
EDITOR'S NOTES

Dan Bilawsky – Editor, *School Music News*



SEPTEMBER NOTES

CALL FOR *SCHOOL MUSIC NEWS* ARTICLES 2025-2026

Please note that this issue contains an article entitled "An Invitation to Write for *School Music News*." If you're interested in submitting your work, the guidelines for how to go about doing that are laid out in that document. This is an opportunity to make a positive contribution in print, sharing your writing with thousands of colleagues across New York State! Please consider this wonderful opportunity. I look forward to receiving submissions.

NYSSMA® 89th ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION: ROCHESTER - DECEMBER 4 – DECEMBER 7, 2025

We're just a few months away from the NYSSMA® Winter Conference, so it's time to make your plans! A sneak preview of the conference appears in this issue along with pre-registration materials. The 2025 NYSSMA® Winter Conference promises to be one to remember, with an impressive and wide-ranging lineup of sessions, concerts, exhibitors, exhibitor showcases and, of course, the 2025 NYSSMA® Conference All-State performances. Make sure to pre-register today and look to future issues of *School Music News*, and to the NYSSMA® website, for updates about what's to come at this year's conference. I hope to see you in Rochester!

OPEN *SCHOOL MUSIC NEWS* REVIEW EDITOR POSITIONS

Several *School Music News* Review Editor positions are currently open. Review Editors are subject-specific writers connected to the magazine. These individuals contribute their expertise both through reviews of materials and in expounding on various subjects related to their area. Review Editors are expected to contribute semi-regularly to *School Music News*. The positions that are open (as of this writing) are Brass, Choral, Instrumental Jazz, Orchestra/String, and Vocal Jazz. Anyone interested in being considered should reach out to the Editor at schoolmusicnews@nyssma.org for additional information.

NYSSMA® ADVOCATES FOR THE RELEASE OF FEDERAL EDUCATION FUNDING

NYSSMA® is one of nearly 600 nonpartisan organizations representing educators, families, and learners across the country to have joined in a united call to the U.S. Department of Education and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to request disbursement of over six billion dollars in legally-obligated federal education funds unjustifiably withheld from states. The funds were due to be disbursed on July 1. A letter, sent in mid-July,

was signed by local, state and national organizations representing parents, teachers, administrators, summer and afterschool programs, literacy organizations, music and arts associations, and adult education organizations. It underscores the large-scale disruption caused by this failure to release critical funding under multiple federal education programs including Title II-A: Supporting Effective Instruction, Title IV-A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants, Title IV-B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Title III-A: English Language Acquisition, and Title I-C: Migrant Education, Adult Basic and Literacy Education. Additionally, the coalition of signatories expressed its thanks to the members of Congress who had already raised concerns to both the Department and OMB, calling for transparency and the immediate release of funds.

2025 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

Congratulations to the 207 New York State school districts that are among the 935 school districts across the nation to be honored as the best communities in the country for music education, and the 10 New York State schools among the 87 schools nationwide to receive the SupportMusic Merit Award. These award programs, sponsored by the NAMM® Foundation, recognize outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education. NYSSMA® congratulates:

2025 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

DISTRICT	TOWN/CITY
Akron Central Schools	Akron
Albion Central School District	Albion
Amherst Central School District	Amherst
Amityville Union Free School District	Amityville
Arlington Central School District	Lagrangeville
Auburn Enlarged City School District	Auburn
Baldwin Union Free School District	Baldwin
Baldwinsville Central School District	Baldwinsville
Ballston Spa Central School District	Ballston Spa
Batavia City School District	Batavia
Bay Shore Union Free School District	Bay Shore
Bayport-Blue Point Union Free School District	Bayport
Bedford Central School District	Bedford
Bellmore Union Free School District	Bellmore

Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District	North Merrick	Guilderland Central School District	Guilderland Center
Bethlehem Central School District	Delmar	Half Hollow Hills Central School District	Dix Hills
Bethpage Union Free School District	Bethpage	Hamilton Central School District	Hamilton
Binghamton City School District	Binghamton	Hampton Bays Union Free School District	Hampton Bays
Bloomfield Central School District	Bloomfield	Harborfields Central School District	Greenlawn
Brighton Central School District	Rochester	Harrison Central School District	Harrison
Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District	Ballston Lake	Hempstead Union Free School District	Hempstead
Byram Hills Central School District	Armonk	Hendrick Hudson School District	Montrose
Cairo-Durham Central School District	Cairo	Herricks Union Free School District	New Hyde Park
Candor Central School District	Candor	Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools	Woodmere
Carle Place Union Free School District	Carle Place	Hicksville Public Schools	Hicksville
Carmel Central School District	Patterson	Holland Patent Central School District	Holland Patent
Carthage Central School District	Carthage	Honeoye Central School District	Honeoye
Cassadaga Valley Central School District	Sinclairville	Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District	Honeoye Falls
Catskill Central School District	Catskill	Huntington Union Free School District	Huntington Station
Cazenovia Central School District	Cazenovia	Hyde Park Central School District	Hyde Park
Central Islip Union Free School District	Central Islip	Irvington Union Free School District	Irvington
Central Valley Central School District	Ilion	Island Trees School District	Levittown
Chateaugay Central School	Chateaugay	Ithaca City School District	Ithaca
Chatham Central School District	Chatham	Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District	DeWitt
Chenango Forks Central School District	Binghamton	Jericho Union Free School District	Jericho
Chenango Valley Central School District	Binghamton	Johnson City Central School District	Johnson City
Chittenango Central School District	Chittenango	Jordan-Elbridge Central School District	Jordan
Churchville-Chili Central School District	Churchville	Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda	Buffalo
Clarence Central School District	Clarence	Union Free School District	
Cold Spring Harbor Central School District	Cold Spring Harbor	Kinderhook Central School District	Valatie
Commack Union Free School District	East Northport	(Ichabod Crane)	
Comsewogue School District	Port Jefferson Station	Lancaster Central School District	Lancaster
Connetquot Central School District	Bohemia	Lawrence Union Free School District	Lawrence
Deer Park School District	Deer Park	Le Roy Central School District	Le Roy
Dover Union Free School District	Dover Plains	Levittown Public Schools	Levittown
East Aurora Union Free School District	East Aurora	Liberty Central School District	Liberty
East Hampton Union Free School District	East Hampton	Lindenhurst Union Free School District	Lindenhurst
East Irondequoit Central School District	Rochester	Little Falls City School District	Little Falls
East Meadow Union Free School District	Westbury	Liverpool Central School District	Liverpool
East Moriches Union Free School District	East Moriches	Livonia Central School	Livonia
East Rockaway School District	East Rockaway	Lockport City School District	Lockport
East Syracuse Minoa Central School District	East Syracuse	Locust Valley Central School District	Locust Valley
East Williston Union Free School District	Old Westbury	Long Beach Public Schools	Lido Beach
Enlarged City School District of Middletown	Middletown	Longwood Central School District	Middle Island
Farmingdale Union Free School District	Farmingdale	Lynbrook Public Schools	Lynbrook
Franklin Square Union Free School District	Franklin Square	Mahopac Central School District	Mahopac
Fredonia Central School District	Fredonia	Maine-Endwell Central School District	Endwell
Freeport Public Schools	Freeport	Marcellus Central School District	Marcellus
Frontier Central School District	Hamburg	Marcus Whitman Central School District	Rushville
Garden City Union Free School District	Garden City	Marlboro Central School District	Milton
Gates Chili Central School District	Rochester	McGraw Central School District	McGraw
Geneseo Central School District	Geneseo	Medina Central School District	Medina
Geneva City School District	Geneva	Merrick Union Free School District	Merrick
Glen Cove City School District	Glen Cove	Mexico Academy & Central School District	Mexico
Goshen Central School District	Goshen	Millbrook Central School District	Millbrook
Grand Island Central School District	Grand Island	Miller Place Union Free School District	Miller Place
Great Neck Public Schools	Great Neck	Mineola Union Free School District	Garden City Park
Greece Central School District	Rochester	Minisink Valley Central School District	Slate Hill

