

Band Stand

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NYSBDA 2026 Elementary Honor Band





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Editor’s Note:



Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! At our Opening Day meeting, my district brought in a comedian instead of engaging in an hour long speech about logistics, protocols, and well-intentioned platitudes. The unexpected change of pace and smiles in the auditorium set a bright tone for the start of the year. One of the stories the comedian, Mark Schumaker, shared was about a social experiment held in Stockholm, Sweden in 2009 in the metro station. One of the staircases was converted into a giant interactive piano that played music as people stepped on it. Suddenly, 66% more commuters chose to take the stairs over the elevator. The destination was the same but the journey changed - music made it fun. In schools we all have the same goal of educating students, but we as music teachers have the added privilege of doing it through the lens of music. I hope you find time this year to highlight the fun of music-making, remember your “why” and brighten students’ days on their educational journey.

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

From the Podium

By Jackie Kovacs, NYSBDA President



New Beginnings. As I'm writing this article, we are two weeks away from Labor Day Weekend. As many of you, I have one foot deeply planted in summer mode. There is still time to recharge, relax and get other projects completed. The other foot is growing roots in the "back to school mode". My mind is organizing ideas. My anxiety is starting to impact my sleep with back to school dreams. I'm reflecting on how, for the last 33 years, the pattern has been much the same routine. Luckily, it will transform into the excitement and energy of a new school year. With this new school year is the opportunity for a new beginning. Our ensembles will have an entirely new identity. Yes, many members will be the same, but with the graduated seniors off to new adventures, and the influx of freshmen, a new group will emerge. Embrace that ensemble, get to know the new personalities and possibilities.

As you assess the needs of this new ensemble, take time to evaluate your band director "tool box" of ideas. With experience, we all have our go-to methods. Maybe you learned something new over the summer to incorporate into your instruction. If you attended the collaboration of NYSBDA, Ithaca College, and Conn Selmer at the CSI Northeast Event this summer, the ideas were flowing. Dr. Matthew Arau reminded us that we G.E.T. to choose our path each day. By shifting our mind set to a perspective of the opportunities in front of us, we intentionally set in motion new beginnings. The framework of G.E.T. focuses on G- Gratitude- focus on what brings joy, comfort and appreciation. E- Enthusiasm- your energy and intent are in your control. T- Treasure- tasks become an opportunity to be experienced, not a burden or a "to-do" list. **"Choose your focus, where you place your focus gets the growth"** - Dr. Arau. Imagine how empowering our ensembles to have a collective G.E.T. focus and mindset will grow our band community.

All new beginnings require change. Change will need clear communication. It is often human nature to resist change, so remain vigilant in your focus. Be clear with your focus, build connections and trust with your language. Actively engage students, parents and the school community to understand the collected focus. Becoming an empathetic listener will help understand the students' needs and their perspective on your focus. The more you can facilitate open communication and build a positive culture, the more the ensemble will thrive.

Be secure in your foundation, build and change with new opportunities, and work toward enriching our music community. As always, the NYSBDA Executive Board and Region Reps are here to support you. Embrace this new beginning that the school year offers. Please don't forget to renew your NYSBDA membership and encourage new teachers to join the fun. Best wishes for a rewarding and engaging school year.

Jackie Kovacs
NYSBDA President

Conn Selmer Institute Northeast 2026

A Celebration of Learning, Leadership, and Community

By Alessandra Shellard, NYSBDA 1st Vice President



The third annual **Conn-Selmer Institute Northeast**, held at the beautiful Ithaca College campus on **August 10th & 11th**, once again brought together band directors from across the Northeast for two days of professional development, music-making, collaboration, and community. **NYSBDA's** unique partnership with **Conn-Selmer Institute** and **Ithaca College Bands** continues to provide music educators with an opportunity to reconnect with their passion for music education and return to their classrooms with new ideas and renewed energy.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the **NYSBDA Executive Board** for their

continued support of this important professional development experience and their commitment to providing meaningful opportunities for band directors throughout New York State. We are also incredibly grateful to **Dr. Daniel Cook, Director of Bands at Ithaca College**, for his continued partnership and gracious hosting of CSI Northeast. The support of Ithaca College provides an outstanding setting for educators to learn, collaborate, and—perhaps most importantly—make music together.

