

Band Stand

The Official Newsletter of the New York State Band Directors Association



Vol. XXXIV, No. 3

June, 2026

CSI

CONN SELMER INSTITUTE

NORTHEAST

REGISTRATION

Open Now

August 11-13, 2026
Ithaca College
Ithaca, NY





Band Stand

Featured Sections:

From the Podium.....3
 Symposium Review4
 Elementary Honor Band Festival.....8
 NYSBDA Beyond the Beat.....9
 Summer Preview.....10
 CSI Northeast Schedule.....12
 NYSBDA Equity Score Library.....13
 Who’s Who?14
 NYSBDA Membership Form22

NYSBDA Executive Board

2025-2026

President	Jacquelin M. Kovacs
President Elect	Corey Riley
1st Vice President	Holly McCoy
2nd Vice President	Rebecca Schroeder
Secretary	Genevieve Ruhland
Treasurer	Chris Jabot
Immediate Past President	Andrew Pease
Executive Director	Michael Struzik
Region 1 Rep.	Richard Goss
Region 2 Rep.	Allison Chipman
Region 3 Rep.	Danny Reynolds
Region 4 Rep.	Kevin Upcraft
Region 5 Rep.	Jill Roberts
Region 6 Rep.	Alessandra Shellard
Region 7 Rep.	Nikki Redeker
Region 8 Rep.	Sarah Fernandez
Region 9 Rep.	Stephen Souza
Region 10 Rep.	Christina Helbock
Region 11 Rep.	William Tonissen
At Large/HS HB	Bradley Hartman
At Large/MS HB	Omar Williams
At Large/HS JE	Austin Day
At Large/EHB	Jessica Williamson
Collegiate Chapter	Aidan Carney
Bandstand Editor	Jennifer Pham

Editor’s Note:

Welcome to June - a month of endings, new beginnings, and lots of inventory! As our final few weeks of the school year wrap up I hope you take a moment to reflect on all of the positives this school year has brought - from musical highlights to laughter in the band room to small celebrations and victories of a new skill learned. As I tell my graduating seniors: “Your time in the band room could be measured in the number of concerts you’ve performed in, reeds you’ve broken... but instead it’s measured by the music you make with friends, the impact you leave behind, and the memories that last a lifetime.” Here’s to a year of hard work that created those memories for so many students and a very well deserved summer break!

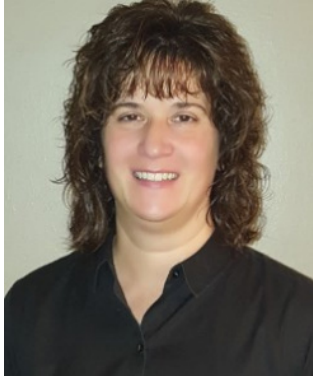
Wishing you all a restful and relaxing summer!

Jennifer Pham
 Band Stand Editor
bandstand@nysbda.org



From the Podium

By Jackie Kovacs, NYSBDA President



Time. I've been spending some of my time thinking about time. Am I making the most of my time; scheduling my time appropriately; prioritizing my own time; setting goals; wasting time; how much time do I have? The list goes on. As band directors we are very often running out of time. Our time is filled with rehearsals, forms and recommendations, grades, data collection, permission slips, our personal practice, and score study, to name a few. We prioritize or deal with a "triage" list of things that must get completed. Does this sound familiar? The musical is over, on to the NYSSMA Solo Festival! Check that off the list; on to Majors, Spring Concerts, Graduation, instrument inventory... etc. This time of year also brings budget proposals, with potential cuts to programs and/or staff.

In the midst of all we do for our students, we still need to find time to advocate for the music programs in our districts. Music advocacy can not only happen when our programs are being considered for elimination or budget cuts. Advocacy involves building relationships with stakeholders, sharing data on cognitive and social benefits of your music program, maintaining a visible presence in your community, reminding stakeholders how music builds community in school. Start each day highlighting the great opportunities your music programs offer to the students, district and greater community. All of this is time well spent.

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything." — Plato

NYSBDA is investing time in providing opportunities for you and your students with the second annual NYSBDA Elementary Summer Honor Band, hosted at Solvay High School on June 13th. Our guest conductors are Past President Michael Cordaro and Bandstand Editor, Jennifer Pham. The students will rehearse with the conductors, attend a special concert from guest artists, Empire Saxophone Quartet, and conclude with the Honor Band Concert. In addition, professional development sessions will be available for the teachers. All are welcome to attend.

Need time to reconnect and learn? Registration for the Conn Selmer Institute Northeast, August 11-12, 2026 in Ithaca, NY is open. NYSBDA continues its collaboration with Conn Selmer and Ithaca College to offer the highest standard of professional development. CTLE credit available! [Registration is open!](#)

Please take the time to reach out to your region representative or the executive board for support or to share ideas. Our community of band directors will continue to gain strength in our membership. Remember to take time for yourself and your family and friends. Best wishes for a successful end of the school year.

