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## EDITOR'S NOTES

Dan Bilawsky – Editor, *School Music News*



# NOVEMBER–DECEMBER NOTES

### 89TH ANNUAL NYSSMA® WINTER CONFERENCE 2025 STUDENT SHOWCASES

NYSSMA® is pleased and proud to highlight a number of accomplished student musicians as a part of our annual showcases held at the NYSSMA® Winter Conference. If you are attending the 2025 NYSSMA® Winter Conference, please be sure to attend these must-see events.

### 30TH ANNUAL NYSSMA® STUDENT ELECTRONIC MUSIC SHOWCASE

Dr. Robert Deemer, NYSSMA® Composition/Improvisation Committee Chairperson

Concert will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 4, 2025, in the CC Highland CH

#### Featured Student Compositions:

Darby Gugliotta, Grade 8 - *Rebel's Requiem*  
Teacher: Erin Marlow  
Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, Zone 10

Daniel Ahn, Grade 9 - *WhatUNeeded*  
Teacher: Jamie Ramirez  
The Stony Brook School, Zone 14

Anthony DiBiase, Grade 9 - *Long Drive*  
Teacher: Kristina Best  
Hilton High School, Zone 2

Sophia Grunfeld, Grade 10 - *Bells*  
Teacher: Barry LeBron  
South Side High School, Zone 13

Kose Nonami, Grade 10 - *Jivelle*  
Teacher: Brian Lotze  
Blind Brook High School, Zone 11

Jamie Puleo, Grade 10 - *ESCAPE!*  
Teacher: Austin Day  
Sleepy Hollow High School, Zone 11

William Anders, Grade 11 - *Airport*  
Teacher: Anthony Maceli  
Valhalla High School, Zone 11

James Kennedy, Grade 11 - *Ambata*  
Teacher: William Willis  
West Islip High School, Zone 14

Finn Murphy, Grade 11 - *Siren*  
Teacher: Austin Day  
Sleepy Hollow High School, Zone 11

Henry Scheller, Grade 11 - *Aurora*  
Teacher: Austin Day  
Sleepy Hollow High School, Zone 11

Audrey Valdez, Grade 11 - *Macao Waves*  
Teacher: Leiann McGrory  
Island Trees High School, Zone 13

### 27TH ANNUAL NYSSMA® YOUNG COMPOSERS SHOWCASE

Dr. Robert Deemer, NYSSMA® Composition/Improvisation Committee Chairperson

Concert will be held at 1:15 pm on Friday, December 5, 2025, in the CC Lilac Ballroom

#### Featured Student Compositions:

Alan Wang, Grade 4 - *HYPER-Electric*  
Teacher: Kathleen Randolph  
Greenville Elementary School, Zone 11

Audrey Zolnowski, Grade 5 - *Jumpy Squirrel's Adventure*  
Teacher: Shannon Zolnowski  
William Street School, Zone 1

Orion Edwards Wilson, Grade 7 - *Hurricane*  
Teacher: William Gerrity  
Samoset Middle School, Zone 14

Aria Wang, Grade 7 - *Lost in the Murky Swamp*  
Teacher: Kelley Morse  
Edgemont Jr./Sr. High School, Zone 11

Nevin Gopalan, Grade 8 - *The Mission*  
Teacher: Steven Wendell  
Vestal Middle School, Zone 3

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Owen Bannister, Grade 9 - *Spirits in the Fog*  
Teacher: John Fischer  
Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, Zone 12

Zeki Eren, Grade 9 - *Sunshower*  
Teacher: Sara O'Brien  
Croton Harmon High School, Zone 11

Delia Starr, Grade 10 - *Fantasy for Piano*  
Teacher: Jessica Stein  
Haldane High School, Zone 5

Zoe Verduin, Grade 10 - *Piano Trio in D Minor*  
Teacher: Eric Day  
Hastings High School, Zone 11

Ethan Borda, Grade 11 - *Zephyr*  
Teacher: Shane Helfner  
Paul D. Schreiber High School, Zone 13

#### 19TH ANNUAL NYSSMA® STUDENT PIANO SHOWCASE

Chris Hyde-Hall, NYSSMA® Piano Chairperson  
Karen Faust Baer, Nancy Deutsch, Kenneth Martinak, Scott Scheinson, Patrick Towey – Committee  
Concert will be held at 3:45 pm on Friday, December 5, 2025, in the CC Lilac Ballroom

#### Featured Student Pianists:

Maximilian Lin, Grade 11 -  
*Sonata No. 17, Opus 31, Mvt. 3* – Beethoven  
Eastchester High School, Eastchester

Sarah Gubitz, Grade 8 - *Reflets Dans L'eau* – Debussy  
Rye Neck Middle School, Mamaroneck

Nevin Gopalan, Grade 8 - *Toccata in Eb minor* – Khachaturian  
Vestal Middle School, Vestal

