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Area All State Festival Held at Proctors Theater

Westbury, NY – December 19, 2024 – The New York State School Music Association proudly sponsored the Capitol region’s annual Area All State festival on November 8 – 9, 2024 held at Schenectady’s historic Proctors Theater.

The event featured the musical talents of three hundred twenty (320) students from forty-four (44) school music programs in Albany, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington counties, making up NYSSMA’s “Zone 7”.

“NYSSMA is committed to offering students a professional performance experience in a venue like the Proctors theater is a testament to their mission of supporting quality music education programs throughout New York State,” said Capitol region representative Gregory Verheyen.

Under the guidance of Area All State Chairperson Matthew Gaulin, choral director at Queensbury High School, six additional local music educators served as chairpeople for each one of four ensembles. Students were under the guidance of expert conductors including:

- Area All State Jazz Ensemble - [Christine Jensen](#), Eastman School of Music
- Area All State Mixed Chorus - [Dr. Vernon Huff](#), SUNY Fredonia
- Area All State Symphonic Band - [Erin Althen](#), Westhill High School, Syracuse, NY
- Area All State Symphony Orchestra - [Dr. James Mick](#), Ithaca College

“We are proud to showcase the level of talent held by students in the Capitol region and offer our heartfelt congratulations to the students who performed, the parents who support them, and the music educators who help them grow musically,” said Edmund Chiarello, NYSSMA president.

NYSSMA, the New York State School Music Association, is the largest state affiliate of the National Association for Music Education.

The Mission of the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) is to advance music education across New York State for its membership and students in member school programs.

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