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McGraw Music Educator Assumes NYSSMA Presidency

Westbury, NY – January 25, 2016 - The New York State School Music Association is proud to announce that Michael Brownell has assumed the office of President. He began his two-year term on January 1st after serving NYSSMA in various capacities including President-Elect most recently. He succeeds Dr. David Gaines who now serves as past-president.

In addition to serving NYSSMA as President-Elect from 2014-2015, Mr. Brownell had also held the positions of Second Vice-President (2012-2013), Third Vice-President (2009-2011), Chair of the Council of Music Education Associations (2006-2008), and Central New York Area Representative to NYSSMA's Executive Council (1999-2004). He is a Past President of and has hosted many festivals for the Cortland County Music Teachers Association (CCMTA), is an active NYSSMA Adjudicator, and has served on the All-State Selection Committee. He is also a member of The National Association for Music Education, The American Choral Directors Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Mr. Brownell has taught at McGraw High School since 1988 where he serves as Director of Vocal Music and Producer / Music Director for the annual musical production. He is a past director of the Syracuse University Men's Chorale, and also has experience teaching both general and instrumental music at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Mr. Brownell's presidency will confront present challenges facing music education in New York State and position the association for an even stronger future. With a theme of *Music: Success for All!*, he will focus on four areas:

- **Advocating** for Music Education touting the benefits of participating in music.
- Increasing NYSSMA's **Membership** to help our mission.
- Along with participating in traditional instrumental and vocal ensembles, encourage the development of new **Emerging Ensembles** to attract new students to our music programs.
- Staying active on developments in **Education Policy**.

Mr. Brownell states, "Our students, our profession and our association are all at the heart of our mission. We must continue to aggressively advocate for students to receive a well-rounded education that includes high-quality, comprehensive and sequential music education taught by qualified music educators. More, we must continue the tradition of leading our profession and our association through a time of rapid education reform while providing meaningful support and professional development to our members."

Michael Brownell received his Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, and Master of Music degree in Music Education from the Ithaca College School of Music.

NYSSMA, the New York State School Music Association, is the largest state affiliate of NAfME, the National Association for Music Education. The mission of the New York State School Music Association is to advance music education across New York State for its membership and students in member school programs.

Members of the media wishing to interview Mr. Brownell may contact Dr. John Gallagher at the number above.

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