Jackie Kovacs
NYSBDA President

Symposium 2026 Review

By Corey Riley, NYSBDA President Elect

The 2026 NYSBDA Symposium was a remarkable weekend dedicated to our theme: Honoring Legacy and Amplifying Artistry. Held at the DoubleTree Carrier Circle in Syracuse, New York, from March 6-8, 2026, the symposium was filled with inspiring clinics, moving concerts, and the incredible community that makes New York State band directors so strong. We recognized the profound impact of past educators while helping directors innovative practices to inspire the next generation in our classrooms and ensembles.

Our 2026 Keynote Speaker, Mr. Randall Standridge, an acclaimed composer, educator, and marching arts designer, delivered an inspiring address on Saturday afternoon. The keynote focused on maintaining healthy habits as a band director and working to develop a sense of self outside of the band room. Randall Standridge also composed a brand-new piece, *Second Wind*, that was proudly premiered by our 2026 NYSBDA High School Honor Band.

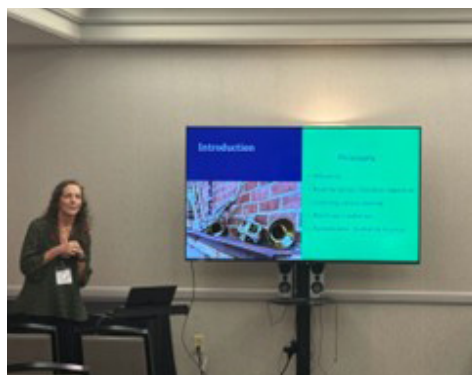


The symposium featured a wide array of clinics designed to amplify our artistry and streamline our teaching:

In *Jazz Band Basics*, Brian Carucci provided the essential building blocks, stylistic concepts, and rehearsal strategies to get jazz programs off the ground.

Jennifer Greene explored how to make daily warm-ups a holistic experience in *The Warm-Up Web: Connecting Concepts & Creating Community*, focusing on fostering a strong sense of belonging within the ensemble.

Greg Clark helped directors save time on planning and grading in *A.I. for the Band Director: Automate the Admin, Amplify the Artistry*, so we can focus more on music-making with our students.



Symposium 2026 Review

Continued

The NYC Modern Band Crew, Dr. Tom Zlabinger and Kevin Heathwood, presented Modern Band: Hands On, offering practical techniques for starting a modern band and making music accessible to all students.

In Concert Night Emergencies: A Band Director's Tool Kit, repair specialist Samson Flancbaum demystified intimidating instrument repairs, equipping directors to confidently handle last-minute concert crises. Michelle Crawford shared proven strategies for establishing beautiful flute tone from the very first lesson in Tips and Tricks for Teaching Beginning Flute / Flute Embouchure.

John Jeanneret offered directors frameworks to transform students from readers to creators in Blueprints for Spontaneity: Teaching Jazz Improvisation in the Large Ensemble.

Additional outstanding clinics included Elementary Band Shenanigans That Work by Melissa Cannan and Hosting a Swing Dance Concert: An Immersive Jazz Education Experience by Emily Kluga.

A very special Panel Session Honoring the Legacy of Ed Lisk allowed our community to reflect on the life of a true legend. We celebrated Mr. Lisk's profound impact on music education across the state, his role as a beloved mentor, and his influence as a charter member of NYSBDA.



Our 2026 Living Legend was Gary Hill, Professor of Music and Director of Bands Emeritus at Arizona State University. Professor Hill provided wisdom on navigating the career of a music educator in his clinic *The Long and Winding Road*. On Sunday, he led a Conducting Clinic with a Directors Reading Band, followed by our highly anticipated Interview with a Legend hosted by NYSBDA President Dr. Andrew Pease.

Symposium 2026 Review

Continued



The evenings were filled with exceptional live music from our community. Friday night kicked off with dynamic big-band repertoire from The Camillus Community Jazz Band, directed by Steve Frank. Saturday night's Concert Hour featured The Camillus Community Band, under the direction of Andy Perry, offering an entertaining and high-caliber performance.

Along with all of these professional sessions, the highlight of the Symposium continues to be our student honor ensembles. Throughout the weekend, student musicians attended leadership workshops with presenter Erin Althen and enjoyed an evening ice cream social.

The Middle School Honor Band, under the direction of Dr. James Patrick Miller, put on a wonderful performance Saturday afternoon.

On Sunday, the High School Honor Jazz Band concluded their weekend of hard work with an outstanding concert (led by renowned educators including Mr. Steven Wilson and Andy Clausen).

The symposium culminated with the High School Honor Band Concert, conducted by Dr. Jennifer Jolley, which featured the thrilling premiere of Randall Standridge's new commission.

NYSBDA strives to provide exceptional professional development and enriching experiences for our students. Your participation and membership are what make this symposium a success. Thank you to everyone who joined us to honor our legacy and amplify our artistry. We look forward to seeing you next year!



Corey Riley
President Elect



Elementary Honor Band Festival

The 2026 NYSBDA Elementary Honor Band Festival will be held at Solvay High School on Saturday, June 13th. 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.