Oscar Bernfield, Grade 11 - *Etude Opus 2, No.1* – Scriabin  
The Harley School, Rochester

Qianmo Lin, Grade 5 - *Witches Dance* – MacDowell  
Maspeth Elementary School, Maspeth

Mahlah Li, Grade 11 -  
*Sonata No. 14 in C minor, Mvt. 1* – Mozart  
NYC High School for Arts and Business, Corona

Leeann Lee, Grade 8 -  
*Polonaise in C# minor, Opus 26, No. 1* – Chopin  
Great Neck South Middle School, Great Neck

Michelle Cheng, Grade 12 - *Sonatine* – Ravel  
Great Neck North High School, Great Neck

Hellen Zhang, Grade 9 - *Trios Etudes de Concert, S. 144, Mvt. 3, Un Sospiro* – Liszt  
Vestal High School, Vestal

Jasmine Zhang, Grade 10 - *Cat and The Mouse* – Copland  
Half Hollow Hills High School East, Dix Hills

Keitaro Dotoratos, Grade 10 -  
*Ballade No. 2 in F Major, Opus 38* – Chopin  
Scarsdale High School Scarsdale

#### 5TH ANNUAL NYSSMA® PREMIER YOUNG SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE

Dr. Robert Deemer, NYSSMA® Composition/Improvisation Committee Chairperson

Concert will be held at 3:30 pm on Thursday, December 4, 2025, in the CC Highland CH

#### Featured Student Compositions:

Kaya Jimenez, Grade 7 - *Crush Me*  
Teacher: Karen Schooley  
The Waldorf School of Garden City, Zone 13

Griffin Enders, Grade 8 - *perfectly imperfect*  
Teacher: Aubri Enders  
Dana L. Lyon Middle School, Zone 15

Ruby Sachs, Grade 10 - *Long Run*  
Teacher: John Fischer  
Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, Zone 12

Felix Crotty, Grade 11 - *Olympus Mons*  
Teacher: Franklin Rankin  
The Waldorf School of Garden City, Zone 13

Layla Diamond, Grade 11 - *The Locket*  
Teacher: Franklin Rankin  
The Waldorf School of Garden City, Zone 14

Jason Feldman, Grade 11 - *Whole Lot Of Nothing*  
Teacher: Tom LaRocca  
Syosset High School, Zone 13

Eamonn Hubert, Grade 11 - *Down We Go*  
Teacher: Joe Brainard  
Union-Endicott High School, Zone 3

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Lenora Kelley, Grade 11 – *scavenge*  
Teacher: Jamie Rosati  
Penfield High School, Zone 2

Finn Murphy, Grade 11 - *Rose Scented Candle*  
Teacher: Austin Day  
Sleepy Hollow High School, Zone 11

Elizabeth Schooley, Grade 11 - *Only When I'm Gone*  
Teacher: Franklin Rankin  
The Waldorf School of Garden City , Zone 13

Yuqi Wu, Grade 11 - 消失在 (*Fade Away*)  
Teacher: John Fischer  
Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School, Zone 12

### **1st ANNUAL NYSSMA® MODERN BAND SHOWCASE**

Lindsey Williams, NYSSMA® Emerging  
Ensembles Chairperson  
Kris Gilbert, Modern Band Director  
Concert will be held at 1:30 pm on Saturday, December 6,  
2025, in the CC Lilac Ballroom

### **Featured Student Musicians:**

Ealine Li, Bass – Teacher: Sondra Braeutigam  
East Williamsburg Scholar Academy

Orya Nahoom, Drums – Teacher: Anthony Santanastaso  
G.W. Hewlett High School

Bathala (Blas) Bernardo, Drums – Teacher: Peter Suzuki  
Shaker High School

Jackson Waite, Guitar – Teacher: Daniel Klinczar  
Alexander High School

Tia Mukamal, Guitar – Teacher: Brian Zeller  
Scarsdale High School

Liam Scalley, Guitar – Teacher: Anthony Maceli  
Valhalla High School

Harper Hazelton, Keyboard – Teacher: Andrew Haley  
Tapestry Charter High School

Jaiden Webman, Saxophone (Alto) –  
Teacher: Christopher Bonacorsa  
East Meadow High School

Alistair Gianni, Saxophone (Tenor and Baritone) –  
Teacher: Patrick Towey  
Kenmore West Senior High School

Mya Lehman, Vocals (Alto) – Teacher: Elizabeth Zehr  
Lowville High School

Addison Childs, Vocals (Alto) – Teacher: Allison Andre  
Brushton-Moira Central School District

Grady Leonard, Vocals (Baritone) – Teacher: Kris Gilbert  
Windsor High School

Katie Purdy, Vocals (Soprano) – Teacher: Paul Caputo  
Syosset Senior High School

Isabella Destito, Vocals (Soprano) – Teacher: Erin Althen  
Westhill High School

## **Quote of the Month**

*"I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music."*

– Billy Joel