

Zone 10 Newsletter

September 2026

**WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL
NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!**

Changes to Vocal Jazz

- Level 5 added for Spring solo festival season, level 4 will be added 2028
- Regular Voice sightreading will replace vocal jazz sight-reading

General NYSSMA info

- Area All-state registration closes 9/18. Feel free to email me commitment letters if you don't want to upload them
- Area All-state selection will occur 9/22 at 4pm at Taconic Hills High School. Please let Rebecca Miller know if you're attending
- Officer ballots will also include a section to move to electronic voting. Reach out to Samantha with any questions
- The NYSSMA curriculum page has been updated- check it out!
- The updated fee schedule is included in this newsletter. Reach out with any questions

Conference Info

- Registration goes live 9/9
- Due to a hotel closing, there have been some hotel changes for students this year
- Voctave will be headlining!
- Research paper proposals due 9/5

All-State Updates

- 8/26&27- Letters mailed
- 9/3- Chair email to students
- 9/18- Forms due
- 10/1- Fees due
- 10/14- Music sent to students

Contact Info

Phone: Samantha McShane

Email: zone10@nyssma.org

Phone: 518-322-1466

*underlines are links

Adjudication Festival Committee (AFC) wants you to know...

AFC has asked that I pass along the following clarification for mallet percussion solos.

- Levels 1-6 — students may perform two separate solos on mallet instruments. One solo can be two mallet, one solo can be four mallet. They may not perform the same solo.
- All-State solos — Students MAY NOT perform a 2-mallet and then a 4-mallet solo.
- This rule still applies for all-state: No student may audition for the same All-State organization more than one time on the same instrument or voice during the same year.

Other important information for festival season 2027

- All State Multiple Percussion has been removed from manual
- The accommodations form has been updated to include boxes able to be filled in and a section for OHI. This is available on the AFC NYSSMA page.

Manual Updates

The manual and dacapo are now integrated. If you need any help getting set up, email manual@nyssma.org

Site Recommendations

The following sites are recommended for each of this year's festivals. This helps balance our rooms and keeps schools close to each festival site. Please let Samantha know if your school needs to attend a different site.

NORTH SITE (Chatham): All Columbia County Schools, Pine Plains, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Webutuck

SOUTH SITE (Brewster): All Putnam County Schools, Dover Plains, Pawling

MIDDLE SITE (Wappingers): Arlington, Beacon, Hyde Park, Millbrook, Poughkeepsie, Spackenkill, Wappingers

Zone 10 Festivals 2027

Dates	Type	Location/Mailing Address	Chair/Telephone	Host Email/ Registration
November 20-21	AAS Senior	Taconic Hills Central School 73 County Rt. 11A Craryville, NY 12521	Rebecca Miller 518-325-2840 x2505	rmiller@taconichills.k12.ny.us Dacapomusicfestivals.com
April 16-17	A-S-E Piano	Brewster High School 50 Foggintown Rd Brewster, NY 10509	Andrea Perdicho (845) 279-5051, ext 1329	aperdicho@brewsterschools.org DaCapoMusicFestivals.com
April 23-24	A-S-E Piano	Chatham High School 50 Woodbridge Ave Chatham, NY 12037	Alex Gruber 518-392-1560 x2026	ChathamNYSSMA@gmail.com DaCapoMusicFestivals.com
April 26-27	MI, CE	Spackenkill High School 112 Spackenkill Rd Poughkeepsie, NY 12603	Marissa Kaczynski	marissa.kaczynski@sufsdny.org nyssma.org
April 30, May 1	A-S-E-IJ-VJ Piano	Wappingers Falls CSD Roy C. Ketcham HS 99 Myers Corners Rd Wappingers Falls, 12590	Gina Stephens 845-430-3498	gina.stephens@wcsdny.org DaCapoMusicFestivals.com
April 29	MC, CE	George Fischer Middle School 281 Fair Street Carmel, NY 10512	Erin Minieri 845-661-1390	eminieri@carmelschools.org nyssma.org
TBD	MC-MI	Chatham High School 50 Woodbridge Ave Chatham, NY 12037	Alex Gruber 518-392-1560 x2026	ChathamNYSSMA@gmail.com nyssma.org