2026 Guest Conductors

Michael Cordaro



Jennifer Pham



Elementary Honor Band Schedule - Saturday, June 11th, 2026

8:30 - 9:00 am	Registration at Solvay High School
9:00 - 11:15 am	Rehearsal
11:30 - 12:15 pm	Guest Performance - Empire Saxophone Quartet
12:15 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Rehearsal
3:00 - 3:30 pm	Group photo and snack
3:30-4:00 pm	Final tuning and instructions
4:00 - 4:30 pm	Concert in Solvay High School Auditorium



Program

Boundless Spirit.....	Katie O’Hara LaBrie
Shadow Play.....	Carol Brittin Chambers
Star-Taker.....	Laura Estes
Blackbeard.....	Randall Standridge



NYSBDA: BEYOND THE BEAT

June 13th, 2026

Our Clinicians:

Session Schedule
 (works around the EHB Schedule)
Session 1: 9:10 AM-10:00 AM
Session 2: 10:10 AM-11:00 AM
Performance Session: 11:30-12:15
Session 3: 1:00 PM-1:50 PM
Session 4: 2:00 PM-2:50 PM

Location
Solvay High School
600 Gertrude
Solvay, NY 13209

Contact
Holly L McCoy
NYSBDA 1st Vice President
nysbdavp1@nysbda.org



HOLLY MCCOY
Session 1: ABC's In the Band Room



DR. SARAH GENTILE
Session 2: Advocacy, Accessibility, and Accountability for Music Teachers



MARK HOVER
Session 3: Building Better Brass



MEGHAN CABRAL
Session 4: Elementary and MS Band Roundtable: Recruit, REtain, Revive, Renew



11:30-12:15
EMPIRE SAX
QUARTET



4:00
ELEMENTARY
HONOR BAND

COST-Sessions are FREE; Food is Optional

We are charging \$20 (For Food ONLY) so we can provide you with Breakfast snacks/beverages and Wegman's Box Lunches which include your choice of medium sub on a plain white roll, chips, cookie and bottled water. Money will be collected at the door on June 13th.

Conn Selmer Institute Northeast Preview

By Corey Riley, NYSBDA President Elect

CSI Northeast in Ithaca, NY August 11-12, 2026



After two years of incredible success building a valuable community and providing excellent professional development, we are absolutely thrilled to announce the return of the Conn Selmer Institute Northeast for its third annual event in 2026! This inspiring professional development experience, presented through the powerful collaboration of the Conn Selmer Institute, the Ithaca College Bands, and the New York State Band Directors Association (NYSBDA), is back and promises to be the most impactful yet. We invite you to join us on the picturesque campus of Ithaca College from August 11th to 12th for two days of focused learning and engagement, thoughtfully designed to empower, educate, and elevate the skills of music educators, administrators, and college students through an immersive and comprehensive program.

We are so excited to welcome back to New York our keynote speaker, **Dr. Matthew Arau**, 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. Cynthia Johnston Turner** and **Robert Sheldon** who will be leading reading sessions, conducting the directors ensemble, and presenting. Cynthia Johnston Turner holds a D.M.A. in Conducting from the Eastman School of Music. An accomplished



Dr. Cynthia Johnston Turner
Dean of the Faculty of Music
Wilfred Laurier University



Dr. Matthew Arau
Associate Professor of Music
Lawrence University



Beth Fabrizio
Conn Selmer Educational Clinician
Conn Selmer, Inc.



Robert Sheldon
Composer
Alfred Music



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



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

Conn Selmer Institute Northeast Preview

Continued...

director, professor, and sponsored clinician, she served as the Director of Bands at the University of Georgia (2014-2021) and is published in numerous journals. Richard L. Saucedo retired in 2013 after a 31-year tenure as Director of Bands at Carmel High School, where his bands earned numerous state, regional, and national honors, including a Bands of America Grand National Championship in 2005. He was named Indiana's "Bandmaster of the Year" and "Outstanding Music Educator," and has been inducted into both the Music for All (2015) and Drum Corps International (2022) Halls of Fame.

2026 Conn-Selmer Clinicians



We also have two Conn Selmer artists joining us this year, **Melvin Jones** and **Jason Curry**. Melvin Jones, a Memphis native, began his career recording on TLC's Grammy-winning album *Fanmail* while at Morehouse College, later becoming the college's youngest Director of Bands at age 24. Now a full-time touring musician, he has amassed credits on nearly 300 projects across genres—including the Oscars, Grammys, and the 2024 Super Bowl Halftime—and continues to perform with legendary artists like Usher, Doja Cat, and Stevie Wonder. Jason Curry, an Indianapolis native inspired by jazz greats like Freddie Hubbard and Wes Montgomery, is an accomplished guest soloist, bandleader, composer, and arranger who has performed on prestigious stages worldwide, including The Blue Note and Carnegie Hall, and toured

with major ensembles such as The Count Basie Orchestra and The Duke Ellington Orchestra. Viewing himself as an earnest African-American jazz storyteller who looks to the future of the tradition, Curry expresses his personal truths through his work, which currently includes a release that both preserves and evolves the 1960s hard-bop style after he studied masters like Sonny Rollins and Jackie McLean.

