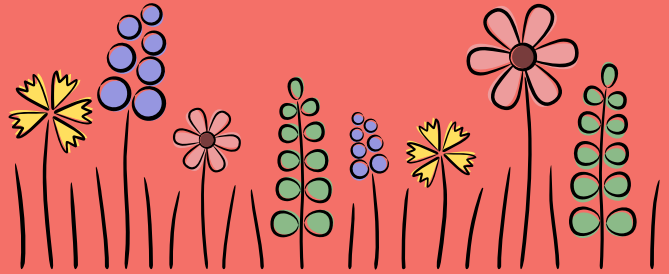


# ZONE 10

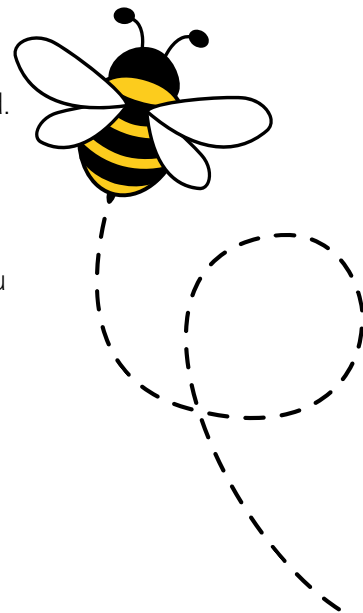
## Spring Newsletter

April 2026



## NYSSMA INFORMATION:

- Nominations for 3<sup>rd</sup> VP- Jennifer Greene and Shelly Bauer. Nominations continue at the June and August business meetings.
- NYSSMA is revising its Strategic Plan. The first meeting was held in late March with representatives from around the state. A survey will be sent out from NYSSMA for input on the new plan.
- An ad hoc committee has been put together to explore the festival fees going forward. Share any input with me and I'll make sure it's brought forward. :)
- Winter Conference fees this year will be \$950/student.
- Please sign up for summer festival by May 1<sup>st</sup> as we need to know how many people are attending or risk cancelling. You can call the NYSSMA office with credit info if you don't want to have that on paper.
- The manual is much quicker when downloaded. Check out [this video](#) on how to do that!
- Reminder that the NYSSMA office is moving to a July 1-July 1 tax season, so all fees must be paid by the festivals.
- There will be a vote this fall to change the constitution to allow electronic voting in the future.
- [Student showcase applications!](#)
- [Awards applications!](#)
- [Conference session proposal forms!](#)
- [Concert Hour proposal form!](#)



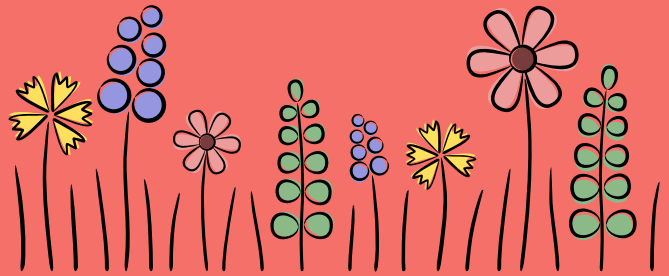
## VOCTAVE HEADLINES THE 90<sup>TH</sup> WINTER CONFERENCE!

Believe me, you don't want to miss this!



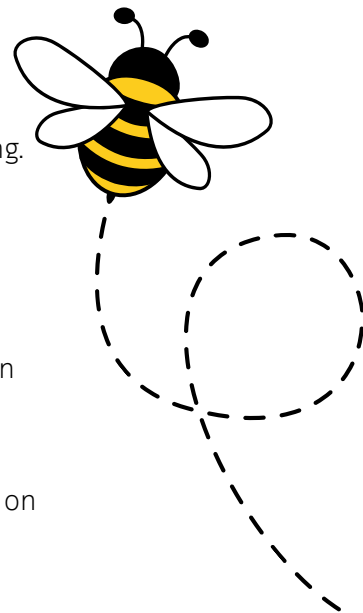
# FESTIVAL

information



## FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES TO HAVE A GREAT FESTIVAL SEASON!

- Make sure all of your information is complete
  - Whether it's DaCapo or the NYSSMA website, all information should be complete at least a month before the festival
- Communicate well and often
  - Make sure your students and families are aware of their performance times and arrive at least ½ hour before their scheduled time.
  - Reach out to festival hosts if you have questions about the festival you're attending.
    - Only certain percussion instruments are available at each festival
  - Complete accomodation forms prior to the festival and share them with the zone rep. This form can be found on the [zone 10 website](#).
- Lend a helping hand
  - Hosting a festival is a large undertaking. Stop by the NYSSMA office when you can to say hello and lend a helping hand.
- Leave feedback!
  - Good or bad, NYSSMA wants to know. You can find an adjudicator feedback form on the [NYSSMA AFC website](#).



