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# MINUTES

Virtual Meeting via Zoom – August 14, 2025

## NYSSMA® COUNTY PRESIDENTS’ ASSEMBLY / GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING OFFICIAL MINUTES

**NYSSMA® County Presidents’ Assembly / General  
Business Meeting Official Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 14, 2025 –**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom – 12:00 p.m.**

### **Welcome and Introductions – Call to Order**

NYSSMA® Past President Russ Faunce and NYSSMA® President Ed Chiarello welcomed approximately 60 members who joined the online August NYSSMA® County Presidents’ Assembly / General Business Meeting.

### **Officer and Chair Reports**

#### **President: Ed Chiarello**

**Update: NYSSMA® Winter Conference - December 4-7, Rochester:** President Chiarello shared that the theme for the 89th Annual NYSSMA® Winter Conference is “Embracing the Journey of Music Education.” The feature performing group is Dallas Brass. Dr. Cecil Adderley, NAFME President-Elect, will be a special guest at the conference. All concert hour performances will take place in the Lilac Ballroom. NYSSMA’s Modern Band Showcase will have its premiere at this year’s conference.

**Update: NYSSMA® Academy 2.0:** The NYSSMA® Academy Series, originally conceived of by NYSSMA® Neurodiversity and Accessibility Chair Brian Wagner-Yeung, NAFME-NYSSMA® Collegiate Advisor Keith Koster, and Collegiate-NYSSMA’s (now) Past-President Taylor Kelly and (now) President Sophie Wood, is being expanded in terms of access and calendar spread in its second year. Any teachers who want to participate will have that opportunity and an option for CTLE credit has been added. The sessions include:

Session #1: 21st Century Practices: Strategies for the Inclusion of Neurodivergent Learners in the Music Classroom, Presented by Cody Messersmith, Saturday, September 27, 2025.

Session #2: Planning for Inclusion: UDL Meets Assistive Technology, Presented by Erik Piazza - Saturday, November 8, 2025.

Session #3: Sensory Safety for Students: Predictable Routines in Instrumental Music, Presented by Krysta Mirsik DePuy - Saturday, March 7, 2026.

Session #4: Music for All: Engaging All Learners in the Accessible Music Classroom, Presented by Brian Wagner-Yeung - Saturday, April 25, 2026.

**Update: NCAS – National Coalition for Arts Standards:** In 2014, the NCAS created a set of arts standards. In 2017, they were folded into the arts standards in New York. Now, NCAS is working on revisions and updates. A survey, which closed on May 16, 2025, allowed for public input.

**Update: NYSSMA® Classroom Music Conference:** August 2025: Unfortunately, due to a late rollout (in June) and subsequent low enrollment, this conference was canceled. Moving forward, NYSSMA® hopes to have any/all summer conferences announced by/at the NYSSMA® Winter Conference.

#### **President Elect: Kathy Perconti**

**Update: NYSSMA® Winter Conference:** December 4-7, Rochester: There were 305 session applications and NYSSMA® accepted half of those. With one less room available due to the addition of the Modern Band Showcase, there is a slight reduction of sessions at this year’s conference. Exhibitor Showcase applications close on September 13 and exclusive exhibitor viewing time has returned.

### **Showcase information**

Student Electronic Showcase - Thursday at 4:15 p.m.  
(59 applied, 11 were accepted).

Young Composer Showcase - Friday at 1:15 p.m.  
(63 applied, 10 were accepted).

Piano Showcase Recital - Friday at 3:45 p.m.  
(128 applied, 11 were accepted).

Songwriters Showcase - Saturday at 8:15 a.m.  
(29 applied, 11 were accepted).

Modern Band Showcase – Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

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President-Elect Perconti shared that there's a wide variety of Concert Hour ensembles — a harp ensemble, bassoon ensemble, trombone troupe, and jazz ensemble included. One Pennsylvania group was included. A special note was made that choral applications are down and only one such group will be performing.

## **2nd VP: Daryle Redmond**

**Update: 2025 Conference All-State:** There were 6,339 applications. That's up 400 from the previous year and up 600 from the year prior to that. Selections took place this past June 30 in Syracuse. The NYSSMA® Selection Committee there was made up of a representative from each zone in the state. More than 800 students were selected to participate in the eight conference all-state ensembles running this year. Statistics and demographic information will appear in *School Music News*.