NYSSMA PARTICIPATION FEES & ADJUDICATOR HONORARIA

FESTIVAL

SOLO	FESTIVAL SEASON			
	2027	2028	2029	2030
Level 1-4 / Piano 1-4 (Piano has its own fee starting 2028)	\$20 / \$26	\$22	\$25	\$30
Level 5-6 / Piano 5-6 (Piano has its own fee starting 2028)	\$30 / \$36	\$32	\$35	\$40
Piano (All Levels) (New Pricing Starting 2028)	N/A	\$45	\$50	\$55
All-State	\$36	\$40	\$44	\$48
MAJORS				
Level 1-3	\$210	\$250	\$275	\$300
Level 4	\$245	\$280	\$300	\$325
Level 5-6	\$315	\$350	\$380	\$400
CLINICS				
Grades 4-5	\$210	\$250	\$275	\$300
Grades 6-8	\$245	\$280	\$300	\$325
Grades 9-12	\$315	\$350	\$380	\$400

AREA ALL-STATE

	FISCAL YEAR			
	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30
AREA ALL-STATE	\$30	\$40	\$45	\$50

ADJUDICATOR HONORARIA

	2027	2028	2029	2030
Local	\$18	\$20	\$22	\$24
NYSSMA Adjudicator	\$22	\$30	\$32	\$35
All-State / Majors / Zone Rep	\$28	\$35	\$38	\$40

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION FEES

SCHOOL SIZE	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
1 - 250	\$250	\$250	\$300
251 - 500	\$500	\$500	\$600
501 - 1000	\$750	\$750	\$850
1001 - 1500	\$1000	\$1000	\$1100
1501 - 2500	\$1250	\$1250	\$1400
2501 - 5000	\$1500	\$1500	\$1600
5001 - 10000	\$1750	\$1750	\$1900
10001+	\$2000	\$2000	\$2200

ALL-STATE STUDENT FEE

2025	ACTUAL COST 2025	2026	2027	2028
\$900	\$1050 Per Student	\$950	\$975	?

The breakdown for 2026 is \$550 for Registration and \$400 for Housing and Food



Procedures for Accommodations At NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble & Major Organization Festivals

1. The Executive Director will include this Accommodations Form with the other solo/ensemble and major organization registration materials.
2. The school music teacher will send copies of the completed Accommodations Form to the Zone Representative six (6) weeks prior to the festival date. If the student is auditioning for All-State, a copy must also be sent to the NYSSMA Second Vice President.
3. NYSSMA will take all possible steps to accommodate the need(s) of the student or major organization ensemble and will communicate them to the student's school music teacher/ensemble director and adjudicator before the festival. Any questions regarding this form should be directed to the NYSSMA Zone Representative.

Accommodations Form NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble & Major Organization Festivals

School Music Teachers – Send this completed form to the Zone Representative at least six (6) weeks prior to the festival date.

All information will remain strictly confidential.

If the student is auditioning for All-State, a copy must also be sent to the NYSSMA Second Vice President.

Student or Festival Site
Major Organization Name: _____ and Date: _____ Student Age: _____

Student Grade(s): _____ Instrument or Voice: _____ Solo/Maj. Org. Level: _____

Ensemble Director or
School Music Teacher Name: _____ All-State Audition: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Home Phone: _____ School Phone: _____ School Email: _____

NYSSMA Member School Name: _____ Zone: _____

NYSSMA Member School Address: _____ Zip: _____

Documentation of Accommodation(s)

Our signatures attest that the above-named student requires accommodation(s). The accommodations:

- are documented in the school records (e.g. Individualized Education Program, 504 Accommodation Plan),
- have been consistently applied in their instructional program, and
- form the basis for this request for accommodation(s).

School Music Teacher Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Solo Evaluation Only

Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____

Accommodation(s) requested:

- ☐ Directions simplified and/or stated multiple times
- ☐ Extended time: _____
- ☐ Enlarged print: _____ %
- ☐ Sight Reading Color Contrast: _____
- ☐ Reduce items per page

- ☐ Printed scales/rudiments (as per IEP/504)
- ☐ Adaptive keyboard
- ☐ Adaptive personal musical equipment
- ☐ Accessible room location
- ☐ Other Health Information (OHI) - indicate below

Additional Information Regarding Accommodation(s): _____



2027 NYSSMA Adjudicator Orientation Seminars

To be held at the following sites (please check **one**):