We are absolutely bursting with excitement to welcome you to the Finger Lakes for this milestone third annual CSI Northeast! It is going to be an unforgettable professional development experience. As a premier regional conference, we can't wait to see directors from across the entire Northeast—so please, spread the word and invite your out-of-state colleagues to join the celebration! While New York directors are always encouraged to join NYS-BDA and enjoy our year-round benefits, however membership is not required to attend this spectacular event.



Mark your calendars, and visit the conference page at <https://events.bizzaboo.com/778965> to register now!

Conn Selmer Institute Northeast Preview

Continued...

Tuesday, August 11	
8:00 - 9:00 AM Check in	
9:00-9:15 Welcome Erin Cole Steele, Holly McCoy, Dr. Daniel Cook & 9:15-10:15 Keynote Upbeat! The Power Within Dr. Matthew Arau <i>Hockett</i>	
10:30-11:30 Directors Band Dr. Cynthia Johnston Turner <i>Ford Hall</i>	
11:30-1:00 Lunch On Your Own	
1:00-1:50 FIX IT NOW!: Developing Ensemble Skills for Effective Rehearsals and Successful Performance Robert Sheldon <i>Hockett</i>	
2:00-2:50 Rocking the Clarinet Beth Fabrizio <i>Hockett</i>	2:00-2:50 Usable Advocacy & PR Techniques to Promote Your Music Program Dr. John J. Gallagher <i>Beeler</i>

Coffee Break 2:50-3:25	
3:30-4:20 Inclusive Student Leadership – Lead from Any Chair Dr. Matthew Arau <i>Hockett</i>	3:30-4:20 Progressions for Rudiment Master How to improve, speed, coordination and Sound Quality for Percussionist of all ability levels Dan Ornowski <i>Beeler</i>
4:30-5:20 READING BAND <i>Ford Hall</i>	
5:30-6:20 READING BAND - YOUNG BAND LITERATURE <i>Ford Hall</i>	
End of Day 1 Dinner on Your Own <i>NYSBDA Executive Meeting (afternoon of Monday)</i>	

Summer Conference

Wednesday, August 12	
<p>9:00-9:50 Incorporating Lead Sheets Into Your Jazz Ensemble Rehearsals and Warm-Ups Corey Riley, Melissa Gardiner Hockett</p>	<p>9:00-9:50 Tips for Starting your Beginning Flute Students Erin Cole Steele Beeler</p>
<p>10:00-11:00 DIRECTORS BAND Dr. Cynthia Johnston Turner Ford Hall</p>	
<p>11:00-12:30 Lunch On Your Own</p>	
<p>12:30-1:20 Realistic Routines: Conducting Techniques and Purposeful Planning for the Time-Pressed Professional Daniel Cook Hockett</p>	<p>12:30-1:20 Musicworks-creating equity in the performing arts Micah Sprague Beeler</p>
<p>1:30-2:20 The "Red, White and True things in your Rehearsal Beth Fabrizio Hockett</p>	<p>1:30-2:20 Building a Quality Trumpet Section: From Elementary to High School and Beyond Peter Gehres Beeler</p>

<p>Coffee Break 2:20-2:55</p>	
<p>3:00-3:50 Engaging Rehearsal Techniques for New Learners Dr. Cynthia Johnston Turner Presser</p>	<p>3:00-3:50 Do Sweat the Small Stuff: Beginning Band "Hacks" Meghan Cabral Beeler</p>
<p>4:00-4:50 Unlocking Joy – The 6 Keys to Fulfillment and Wellbeing in Teaching, Music Making, and Life Dr. Matthew Arau Presser</p>	
<p>5:15-6:00 Melvin Jones, Trumpet Bach Artist Jason Curry, Saxophone Yanagisawa Artist Hockett</p>	
<p>Excursion Ithaca Beer Company</p>	

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.

[Equity Score Library - Recommendation Form](#)



Who's Who?

Panelists and Clinicians at the 2026 Conn Selmer Institute Northeast



Dr. Matthew Arau, author of *Upbeat! Mindset, Mindfulness and Leadership in Music Education and Beyond* and founder of Upbeat Global is an Associate Professor of Music and the Chair of the Music Educa-

tion Department and Symphonic Band Conductor at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wisconsin. In addition, Dr. Arau serves as a Conn-Selmer Education Clinician and is on the graduate conducting faculty of the American Band College of Central Washington University and graduate music education faculty at VanderCook College of Music.

