
EDITOR'S NOTES

Dan Bilawsky – Editor, *School Music News*



MAY-JUNE NOTES

2026 NYSSMA® WINTER CONFERENCE PIANO SHOWCASE APPLICATION - LAST CALL!

As previously indicated on the 2026 NYSSMA® Winter Conference Online Application Deadlines/Links page in *School Music News*, the application deadline for the conference piano showcase is July 11, 2026. Here is the QR code to take you directly to the online application/information:



2026 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

Congratulations to the 231 New York State districts and 18 New York State schools among the 1008 school districts and 127 individual schools across the nation to be honored with Best Communities for Music Education designations. These award programs, sponsored by the NAMM® Foundation, recognize outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education. Designations are made to districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and access to music education. NYSSMA® congratulates:

2026 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION - SCHOOL DISTRICTS

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>TOWN/CITY</u>
Akron Central School District	Akron
Albion Central School District	Albion
Amherst Central School District	Amherst
Amityville Union Free School District	Amityville
Arlington Central School District	LaGrangeville
Attica Central School District	Attica
Auburn Enlarged City School District	Auburn
Baldwin Union Free School District	Baldwin
Baldwinsville Central School District	Baldwinsville
Ballston Spa Central School District	Ballston Spa
Batavia City School District	Batavia
Bayport-Blue Point School District	Bayport
Bedford Central School District	Bedford
Bellmore Union Free School District	Bellmore
Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District	North Merrick

Bethpage Union Free School District	Bethpage
Binghamton City School District	Binghamton
Bloomfield Central School District	Bloomfield
Brentwood Union Free School District	Brentwood
Brewster Central School District	Brewster
Brighton Central School District	Rochester
Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District	Ballston Lake
Byram Hills Central School District	Armonk
Cairo-Durham Central School District	Cairo
Candor Central School District	Candor
Carle Place Union Free School District	Carle Place
Carmel Central School District	Patterson
Carthage Central School District	Carthage
Catskill Central School District	Catskill
Cazenovia Central School District	Cazenovia
Central Islip Union Free School District	Central Islip
Chatham Central School District	Chatham
Chenango Forks Central Schools	Binghamton
Chenango Valley Central School District	Binghamton
Chittenango Central School District	Chittenango
Churchville-Chili Central School District	Churchville
Clarence Central School District	Clarence
Clinton Central School District	Clinton
Cold Spring Harbor Central School District	Cold Spring Harbor
Commack Schools	Commack
Comsewogue School District	Port Jefferson Station
Connetquot Central School District	Bohemia
Cortland Enlarged City School District	Cortland
Dansville Central School District	Dansville
Deer Park Union Free School District	Deer Park
Dobbs Ferry School District	Dobbs Ferry
Dover Union Free School District	Dover Plains
East Greenbush Central School District	East Greenbush
East Hampton Union Free School District	East Hampton
East Irondequoit Central School District	Rochester
East Islip Union Free School District	Islip Terrace
East Meadow Union Free School District	Westbury
East Moriches Union Free School District	East Moriches
East Rockaway School District	East Rockaway
East Syracuse Minoa Central School District	East Syracuse
East Williston School District	Old Westbury
Edmeston Central School District	Edmeston
Elwood Union Free School District	Greenlawn
Enlarged City School District of Middletown	Middletown
Farmingdale Union Free School District	Farmingdale

Florida Union Free School District	Florida	Maine-Endwell Central School District	Endwell
Franklin Square Union Free School District	Franklin Square	Malverne Union Free School District	Malverne
Fredonia Central School District	Fredonia	Marcellus Central School District	Marcellus
Freeport Public Schools	Freeport	Marcus Whitman Central School District	Rushville
Garden City Union Free School District	Garden City	Marlboro Central School District	Milton
Gates Chili Central School District	Rochester	Massapequa School District	Massapequa
Geneseo Central School District	Geneseo	McGraw Central School District	McGraw
Geneva City School District	Geneva	Mechanicville City School District	Mechanicville
Goshen Central School District	Goshen	Medina Central School District	Medina
Grand Island Central School District	Grand Island	Merrick School District	Merrick
Great Neck Public Schools	Great Neck	Mexico Academy and Central School District	Mexico
Greece Central School District	Rochester	Millbrook Central School District	Millbrook
Guilderland Central School District	Guilderland Center	Miller Place Union Free School District	Miller Place
Half Hollow Hills Central School District	Dix Hills	Mineola Union Free School District	Garden City Park
Hamilton Central School District	Hamilton	Mohonasen Central School District	Schenectady
Hampton Bays Union Free School District	Hampton Bays	Monroe-Woodbury Central School District	Central Valley
Harborfields Central School District	Greenlawn	Monticello Central School District	Monticello
Harrison Central School District	Harrison	Moravia Central School District	Moravia
Hempstead Union Free School District	Hempstead	Morrisville-Eaton Central School District	Morrisville
Hendrick Hudson School District	Montrose	Mount Morris Central School District	Mount Morris
Herricks Union Free School District	New Hyde Park	Mount Pleasant Central School District	Thornwood
Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools	Woodmere	Nanuet Union Free School District	Nanuet
Hicksville Public Schools	Hicksville	New Hartford Central School District	New Hartford
Holland Patent Central School District	Holland Patent	New Hyde Park-Garden City Park UFSD	New Hyde Park
Honeoye Central School District	Honeoye	Newark Central School District	Newark
Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District	Honeoye Falls	Newfield Central School District	Newfield
Hyde Park Central School District	Hyde Park	Niskayuna Central School District	Niskayuna
Irvington Union Free School District	Irvington	North Babylon Unified School District	North Babylon
Island Trees School District	Levittown	North Bellmore School District	North Bellmore
Ithaca City School District	Ithaca	North Colonie Central School District	Latham
Jericho Union Free School District	Jericho	North Merrick Union Free School District	North Merrick
Johnson City Central School District	Johnson City	North Rockland Central School District	Garnerville
Jordan-Elbridge Central School District	Jordan	North Shore Central School District	Sea Cliff
Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District	Buffalo	North Syracuse Central School District	North Syracuse
Kinderhook Central School District (dba Ichabod Crane School District)	Valatie	North Tonawanda City Schools	North Tonawanda
Kings Park Central School District	Kings Park	Northport-East Northport Union Free School District	Northport
Lancaster Central School District	Lancaster	Oceanside Union Free School District	Oceanside
Lawrence Union Free School District	Lawrence	Oneida City School District	Oneida
Le Roy Central School District	Le Roy	Oneonta City School District	Oneonta
Levittown Union Free School District	Levittown	Orchard Park Central School District	West Seneca
Liberty Central School District	Liberty	Ossining Union Free School District	Ossining
Lindenhurst Union Free School District	Lindenhurst	Owego Apalachin Central School District	Owego
Little Falls City School District	Little Falls	Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District	Oyster Bay
Liverpool Central School District	Liverpool	Palmyra-Macedon Central School District	Palmyra
Livonia Central School District	Livonia	Pawling Central School District	Pawling
Lockport City School District	Lockport	Peekskill City School District	Peekskill
Locust Valley Central School District	Locust Valley	Pembroke Central School District	Corfu
Long Beach Public Schools	Lido Beach	Penfield Central School District	Penfield
Longwood Central School District	Middle Island	Perry Central School District	Perry
Lynbrook Union Free School District	Lynbrook	Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District	Clifton Springs
Lyndonville Central School District	Lyndonville	Phoenix Central School District	Phoenix
Mahopac Central School District	Mahopac	Pittsford Central School District	Pittsford

