



May June Notes

NYSSMA® WELCOMES A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NYSSMA® announces that Dr. David Brown has been appointed as the new NYSSMA® Executive Director, effective May 15, 2025. Dr. Brown is a past president of NYSSMA® (2020-2021) and will take over as executive director from Michael Salzman who has served as NYSSMA® Interim Executive Director since the spring of 2024. NYSSMA® extends its profound thanks to Mr. Salzman for all of his work this past year in managing NYSSMA® operations. Welcome Dr. Brown and all best wishes moving forward!

NYSSMA® WELCOMES A NEW EDITOR

NYSSMA® formally announced that Daniel Bilawsky has been appointed as the fourth association editor succeeding Thomas N. Gellert who is stepping down after thirty-one years of service. The transition process has already begun as Dan is officially onboard working closely to make the transition as soon as possible. Be sure to follow Dan through his editorial comment in future *School Music News* magazines. Welcome to NYSSMA®, Dan!

NEW NYSSMA® AWARD FOR 2025: COLLEGIATE EDUCATOR AWARD

The NYSSMA® Awards Committee announces the addition of a new award to give recognition for exceptional support and outstanding accomplishments in the service to the advancement of music education in the Colleges/Universities of New York, public or private. Nominee Eligibility: Must be an active or retired NYSSMA® member who is or has been employed in the field of music education at the collegiate level for a minimum of five years. Has demonstrated effectiveness in teaching young people through music and has inspired the next generation of music educators. Has demonstrated an interest in music education by active involvement in NYSSMA® as well as other local and collegiate activities. Any member of NYSSMA® may nominate a person(s) deemed worthy of this special recognition. No more than two awards will be given in one year, and the committee reserves the right to not recommend an award recipient in any given year. Please visit the NYSSMA® Awards Committee page online at <https://www.cvent.com/c/abstracts/e72abdef-9c4b-405f-ab46-62568ad103e8> for additional information on this new award and other NYSSMA® awards. The deadline for all award nominations is July 1, 2025.

*BREAKING NEWS!

NYSSMA® 2025 SUMMER CLASSROOM MUSIC CONFERENCE

"GROWING MUSICIANS, GROWING COMMUNITY"

As we go to press the NYSSMA® Classroom Music Committee is pleased to announce that a classroom music conference will occur this summer. It will take place Sunday, August 10 through Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at Nazareth University in Rochester. Our headliner will be James DesJardins.

James M. DesJardins holds a B.M. from SUNY College at Buffalo and a M.M. from SUNY College at Fredonia. He has earned specialized certifications from the University of St. Thomas and from SUNY Buffalo in Orff-Schulwerk and Music Learning Theory, respectively. He has been teaching music for a number of years in Western New York and is a registered Music Together teacher.

Mr. DesJardins is also a sought-after guest conductor and presenter on the topics of music pedagogy and choral conducting. He has been a church musician and soloist for three decades. He has conducted honors choruses throughout the Northeast and has presented workshops for various chapters of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association, Erie County Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference, as well as for the New York State School Music Association Winter and Summer conferences. Mr. DesJardins has been a guest lecturer at SUNY Fredonia, has served as composer-in-residence for the Buffalo Niagara Youth Chorus. He has been a featured composer in the Harmonia Chamber Singers Echoes of the Present Concert Series and is the 2017 recipient of the EC-MEA/Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Award for Excellence in Music Education. More recently, Mr. DesJardins was named the 2022-2023 "General Music Educator of the Year" by Buffalo State University.

When he is not composing, teaching, presenting, or conducting, Mr. DesJardins enjoys exploring his city with his wife, Julianne, and their son, Luke.

The conference will be geared specifically toward elementary classroom music teachers, and will feature traditional workshop sessions, one hour musicianship sessions, and a social gathering at the end of each day.

We are hoping registration will be open by the end of May. Please visit the NYSSMA® website (www.nyssma.org) for the latest updates concerning this conference along with registration information.



LAST CHANCE: 2025 PIANO SHOWCASE APPLICATION

Procedures and information may be found at the link below. The application deadline is July 11, 2025. Here is the QR code to take you directly to the online application/information.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."

– Jimmy Dean, country music singer, television host, actor, and businessman