

NYSBDA 2026 Symposium Who's Who

The Long and Winding Road: Honoring Legacy, Amplifying Artistry

March 6-8, 2026

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Syracuse

6301 NY-298, East Syracuse, NY, 13057

NYSBDA is excited to announce our 2026 Keynote speaker, Mr. Randall Standridge, composer, educator, and marching arts designer! Mr. Standridge has also composed a piece to be premiered by the 2026 NYSBDA High School Honor Band. The 2026 Living Legend is Gary Hill, professor of music and Director of Bands Emeritus at Arizona State University, will host the conducting clinic and have the *Interview with the Legend* with Dr. Andrew Pease. Our evening concerts will feature Steve Frank and the Camillus Community Jazz Band on Friday and Andy Perry and the Camillus Community Band on Saturday.

Living Legend 2026- Gary Hill



Gary W. Hill — Gary W. Hill is Professor of Music and Director of Bands Emeritus at Arizona State University, where he taught from 1999-2019. Prior to Hill's appointment at ASU, he was Director of Bands at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music (1986-99), at East Texas State University (now Texas A&M-Commerce, 1982-86) and Associate Director of Bands at the University of Colorado, Boulder (1980-82). He also served as Music Director for the Kansas City Youth Wind Ensemble

and for *newEar*, a chamber ensemble devoted to contemporary music. Hill began his teaching career in Michigan, where he was Director of Bands for the Traverse City (1977-80) and West Bloomfield (1974-77) public schools.

High school, university, and professional ensembles under Hill's direction have given performances for the National Band Association, the Music Educators National Conference (NAfME), the College Band Directors National Association, the American Bandmasters Association, the International Horn Symposium, the National Flute Association, at many state conventions, and throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Performances conducted by him have consistently drawn praise from composers, performing musicians, and critics alike for their insightful, inspired, and cohesive realizations, and for their imaginative programming.

During Professor Hill's 39 years as a collegiate conducting teacher, he taught scores of undergraduate and graduate conducting students and served as the primary mentor for 53 wind band conducting majors, 8 who are serving as conductors of US Armed Forces' ensembles and other professional groups, and 42 who won university teaching positions.

Gary W. Hill is one of the most sought after guest conductors and clinicians in the instrumental music education field. As a conductor, appearances in more than a dozen countries and throughout the United States have included performances with myriad high school honor bands, numerous college and university wind bands and orchestras, many professional ensembles, at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, and at World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles' conferences. As a clinician, Hill has presented hundreds of workshops on conducting and rehearsal technique for music teachers of all levels and has worked with thousands of bands and orchestras and their teachers. Professor Hill is currently a Conn-Selmer Educational Clinician.

Hill remains passionately involved with research concerning the exploration of biochemical reactions spawned by the musical process, the art and craft of conducting, and the past, present, and future of instrumental music in schools. He is the author or co-author of numerous articles published in music trade journals (CBDNA Journal, WASBE Journal, Bands of America, National Association of Schools of Music, AMEA Journal, etc.) and in scientific journals, proceedings, and books, including: the Acoustical Society of America; *The Oxford Handbook of Making Music and Leisure*; and in the Journal *Hormones and Behavior*.

Professor Hill is a member of many professional organizations, including the American Bandmasters Association and the College Band Directors National Association, for which he hosted the "Fiftieth Anniversary National Conference" (1991), co-hosted the 2019 biennial national conference, as well as the joint conferences of the North Central and Southwestern Divisions in conjunction with The Society for American Music (1998), served as president of the Southwestern Division (1989-91), and as national president (2003-05).

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND CLINICIAN- Mr. Randall Standridge



Randall Standridge (b.1976) received his Bachelor's of Music Education from Arkansas State University. During this time, he studied composition with Dr. Tom O'Connor, before returning to Arkansas State University to earn his Master's in Music Composition, studying with Dr. Tom O'Connor and Dr. Tim Crist. In 2001, he began his tenure as Director of Bands at Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg, Arkansas. He left this post in 2013 to pursue a career as a full-time composer and marching arts designer.