## **Important dates for 2025 Conference All-State notification and participation**

- 2025 Conference All-State announcements/acceptances will be mailed to music teachers or music department chairs or school principals of high schools with participating students on August 25, 2025.
- 2025 Conference All-State acceptance letters will be mailed to students on August 27, 2025.
- 2025 Conference All-State acceptance emails will be sent to students on September 2, 2025.
- Alternates will only receive an email, not a letter.
- The postmark deadline for the return of student medical forms and commitment forms is September 19, 2025.
- All-State fees are due to the NYSSMA® Office by October 1, 2025.
- All-State music and participant information will be available for accepted students to download on or about October 14, 2025.

## **2025 Conference All-State student housing and rehearsal location updates**

- All vocal groups will be housed at the Doubletree.
- Symphony Orchestra will be housed at the Marriott Airport.
- All bands and String Orchestra will be housed at the Holiday Inn Downtown, which is now owned by Wyndham and, reflective of this change, has a different name (but remains in the same location).

Most ensembles rehearse where they are housed. Notable exceptions are that the String Orchestra rehearses at the Hyatt and the Instrumental Jazz Ensemble rehearses at the Hilton Garden Inn.

## **2025 Conference All-State Conductors**

Vocal Jazz Ensemble - Ms. Allison Crockett, Shenandoah University.

Instrumental Jazz Ensemble - Ms. Ellen Rowe, University of Michigan.

Wind Ensemble - Dr. David Vanderwalker, Georgia State University.

String Orchestra - Anthony Elliot, University of Michigan.

Treble Chorus - Dr. Jennifer Sengin, University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Mixed Chorus - Dr. Brandon Boyd, University of Missouri.

Symphonic Band - Dr. Courtney Snyder, University of Michigan.

Symphony Orchestra - Dr. Jeff Meyer, Indiana University.

## **2025 Conference All-State performance times and locations**

3:30 p.m. - Theatre at Innovations Square

•All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble

•All-State Instrumental Jazz Ensemble

7:30 p.m. - Eastman Theatre

•All-State Wind Ensemble

•All-State String Orchestra

•All-State Treble Chorus

10:00 a.m. - Eastman Theatre

•All-State Mixed Chorus

•All-State Symphonic Band

•All-State Symphony Orchestra

## **Update: 2026 NYSSMA® Adjudicator Orientation Seminars/Festival Season:**

March 6-7, Nassau Community College (piano only) - Zone 13.

March 13-14, Talent Unlimited High School - Zone 12.

April 17-18, East Syracuse-Minoa High School - Zone 3.

April 24-25, Half Hollow Hills High School West (no piano) - Zone 14.

The 2026 NYSSMA® Festival Calendar is online at the association's website and will appear in *School Music News*. Several zones still need to submit their information, but it's otherwise complete.

*continued on next page*

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### 3rd VP: Shelly Bauer

**Update: Upcoming Professional Development/Summer 2026 Conference:** On June 24, 2025, NYSSMA® 3rd Vice President Shelly Bauer, Interim Executive Director Michael Salzman and Executive Director Dr. David Brown met with Todd Stoll from Jazz at Lincoln Center. They discussed a blueprint for a two-day summer conference. Potential dates were penciled in and there was an agreement to convene again to try to solidify things. The hope is to have information ready to share with membership by the 2025 NYSSMA® Winter Conference.

### Executive Director: Dr. David Brown

Dr. David Brown (and Russ Faunce) recognized Michael Salzman for all of his hard work as the Interim Executive Director. Updates and introductions were provided for the following positions and people: *School Music News* (Dan Bilawsky), NYSSMA® Office/Graphic Designer (Matt Gagliardi), NYSSMA® Office (JT Cummings).

Joe Sugar Day is March 9, 2026. This change to the second Monday of the month (instead of the usual first Monday of the month) is due to Purim.

Joan Chiarello and Stuart Rauch were acknowledged for all of their work in the office and for the association.

### NYSSMA® Manual Chair: Andy Kittleson

Andy Kittleson shared a three-minute video about the manual site, registration and multifactor authentication. This video is accessible at [manual.nyssma.org](http://manual.nyssma.org). All registrations to date have been processed.

### Past President: Russ Faunce

#### Nominations

NYSSMA® Past President Russ Faunce opened 2025 nominations for the final time. The following nominations are in place for the 2025 NYSSMA® elections:

NYSSMA® President-Elect

Daryle Redmond, nominated by Samantha McShane 3/25.

Jim Uzzi, nominated by Paige Hardison, 6/25.

Zone 1 Representative

Patrick Towey, nominated by Paige Hardison 3/25.

Zone 3 Representative

Dr. Jennifer Greene, nominated by D. Redmond 3/25.

