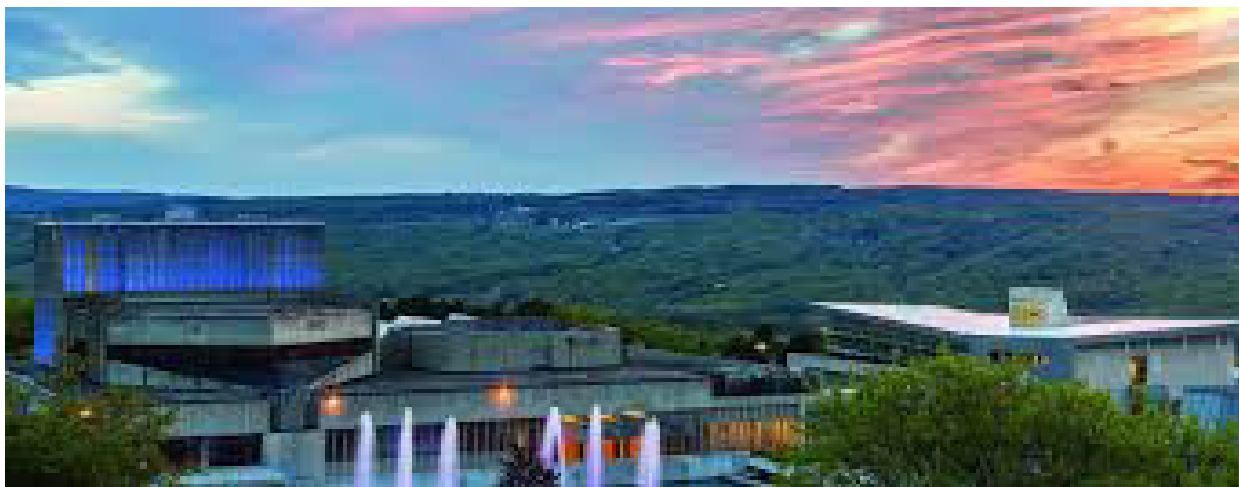
The final day opened with **Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser**’s session, “**BUILDING A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE**”. The schedule included topics such as Erin Cole’s session, “**TEACHERS’ PERCEPTIONS OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE INSTRUMENT SELECTION PROCESS**” by **Aidan Carney**, “**CREATIVITY THROUGH COLLABORATION**” by **Mark Brenner**, and “**PUT A CORK IN IT!!! (HANDS ON EDITION)**” by **Miles DeCastro**. **Dr. Elizabeth Peterson** was a featured Conn Selmer Educational Clinician presenting during the event, and **Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser** conducted the “Dr. Tim Collegiate Conference” for college students.

Beyond the classroom, CSI Northeast also fostered a sense of community and camaraderie through evening excursions that provided delightful opportunities for networking, relaxation, and fun, forging connections that will last a lifetime.

As we conclude the 2025 Conn Selmer Institute Northeast, we are eager to hear from attendees on how we can continue to improve future events. We encourage all in-state directors to join NYSBDA and take advantage of all that our membership provides throughout the year. Together, organized, we can do great things for bands, students, and band directors across New York State. We look forward to seeing you at next year’s Conn Selmer Institute Northeast!

Sincerely,

Corey Riley



2025 NYSBDA Elementary Honor Band Wrap-Up

By Jessica Williamson, *Elementary Honor Band Chair*
Michael Struzik & Jacquelin Kovacs, *Guest Conductors*

This summer, NYSBDA proudly launched the first statewide **Elementary Honor Band**, made possible through the support of Conn-Selmer and Ithaca College. Students were selected from across New York State to form an inclusive ensemble that represented every region. Nearly 120 students applied, and 90 young musicians from 19 school districts were welcomed to Ithaca College for this one-day festival. From the moment they arrived, their energy, preparation, and excitement set the stage for an unforgettable experience.

Students spent the day making music with guest conductors **Michael Struzik**, NYSBDA Executive Director, and **Jacquelin Kovacs**, NYSBDA President. In the afternoon, they attended a special concert by Camille Thurman, a saxophonist with the Lincoln Center Orchestra, joined by the Darrell Green Quartet. The festival concluded with a thrilling performance in Ford Hall, featuring both the NYSBDA Director's Band and the inaugural 2025 NYSBDA Elementary Honor Band.