Mr. Standridge is currently published by Grand Mesa Music, Alfred Music, FJH Music, Wingert-Jones Music, BandWorks Publications, Twin Towers Music, and Northeastern Music Publications. Mr. Standridge's music is performed internationally. He has had numerous works selected to the J.W. Pepper's editor's choice. His compositions Snake Charmer, Gently Blows the Summer Wind, and Angelic Celebrations have been included in the "Teaching Music Through Performance in Band" series. He has had numerous works performed at the prestigious Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois. His

work Art(isms) was premiered by the Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble at the 2010 CBDNA conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and his work Stonewall: 1969 was premiered at the National LGBA conference in 2019. Mr. Standridge is a contributing composer for Alfred Music's Sound Innovations: Ensemble Development series.

In addition to his career as a composer, Mr. Standridge is the owner and editor for Randall Standridge Music, LLC and Grand Mesa Marching. He is in demand as a drill designer, music arranger, and colorguard designer for the marching arts, as well as a freelance artist/photographer and writer. He lives in Jonesboro, Arkansas with his family.

Ms. Erin Althen
Leadership Sessions



Erin Althen is a music educator, mentor, leader, and advocate whose life's work centers on empowering students to discover their most fulfilled, authentic, and light-filled selves through the transformative power of music. Now in her 23rd year with the Westhill Central School District in Syracuse, New York, she serves as Director of Bands and Chair of the Fine Arts Department at Westhill High School, where she conducts the Wind Ensemble, Musical Pit Orchestra, and Pep Band; advises the Tri-M Music Honor Society and Westhill Musical Leadership Academy; teaches lessons; and coaches chamber music ensembles.

Beyond her work in the classroom, 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-author of *The Sight Reading Book*, a 21-volume series aligned with state-specific

standards. As a clinician and guest conductor, she leads honor ensembles and presents professional development workshops for music educators at the county, state, and national levels. An accomplished flutist and piccoloist, she maintains a private studio and has performed on world-renowned stages with exceptional music educator wind ensembles and orchestras.

Ms. Althen's contributions to the field have been recognized with numerous accolades, including the Outstanding Band Director Award from the New York State Band Directors Association, the Music Teachers of Excellence Award from the Country Music Association Foundation, the National Federation of High Schools Outstanding Music Educator Award, and selection as a Semifinalist for the 2025 and 2026 GRAMMY Music Educator Award. Ms. Althen earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Syracuse University and resides in Central New York with her husband, Corey; daughters, Isabella and Fiona; horse, Louie; and rescue cats: Callie, Clover, Josie, Caspian, and Frankie.

Melissa Cannan



Melissa Cannan has been teaching elementary band for 32 years. She currently teaches fourth and fifth grade band in the Liverpool Central School District, at Soule Road and Liverpool Elementary schools. She is a graduate of Ithaca College and holds degrees in education and performance. She plays euphonium in the Eastman Community Music School Music Educators' Wind Ensemble and enjoys playing trombone as well. She was recently appointed as the NYSSMA All-State Band Chair. She was honored to be named the Liverpool Central School District Teacher of the Year for 2024-25. She lives in Clifton Springs with her husband Scott and her sons Matthew and Brian.

Michael Struzik
NYSBDA Executive Director



Michael Struzik is a 1988 graduate of the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam. As of June, 2021, he is a retired music teacher from the Brighton School District near Rochester. His responsibilities at Brighton included directing the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Jazz Band, as well as teaching brass and percussion lessons to students in grades nine through twelve. He taught music theory and advanced placement music theory. In addition, he directed the pit orchestra for the annual spring musical. Mr. Struzik also served as a music facilitator for the district.