Dr. Arau has guest conducted and presented on student leadership, mindfulness, growth mindset, rehearsal techniques, and creating positive cultures in person in over 25 states and 4 continents in person. He has presented at the International Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, the Western International Band Clinic, the NAFME National Conference, numerous State and Regional Music Education Association Conferences, and the Conn-Selmer Institute. In addition to being in demand as a keynote speaker, Dr. Arau has conducted honor bands in Australia, Greece, Cyprus, and Malaysia, and All-State honor bands across the United States. Dr. Arau draws on a deep reservoir of fifteen years of experience as a successful middle school and high school band director in Loveland, Colorado, where he led his bands at Walt Clark Middle School and Loveland High School to numerous honor performances and championships and pioneered the Leadership Symposium. More information about Dr. Arau and free resources can be found at UpBeat Global.

Dr. Cynthia Johnston Turner

Odds were against Cynthia Johnston Turner becoming a musician let alone a professor of music in higher

education. Born in a small rural town in Ontario, Canada, no one in her family played an instrument or sang, although there were rumors that her paternal grandfather was a mean mandolinist. Cynthia asked for a piano for Christmas when she was 8 years old, and because it was all her parents could afford, she received a toy electric keyboard from which she was pretty much inseparable until she started the ukulele in grade school. When she picked up the clarinet and saxophone in middle school, a love affair and a career were born.

The first in her family to attend university, Cynthia Johnston Turner received her B.Mus and B.Ed from Queen's University, a M.Ed. at the University of Victoria and a D.M.A. (Conducting) from the Eastman School of Music. She has received numerous teaching, research, and leadership awards in Canada and the United States.

From 2014-2021, Cynthia was Director of Bands, Professor of Music, and Artistic Director of "CCE" at the Hodgson School of Music, University of Georgia where she conducted the Hodgson Wind Ensemble, led the MM and DMA programs in conducting, provided strategic leadership in diversity, equity, and belonging initiatives as well as innovative curriculum, and oversaw the entire band program including the 400+ member Redcoat Marching Band. The Hodgson Wind Ensemble performed at the CBDNA National Convention in 2017. She is a sponsored clinician with Conn-Selmer. Cynthia has guest conducted bands, new music ensembles, and orchestras at several universities and conservatories as well as state honor bands in the United States and abroad. She continues to actively promote commissions by today's leading and emerg-



ing composers around the world with a focus on underrepresented voices. She has been invited to present her research with teaching and technology, innovative rehearsal techniques, and service-learning and music performance at numerous conferences nationally and internationally. She is published in such journals as *Interdisciplinary Humanities*, *International Journal of the Humanities*, *Music Educators Journal*, *NAfME "Teaching Music,"* *NewMusicUSA.org*, *Journal of the World Association of Bands and Ensembles*, *Fanfare Magazine*, and *Canadian Winds*, and has recorded CDs with the *Innova* and *Albany* labels.

Cynthia has served as a board member with WASBE and is an active member of CBDNA (Vice-President Elect, SEC), Conductor's Guild, College Music Society, Humanities Education and Research Association, the National Association for Music Education, the National Band Association, and the American Bandmasters Association. She currently serves on the board of the Western International Band Clinic (WIBC) and faculty at WIBC University. She is an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi and a National Arts Associate member of Sigma Alpha Iota.

Robert Sheldon (b. Feb 3, 1954) has taught instrumental music in the Florida and Illinois public schools and has served on the faculty at Florida State University where he taught instrumental music education classes, conducting, and directed the university bands. Following seventeen years as Director of Concert Band Publications for Alfred Music, he now maintains an active composition and conducting schedule, regularly accepting commissions for new works. Sheldon received the Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Miami and the Master of Fine Arts in Instrumental Conducting from the University of Florida. In 2020, VanderCook College of Music presented him with an honorary Doctorate in Music Education.



An internationally recognized clinician, his music is performed around the world and frequently appears on many international concert and contest lists. Sheldon has conducted Regional and All-State Honor Bands throughout the United States and abroad. He often appears as a Music Education clinician and has presented sessions and seminars at numerous colleges and universities as well as state and provincial Music Education Association conferences. He has served as a conductor and clinician in all fifty states and the District of Columbia in the United States, as well as Japan, Canada, Italy, Taiwan, Germany, Australia and China, and has conducted performances of his works in New York's Carnegie Hall, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, Boston's Symphony Hall, Taipei's National Concert Hall, Matsumoto's Seiji Ozawa Performing Arts Center, Hamamatsu's ACT City Concert Hall, the Sydney Opera House and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. His teaching career included 28 years in the public schools as well as at the University of Florida, Florida State University, Illinois Central College and Bradley University. He also held positions as conductor of the Alachua County Youth Orchestra in Gainesville, Florida and the Prairie Wind Ensemble in East Peoria, Illinois. He maintains membership in several organizations that promote music and music education, and is lead author for *SOUND INNOVATIONS FOR BAND*, serving as co-author for *MEASURES OF SUCCESS*, *SOUND INNOVATIONS FOR STRINGS*, *SOUND SIGHT-READING FOR BAND* and *MUSIC FOUNDATIONS*.