## LOOKING FOWARD TO 2026-2027!

### Area All-State 2026-2027

Teachers must register on [Dacapomusicfestivals.com](http://Dacapomusicfestivals.com)

**General Chair- Rebecca Miller**

[rmiller@taconichills.k12.ny.us](mailto:rmiller@taconichills.k12.ny.us)

**November 20 &21 at Taconic Hills CSD**

Registration Deadline – 3rd Friday of September  
**PAST PROGRAMS**

### Ensemble Chairs

**Band:** Carla Newsome

**Orchestra:** Gina Stephens

**Mixed Chorus:** Amy Martin

**Treble Chorus:** Lynne Czajka

Interested in hosting a solo or small ensemble festival or majors festival?  
**LET ME KNOW ASAP!!!**

# JOE SUGAR

## MUSIC ADVOCACY DAY

March 9, 2026



Senator Rob Rolison

New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) members had meetings on Monday in Albany with legislators from around the state. All of our meetings were extremely positive and the legislators and their staff continue to indicate their support of music in schools and overall funding for education. Our asks can be found on the second page of this document.



While there were representatives from around the state, our local delegation included:

**Kimberly Dunkin** - Zone 11 (Westchester) NYSSMA representative

**Anthony Maceli** - WCMEA Government Relations Chair

**Dr. Katherine Sinsabaugh** - Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts (Port Chester-Rye UFSD), NYSCAME President Elect

**Matthew Royal** - Director of Fine and Performing Arts (Harrison), WCALA President, NYSCAME Vice President

**Jocelyn Kraus** - PCMEA President



### Legislators visited included:

Senator Rob Rolison  
Senator Peter Harckham  
Senator Shelley Mayer  
Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg  
Assemblyman Anil Beephan Jr.  
Assemblywoman Didi Barrett  
Assemblyman Chris Burdick  
Assemblywoman MaryJane Shimsky

Thank you Jocelyn for making the JSD insert!



**NYSSMA**®

A State Unit of **NAfME**, National Association for Music Education

## 53rd Annual Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA Day in Albany

### Asks 2026

1. **NYSSMA continues to advocate for bills (Bills S6318A and A6490B) which address the omission of music education from the state's list of recognized academic subjects.**

- a. Currently, Music (and the Arts) are regulatory which does not provide accountability measures if schools do not offer these programs to students.
- b. The federal level **Every Student Succeeds Act** (ESSA) defines a "well-rounded education" as one that includes Music (and the Arts) along with other academic subject matter.
- c. We advocate for the subject matter, Music (and the Arts) to be removed from regulatory to statutory designation. (like Mathematics, English, Physical Education, etc.)
- d. This change will ensure that Music (and the Arts) education are incorporated into the public school curriculum for all students in rural, suburban and urban areas, providing equitable access.
- e. Federal Title I funds may be utilized to supplement state and local support for a well-rounded education, including Music (and the Arts).
- f. The Senate bill, sponsored by Rachel May, passed the Senate floor on June 6, 2025. The Assembly companion bill is sponsored by Landon Dais and continues to gain bipartisan support.
- g. This is year two of the bill. We need additional support within the Assembly. (There are approximately 48 assembly members supporting the bill. 76 members are necessary to move forward.)

***The Ask:***

1. ***Are you willing to support this bill and see it through committee to the legislative floor?***
2. ***If so, are you willing to sign on as a co-sponsor?***

2. **NYSSMA advocates for full funding of School Foundation Aid and Expense-Based Aid, along with the New York State Board of Regents request for a \$12 million increase in Cultural Education funding.**

- a. The Governor has proposed a 2.96% increase in Foundation Aid to ensure at least a 1% annual increase for every district.
- b. Because state law does not explicitly name Music (and the Arts) as essential subjects, any reduction in aid poses a serious threat to equitable arts access.
- c. Full funding ensures that educational quality is not determined by zip code, income, or demographics.
- d. Cultural Education funding supports the State Museum, Library, Archives, public broadcasting, and Summer Schools of the Arts. (Critical resources that promote cultural literacy, civic engagement, and student readiness for college and careers)

***The Ask:***

1. ***Are you willing to support maintaining of full School Foundation Aid funding?***

3. **NYSSMA continues to advocate for the restoration of the position of Music Associate at the NYSED office of Curriculum and Instruction. For this reason, we advocate for the position to be included within the Governor's 2026-2027 State Budget.**

- a. NYSED curriculum associate positions were eliminated as a result of the recession that occurred in the 2000s. Currently there is no music specialist for the subject area.
- b. With updated 2017 Arts Learning Standards and expanded initiatives, including Media Arts, Alternate Graduation Pathways, and Individual Arts Assessment Portfolios, the need for dedicated leadership in music education at NYSED is imperative.
- c. Legislators are asked not only to support adding this line item in the final budget, but also to ensure funds are released and positions are filled.