Mr. Struzik has conducted All-County and honor band festivals in several counties in New York State as well as the state of Virginia. He is a past recipient of the University of Rochester's Excellence in Secondary Education Award. He is also the 2011 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the New York State Band Directors Association. In 2019, he received the Helen Hosmer Excellence in Teaching Award from the Crane School of Music. In 2020, he received the Excellence in Music Education Award from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Mr. Struzik is an All- State certified adjudicator, and is also an adjudicator for major organization festivals. Since 2017, he has served NYSSMA as the Adjudication Festival Committee band chair.

During the summer, he teaches at Crane Youth Music in Potsdam, New York. Mr. Struzik is a free-lance musician in the Rochester area, and performs regularly with the Orchestra of Northern New York, Northern Symphonic Winds, and the Penfield Symphony Orchestra. He is a member of NYSSMA, NAFME, the International Trombone Association and has served on the executive board of the New York State Band Directors Association in a variety of positions, currently as their Executive Director. He is also a Past-President of the Monroe County School Music Association. He is currently enjoying his current position as the student teaching facilitator for the Rochester and Buffalo areas for the Crane School of Music.

Mr. Struzik lives in Webster, New York with his wife Katie and enjoys spending time with his two grown sons Christopher 29, and Matthew 25, and their new grandson Charlie!

Brian Carucci



Brian Carucci is a music teacher at Shenendehowa High School where he teaches Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, instrumental lessons, and serves as the pit orchestra director for the high school musical. He coordinates the annual Shenendehowa Jazz Festival and Invitational, bringing world-class artists to work with Shenendehowa students and students from across the Capital Region.

An All-State woodwind and jazz adjudicator for the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA), Carucci is set to begin his term as Chairperson for the All-State Jazz Ensemble. He is the Director of the prestigious Skidmore Jazz Institute and maintains an active private woodwind studio in Rexford, New York.

Carucci's previous roles include Assistant Conductor for the NYSSSA School of Orchestral Studies and adjunct clarinet instructor at Schenectady County Community College. As a performer, he has appeared with Albany Pro Musica, Northern Symphonic Winds, Capital Region Wind Ensemble, Schenectady Light Opera Company, and the Glens Falls Symphony.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and Master's degree in Music Performance from the Crane School of Music.

Greg Clark



Gregory Clark teaches at Guilderland High School, where he directs the Symphonic Band and teaches Music Technology. He holds an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Music Learning Theory from the University at Buffalo, a Master of Music in Music Education from the Crane School of Music (SUNY Potsdam), and a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from The College of Saint Rose.

Mr. Clark's teaching career spans the elementary, secondary, and undergraduate levels. He has helped expand the vibrant music program at GHS by establishing the Stage Band and JEN Chapter. Prior to Guilderland, he taught in the Whitesboro CSD, the Utica Academy of Science Charter School, and the Town of Webb UFSD. He has presented professional development clinics including, ""Trombone as your Secondary Instrument"", ""Unlocking Creativity in Beginning Band"", ""Composition for Instrumentalists"", and ""A.I. in the Music Classroom"", as well as topics related to music notation software and Music Learning Theory.

In addition to his teaching, Mr. Clark is an active adjudicator, guest conductor, composer, arranger, and performer. He serves on the NY-GIML Board and has previously held leadership roles in other music education organizations. His favorite music is whatever his daughters, Penelope and Zayda, are singing on any given day. He is a proud graduate of Vernon-Verona-Sherrill schools, and is thrilled to stay involved with NYSBDA after being an Honor Band member as a middle school and high school student.

Michelle Crawford



Michelle Crawford is a dedicated music educator and flutist with over 33 years of teaching experience. A 1993 graduate of the Fredonia School of Music, she holds a degree in Music Education and studied flute under Dr. Susan Royal. She is currently in her 33rd year teaching 4th and 5th grade instrumental music at Homer Central Schools, where she leads a thriving program of nearly 170 young musicians.