His compositions embody a level of expression that resonates with ensembles and audiences alike, and he produces numerous publications for concert band each year. The American School Band Directors Association has honored him with the Volkwein Award for composition and the Stanbury Award for teaching, the International Assembly of Phi Beta Mu honored him with the International Outstanding Bandmaster Award, and he has been awarded membership in the American Bandmasters Association. With over four million copies of his compositions and books sold, he is one of the most performed composers of wind band music today. A twenty-eight-time recipient of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publisher's Standard Award for his compositions in the concert band and orchestral repertoire, Mr. Sheldon has been the topic of articles published in *The Instrumentalist*, *Teaching Music and School Band and Orchestra Magazine*, *The World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensem-*

bles (WASBE) World Magazine, and is one of eleven American wind band composers featured in Volume I of Composers on Composing Music for Band.

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 Hunsberger 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 master-classes, 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.

Melvin Jones

This Memphis, Tennessee native's first professional recording came while enrolled at Morehouse College for TLC's triple platinum, Grammy-Winning album Fanmail, most notably on their hit No Scrubs. Jones then earned his Master's Degree from Rutgers University while receiving the intensive instruction of the late, world-renowned trumpet guru, William "Prof" Fielder, whose student roster reads like a "Who's Who" of Musical Legends.



Jones soon returned to Morehouse at the age of 24 to become the youngest Director of Bands in the college's history. During his tenure, he elevated the entire instrumental program to national acclaim while also sponsoring the Annual Morehouse College Jazz Festival. Products of his leadership are now pivotal members of the international musical community in multiple areas.

After nearly a decade, Jones stepped away from "The House" to return full-time to touring, performing, and recording. Since then, he has toured/ performed with Tyler Perry, Illinois Jacquet, Aretha Franklin, PJ Morton, Young Jeezy, Jennifer Holliday, Big Jim Wright, Arrested Development, and the list goes on. Having worked on scores of award-winning records, movies, and TV & Stage productions Melvin is now credited on nearly 300 projects across genres as well as having worked on the Grammys, the Oscars, NBA All Star Games, Multiple Super Bowls, Rock N Roll Hall of Fame, the Stellar Awards, and many more iconic programs.

Melvin can currently be found touring the world, performing, and recording with Doja Cat, Usher, Stevie Wonder, Patti LaBelle, Rodney Jordan, and other legendary artists. He is also a long-standing member of the Morehouse College Music Faculty. Most recently Jones helped to shine an international spotlight on the entire Bach/ Conn Selmer family through his performance for the 2024 Super Bowl Halftime with

R&B Legend Usher as well as his pre-recorded horn arrangement Pre-Show Anthem “Lift Every Voice & Sing.”

Jason Curry

Choosing Yanagisawa is about trust. The instruments offer a rare level of flexibility and immediate response, capturing the warmth of a vintage horn while maintaining the precision and projection required for today’s stages. It’s an extension of my voice.



Jason Curry, a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, was a budding musician when he steeped himself in the history of the Indiana Avenue cultural scene, discovering jazz greats like Freddie Hubbard, Wes Montgomery, and James Spaulding. Taking that inspiration into a focused musical practice, he generated a talent that has beguiled audiences around the world; Jason has played everywhere, from tiny clubs in Austria to the world’s grandest and most prestigious stages as The Blue Note, Carnegie Hall, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He is a coveted guest soloist as well as a bandleader, composer, and arranger. He has written and performed in radio, television and film, and Broadway musicals, and has loved touring with bands like The Count Basie Orchestra, The Duke Ellington Orchestra, The Cab Calloway Jazz Orchestra and many others. He has played with and alongside Grammy-nominated and award-winning artists, has played for a former United States President. Jazz was born in the American south with heavy influences from African musical styles and to Jason, being an African-American jazz performer and writer also means being a truthful and earnest storyteller, straddling the history and significance of the genre while looking into the future in this tradition that just saw its 100th anniversary of recorded music. Jason expresses his personal truths through writing, composition, and especially performance. This musical philosophy is evidenced in his current release, where he apprenticed himself to 1960’s hard-bop pioneers Sonny Rollins and Jackie McLean, studying these masters and ulti-

mately making a new entry into the genre- both preserving and evolving this historical musical movement in a re- introduction to the contemporary scene.

Micah Sprague is a band director at Sleepy Hollow Middle-High School in the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns. Originally from Sayville, NY, he began his teaching career at Center Moriches High School after graduating with his Bachelors of Music from Boston University. He then moved to the Hudson Valley and has been teaching at Sleepy Hollow since 2004.

During his time in Sleepy Hollow, Mr. Sprague has directed bands from 6th through 12th grade, Jazz Band from 4th through 12th grade, taught music theory and served for 10 years as department chair for the performing arts. His current role includes directing 6th grade band, high school wind ensemble, elementary jazz band, teaching AP music theory, and producing the dramatic arts program. His ensembles have regularly received accolades at festivals including both the SHHS Jazz Band and SHHS Wind Ensemble achieving gold with distinction ratings at NYSSMA majors. In Spring, 2026, Mr. Sprague was the recipient of the Richard H. Snook Outstanding Band Directors Award from the New York State Band Directors Association.