***The Ask:***

1. ***Are you willing to support the addition of a line item in the Governor's Proposed Budget?***
2. ***Are you willing to support maintaining its inclusion in the finalized version of the Budget?***
3. ***Are you willing to follow-up after the budget is finalized to ensure that the Executive Office of the Budget releases the funds for State Education Department Curriculum Associates?***

4. **NYSSMA continues to advocate to restore full funding for the New York State Summer School of the Arts program, and to return to NYSSSA the School of Orchestral and Choral Studies.**

- a. Founded in 1976, NYSSSA is a nationally recognized, highly competitive pre-professional training program in Dance, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts that has produced generations of leaders in the arts.
- b. After COVID-related reductions in 2021, the program shifted to regionally based enrichment.
- c. NYSSMA asks legislators to restore full funding of \$2 million and ensure the program remains in the final budget.
- d. The currently proposed Governor's budget maintains funding for the regionally-based arts enrichment programs and provides funding to redevelop the site-based program to take place once more in Summer 2026.
- e. Graduates from NYSSSA are in the forefront of their professions including the arts

***The Ask:***

1. ***Are you willing to restore full funding (\$2 million) for the state's New York State Summer Schools of the Arts, proven training ground for outstanding talent.***
2. ***Are you willing to support maintaining its inclusion in the finalized version of the Budget?***

New York State School Music Association  
718 The Plain Road  
Westbury, NY 11590-5931  
Phone: 516-997-7200  
Email: [grc@nyssma.org](mailto:grc@nyssma.org)



Save The Date!  
July 24th & 25th  
2026

INTERESTED?



SCAN HERE & LET US KNOW!

# NYSSMA Summer Conference

IN ASSOCIATION WITH:  
JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER

## CONFERENCE INCLUDES:

- SUMMER JAZZ ACADEMY SESSION
- INCORPORATING JAZZ INTO YOUR (NON-JAZZ) BAND ROOM - WORKSHOP
- DIZZY'S CLUB COCA COLA DINNER
- FEATURED PERFORMANCE:  
JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA

\$425.00

A two-day workshop for instrumental and general music teachers focusing on Jazz instruction plus opportunities to attend evening performances at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Rose Theater and Dizzy's Club.

JLCO CONCERT IN ROSE THEATER

INTRO TO JAZZ PEDAGOGY

MUSIC IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL BEHAVIORS

JAZZ FOR YOUNG PEOPLE CURRICULUM

SUMMER JAZZ ACADEMY SESSIONS





NYSSMA<sup>®</sup>  
**JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER**  
*Summer Conference*  
 JULY 24 - 25

**NOTE:**  
 HOTEL IS NOT INCLUDED AND MUST BE BOOKED ON YOUR OWN.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**YOU MAY REGISTER BY:**

- BY EMAIL:  
(conference@nyssma.org)
- BY MAIL  
NYSSMA - 718 The Plain Road,  
Westbury, NY 11590-5956
- BY FAX  
516.997.1700 (Purchase Order)

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

**BADGE INFORMATION**

Preferred First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/School: \_\_\_\_\_

DEADLINE:  
**JULY 1ST, 2026**

	EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION	AFTER 7/1	MEMBER DUES
<input type="checkbox"/> NYSSMA/NAfME Member (including Collegiate/Retired Members)	\$425	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> NYSSMA/NAfME Dues \$159
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member	\$700	\$795	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired Dues \$70 <input type="checkbox"/> Collegiate Dues \$44

Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grand Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**POSTMARK MUST BE NO LATER THAN JUNE 30, 2026.**

If paying by check/purchase order, make payable to:  
 NYSSMA - 718 The Plain Road,  
 Westbury, NY 11590-5956  
 (P) 516.997.7200 ext.10 • (F) 516.997.1700

I wish to charge my purchase to:  AMEX  VISA  MC  DISCOVER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card No.     Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION CANCELLATION POLICY: Up to June 30: \$50.00 fee • ON or AFTER July 1: NO REFUNDS**