Michelle is an active NYSSMA woodwind adjudicator. She loves sharing her passion for beginning instrumental music. In 2020, she was honored as the CNY Arts Educator of the Year. She is proud to have had eight of her students this past summer selected for the 2025 inaugural Elementary NYSBDA All-State Honor Band. In addition to her school program, Michelle maintains a private woodwind studio at her home in Tully, and has guest conducted several elementary All-County ensembles.

Beyond her teaching, Michelle is deeply involved in the arts and education community. She is a certified FTC FIRST Robotics Judge as well as a certified FIRST LEGO League Judge. She regularly ushers with her husband, Greg, at the Skaneateles Festival and the Landmark Theatre. The couple resides in Tully and are the proud parents of five adult children and grandparents to two little ones.

In her free time, Michelle enjoys spending time with her husband and friends at their home on Crooked Lake, around the campfire, boating, fishing and camping. She loves skiing and sledding in the winter time. Travel is also a passion - visiting National Parks and exploring

Europe. Life is about adventure and she's looking forward to many more years of creating fun adventures with her husband.

Samson M Flancabaum



Samson Flancabaum is an Instrument Repair Technician and faculty member at The Crane School of Music, where he cares for and maintains an inventory of more than 1,200 student and professional instruments. He also leads the orchestral strings repair techniques course and curriculum, sharing his craft with the next generation of musicians and educators.

With over a decade of hands-on experience, Samson brings both technical mastery and a musician's sensitivity to the care, maintenance, and restoration of band and orchestral instruments. He has a special passion for vintage woodwind overhauls—breathing new life into flutes, clarinets, and saxophones through precise mechanical work, acoustical adjustment, and detailed restoration.

A Crane graduate himself, Samson earned dual Bachelor of Music degrees in Euphonium

Performance and Music Theory in 2013, followed by a Master of Music in the same areas from the University of North Texas in 2015. After his studies, he shifted his focus to the art of repair, apprenticing with master technicians in Aledo, Texas. There, he honed his skills in high-end woodwind and brass work and developed a deep appreciation for the craftsmanship behind every instrument.

Samson remained at the shop as a full-time technician and later served as Repair Foreman from 2019 to 2022. In addition to handling major restorations, he oversaw daily operations, worked closely with clients, and guided apprentices—earning a reputation for meticulous attention to detail and a thoughtful, player-centered approach to every repair.

Certified as both a Muramatsu and Straubinger technician, and seasoned in emergency repairs from his days supporting marching bands across Texas, Samson is highly proficient in all areas of band instrument repair. His work is trusted by performers, educators, and students who rely on his ability to restore instruments to not only function flawlessly, but to feel and sound their very best.

Now back at Crane, Samson blends expertise with a genuine commitment to service and education. He takes pride in supporting students and music educators in New York and across the country—keeping their instruments in exceptional playing condition and sharing the knowledge that helps them care for their craft.

Jennifer Greene



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.

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, and Syracuse University where she teaches brass methods. At Kent State Dr. Greene advises students in their Capstone projects, in the Research course, and facilitates 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).

John Jeanneret



John Jeanneret is a professional musician, music educator, and conductor who teaches instrumental music in the Fayetteville–Manlius School District. He directs multiple concert and jazz ensembles at the middle and high school levels. Jeanneret holds degrees in music education and saxophone performance from the Crane School of Music and in jazz performance and composition from the University of North Texas. He is currently a DMA candidate in music education at Boston University.

Jeanneret is a passionate educator and reflective practitioner whose work centers on creativity, student voice, and inclusive musicianship. His teaching emphasizes improvisation, aural learning, and experiential approaches that position students not just as performers but also as creators of music. He is deeply committed to fostering learning environments in which students and teachers alike feel empowered to make their own musical choices, take risks, and express their identities through sound.

An active clinician and presenter, Jeanneret has shared his work at conferences, clinics, and festivals, advocating for accessible, practical strategies for teaching improvisation. His scholarly interests include jazz improvisation pedagogy, teacher knowledge acquisition, and preparing music educators to teach creatively and authentically. Through both teaching and research, he seeks to ensure that improvisation remains a living, communal, and essential element of instrumental music education.

