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## **Annual All State Festival & Winter Conference Returns to Rochester**

### ***Event Celebrates the Post-Pandemic Return of Three Ensembles***

Westbury, NY / November 7, 2025 – The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) is excited to announce a return to the Rochester Riverside Convention Center and the historic Eastman Theater on December 4 - 7 for the 2025 All State Festival and Winter Conference.

More than eight hundred (800) of the best student musicians from school music programs across New York State will perform in one of eight (8) ensembles at the eighty-ninth (89<sup>th</sup>) conference. We celebrate the return of three of our honors ensembles since resuming the conference post-pandemic, and the introduction of a Modern Band Showcase. This will feature ensembles that are designed to create more inclusive and accessible environments for students by accommodating different learning styles, interests, and abilities.

“As NYSSMA celebrates its eighty-ninth All State Conference, we are proud to partner with the city of Rochester for the twenty-eighth year in a row,” said president Edmund Chiarello. “Approximately eighteen hundred music educators from all over New York State will attend for professional development opportunities, seminars, performances, and valuable lesson materials for use in their classes and rehearsals. Among the highlights of our conference, however, are the many wonderful performances by our All State students at the beautiful Eastman Theatre.”

With a theme of *Embracing the Journey of Music Education*, NYSSMA is offering more than one hundred fifty (150) valuable opportunities for professional development to support music educators who provide an excellent music education to more than two million students throughout New York State.

The 2025 All State ensembles will be led by the following conductors:

- Symphonic Band: [Dr. Courtney Snyder](#), University of Michigan
- Wind Ensemble: [Dr. David Vandewalker](#), Georgia State University, Professor Emeritus
- Mixed Chorus: [Dr. Brandon Boyd](#), University of Missouri Accompanist: Andrea Shaut
- Treble Choir: [Dr. Jennifer Sengin](#), University of Missouri-Kansas City Accompanist: Jonathan Riss
- Symphony Orchestra: [Dr. Jeff Meyer](#), Indiana University
- String Orchestra: [Anthony Elliott](#), University of Michigan, Professor Emeritus
- Instrumental Jazz: [Ms. Ellen Rowe](#), University of Michigan
- Vocal Jazz: [Ms. Alison Crockett](#), Shenandoah University: Accompanist: Nick Weiser

NYSSMA, the New York State School Music Association, is the largest state affiliate of the National Association for Music Education. Its mission is to advance music education across New York State for its membership and students in member school programs.

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