A special thank you goes to the **Conn-Selmer Education Division**, led by **Erin Cole Steele, Director of Education and Senior Educational Clinician**. The expertise and enthusiasm of the Conn-Selmer educational clinicians continue to be one of the defining features of CSI Northeast, providing practical, immediately applicable ideas for directors at every stage of their careers.

We welcomed an outstanding lineup of clinicians and presenters, beginning with keynote speaker **Dr. Matthew Arau**. In his keynote, Dr. Arau challenged educators to look within themselves and their students for the power to overcome the challenges facing music programs today. Through the ideas of choosing our personal “upbeat” and intentionally creating positive, inclusive cultures, he encouraged directors to elevate learning, performance, joy, belonging, motivation, recruitment, and retention. Dr. Arau continued that message throughout the conference with sessions including “**Inclusive Student Leadership: Lead from Any Chair**” and “**Unlocking Joy – The 6 Keys to Fulfillment and Wellbeing in Teaching, Music Making, and Life.**” His message of empowering every student to become a leader and helping educators preserve joy and purpose in their work resonated throughout the conference.





The conference also featured a tremendous group of Conn-Selmer Educational Clinicians and guest presenters. **Dr. Cynthia Johnston Turner**, from brought her extensive experience as a conductor, educator, and advocate for innovative music education to several sessions, including “**Engaging Rehearsal Techniques for New Learners**” and “**Realistic Routines: Conducting Techniques and Purposeful Planning for the Time-Pressed Professional.**” Her sessions offered practical approaches to rehearsal technique, conducting, and purposeful planning for directors working within busy school schedules.

Beth Fabrizio returned to CSI Northeast with her wealth of experience as a performer, clinician, and longtime public-school educator. Her sessions ranged from “**Rocking the Clarinet,**” a comprehensive look at teaching clarinet at every level, to “**The Red, White and True Things in Your Rehearsal,**” which emphasized the importance of fundamentals, breathing, singing, long tones, and intentional daily routines.



One of the most recognizable names in band composition, **Robert Sheldon**, brought his expertise to CSI Northeast with “**FIX IT NOW!: Developing Ensemble Skills for Effective Rehearsals and Successful Performance.**” As one of the most performed composers of wind band music today and the lead author of *Sound Innovations for Concert Band*, Sheldon's perspective provided directors with practical strategies for diagnosing ensemble problems and making rehearsals more productive.

Other sessions addressed an impressive range of topics and needs across the band classroom. **Peter Gehres** presented “**Building a Quality Trumpet Section: From Elementary to High School and Beyond,**” while **Dan Ornowski** focused on percussion technique and rudiment development in “**Progressions for Rudiment Mastery.**” **Erin Cole Steele** presented “**Tips for Starting Your Beginning Flute Students,**” providing step-by-step strategies for establishing strong habits from day one.

Beginning band pedagogy was also a major focus of **Meghan Cabral's** “**Do Sweat the Small Stuff: Beginning Band ‘Hacks,’**” while **Dr. John J. Gallagher** addressed the equally important challenge of advocating for our programs in “**Usable Advocacy & PR Techniques to Promote Your Music Program.**” His session provided directors with practical strategies for communicating the value of their programs and taking advantage of media opportunities to celebrate students and share the successes of music education with their communities.



Jazz educators were not left out of the conversation.

Corey Riley and Melissa Gardiner presented “**Incorporating Lead Sheets into Your Jazz Ensemble Rehearsals and Warm-ups,**” an interactive session exploring lead sheets, chord changes, improvisation, and strategies for helping students move beyond simply playing over the blues scale. Participants were encouraged to bring their instruments and actively engage with the material.

A highlight of the conference was, as always, the opportunity for directors to **make music together.** The **CSI Northeast Directors Band** brought educators out of the role of teacher and back into the role of musician. Under the direction of **Dr. Cynthia Johnston Turner**, directors had the opportunity to rehearse, perform, and experience the collaborative energy that comes from making music alongside colleagues.