Mr. Sprague has been very involved in all aspects of music education during his career, with a focus on middle school education. In 2019, he was appointed conductor of the Youth Wind Ensemble of Westchester, Junior Winds. This ensemble explores wind ensemble repertoire and performance techniques for middle school students from across Westchester and Putnam Counties. Mr. Sprague is a founder of the Musicworks program in Tarrytown and continues to serve on the advisory board as the primary administrator of the program. Musicworks, in partnership with the Union Church of Pocantico Hills, provides virtually free private lessons to high achieving music students that could otherwise not afford them. He was also a founding member of the Rivertowns Middle School Music Festival in 2008, which provides high level ensemble perfor-



mance opportunities to middle school band and orchestra students in Ossining, Sleepy Hollow, Croton and Peekskill.

For 16 years, Mr. Sprague played french horn and was associate conductor of the Hudson Valley Wind Ensemble. This community ensemble is in residence at Sleepy Hollow High School providing both community performances and performance opportunities for high achieving high school students. He is an active member in NYSBDA, NYSSMA WCALA, and WCSMA; presenting at conferences, chairing the Up-County Solo Festival, conducting honor bands, and serving on the board of directors. Mr. Sprague is proud to be a third-generation public school educator and second-generation band director. He currently lives in Mahopac with his two children Clara and Colin, and wonderful wife Alison.



John J. Gallagher, Ed.D., is the director of music and fine arts for Long Island, NY's Longwood Central School District where he supervises forty-one teachers of art, music, and theater, who serve almost 9,000 students.

Longwood's music program received the Award of Excellence from the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) in 2023. He has served as chairperson for public relations and communications for the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) since 2002.

Before pursuing a career in Music Education and School District Administration, John worked as an independent journalist, and on the corporate and client sides of public relations & marketing communications.

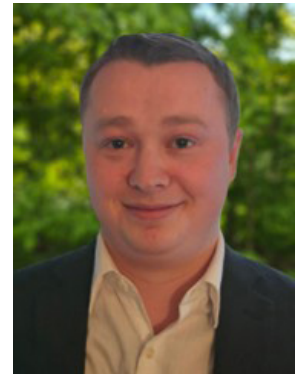
A nationally recognized public speaker, he has delivered clinics on music education advocacy, the marketing and promotions of school music programs, school district arts administration, and student leadership to various arts education associations and educational institutions across the U.S. and Canada.

Dr. Gallagher has presented sessions on advocacy, public relations, arts education administration, and student leadership at NYSSMA and CMEA All State

Conferences, several NAFME Eastern Division Conferences, The Midwest Clinic, BOA Grand National Championships, the Conn-Selmer Institute, and Music for All's Summer Symposium.

He has reached hundreds more through appearances on podcasts, and at colleges including SUNY Fredonia, Hartwick College, Florida State University, Nazareth College, Long Island University, and Dallas Baptist University; and through articles published in *The Instrumentalist*, NAFME's *Teaching Music*, and NYSSMA's *School Music News*.

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.

Dan Ornowski serves as a Band Director for the Lake Shore Central School District in the Town of Evans, NY. His focus in this role is teaching grades 4,5, and 8 Band as well as lessons. Dan also teaches Elementary Jazz band, Middle School Jazz Band and High School Pep band.



Before entering the world

of public school teaching Dan taught The University Of Tennessee, Pride Of The Southland Marching Band's Drumline. While in this role he also taught freshman undergraduate percussion lessons, instructed a traditional drum and fife ensemble, and led an orchestral Repertoire class for the UT Percussion studio.

Dan holds a Bachelors degree in Music Education and a Masters degree in Percussion Performance from The State University of New York at Fredonia. Taking special interest in rudimental drumming, Dan had the privilege of studying with the late great John S. Pratt and Nick Attanasio who played an important role in developing both his playing and approach to teaching percussion. Dan has been running a private percussion studio since 2006 in the Greater Buffalo area where he strives to keep the "traditions" of rudimental drumming alive in our youth. Dan is a sought after clinician who has led clinics/masterclasses at The Idaho Band Masters Association Convention, The NYSBDA Symposium, The NYSSMA Winter Conference Canisius College, Tennessee BOA, College of Southern Idaho, and various High schools throughout the county.



Trombonist ***Me-***
lissa Gardiner has
been described by
Curtis Fuller as
technically cre-
ative and emotion-
ally powerful. Her
improvisation is
inspiring and moti-

vating for the listener, and she draws you in with a raw expression that directly relates to life experience.

Throughout her career she has worked with several notable musicians including Aretha Franklin, The Temptations, Geri Allen, Wycliffe Gordon, Steve Turre, Gerald Wilson, Patti Austin, Tia Fuller, Ingrid Jensen, Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, and Vulfpeck.

As a bandleader, she has released four albums, *Transitions* (2011), *Second Line Syracuse* (2016), *Empowered* (2019) which features prominent jazz women Tia Fuller (Beyonce) and Ingrid Jensen, and *The NOVA Collective* (2023). Gardiner has won several awards including two Syracuse Area Music Awards (SAMMYS) for Best Jazz Album (2016, 2019), and a Grand

Prize Winner at the International Jazz Competition in Bucharest, Romania (2018).