The launch of the Elementary Honor Band marks an exciting new chapter for NYSBDA and for young musicians across New York State, offering them an early opportunity to experience the joy of making music together as they begin their musical journey.



2026 NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band Preview

Omar Williams, Chairperson



The 2026 NYSBDA Statewide Middle School Honor Band will rehearse and perform at the NYSBDA Symposium **March 6 & 7, 2026** 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.

Mr. James Patrick Miller 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 his energy and expertise at this year's Symposium.

NYSBDA will continue 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 2026 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 2026 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 2025 NYSSMA Solo Evaluation may be submitted with each application, if applicable, but is not a requirement for nomination. Teachers should write a recommendation based on the student's abilities. A musical resume should also be included in the application. Selection of students is based on all criteria included in the application—ensure everything is uploaded.

The deadline for submitting online applications is Friday, October 24th

Band directors will be emailed the names of students accepted or selected as alternates for the Middle School Honor Band by Tuesday, November 11th, 2025. An all-inclusive, non-refundable participation fee of \$300.00 per student is due by December 15, 2025. The \$300.00 participation fee includes: music, guest conductor, rehearsal/performance spaces, shared room, meals and an audio recording of the concert. Four meals, (Friday lunch, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and Saturday lunch) at the hotel are included in the participation fee.

In order to ensure the safety of all participating students, 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. 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.

Under no circumstances will students be allowed to room with family members on Friday evening.

2025 NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band Preview

Continued

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.

Music will be sent to band directors at their school addresses for distribution to Honor Band members by **Sunday, January 4, 2026**. This will allow Honor Band members approximately nine weeks to thoroughly prepare their music prior to the first rehearsal.

Music will be sent to band directors at their school addresses for distribution to Honor Band members by Sunday, **January 4, 2026**. 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 6 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.

Additional Middle School Honor Band information and forms are available via the NYSBDA website (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

Dr. James Patrick Miller, conductor

Originally from Winona, MN, James Patrick Miller is a Grammy nominated conductor and educator traveling the nation and globe working with professional, military, community, university, and school ensembles. His work has brought him to guest conducting engagements and workshops with more than 100,000 high school students since 2002. Along with his international career as a conductor, Dr. Miller works in the higher education division of Oxford University Press where he serves arts, humanities, social science, and STEM programs throughout Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin promoting OUP's mission of advancing learning, scholarship, and research.

Professor Miller's previous appointments include The Douglas Nimmo Endowed Professor of the Gustavus Wind Orchestra and Gustavus Adolphus College from 2014- 2024, Director of Bands at The University of Massachusetts from 2009-2014, and Assistant Director of Bands and Choirs at Cornell University from 2002-2006. Miller won the American Choral Directors Association National Conducting Competition in New York City in 2002 and led the UMass Wind Ensemble to a Grammy nomination in 2015 for its recording of Stephen Paulus' Concerto for Trumpets and Band.



Miller's ensembles have appeared at conferences of the College Band Directors National Association and Minnesota Music Educators Association 6 times, and he has led ensemble tours across the nation from New England to Las Vegas and to Norway, Sweden, Spain, and France. Performances under maestro Miller's direction have earned praise from Pulitzer Prize winning composers Karel Husa, Gunther Schuller, and Steven Stucky, Emmy Award winning composers Bruce Broughton and Julie Giroux, Grammy Award winning composer Stephen Paulus, and renowned composers Katherine Bergman, Sydney Guillaume, David Maslanka, Oscar Navarro, James Stephenson, and many more. In 2018 Miller was pinned as an honorary officer in the United States Coast Guard during his appearance as the Captain Louis J. Buckley Guest Conductor with the United States Coast Guard Band and he has appeared as a guest conductor crossing the nation from California to Maine and Nevada to New Jersey.