The **Director Reading Bands** were another popular part of the conference, giving attendees the opportunity to sight-read a variety of new literature and explore potential repertoire for their own ensembles. One session focused on appropriate music for the high school setting, and the second featuring middle school-level music. Some of our conductors included **Robert Sheldon, Dr. Daniel Cook, Andy Pease, Omar Williams, and Genevieve Ruhland.**





The conference also featured a special **Conn-Selmer Guest Artist Performance** with **Jason Curry, Yanagisawa Artist and saxophonist**. His quartet performance provided an inspiring opportunity for attendees to experience exceptional musicianship and artistry in a setting designed specifically for music educators and performers.

Beyond the individual sessions, one of the greatest strengths of CSI Northeast continues to be its sense of **community**. Directors shared ideas, discussed challenges, discovered new resources, made music together, and built connections with educators from across the region. These relationships are an important part of what makes CSI Northeast special.

From beginning band instruction and ensemble rehearsal to percussion, jazz, conducting, student leadership, advocacy, and educator wellbeing, this year's programming reflected the many roles today's band directors are asked to fill. Most importantly, CSI Northeast gave educators an opportunity to step away from the classroom and become students again—to learn, play, reflect, and connect.

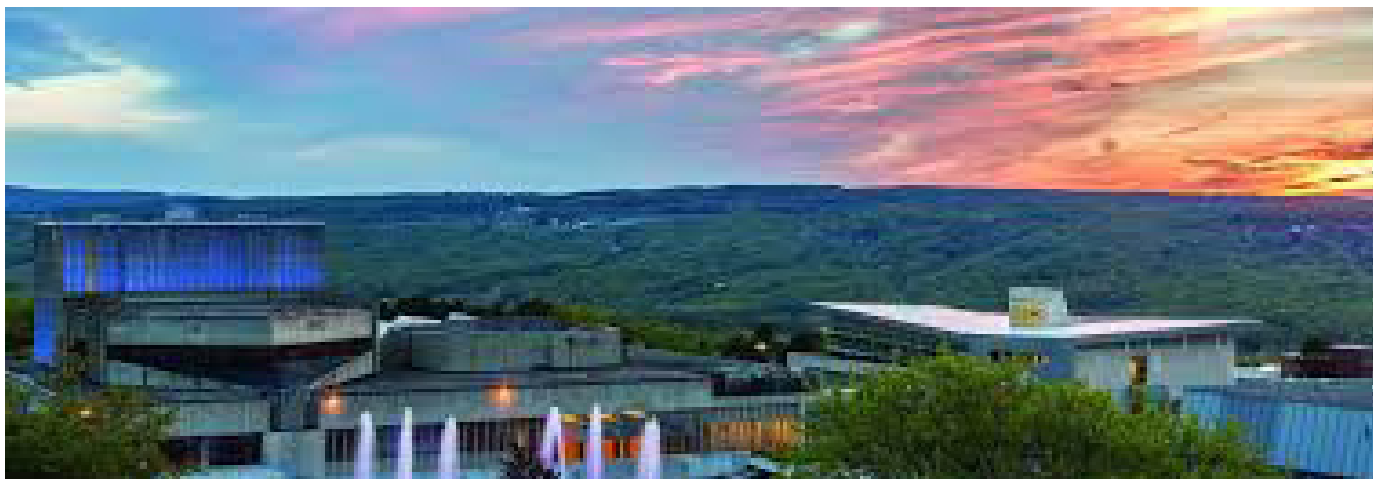
We are deeply grateful to our **clinicians, guest artists, presenters, NYSBDA leadership, Conn-Selmer Education Division, Ithaca College**, and especially the directors who spent part of their summer learning and making music with us.

As we head into another school year, we hope the ideas, connections, and inspiration from CSI Northeast continue to find their way into rehearsal rooms and classrooms throughout New York and beyond.

We look forward to seeing you at CSI Northeast next year!

