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**Local Music Educator Recognized with NYSSMA's *Early Career Achievement Award***

NYSSMA is honored to recognize member Holden Maiorana, music educator in the Spackenkill Union Free School District UFSD, with its *Early Career Achievement Award*.

It is designed to recognize the successes of member music educators with five to nine years of teaching experience. Mr. Maiorana has spent his entire career in Spackenkill teaching high school chorus, select chorus, musical theater, and vocal lessons since graduating from SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music in 2018.

He was nominated by NYSSMA's local Zone 10 representative Samantha McShane who stated, "Holden is an outstanding music educator who inspires peers and students on local, regional and world-wide levels," said Ms. McShane. "He makes rehearsal fun for his students while also focusing on various elements of performance including diction, dynamics, and more. Holden has presented professional development workshops to peers at all state conferences in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut; and to collegiate students studying to be vocal music educators and actors."

"Being recognized for my work as a music educator feels like winning an Academy Award," Mr. Maiorana said. "I love meeting with music educators and discussing best practices in our classrooms and rehearsal spaces," he said. I am grateful to those who advocated for me, and to NYSSMA for selecting me.

Outside of his duties to the Spackenkill School District, he has been a guest conductor of vocal ensembles in local counties including Wayne, Saratoga/Warren, Ulster, Otsego, Tioga, Westchester and Columbia. He also music directs at the Beacon Performing Arts Center, Warwick Center for Performing Arts, and Play Group Theatre.

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

L-R:  
NYSSMA President Edmund Chiarello presents Holden Maiorana with NYSSMA's Early Career Achievement Award in Rochester, NY during the annual All State / Winter Conference in December, 2024.

NYSSMA grants permission to use this photo in media reporting.

