

NYSSMA® INFORMATION



JULY 24-25

2-Day NYSSMA Professional Development Session Schedule

Friday, July 24, 2026	Instrumental Music Teachers (Note: Bring Instruments Both Days)	General Music Teachers
9:30-10:45am	Observe Summer Jazz Academy Session (Student Musicians)	
11:00am-12:15pm	Intro to Jazz Pedagogy <i>To provide a differentiated instruction framework so every student remains challenged</i>	Music in Early Childhood <i>Designed to help educators and caregivers use jazz as a "play-centered" tool for developmental growth</i>
BREAK		
2:00-3:15pm	TBD (tailored to conference registrant population)	Children's Musical Behaviors <i>Examines how the natural, playful tendencies of young children—such as spontaneity and inventiveness—align with the core tenets of jazz, specifically improvisation and swing</i>
3:30-5:00pm	Observe Summer Jazz Academy Session <i>The Summer Jazz Academy (SJA) is Jazz at Lincoln Center's flagship two-week residential program designed for the nation's most advanced high school jazz musicians (grades 9–12). Led by Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, the program provides a professional-level environment for approximately 48 selected students.</i>	Diversity in Music Teacher Preparation <i>Focuses on evolution in the way future music educators are trained to ensure they can effectively serve increasingly diverse student populations. These sessions are critical for addressing the "gap in practice" between traditional, often Western-centric conservatory training and the diverse cultural, social, and musical backgrounds of modern K-12 education</i>
7:30pm	Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra - Concert in Rose Theater (included in the cost of Summer Conference)	

Saturday, July 25, 2026	Instrumental Music Teachers (Note: Bring Instruments Both Days)	General Music Teachers
9:30-10:45am	Incorporating Jazz Into Your (Non-Jazz) Band Room	
11:00am-12:15pm	Beginning Improvisation <i>A hands-on, participatory workshop designed to teach directors how to teach musicians of all levels who have little-to-no prior experience with jazz improvisation (Note: participants should bring instruments)</i>	Integrating Jazz into the Elementary Curriculum <i>Designed for general elementary teachers and music educators to show how jazz can be used as a multidisciplinary tool for teaching core academic subjects and social-emotional skills</i>
BREAK		
2:00-3:15pm	TBD (tailored to conference registrant population)	Jazz For Young People Curriculum - Part 1 <i>New Orleans and Jelly Roll Morton is the first part of an interactive multimedia jazz appreciation series created by Wynton Marsalis and Jazz at Lincoln Center. Designed primarily for grades 2 and up, including upper elementary and middle school students, the curriculum focuses on "learning by doing" to introduce the foundational elements of jazz</i>
3:30-5:00pm	Director Reading Bands - Bring Instruments <i>This session allows directors to experience the music from the "performer's seat" to better understand pedagogical challenges and select music for their own school programs. (Note: participants should bring instruments)</i>	Jazz For Young People Curriculum - Part 2 <i>The second installment in the interactive series by Wynton Marsalis and Sharon Burch, this volume focuses exclusively on the life, legacy, and musical innovations of Louis Armstrong, using his work to teach core jazz concepts like improvisation and scat singing</i>
7:00pm	Dinner and Set at Dizzy's Club at Jazz at Lincoln (included in the cost of Summer Conference)	

	All Teachers
	Instrumental Music Teachers
	General Music Teachers