Plainedge Union Free School District	North Massapequa
Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District	Plainview
Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District	Port Chester
Port Jefferson School District	Port Jefferson
Port Washington Union Free School District	Port Washington
Public Schools of the Tarrytowns	Sleepy Hollow
Putnam Valley Central School District	Putnam Valley
Queensbury Union Free School District	Queensbury
Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District	Ravena
Red Hook Central School District	Red Hook
Riverhead Central School District	Riverhead
Rochester City School District	Rochester
Rockville Centre Union Free School District	Rockville Centre
Rocky Point Union Free School District	Rocky Point
Rome City School District	Rome
Rondout Valley Central School District	Accord
Royalton-Hartland Central School District	Middleport
Rush-Henrietta Central School District	Henrietta
Rye City School District	Rye
Saratoga Springs City School District	Saratoga Springs
Sayville Union Free School District	Sayville
Schalmont Central School District	Schenectady
Schoharie Central School District	Schoharie
Seaford Union Free School District	Seaford
Shoreham-Wading River Central School District	Shoreham
Skaneateles Central School District	Skaneateles
Smithtown Central School District	Smithtown
Solvay Union Free School District	Syracuse
Somers Central School District	Somers
South Colonie Central School District	Albany
South Country Central School District	East Patchogue
South Glens Falls Central School District	South Glens Falls
South Huntington Union Free School District	Huntington Station
Southampton Union Free School District	Southampton
Spackenkill Union Free School District	Poughkeepsie
Starpoint Central School District	Lockport
Sullivan West Central School District	Jeffersonville
Syosset Central School District	Syosset
Syracuse City School District	Syracuse
Tuxedo Union Free School District	Tuxedo
Uniondale Union Free School District	Uniondale
Valhalla Union Free School District	Valhalla
Valley Central School District	Montgomery
Valley Stream Central High School District	Valley Stream
Vernon Verona Sherrill Central School District	Verona
Vestal Central School District	Vestal
Victor Central School District	Victor
Wallkill Central School District	Wallkill
Wappingers Central School District	Hopewell Junction
Warsaw Central School District	Warsaw

Washingtonville Central School District	Washingtonville
Waterford-Halfmoon Union Free School District	Waterford
Webster Central School District	Webster
West Genesee Central School District	Camillus
West Irondequoit Central School District	Rochester
West Islip Union Free School District	West Islip
West Seneca Central School District	West Seneca
Westfield Academy and Central School	Westfield
Westhill Central School District	Syracuse
Westmoreland Central School District	Westmoreland
Wheatland-Chili Central School District	Scottsville
William Floyd Union Free School District	Mastic Beach
Williamson Central School District	Williamson
Williamsville Central School District	East Amherst
Windsor Central School District	Windsor
York Central School District	Retsof
Yorktown Central School District	Yorktown Heights

2026 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION - SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	TOWN/CITY
Allendale Columbia School	Rochester
Community School District 15	Brooklyn
East Brooklyn Community (EBC) High School for Public Service	Brooklyn
Elmont Memorial High School	Elmont
Fort Greene Preparatory Academy	Brooklyn
International Community High School (x334)	Bronx
Léman Manhattan Preparatory School	New York
Manlius Pebble Hill School	Syracuse
Mount St Mary Academy	Kenmore
North Rose-Wolcott Middle School	Wolcott
P.S. 10 Magnet School of Math, Science & Design Technology	Brooklyn
PS/IS 266Q	Bellerose
Queens Collegiate: A College Board School	Jamaica
Saint Francis Preparatory School	Fresh Meadows
Smithtown Christian School	Smithtown
Wayne Central High School	Ontario Center
WHIN Music Community Charter School	New York
Yeshivah of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School	Brooklyn

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Music cuts through all boundaries and goes right to the soul.”
-Willie Nelson, singer/guitarist/songwriter.