Sincerely,

Alessandra Shellard



2026 NYSBDA Elementary Honor Band Wrap-Up

By Jessica Williamson, Elementary Honor Band Chair
Michael Cordaro & Jennifer Pham, Guest Conductors

This summer, NYSBDA hosted another successful Elementary Honor Band! Nearly 90 young musicians from 17 school districts were welcomed to Solvay High School for this one day festival. Fourth and fifth grade band students were selected from across New York State to form an inclusive ensemble representing every region of the state.

We were thrilled to have two of our very own NYSBDA Executive Board members, Jennifer Pham and Michael Cordaro, lead the group as guest conductors. Mr. Cordaro and Ms. Pham brought so much experience, energy, and enthusiasm to the day, and the students learned an incredible amount in just a few short hours! They prepared a diverse and exciting program that included *Blackbeard* by Randall Standridge, *Boundless Spirit* by Katie O'Hara LaBrie, *Star-Taker* by Laura Estes, and *Shadow Play* by Carol Brittin Chambers.

In the afternoon, students attended a special performance by the **Empire Saxophone Quartet**, featuring Dan Miller, April Lucas, Nicole Mushalla, and Eric Troiano. The quartet performed a variety of upbeat selections from different genres and talked with the students about the different saxophones and musical styles they were hearing, from classical and jazz to some Disney favorites!

The festival concluded with an exciting performance in the Solvay High School auditorium for a full audience of teachers, family, and friends. It was exciting to see how much these young musicians were able to accomplish together in just one day!

A special thank you to Chris Jabot and the Solvay Central School District for hosting this event; to our amazing guest conductors, Jennifer Pham and Michael Cordaro, for giving the students such a memorable experience; and to all of the elementary band teachers who worked so hard to prepare their students for the festival. Their time, dedication, and support helped make the 2026 NYSBDA Elementary Honor Band such a success!

Jessica Williamson
Elementary Honor Band Chair



Elementary Honor Band 2026



NYSBDA

2027 ELEMENTARY HONOR BAND

Open to Current 4th & 5th Grade Band Students

June 12th, 2027



Genevieve Ruhland
Guest Conductor



Christopher Jabot
Guest Conductor

**Guest artist
performance by the
Fall Creek Brass Band**



**Nominations will open up on March 1st, 2027
through DaCapo at www.nysbdamembers.org**

2027 NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band Preview

Omar Williams, Chairperson



The 2027 NYSBDA Statewide Middle School Honor Band will rehearse and perform at the NYSBDA Symposium **March 5 & 6, 2027** at the **DoubleTree Hotel** in Syracuse, NY. Approximately 100 middle school musicians from New York State will be selected for the Honor Band.

Dr. Matthew Koperniak has accepted the invitation of the NYSBDA officers and executive board to guest conduct the NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band. We are ecstatic to welcome his energy and expertise at this year's Symposium.

NYSBDA will continue doing nominations through Da Capo. You may be familiar with the program through nomination processes such as all-counties and area-all states in your region. This should be completed by the nominating band director. We are also asking that the 2026-2027 Commitment Form be filled out and signed by the appropriate parties. We anticipate this to be included in the Da Capo program but in case of technical issues it may be necessary to upload a copy for each student who you nominate. The 2026-2027 Commitment Form can be found here: [COMMITMENT FORM](#). It is assumed selected students will participate in Honor Band. **DO NOT** nominate students if they do not intend to participate or if there are any conflicts. A copy of the student's 2026 NYSSMA Solo Evaluation(s) may be submitted with each application, if applicable, but is not a requirement for nomination. Teachers should write a recommendation based on the student's abilities. A musical resume should also be included in the application. Selection of students is based on all criteria included in the application—ensure everything is uploaded.

The deadline for submitting online applications is Friday, October 30

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

In order to ensure the safety of all participating students, NYSBDA Honor Band members are required to stay overnight on Friday at the DoubleTree hotel. Students will be housed two or three per room with chaperones and supervision provided by NYSBDA. Students from the same school may not necessarily be assigned to the same hotel room. Please make sure that students/parents are aware of this before applying. **Students will NOT be allowed to room with family members on Friday evening** unless a special request is made and approved by NYSBDA due to religion or disability. Requests may be made by families during the registration/medical information process.