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Mohonasen Central School District	Schenectady	Seaford Union Free School District	Seaford
Monroe-Woodbury Central School District	Central Valley	Shoreham-Wading River Central School District	Shoreham
Monticello Central School District	Monticello	Skaneateles Central School District	Skaneateles
Morrisville-Eaton Central School District	Morrisville	Smithtown Central School District	Smithtown
Mount Morris Central School District	Mount Morris	Solvay Union Free School District	Syracuse
Mount Pleasant Central School District	Thornwood	Somers Central School District	Somers
Nanuet Union Free School District	Nanuet	South Colonie Central School District	Albany
Newark Central School District	Newark	South Country Central School District	East Patchogue
Newfield Central School District	Newfield	South Glens Falls Central School District	South Glens Falls
North Babylon School District	North Babylon	South Huntington Union Free School District	Huntington Station
North Colonie Central School District	Latham	Southampton Union Free School District	Southampton
North Shore Central School District	Sea Cliff	Spackenkill Union Free School District	Poughkeepsie
North Syracuse Central School District	North Syracuse	Starpont Central School District	Lockport
North Tonawanda City School District	North Tonawanda	Sullivan West Central School District	Jeffersonville
Northport-East Northport Union Free School District	Northport	Syosset Central School District	Syosset
Oceanside Union Free School District	Oceanside	Ticonderoga Central School District	Ticonderoga
Oneida City School District	Oneida	Uniondale Union Free School District	Uniondale
Orchard Park Central School District	West Seneca	Valley Central School District	Montgomery
Ossining Union Free School District	Ossining	Valley Stream Central High School District	Valley Stream
Owego Apalachin Central School District	Owego	Valley Stream Union Free School District 13	Valley Stream
Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District	Oyster Bay	Vernon Verona Sherrill Central School District	Verona
Pawling Central School District	Pawling	Victor Central School District	Victor
Pembroke Central School District	Corfu	Wappingers Central School District	Hopewell Junction
Penfield Central School District	Penfield	Warsaw Central School District	Warsaw
Penn Yan Central School District	Penn Yan	Washingtonville Central School District	Washingtonville
Perry Central School District	Perry	Waterford-Halfmoon Union Free School District	Waterford
Phoenix Central School District	Phoenix	Waverly Central Schools	Waverly
Pittsford Central School District	Pittsford	Wayne Central School District	Ontario Center
Plainedge Union Free School District	North Massapequa	Webster Central School District	Webster
Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District	Plainview	West Genesee Central School District	Camillus
Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District	Port Chester	West Irondequoit Central School District	Rochester
Port Jefferson School District	Port Jefferson	West Seneca Central School District	West Seneca
Port Washington Union Free School District	Port Washington	Westfield Academy and Central School	Westfield
Public Schools of the Tarrytowns	Sleepy Hollow	Westhill Central School District	Syracuse
Putnam Valley Central School District	Putnam Valley	Wheatland-Chili Central School District	Scottsville
Queensbury Union Free School District	Queensbury	William Floyd Union Free School District	Mastic Beach
Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District	Ravena	Williamson Central School District	Williamson
Red Hook Central School District	Red Hook	2025 SUPPORTMUSIC MERIT AWARD SCHOOLS	
Riverhead Central School District	Riverhead	SCHOOL	TOWN/CITY
Rochester City School District	Rochester	DeRuyter Central School	DeRuyter
Rockville Centre Union Free School District	Rockville Centre	Léman Manhattan Preparatory School	New York
Rocky Point Union Free School District	Rocky Point	Mount St. Mary Academy	Kenmore
Rome City School District	Rome	Northern Academy of the Arts	Middletown
Rondout Valley Central School District	Accord	P.S. 10 Brooklyn	Brooklyn
Royalton-Hartland Central School District	Middleport	PS/IS 266Q	Bellerose
Rush-Henrietta Central School District	Henrietta	Saint Francis Preparatory School	Fresh Meadows
Rye City School District	Rye	Smithtown Christian School	Smithtown
Saratoga Springs City School District	Saratoga Springs	WHIN Music Community Charter School	New York
Sayville Public Schools	Sayville	Yeshivah of Flatbush // Joel Braverman HS	Brooklyn
Schalmont Central School District	Schenectady		