



NYSSMA

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Executive Director Named Lowell Mason Fellow

July 22, 2015 - Westbury, NY – The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) is proud to announce that Dr. Steven Schopp, NYSSMA Executive Director, has been named a *Lowell Mason Fellow* by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME).

Lowell Mason Fellows are recognized by NAfME for their contributions to the field of music education. This distinction is considered to be an important honor designed for music educators, music education advocates, political leaders, industry professionals and others who have contributed to music education in their unique way.

Dr. Schopp is a familiar figure in NYSSMA having served in a variety of capacities including Assignor of Adjudicators for the Spring Festivals, Nassau County Zone Representative, Second Vice President, and President. He has been a member of the Executive Council since 1981 and chaired the Finance Committee for twelve years. Steve has also served as President of the Eastern Division of The National Association for Music Education and presided over the 1995 Eastern Division Conference in Rochester, NY.

“We are very proud of Dr. Schopp’s selection as a Lowell Mason Fellow,” said Dr. David Gaines, NYSSMA President. “His experience as a music educator, school district arts administrator and various positions held on the state and national levels make him a natural choice for this honor.”

Dr. Schopp holds degrees from Ithaca College, the University of Illinois, Long Island University and most recently Teachers College, Columbia University. He retired from the Syosset Central School District where he was head of the music and art departments and Director of Continuing Education.

Dr. Schopp joins other music educators from New York including Hofstra University’s Dr. Daniel Deutch (2013), the late Joseph R. Sugar, past-president of NYSSMA (2011), and retired superintendent of Schools and former NYSSMA Executive Administrator Dr. Bert Nelson (2006).

More-notable Lowell Mason fellows include actress Florence Henderson (2010), cartoonist Tom Batiuk (2008), and U.S. Marine Band director emeritus Col. John R. Bourgeois & the late (Mr.) Fred Rogers (2004).

Lowell Mason was born on January 8, 1792 in Medfield, Massachusetts. At an early age, he showed an intense interest in music, and began to compose when he was very young. Mason served as director of music at the Hanover, Green and Park Street churches, and as president of the Handel and Haydn Society in 1827. In 1833, he co-founded the Boston Academy of Music, and in 1837 he taught music on a volunteer basis. This eventually led to the inclusion of music as part of the regular curriculum of the Boston public schools in 1838. Mason died on August 11, 1872 in Orange, New Jersey.

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.

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