In addition, each school district with students participating in the Honor Band is expected to have an authorized school chaperone in attendance at the Symposium. Part of the responsibilities of the band directors, in addition to attending the Symposium, will be to actively participate in the student experience. All band directors will be asked to volunteer a few hours of their time during the Symposium to assist with supervisory duties of the Honor Band.

2027 NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band Preview

Continued

In addition, each school district with students participating in the Honor Band is expected to have an **authorized school chaperone** in attendance at the Symposium. Part of the responsibilities of the band directors, in addition to attending the Symposium, will be to actively participate in the student experience. All band directors will be asked to volunteer a few hours of their time during the Symposium to assist with supervisory duties of the Honor Band.

Music will be sent to band directors at their school addresses for distribution to Honor Band members by **Sunday, January 3**. This will allow Honor Band members approximately nine weeks to thoroughly prepare their music prior to the first rehearsal.

The NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band will rehearse for approximately ten hours. Registration will take place the morning of Friday, March 5 from 10:30-11:30am (Percussionists from 10:00-10:30am). Rehearsals will commence after lunch and continue through the afternoon with breaks for sectionals and dinner. At the conclusion of rehearsal on Friday evening, the Honor Band will be provided with free time, an ice cream social, and attend the Friday night guest concert. On Saturday, the Honor Band will rehearse during the morning and afternoon in preparation for their afternoon concert, with breaks for lunch. The detailed schedule will be sent later this school year.

Questions or concerns related to the NYSBDA Statewide Middle School Honor Band program should be directed to **Omar Williams, Middle School Honor Band Chairperson** via email at MSHB@nysbda.org.

Additional Middle School Honor Band information and forms are available via the NYSBDA website (www.nysbda.org). Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding the NYSBDA Statewide Middle School Honor Band.

Musically Onward,

Omar Williams
Chairperson
NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band

Middle School Honor Band

Conductor and Bio



Matt Koperniak is the Performing Arts Coordinator for Fulton County Schools where he supervises the district's comprehensive music education and music therapy programs. Under his leadership, Fulton County Schools continues to be named a "Best Community for Music Education" from the NAMM Foundation, recognizing commitment and access to standards-based and sequential music education for the district's 87,000 students. He also leads the Senior Music Education Seminar at Georgia State University.

Dr. Koperniak served as Director of Bands at Riverwatch Middle School from 2008-2018. During that time, band enrollment grew from 135 students to over 680 students. Under his direction, the Riverwatch Band Program received the National Program of Excellence Blue Ribbon Award from the National Band Association and the Sudler Silver Cup from the John Philip Sousa Foundation. Invited performances include The Midwest Clinic: International Band & Orchestra Conference, Music for All National Concert Festival, National Band Association & College Band Directors

National Association Southern Division conferences, GMEA In-Service Conference, Southeastern United States SEUS Clinic at Troy University, University of Alabama, University of Georgia, and "Strike Up the Band" on WABE 90.1 (NPR). Additional teaching experience includes Georgia Southern University, Johns Creek High School, Norcross High School, and Jefferson High School, as well as directing the Classic City Community Band in Athens, GA.

Dr. Koperniak is the Southern Division President-Elect for the National Association for Music Education. Previously, he served as President of the Georgia Music Educators Association from 2021-2023, as well as State Band Chair (2017-2019), and State Organizer for Middle School All-State Band (2014-2016). He served on the Board of Directors of the National Band Association (2018-2020) and is a frequent adjudicator and clinician throughout the United States. He has been published in the Journal of Music Teacher Education and the Music Educators Journal and served as Production Editor for the music education journal TOPICS (Themes, Opinions, Praxes, Innovations, Curriculum, Strategies) from 2018-2026. Recent conference presentations include The Midwest Clinic, NafME national music education research conference, Education Law Association, MayDay Group Colloquium, Conn Selmer Institute – Fine Arts Leadership Alliance, and numerous state music education associations.

