



**CONTACT:** Dr. John J. Gallagher  
631-294-2279 (cell)  
[PR@nyssma.org](mailto:PR@nyssma.org)

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## Wayne School District Music Educator Assumes NYSSMA Presidency

Westbury, NY – January 9, 2026 – NYSSMA, the New York State School Music Association, is proud to announce that Kathy Perconti, music educator in the Wayne Central School District, has assumed the role of president of the nation’s largest state association for music education.

She has most recently served a two-year term as president-elect, overseeing the scheduling and management of NYSSMA’s annual All State / Winter Conference held in Rochester. Each year, over eight hundred twenty (820) students perform in one of eight (8) ensembles, and more than one thousand (1,000) music educators attend the Rochester – based event for professional development opportunities. Previous service includes terms as area representative to NYSSMA’s Zone 2 encompassing eight (8) counties including Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, and Seneca.

Mrs. Perconti is the choral director and music department chairperson at Wayne Central High School, and adjunct faculty at Finger Lakes Community College. She is active as a vocal adjudicator and has conducted All-County and Area All State festivals.

With a presidential theme of *Music for Life*, Mrs. Perconti states, “I am honored and humbled to serve as NYSSMA President. Music is not of a single moment, but is part of a lifelong journey. To honor that, NYSSMA must continue to grow and evolve - adapting our programs, embracing diverse musical voices, and supporting educators and students at every stage - so music remains relevant, accessible, and meaningful for life.

A recipient of the Rochester Philharmonic’s Distinguished Choral Director Award, An active music educator, she has led her students in performances at venues including St. Patrick’s Cathedral and annual conferences sponsored by the NYS School Boards Association and NYSSMA. She directs and choreographs for Wayne Musicals, earning many awards for their productions. Outside of her duties to Wayne, she enjoys performing in community theatre.

Kathy Heenan Perconti graduated from Vestal High School in 1980. Her Bachelor’s degree is from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam while her Master’s is from the University of Buffalo. She has been married to her husband Jim for 40 years and has two grown children Jamie and Kayla.

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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Kathy Perconti, NYSSMA President



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