Earning the DMA in conducting from the University of Minnesota, the Master of Music in conducting from Ithaca College, and the Bachelor of Music in Education from St. Olaf College, Miller has also held memberships in CBDNA, WASBE, NAFME, MICCA, ACDA, and MBDA. He was inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda in 2001 and holds honorary memberships in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Tau Beta Sigma, and Kappa Kappa Psi. Miller lives in St. Peter, MN with his wife, professional conductor and soprano Dr. Heidi Johanna Miller, their two daughters, two cats, two fish, and is a very below average golfer.

2026 NYSBDA High School Honor Band Preview

Brad Hartman, Chairperson



It's Time Again to Nominate Your Deserving Students for the NYSBDA High School Honor Concert Band!

The 2026 NYSBDA Symposium will be held on **March 6 - 8, 2026** 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 **Dr. Jennifer Jolley** 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 2024-2025 school year for the High School Honor Band. Students that have already been selected for **any 2025 NYSSMA All-State performing 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.

How to nominate your students:

1. Go to www.nysbdamembers.org and complete an application for each student
2. Print and complete the 2026 Honor Band Commitment Form. This form must be completed and returned through DaCapo by the nomination deadline.

The deadline to nominate a student is Friday, October 24, 2025.

Teachers will be notified of all accepted and alternate participants by Tuesday, November 11. There is a non-refundable student participation fee for all accepted students of \$400.00 which covers lodging, meals (lunch & dinner on Friday, breakfast, lunch, & dinner on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday), a recording of the concert, and costs associated with our rehearsal/performance space. This payment is due by December 15, 2025.

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

High School Honor Band

Conductor and Bio

Jennifer Jolley (b. 1981) is a composer, conductor, and professor. Her work is founded on the belief that the pleasures and excesses of music have the unique potential to engage political and provocative subjects. Addressing a range of topics such as climate change, #MeToo, feminist history, and the abuses of the Putin regime, Jennifer strives to write pieces that are equally enjoyable and meaningful.

Jennifer's works have been commissioned and performed by ensembles worldwide, including the Dallas Winds, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Central Ohio Symphony, Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, and Quince Ensemble. Her music has been featured in venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Rivera Court at the Detroit Institute of Arts, and Žofín Palace. A future piece commissioned by the US Navy Band will premiere at the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) Conference in Gwangju, South Korea, in Namhansanseong Art Hall.

Jennifer received degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. She is now an Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition in the Department of Music, Multimedia, Theatre, and Dance at Lehman College in the Bronx and was a Fulbright Scholar to Egypt in 2023. She has been a composition faculty member at Interlochen Arts Camp since 2015.



2026 NYSBDA High School Honor Jazz Ensemble Preview

Austin Day, Chairperson



The 2026 NYSBDA High School Honor Jazz Ensemble will rehearse and perform during all three days of the Symposium to be held **March 6, 7, and 8, 2026** 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 3/8/26 at 12:00 noon.

We are thrilled to announce that New York-based trombonist, composer, arranger, and educator, **Andy Clausen**, has agreed to conduct the our High School Honor Jazz Ensemble this coming March. A sought after touring and studio musician across genres, Andy has worked with a wide range of artists including Joanna Newsom, Fleet Foxes, Jon Batiste, Common, Bon Iver, Aaron Dessner, Feist, Sylvan Esso, Vieux Farka Touré, Celisse, John Zorn, Wynton Marsalis, and many more. A graduate of The Juilliard School, Andy served as principal conductor and Artistic Director for Jazz at New York Youth Symphony from 2016-2023, and in 2021 joined the faculty of The New School as an Artist in Residence and professor of trombone and composition. In addition to his performance work, Andy is an active composer for film, television, and radio, contributing original music to NBC, MSNBC, Showtime, The Michelle Obama Podcast, PBS, NPR, The New York Times, Blue Chalk Media, the Whitney Museum, and Freedom House. Andy is an endorsing artist of Conn-Selmer/King Trombones, Eventide Effects, and Moog Synthesizers.

For more info and a full biography, check out: www.andyclausen.com and on social media @aclausent

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.

HOW TO NOMINATE STUDENTS: NYSBDA Honor Band Nominations will be completed through Da-Capo. 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), on the Honor Bands subpage. We ask that the 2026 Commitment Form be completed and signed by the appropriate parties. Please confirm student availability before submitting a nomination. This document must be uploaded to the online application for each student you nominate.