Dr. Koperniak earned degrees in music education from Boston University and the University of Georgia. He is a 2017 recipient of the UGA Alumni Association "40 under 40" award. Additional recognitions include Riverwatch Middle School Teacher of the Year (2012), Phi Mu Alpha Province Governor of the Year (2013), and GMEA Music Educator of the Year (2020).

2027 NYSBDA High School Honor Band Preview

Meghan Cabral and Brad Hartman, Co-Chairpersons



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

The 2027 NYSBDA Symposium will be held on March 5 - 7, 2027 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. Onsby Rose as our conductor.

Who is eligible? You can nominate any of your deserving students, grades 9 – 12, who performed a NYS-SMA level V, VI, or All-State solo during the 2025-2026 school year for the High School Honor Band. Students that have already been selected for *any 2026 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 2027 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 23, 2026.

Teachers will be notified of all accepted and alternate participants by Tuesday, November 10. *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 18, 2026.

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

High School Honor Band

Conductor and Bio



Dr. Onsby C. Rose is Director of Instrumental Activities and Professor of Music at Dordt University, where he conducts the Wind Symphony, Campus-Community Band and directs the Defender Band, Dordt's first athletic pep-band. In addition he oversees all six instrumental ensembles and the Instrumental Music Education program. He also serves as Principal Conductor of the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra.

A former U.S. Marine Corps musician with eleven years of service, Dr. Rose performed and conducted with bands in Albany GA, New Orleans LA, and Norfolk VA. He also served two years as a baritone bugler with "The Commandant's Own" U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Rose earned his B.MEd from East Tennessee State University, his M.M. in Conducting from Appalachian State University, and his D.M.A. in Conducting from The Ohio State University, where he studied with Dr. Russel C. Mikkelsen. He also studied composition with the late Dr. David Maslanka and credits Maslanka for his help in finding his way to composition.

His compositions have been performed by premier military bands in Washington D.C., college and high school bands across the United States, and internationally in Australia, Japan, Guam, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and China. Most recently he completed his second symphony "The Sacred Cloth" for LtCol. Ryan Nowlin and "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band. He is currently commissioned by the United States Naval Academy Band to compose his third symphony "Annapolis" to be premiered in the fall of 2027.

2027 NYSBDA High School Honor Jazz Ensemble Preview

Austin Day, Chairperson



The 2027 NYSBDA High School Honor Jazz Ensemble will rehearse and perform during all three days of the Symposium, to be held March 5–7, 2027, in Syracuse, NY. Eighteen students in Grades 9–12 from across New York State are expected to be selected for the Honor Jazz Ensemble, which will perform on Sunday, March 7, 2027, at 12:00 noon.

We are thrilled to announce that Colorado-based pianist, composer, arranger, and educator, **Annie Booth**, has agreed to conduct the High School Honor Jazz Ensemble this coming March. Annie Booth is recognized for her distinctive musical voice and her commitment to connecting performance, composition, and jazz education. Her music has received national and international recognition from organizations including Chamber Music America, the International Society of Jazz Arrangers & Composers (ISJAC), ASCAP, and DownBeat Magazine. She is Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies in the Thompson Jazz Studies Program at the University of Colorado Boulder and was selected as a University of Colorado Sesquicentennial Faculty Scholar in recognition of the impact of her creative work. Equally at home on stage and in the classroom, Booth is a sought-after guest artist, conductor, and clinician who regularly leads festival residencies, composition workshops, jazz ensemble clinics, and masterclasses. She is passionate about helping musicians develop their own artistic voice through creativity, collaboration, and joyful music-making. In 2017, she founded the SheBop Young Women in Jazz Workshop through the Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts, creating an empowering space for girls and non-binary students to build confidence, community, and expression through jazz.

