

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

By Brad Hartman, NYSBDA HS Honor Concert Band Chairperson

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!