The 2026 Commitment Form can be found here: [2026 NYSBDA Commitment Form](#)

2026 NYSBDA High School Honor Jazz Ensemble Preview

Continued

ELIGIBILITY: Only students who definitely plan to participate, if selected, should apply. 2025 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, 2025,** 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 13, 2025. An all-inclusive, nonrefundable participation fee of \$325.00 per student and a signed commitment letter are due by December 15, 2025. The \$325.00 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 6 and 7, 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 Andy Clausen, the 2026 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.

Jazz Ensemble Honor Band

Andy Clausen is a New York-based trombonist, composer, arranger, and educator. A sought-after touring and studio musician across genres, Andy has worked with a wide range of artists including Joanna Newsom, Fleet Foxes, Jon Batiste, Common, Bon Iver, Aaron Dessner, Feist, Sylvan Esso, Vieux Farka Touré, Celisse, John Zorn, Wynton Marsalis, Samora Pinderhughes, Dave Douglas, Haley Heynderickx, Aoife O'Donovan, Caroline Shaw, Theo Bleckmann, Chris Thile, Gabriel Kahane, Nico Muhly, and Conrad Tao.

Andy is a founding member of The Westerlies, an acclaimed new music brass chamber ensemble. From Carnegie Hall to Coachella, The Westerlies navigate a wide array of projects with the precision of a string quartet, the audacity of a rock band, and the charm of a family sing-along, creating music that is “folk-like and composerly, lovely and intellectually rigorous” – NPR.



Andy has also gained stature as a bandleader for creative music with the albums *The Wishbone Suite*, *Shutter Vols. 1 & 2*, *Few Ill Words: Solo Trombone at The TANK, Vol. 1*, and *Heart of Tones: Solo Trombone at The TANK, Vol. 2*. He has performed at Carnegie Hall, the New York Philharmonic, the Hollywood Bowl, Red Rocks, Coachella, Radio City Music Hall, the Kennedy Center, *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, NPR Tiny Desk, Newport Folk Festival, Newport Jazz Festival, Newport Classical Festival, FreshGrass, Pitchfork Music Festival, SFJAZZ, and Jazz at Lincoln Center.

In addition to his performance work, Andy is an active composer for film, television, and radio, contributing original music to NBC, MSNBC, Showtime, *The Michelle Obama Podcast*, PBS, NPR, *The New York Times*, Blue Chalk Media, the Whitney Museum, and Freedom House.

Andy is a graduate of The Juilliard School, and in 2021 joined the faculty at The New School as an artist-in-residence and professor of trombone and composition. From 2015–2023, Andy served as Artistic Director for Jazz at New York Youth Symphony, collaborating with guest artists including Maria Schneider, Rufus Reid, Matt Wilson, Ingrid Jensen, Ted Nash, Jim McNeely, Sean Jones, and more. Additionally, Andy works with thousands of students each year through The Westerlies’ educational initiatives, and has given masterclasses at Juilliard, Yale, Colburn, Northwestern, Manhattan School of Music, Boston Conservatory, and Michigan State University.

Andy is an endorsing artist of Conn-Selmer/King Trombones, Eventide Effects, and Moog Synthesizers. He lives in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, with his wife Rachel. Aside from music, he enjoys cooking, biking, walking, travel, and photography. More info at: www.andyclausen.com and on social media @aclausent

“A melody from Andy Clausen is pure moonlight. It’s lovely and magical, full of warmth, and it can brighten up the room. But moonlight also is a source of mystery, with ominous overtones and an electric tension” - Bandcamp Daily

“sleek, dynamic large-group jazz, a whirl of dark-hued harmony and billowing rhythm...The intelligent sheen of Mr. Clausen’s writing was as striking as the composure of his peers...It was impressive, and not just by the yardstick of their age.” - The New York Times

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 6-8, 2026. 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 24, 2025 to Corey Riley at presidentelect@nysbda.org or riley.279@gmail.com 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 19, 2025.