For more info and a full biography, check out:

www.annieboothmusic.com

Selection for the High School Honor Jazz Ensemble will be determined by a committee of NYSBDA Board members following a careful review of submitted applications, résumés, and director recommendations. **NYSSMA Jazz Solo Evaluations** will be given preference in the selection of this ensemble. **Students who did not perform a NYSSMA Jazz solo are still eligible to be recommended.** Students may also submit a video-recorded jazz audition (optional) containing the student performing a prepared piece and/or improvisation from the Level 5 or 6 listings in the current NYSSMA Manual. Please include a list of doubling capabilities for reed players.

HOW TO NOMINATE STUDENTS: NYSBDA Honor Band Nominations will be completed through DaCapo. This process should be completed by the nominating Band Director. Links to all application materials can be found on the NYSBDA webpage (www.nysbda.org), on the Honor Bands subpage. We ask that the 2027 Commitment Form be completed and signed by the appropriate parties before submitting a nomination. This document can be found in the DaCapo application portal. A copy must be uploaded to the online application for each student you nominate.

2027 NYSBDA High School Honor Jazz Ensemble Preview

Continued

ELIGIBILITY: Only students who definitely plan to participate, if selected, should apply. 2026 Conference All-State Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Jazz Ensemble Rhythm Section, or Orchestra participants are **not** eligible to apply, as one of the missions of the NYSBDA High School Honor Jazz Ensemble is to give more students an all-state quality performance experience. Students notified as “Alternate” for Conference All-State are eligible to apply. **Online application forms must be completed no later than October 30, 2026**, but directors are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible. Nominating Band Directors must be current or new members of NYSBDA in order to have students selected.

Band directors will be mailed notification of students accepted for the High School Honor Jazz Ensemble by November 13, 2026. An all-inclusive, nonrefundable participation fee of \$400.00 per student and a signed commitment letter are due by December 18, 2026. The \$400.00 participation fee covers music, guest conductor, hotel room, meals, gratuities, and a digital download of the performance recording. All Honor Jazz Ensemble members will be expected to stay overnight in Syracuse on Friday and Saturday, March 5 and 6, regardless of the proximity of their home to the hotel. **Each school district with students participating in the Honor Jazz Ensemble is expected to have a teacher in attendance at the Symposium to provide chaperone and supervision coverage.**

The NYSBDA officers and executive board encourage NYSBDA High School Band Directors to submit applications of qualified and interested students for possible selection. We are confident that under the distinguished direction of Annie Booth, the 2027 High School Honor Jazz Ensemble will prove highly memorable (and fun)!

Questions or concerns about the NYSBDA Statewide High School Honor Jazz Ensemble should be directed to **Austin Day, High School Honor Jazz Ensemble Chairperson** via email at jazzensemble@nysbda.org.

Jazz Ensemble Honor Band

Conductor and Bio

Award-winning composer, bandleader, pianist, and educator **Annie Booth** is recognized for her distinctive musical voice and her commitment to connecting performance, composition, and jazz education. Her music has received national and international recognition from organizations including Chamber Music America, the International Society of Jazz Arrangers & Composers (ISJAC), ASCAP, and DownBeat Magazine. She is Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies in the Thompson Jazz Studies Program at the University of Colorado Boulder and was selected as a University of Colorado Sesquicentennial Faculty Scholar in recognition of the impact of her creative work.

Booth's compositions span small-group jazz, big band, chamber music, and orchestra, and have been commissioned by professional ensembles, festivals, universities, and educational organizations across the United States. Her music is published by Alfred Music and Brava Jazz Publishing and is performed by professional, collegiate, and student ensembles throughout the world.

Equally at home on stage and in the classroom, Booth is a sought-after guest artist, conductor, and clinician who regularly leads festival residencies, composition workshops, jazz ensemble clinics, and masterclasses. She is passionate about helping musicians develop their own artistic voice through creativity, collaboration, and joyful music-making. In 2017, she founded the SheBop Young Women in Jazz Workshop through the Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts, creating an empowering space for girls and non-binary students to build confidence, community, and expression through jazz.

As a bandleader and pianist, Booth has performed at leading jazz venues and festivals throughout the United States, including the Mt. Hood Jazz Festival, the Telluride Jazz Festival, and SXSW. She has released eight albums as a leader, including *Here, There and Everywhere: The Beatles Songbook (Live)* (2024), which *Textura* praised as “first-rate...terrific.”