As a performer, Jeanneret is an accomplished multi-woodwind musician who has appeared in over 70 regional and national theatrical productions. He maintains an active jazz and

commercial performance career and has performed with numerous artists, including the Temptations, Dallas Jazz Orchestra, Tuxedo Junction Big Band, UNT One O'Clock Lab Band, Jerry Bergonzi, Buddy DeFranco, George Garzone, Jeff Jarvis, Steve Lawrence, Joe Locke, Bucky Pizzarelli, Ed Shaughnessy, Gary Smulyan, Frank Tiberi, and Phil Woods. Various schools, universities, and professional ensembles have performed and/or recorded his compositions and arrangements for jazz ensemble. He now performs regularly with the CNY Jazz Orchestra and Central Winds and has been featured as both a performer and educational clinician at jazz festivals.

NYC Modern Band Crew

Dr. Tom Zlabinger

Kevin Heathwood



Dr. Tom Zlabinger is an Associate Professor of Music at York College / CUNY in New York City, where he has taught popular music performance and directed the York College Band since 2003. He holds a B.A. in music from Grinnell College, an M.A. in jazz performance from Queens College / CUNY, and a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from the CUNY Graduate Center.

His dissertation, *FREE FROM JAZZ: The Jazz and Improvised Music Scene in Vienna after Ossiach (1971–2011)*, documents the evolution of Vienna's jazz scene through interviews with prominent Austrian musicians, experiences performing with Austrian musicians in Vienna and New York City, and extensive discographic research. Dr. Zlabinger has published on improvisation, live performance online, musicians and music making in and around various media franchises (including *The Big Lebowski*, *Peanuts*, Neil Gaiman's *Sandman*, *The Simpsons*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, and *Star Wars*), and the intersections of blues, jazz, and psychedelic music.

A performer on both electric and upright bass, he also sings and plays guitar. Dr. Zlabinger has served on the boards of the Association of Popular Music Education and the Music Educators Association of New York City. In 2022, he founded Telematic Studios to help musicians make music together by offering online voice lessons, hosting jams live online, and publishing accurate and easy-to-read charts.

Kevin Heathwood is the band director at Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School in Astoria Queens, the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Bushwick Big Band, and is currently serving as the NYSSMA Zone Representative for New York City. He completed his undergraduate degree at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, his masters at Teachers College Columbia University, and is currently pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership from Long Island University. The first rock band he was in was jamming in his neighbor's garage during the summers and has since been either leading rock bands or playing in one ever since high school. His main influences in the rock idiom are Bruce Springsteen, the Beatles, Queen, and Pink Floyd.

Emily Kluga



Emily Kluga has served as the Band Director at Yorktown High School for 24 years. Her vision for the YHS Band program is anchored by three core principles: musicianship, citizenship, and friendship. These three “ships” guide her work not only in the classroom with Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, AP Music Theory, and small group lessons, but also in her after-school roles directing the Jazz Band, Pep Band, chamber ensembles, and advising the Student Music Boosters club. Like so many in our profession, Ms. Kluga finds herself immersed in fostering a culture where students build character and community through leadership, service, and making music!

Ms. Kluga received her undergraduate degree from Ithaca College, where she double majored in Music Education and Trumpet Performance. After her studies at Ithaca, Ms. Kluga went on to pursue a Master of Music degree in Trumpet Performance from the University of Northern Colorado.

When she is not in the band room, Ms. Kluga is an avid swing dancer, gardener, and treasures her time at home with her family.

**The Camillus Community Jazz Band, featuring vocalist Lauren Sageer
Directed by Steve Frank**



The Camillus Community Jazz Band, established under the auspices of the Town of Camillus, NY, Parks and Recreation Department, was formed March 2025, through the initiative of several alumni of the West Genesee High School Jazz Band. Led by Steve Frank, the group performs an extensive and varied repertoire including arrangements from the bands of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Buddy Rich, Gordon Goodwin, Bob Mintzer, Rick Hirsch, and many others.