Zone 7 Representative

John Fatuzzo, nominated by Greg Verheyn, 6/25.

Zone 11 Representative

Kim Dunkin, nominated by Kim Dunkin 3/25.

Zone 15 Representative

Tab Treacy, originally nominated by Colin Smith 6/25; nomination rescinded 8/25.

Kim Henry, nominated by Colin Smith 8/25.

Nominations officially closed at 1:06 p.m. at this meeting. Ballots will be prepared and sent to membership for voting in fall 2025.

### Constitution Chair/Past President: Sue Weber

Constitution Chair/Past President Sue Weber shared proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws. She indicated that they'll be voted on by mail, presented in the same mailer that contains the election ballot. She shared that, per protocol, all current language and proposed changes must and are being shared.

Proposed changes as explained by the Constitution Chair included adjustments to language under Article IV – Membership, Article VI – Meetings and Activities, Article VII – Funds, and Article VIII – Quorums, all in the NYSSMA® Constitution; and, additionally, Third Vice President language in the NYSSMA® By-Laws. [Editor's Note: After the meeting, a decision was made to table these proposed amendments. If or when they move forward, they'll be discussed at an Executive Council meeting prior to being released to membership for a vote].

### School Music News: Dan Bilawsky

*School Music News* Editor Dan Bilawsky shared background about his onboarding and the transition into the position, working with everyone in the NYSSMA® Office, and NYSSMA® business that will be in the September issue (and subsequent issues) of the magazine.

He shared a reminder for everyone to always send updated information ASAP to the NYSSMA® Office so everything in print is as accurate as possible. He shared that several *School Music News* Review Editor positions remain vacant or recently have been filled. The open positions list includes Brass, Choral, Orchestra/String, Instrumental Jazz and Vocal Jazz. A call for applicants for those open positions will appear in the Editor's Notes in the September issue of the magazine.

#### **New Business:**

No questions or concerns were posed. The Executive Director shared information regarding the winter conference brochure's rollout and availability for viewing/using.

#### **Next Meeting:**

December 2025 (Winter Conference, Rochester)  
Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 10:45 a.m. – Highland CH (Convention Center)

#### **Adjournment:**

President Ed Chiarello and Past President Russ Faunce thanked everyone on the meeting for their efforts [Editor's Note: One or both also offered individual words of thanks before or after each report]. Attendees were asked if there were any other matters to bring to the meeting. Hearing none, President Chiarello asked for a motion to adjourn. The following motion was made:

**Motion:** Sue Weber, seconded by Jim Uzzi/all in attendance, "that the meeting be adjourned." **Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Bilawsky, Official Recorder

#### **STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION 2025**

All Periodicals, Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Title of publication: NYSSMA School Music News
2. Publication No. 0036-6668
3. Date of filing: September 2, 2025
4. Frequency of issue: Published 7 times a year (except February, June, July, August and December).
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11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding one percent or more of total amount of bonds mortgagees, or other securities: None
12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates: The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and exempt status for Federal income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding twelve months.
13. Publication Title: NYSSMA School Music News
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: May-June, 2025
15. Extent and nature of circulation:
  - a. Total number of copies printed (net press run): Average number of copies each issue during preceding twelve months: 4077; Number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 3700
  - b. Paid Circulation by Mail and Outside the Mail:
    1. (Mailed Outside County): Average number of copies each issue mailed outside county during preceding twelve months: 3076; Number of copies of single issue mailed outside county nearest to filing date: 2911
    2. (Mailed Inside County): Average number of copies each issue mailed inside county during preceding twelve months: 374; Number of copies of single issue mailed outside county nearest to filing date: 327
  - c. Total Paid Distribution (Prior 12 Months Average – 3450) (May-June 2024 – 3238)
  - d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Prior 12 Months – 327) (May-June 2024 - 170)
  - e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Prior 12 Months – 327) (May-June 2024 - 170)
  - f. Total Distribution (Prior 12 Months – 3777) (May-June 2024 - 3408)
  - g. Copies Not Distributed (300 / 300)
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  - i. Percent Paid (91.34 / 95.01%)
16. Electronic Copy Circulation
  - a. Paid Electronic Copies (0 / 0)
  - b. Total Paid Print Copies (3450 / 3238)
  - c. Total Print Distribution (3777 / 3408)
  - d. Percent Paid (Print and Electronic) – 91% / 95%
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership – October 2025

**I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete:**

**Dan Bilawsky, Editor, 10/01/25**