In 2023, Booth co-founded Brava Jazz Publishing, a publishing company dedicated exclusively to amplifying the music of women composers and arrangers in jazz. Under her leadership, Brava has grown into a nationally recognized publisher whose catalog is performed by schools, universities, and professional ensembles across North America.

Booth serves on the boards of the Telluride Society for Jazz and the Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts. She holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the University of Colorado Boulder and lives in the Denver area with her husband and daughter.



CALL FOR CLINICIANS AND PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

The New York State Band Directors Association (NYSBDA) is pleased to announce application procedures for participation in the annual **NYSBDA Symposium in Syracuse, New York, March 5-7, 2027**. If you are interested in presenting your own clinic or having your group present a performance clinic, on this topic or any other, please follow these application procedures:

All applicants must forward a letter of application by Monday, October 23, 2026 to Corey Riley at presidentelect@nysbda.org or riley.279@gmail.com or use this link:

[Online Application Form](#)

Please include the following information in your letter:

Individual Clinic

1. Your name, home address, phone numbers and email.
2. Your clinic title and brief description.
3. Date and location of last clinic presentation, if applicable.

Ensemble Performance Clinic

1. Your name, home address, phone numbers and email.
2. Your clinic title and brief description.
3. General information: Name of ensemble, number of players in the performing group, special honors the group has received, copies of recent programs, and any additional information you feel would be helpful in the selection process.
4. Include sample performance requirements for ensemble performance clinics - Please submit two or three representative musical selections in digital format, preferably via web links (e.g. YouTube, SoundCloud, Google Drive, etc.). These may be from any time in the last 2 school years.

All Applicants should be aware of the following:

- The selection process is entirely at the discretion of the NYSBDA board. Each accepted individual or organization accepts clinic date & time, as well as length (typically 60 minutes) and format as prescribed by NYSBDA.
- Performing groups must present a performance clinic and not just a performance.
- Each accepted applicant/organization is responsible for procuring their own transportation and meal arrangements. NYSBDA provides one night of hotel accommodation to each presenter (NOT ensembles). All presenters who are New York State residents are expected to be members of NYSBDA. Out of state presenters are expected to be members of NAFME or one of its affiliates.

Groups will be notified of acceptance by NYSBDA by December 18, 2026.



Keynote
**WENDY
HIGDON**



NEW YORK STATE
BAND DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

14TH ANNUAL

NYSBDA REGION 1 WORKSHOP

10.15.26

Sponsored by

**CONN
SELMER**

Directors Band
& OP Middle
School Band
Session



Developing
Jazz Combos:
Improv to Rhythm



Fredonia
Woodwind
Trio



The Well-
Rounded
Percussionist

Repairs with Brass Monkey
- Plus Much, Much More!



Graciously hosted at
ORCHARD PARK HIGH SCHOOL



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

**SCAN
TO
REGISTER!**



Renew Your Membership Today

NYSBDA Da Capo Instructions

Membership Registrations and Honor Band Applications

The New York State Band Directors Association is migrating our membership registrations and honor band applications to Da Capo. We hope this will streamline our membership services and increase security of personal data. We also hope it will simplify the honor band application process.

Directions:

1. Visit <https://nysbdamembers.org>
2. Select Register New Account. We are resetting the database so everyone must do this the first year.
3. Enter the access code **nysbda** and select "Register Now"



4. Provide us with your updated information and create your account (This data will be used for the honor band applications which will help streamline that process).
5. Pay your dues through Afini Pay, or download the membership application and pay by mail with a check or PO.

FAQs

- Although the membership database is resetting, our email list remains intact. If you provide a different email address through this process, it will be added to our email list. All emails from our past list will remain, unless there is a request to have them removed.
- If you are having issues with the access code, make sure you are using all lowercase characters.
- You will no longer need to enter your director information for each honor band application.
- You must be an active member and have paid your annual dues in order to register students for our honor bands.
- Eventually the members only content of the website will migrate to Da Capo's document center, including the clinic video archive.