Steve Frank has enjoyed a long career in music, with over forty-five years of experience as a band and jazz band director at the elementary, middle, high school, college, university, and community level, including ten years as teacher in the music education department of the

Setnor School of Music, Syracuse University. He also served as Education Program Director for the internationally acclaimed Syracuse Jazz Fest (Frank Malfitano, Executive Director) from 2003 through 2013.

He has studied as a trombone performance major at the doctoral level at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y., and holds a M.M. in Music Performance from Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio, and a B.M. in Music Education from the Crane School of Music, Potsdam, New York.

As a free-lance professional trombonist, Steve has performed and recorded with groups as diverse as the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Concert Band (Leonard B. Smith, director), The Colorblind James Experience, Phil Marshall's La La Land, and a multitude of touring shows, jazz groups, and swing bands. He is a composer and arranger, with published compositions for elementary concert band (Alfred Music Publishing, C. L. Barnhouse Company) and for trombone and trombone ensemble (Ensemble Publications) among his many works. His instrumental music supplement series, The Good Book, has been used for years by music teachers across New York State. Steve's composition "Variations on Barnacle Bill, the Sailor" has been performed and recorded by trombonists and tubists around the world, including Charlie Vernon, bass trombonist of the Chicago Symphony.

Camillus Community Band
Directed by Andy Perry





The Camillus Community Band was formed in 2017 by its director Andrew Perry. This 70 member community band rehearses once a week during the school academic calendar and performs five varied concerts over the course the year. The members come primarily from the Camillus area with most having been musicians in the West Genesee High School band Program.

The band's mission is to provide adult musicians with a high caliber musical ensemble experience. After teaching in the West Genesee band program for 34 years Andrew Perry realized there needed to be a band in the Camillus area for the wonderfully trained musicians from the West Genesee band program to continue to play in as adults. The band rehearses in West Genesee School District buildings and concerts are given in the outstanding West Genesee High School auditorium. Over the past nine seasons the band has developed a strong audience base with fine playing, entertaining repertoire and outstanding soloists. Repertoire is chosen to challenge the musicians while keeping it always enjoyable and entertaining for all.

More information is available on the Camillus Community Band website and Camillus Community Band Facebook page.

Andrew Perry taught instrumental music in the West Genesee Central School District from 1987 till 2021.

Mr. Perry's West Genesee High School Wind Ensemble performed to high acclaim at the Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic, Bands of America National Concert Band Festival, New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Winter Conference, Music

Educators National Conference (MENC) Eastern Symposium and the New York State Band Director's Association (NYSBDA) State Symposium.

In addition, Mr. Perry was the Co-Conductor of the Central Winds for over 20 years, an adult band made up of music teachers from the Central New York region. Central Winds with Mr. Perry have performed at the NYSSMA Winter Conference, the NYSBDA State Symposium, The Texas Bandmasters Association (TBA) Summer Symposium and at the Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic.

In 2017 Mr Perry founded the Camillus Community Band - a seventy member ensemble. This ensemble performs five concerts each year. Rehearsing weekly during the school calendar year, its goal is to provide a musical outlet for adult instrumental musicians.

The New York State Band Director's Association has chosen to honor Mr. Perry's contributions and career by awarding him the Richard Snook Outstanding Band Director Award in 2013. In 2010 Mr. Perry was awarded the Syracuse Symphony Annual Musicians Award for Outstanding Music Educators. Mr. Perry was also the recipient of the 2008 Camillus Optimist "Outstanding Teacher Award" for his contributions at West Genesee High School

Dr. James Patrick Miller
MS Band 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.

Andy Clausen
HS Jazz Band Conductor



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

Dr. Jennifer Jolly
HS Band Conductor



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.