_____ March 5-6	Nassau C. C. (piano only)	Zone 13
_____ March 12-13	Schenectady C. C. C. (pianoonly)	Zone 7
_____ April 9-10	Monroe-Woodbury High School	Zone 9
_____ April 16-17	Uniondale High School (nopiano)	Zone 13
_____ April 23-24	Carthage Middle School (nopiano)	Zone 5

Times: Regular Orientation: Friday 6:30 – 9:30 pm and Saturday 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Second Area Orientation: Friday 7:00 – 9:30 pm

All-State Orientation: Friday 3:15 – 6:15 pm (All-State Instrumental Jazz: 3:15 – 9:30 pm)

Major Organizations: Friday 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm and Saturday 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

----NYSSMA encourages a diversity of candidates to apply----

1. Please check the category for which you are applying (sessions are contingent on enrollment):

_____ **Regular Orientation**** – for applicants who are not current NYSSMA adjudicators. A bachelor's degree in music and a minimum of one year full-time teaching experience (prior to 2026-27 school year) is required.

_____ **Second Area Orientation** – Candidate must be a NYSSMA adjudicator with a minimum of **two** festival seasons experience and a minimum of **four** judging assignments in their primary area.

_____ **All-State Orientation** – Candidate must be a NYSSMA adjudicator with a minimum of **four** festival seasons experience and a minimum of **eight** judging assignments in their primary area. *This requirement may be waived for Inst. and Vocal Jazz.*

_____ **Major Organizations Orientation** – Candidate must be a NYSSMA adjudicator with a minimum of **three** festival seasons experience and a minimum of **six** judging assignments in their primary area, and a minimum of eight (8) years of successful teaching/ conducting experience. In addition, participation in a minimum of five (5) M.O. Festivals or comparable events is recommended.

****Regular adjudicators are required to demonstrate knowledge on all instruments in their area of orientation.**

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

2a. First Name _____ 2b. Last Name _____

2c. Circle preferred pronouns: he/him she/her they/them

3. Proficient in language(s) other than English (yes/no) _____ If yes, list language(s) _____

4. Preferred email address _____

5. Zone _____ 6. County _____ 7a. Major Inst/Voice _____ 7b. Minor Inst/Voice _____

8a. School District _____ 8b. Primary School Building _____

9. Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ 10. Cell Phone () _____

11. NAFME ID # (required) _____ 12. PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED (see below)

13a. Signature _____ 13b. Date _____ 14. Circle **one** area below:

**Brass, Percussion, Piano, Woodwind, String (Guitar), Voice, Instrumental Jazz (All-State only),
Vocal Jazz (All-State only), Major Organization Instrumental, Major Organization Choral**

ALL candidates - Complete the following on a separate sheet of paper:

15. Education and Private Study—schools, years, majors, degrees, teachers.

16a. Teaching Experience – schools, years, level of students.

16b. Performance Experience

17. Adjudication Experience – where, when, at a NYSSMA festival, age(s) and level(s) of students.

18. List the names and e-mail addresses of two NYSSMA members (non-related) who would endorse your application.

19. Majors Candidates – list ratings your ensembles have received at M.O. Festivals or comparable events.

******Proof of current NAFME membership MUST be submitted with your application.**

Proof may be in the form of: copy of NAFME card, or printout of NAFME "Print Membership Confirmation" page.

Please mail or email application to:

Michael Robertson, Director of Adjudicators
12 Torry Drive Hamburg, NY 14075

APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2027

dirofadj@nyssma.org

****** NYSSMA will provide overnight lodging for candidates, if desired. Please check here _____ if you would like to request a hotel room (single occupancy) for Friday night.**



NYSSMA® 2027 MIOSM Albany Performances Letter

TO: All NYSSMA® Directors of Elementary, Middle School, Junior and Senior High School Performing Groups
FROM: Kathy Perconti, NYSSMA® President
DATE: September 2026
RE: Music In Our Schools Month, March 2027
Performances at the Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York

This project is sponsored by the NYS Senate Education Committee, State Senator Shelley B. Mayer, Committee Chair and the NYS Assembly Education Committee, Michael Benedetto, Chairperson.