NEW YORK STATE
BAND DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

13TH ANNUAL

NYSBDA REGION 1 WORKSHOP 10.16.25

James Tapia - Concert gems with the Director's Band
Live workshop with the Hamburg HS Wind Ensemble

Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble
Directed by **Mike Titlebaum**

Aaron Staebell - Jazz Clinic
Woodwind Repair Clinic with **Twin Village Music**

Elementary-Middle School Roundtable
Online NYSSMA Manual with **Marty Allen**



KEYNOTE:
JAMES TAPIA
SYRACUSE UNIV.

Have questions now? Please reach out to the
NYSBDA REGION 1 STEERING COMMITTEE at
NYSBDAREGION1@GMAIL.COM

GRACIOUSLY HOSTED AT
HAMBURG HIGH SCHOOL
HAMBURG, NEW YORK

*Register
Now*



Member Spotlight - Lindsey Williams

Author of “Where the Valley Widens”



Lindsey Williams, a band director and active NYSBDA member from Zone 3, has directed award-winning bands at all levels in the public schools since 2007. She graduated summa cum laude from the Boston Conservatory, earning her BM in flute performance, her MMED, and the Conservatory’s Outstanding Music Educator Award. She has directed Binghamton University’s Wind Symphony and chaired numerous festivals and committees for the New York State School Music Association. An active performer, conductor, and clinician, Lindsey lives with her family and cats in upstate New York. She loves making music just as much as writing about it and you can purchase her latest book, **Where the Valley Widens**, anywhere you buy books.

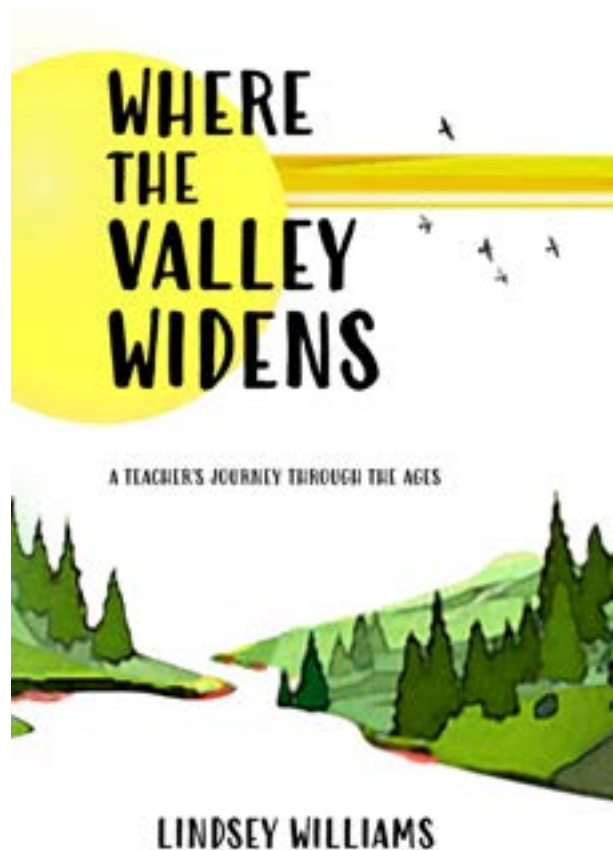
Endorsements

An intimate account of a young music teacher’s journey through the first 18 years of her career and personal life. She chronicles her challenges, doubts, disappointments, and successes as both a teacher and mother. Her story reads like a novel. Highly recommended!!

Frank L. Battisti
Emeritus Conductor and Faculty
New England Conservatory

“I wasn’t quite sure what I would find or learn as I set about reading *Where the Valley Widens*. So, with an open and curious mind I began. And didn’t stop. At first blush, this might seem like a “band director story” but it is more... so much more... than that. This poignantly organized, beautifully written work is a personal glimpse into the heart of a student-teacher-mentor journey, with all its successes, frustrations, highlights, lowlights, and vulnerabilities.”

Dr. Deborah Confredo, President (2024-2026)
National Association for Music Education



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.



COLLEGIATE NYSBDA



NYSBDA

New York State

Band Directors

Association



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

Questions?

vcusumano1@pride.hofstra.edu