In addition to an active performance career, Gardiner has teaching credentials at Syracuse University, Le Moyne College and Cornell University and has been recognized as an outstanding educator in many settings, including as a finalist for the National Music and Arts Educator of the Year award (2017), as an inductee to the Liverpool High School Fine Arts Hall of Fame (2018) and a Lifetime Educator of the Year award for the SAMMYS Hall of Fame (2019).

Gardiner received her master's degree in jazz performance at The Juilliard School where she studied with Steve Turre. She graduated with a bachelor's degree at The University of Michigan where she studied with Dennis Wilson (jazz) and David Jackson (classical). Former teachers also include Bill Harris, Curtis Fuller and Wycliffe Gordon. She is an artist for BAC Musical Instruments and plays on a BAC Custom Trombone.

Megan Cabral currently works in Carmel, NY as a High School Band Teacher, and swerves as the co-department chair for K-12 Music. Meghan started her career at GFMS in Carmel, NY teaching beginning and middle school bands for over 15 years. In 2019, Meghan became the District Director of Music for the Carmel Schools until the job changed to become the K-12 Chairperson of Music for the Carmel Central School District in NY.

Meghan conducts the Carmel HS Wind Ensemble, the Carmel HS Freshman Band and Carmel HS Concert Band. She is an active guest conductor, clinician, presenter, as well as author for music publications. Meghan has presented at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, NYSSMA, CMEA, NJMEA, as well as many other local and regional conferences.

Meghan also is an adjunct professor at Marist University, serving as the woodwind studio teacher, the Woodwind Ensemble conductor, as well as leads the Wind Symphony.

Meghan is also an adjunct professor for VanderCook Music College. She has written two courses thus far for Vandercook, and teaches them asynchronously on rotation every semester, including summers.

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.





NEW YORK STATE
BAND DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION



<p>Retired \$30/Year (For retired band directors)</p> <p>All the benefits of Professional Membership</p> <p>Stay involved with NYSBDA and Activities</p> <p>Share your knowledge and experience with younger professionals!</p> <p>Click below to Join or Renew!</p> <p>Join/Renew</p>	<p>Most Popular</p> <p>Professional \$110/Year (For active teachers and associates)</p> <p>NYSBDA Annual Symposium</p> <p>The BandStand Newsletter</p> <p>Regional Workshops</p> <p>Student Eligibility for NYSBDA Honor Bands</p> <p>Member Only Website Content and Videos</p> <p>Directors Band (Summer Conference)</p> <p>Click below to join or renew!</p> <p>Join/Renew</p>	<p>Student \$10/Year (For students enrolled in college music programs)</p> <p>Transition to Professional when you begin teaching</p> <p>Attend the Annual Symposium (Registration fee waived!)</p> <p>Student College Membership Chapters</p> <p>Access to Member Content on the Website</p> <p>The BandStand Newsletter</p> <p>Click below to join or renew!</p> <p>Join/Renew</p>
---	--	--

<https://nysbdamembers.org/>

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

Visit nysbdamembers.org and create your account today!

NYSBDA Membership Application 2025-2026

Please make all checks payable to: **New York State Band Director's Association**



Please mail to: NYSBDA % Treasurer
709 County Route 55
Fulton, NY 13069

- Active Membership:\$110.00
- Student Membership:\$10.00
- Retired Membership:\$30.00

Donation : Commission Project..... \$ _____

Donation: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Project..... \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

(Please note: All NYBSDA memberships run concurrently from September 1st through August 31st of each academic year)

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

School/Business: _____

School/Business Address: _____

School City: _____ School County: _____

Grade Level (if school): _____ Major instrument: _____

If you are a new member, please visit www.nysbdamembers.org to create an online account and select “pay by mail” as the payment method or pay online.

If you are a returning member, please renew your account online and select “pay by mail” as the method of payment, or pay online Please make sure that your account information is up-to-date on DeCapo, so that we can keep in touch with you.

Join NYSBDA!

The New York State Band Directors Association (NYSBDA) supports music educators by providing professional development, networking opportunities, and performance events for band students and teachers statewide. We are dedicated to advancing band education by empowering directors, fostering student musicianship, and elevating band performance standards across New York State.



**NEW YORK STATE
BAND DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION**

MEMBERSHIP

Professional: \$110

Student: \$10

Retired: \$30

NYSBDA Symposium

First full weekend of March

Professional Development

Ensemble Clinics

*Three honor bands featuring students from
80+ NYS School Districts*

CSI Northeast

*Join us at Ithaca College in mid-August for
three days of immersive professional
development with Conn-Selmer! This event
features reading sessions, renowned keynote
speakers, and hands-on sessions.*

Additional Benefits

*Statewide workshops
BandStand Newsletter*

Equity Library

Reading Bands

NYSSMA Sessions

Clinic Video Database

JOIN TODAY!