Through the State of New York Office of General Services and the Office of Convention and Cultural Events, NYSSMA® has made arrangements for a number of outstanding groups (choral, orchestral, vocal and instrumental jazz ensembles and dance groups) to perform as representatives of their legislative districts during "Music In Our Schools Month" 2027.

It is hoped that your local legislators (assemblyman, assemblywoman or senator) will introduce the concert and present your group with a legislative resolution commemorating your participation on this occasion. We also recommend your participation in State sponsored tours of the Empire State Plaza and the Capitol.

The concerts will be held on the following 2027 dates:

Dates: March 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31.

March 1 - NYSSMA® Day in Albany with performances at 11:30am by the NYSSMA® All-State Vocal and Instrumental Jazz Ensembles.

March 16 and 17 - No performances scheduled.

Times: (10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.) (11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.) (12:25 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.)

(1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.) (2:10 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.)

Location: All performances will take place in the South Concourse of the Empire State Plaza. Vocal and Instrumental set ups are side by side, which works out very well with keeping the programs moving along and on schedule.

Please complete the accompanying application form and submit two (2) copies of the document.

*Applicants may also email the application. When using USPS mailing, please send to: Scott Andrews, NYSSMA® MIOSM Chairperson, 552 So. Albany Rd., Selkirk, NY 12158 no later than **October 31, 2026** in order for this application to be processed.

** Emailed applications must be sent to Scott Andrews at: sandrews731.60@gmail.com no later than October 31, 2026.*

Applications emailed or postmarked after October 31, 2026 will not be accepted!

This has proven to be a fine educational experience for the students who have performed in the past, as well as being a good public relations vehicle for music education. You will be notified of your acceptance and supplied with pertinent information in a timely manner.

NYSSMA[®] Application Form to Perform During Music In Our Schools Month in Albany, March 2027

Please submit two (2) copies of this application form with an official letter from your school administrator granting permission to perform in Albany during the month of March 2027 to: **Scott Andrews, NYSSMA[®] MIOSM Chairperson, 552 So. Albany Rd., Selkirk, NY 12158 no later than October 31, 2026.** Applications postmarked after October 31, 2026 will not be accepted.

A separate application form, in duplicate, is required for each performing group. *You may also email this application (with supporting documents) to Scott Andrews at: sandrews731.60@gmail.com

PLEASE TYPE or PRINT LEGIBLY

Name of School: _____ School District: _____
 School Address: _____ Town/City: _____ Zip Code: _____
 School Telephone: (____) _____ County: _____ NYSSMA[®] Zone: _____
 Type of Group: _____ Name of Group: _____ Number
 of Students Involved: _____ Number of Adults: _____ Approximate length of program: _____

Did your district perform in 2026? ___Yes ___ No 2025? ___Yes ___ No 2024? ___Yes ___ No

Director of Group: _____ Home Address: _____

Town/City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Home Telephone: (____) _____

NAfME Membership #: _____ Home Email: _____ School Email: _____

It is imperative that the following information be complete and accurate:

NYS Senator: _____ Senatorial District: _____

NYS Assembly member _____ State Assembly District: _____

Dates: March 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31.

Please indicate your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice of performing dates. Also, please circle all dates your group would be available to perform.

1st Choice: _____ 2nd Choice: _____ 3rd Choice: _____

Please circle preferred (10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.) (11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.) (12:25 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.)

performance time: (1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.) (2:10 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.)

Equipment Needs: _____ Number of Chairs: _____ Choral risers will be provided.

Music stands will be available for your use. A single microphone will be provided for announcements only.

Additional sound equipment and other needs must be provided by your school district.

***NYSSMA[®] members will receive first preference in filling assignments.**

**** THIS FORM MUST BE EMAILED / POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 31, 2026.**

Applications emailed or postmarked after October 31, 2026 will not be accepted!

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1. PLEASE SUBMIT TWO (2) APPLICATION FORMS FOR EACH PERFORMING GROUP.**
- 2. Include a letter from your school administrator granting your group permission to perform.**
- 3. An acoustic piano will be available at the performing area.**
- 4. Please indicate approximate length of your program.**
- 5. Please indicate your choice of 10:30, 11:30, 12:25, 1:15 or 2:10 time periods.**
- 6. PLEASE CIRCLE ALL DATES YOUR GROUP IS AVAILABLE TO PERFORM.**
- 7. All performances will be at the South Concourse of the Empire Plaza.**