



March Notes

Timely Reminder: Music in Our Schools Month Legislator Visits!

While we were not able to meet on March 6th in Albany to visit with our state legislators, NYSSMA's efforts in support of music education in New York State carries on! Your voice is sorely needed now more than ever, and it is hoped that you will make appointments to meet with your elected state representatives (NYS Assembly and NYS Senate). You may search to find your state legislators' contact information at these online addresses:

NYS Assembly:

<https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/>

NYS Senate:

<https://www.nysenate.gov/registration/nojs/form/start/find-my-senator>

Please consider setting up a "local" in-person appointment with your legislators when they are in your home district/area of representation. In-person visits are often quite impactful and helpful in establishing a strong relationship with your duly elected state officials.

NYSSMA-endorsed talking points for your legislative visit were disseminated to membership through President Russ Faunce's February CyberNotes. NYSSMA® is focusing on three major talking points during our advocacy efforts in the coming weeks leading up New York State's adoption of its 2023-2024 budget.

We have made significant progress in the past several years bringing the Equitable Access Bills, added Arts Curriculum Associates in the State Education Department and restoration of the NYS Summer School of the Arts to the attention of key influencers in the state government. The energy and persistence

that we all expend in the next 45 days should bring us closer to seeing these items addressed through legislative and executive action!

Please take the time to study the talking points by visiting the NYSSMA® Web page and clicking on the link to the 2023 Joseph R. Sugar Day in Albany on the right side of the main page. You will then be taken to the NYSSMA® GRC and Advocacy Committees pages where you will have access to the most important points to share with your legislators. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to keep music education at the forefront in NYS!

Important Book Study Opportunity for Music Educators

Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies in Music Education

Co-sponsored by the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center and the NYSSMA® Curriculum Committee: March 28 and May 4, 2023 - 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

We are very excited to announce that author Emily Good-Perkins will present a virtual book study on *Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies in Music Education: Expanding Culturally Responsive Teaching to Sustain Diverse Musical Cultures and Identities*.

Please join us for this thoughtful reflection on culturally sustaining practices in the music classroom. Participants will discuss alternatives to instructional approaches that inhibit student engagement and learning and consider ways to enhance instruction to better serve our increasingly diverse student populations.

No cost to participate / Eligible for CTLE credit. Register at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/53abcjxb>

Coming Next Month in the April 2023 School Music NEWS: the Annual NYSSMA® Membership Directory

The April School Music NEWS includes our annual NYSSMA® member directory listing. Members of NYSSMA® in good standing as of March 1, 2023, will have their preferred address information printed in the directory. This includes spousal members of NYSSMA® who do not receive a mailed copy of the *School Music NEWS*.

If you should find that your name/address is incorrect in the directory when printed, please make a point of visiting the NAFME homepage and login to the member information with your NAFME/NYSSMA® member number and password. You should check to make certain that your contact information is correct online as this is the information that NYSSMA® uses to contact you. If it is not correct in NAFME's online membership system, you will need to update it.

Please be aware that there are several address fields in NAFME's database system. Your "preferred" address is the address to which your School Music NEWS will be sent. This is often the same as your home address, although it can be your school address or a completely different address. It is very important that you check to make certain that your home address, school address and "preferred" address are all up to date so that we may find you and send NYSSMA® mailings your way.

You may also complete online renewals of NYSSMA® membership here, as well as select a variety of subscription features of your NAFME/NYSSMA® membership.

Context Conference 2023: Contextualizing Equity and Inclusion in Music

Eastman School of Music Institute for Music Leadership - November 3-4, 2023. Presentation and session proposals are due March 17, 2023.

Context Conference 2023: Contextualizing Equity and Inclusion in Music is for anyone who is interested in engaging in conversation and learning more about equity and inclusion in K-12, collegiate, and music and arts organizations of all sizes.

We will frame our conversations around five areas:

- Classroom innovation: How are we teaching and engaging with the material in our courses and encouraging our students to respond?
- Curriculum shift: What are we teaching about the world and are we doing so authentically?
- Ensemble and applied area repertoire and performance practice: How can we expand the repertoire, performing it in meaningful and historically relevant ways?
- Community engagement: How are we using our musical voices to engage with and enhance our communities?
- Recruitment and retention: — Through what means are we recruiting and retaining our staff, faculty and students in a manner that provides safety and support for all?

More information about these offerings can be found at <http://esm.rochester.edu/context>

Quotes of the Month

In honor of NYSSMA's role in the genesis of the national celebration of MIO SM 50 years ago this month:

"It was a time of fiscal crisis, and schools were eliminating many music programs. Music teachers and programs were being dropped. This was a difficult time for music education."

"... it is time for the music dealers, music publishers, instrument manufacturers, as well as music educators. to get together to plan a course of action or we will all go down together."

William C. Kupferberg, NYSSMA® music educator
New York Music In Our Schools Celebration: A 25-Year History- NYSSMA®
School Music NEWS - March 1997

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