

JOSEPH A. FLOREANO
ROCHESTER RIVERSIDE CONVENTION CENTER

• Hyatt Regency Rochester

• Hampton Inn

• Hilton Garden Inn

• Marriott
Courtyard Downtown
Rochester

• Marriott Rochester Airport

• Marriott
Courtyard
Rochester/Brighton



DECEMBER 3-6, 2026

90TH ANNUAL WINTER CONFERENCE



Our Special Showcases

Thursday 12/3, 3:30pm CC Highland CH
Young Songwriters Showcase
Dr. Rob Deemer, Chairperson

Thursday 12/3, 7:00pm CC Highland CH
27th Annual Student Electronic Showcase
Dr. Rob Deemer, Chairperson

Friday 12/4, 1:00pm Theater at Innovation Square
24th Annual Young Composers Honors Concert
Dr. Rob Deemer, Chairperson

Friday 12/4, 3:45pm Hochstein Hall
16th Annual Piano Showcase Recital
John Novak, Chairperson

Saturday 12/5, 11:30am Lilac Ballroom
Modern Band Showcase
Lindsey Williams, Chairperson

Friday, December 4th, 8pm

Concert Hour



Voctave

Voctave is an a cappella ensemble formed in 2015 by a group of singers from Central Florida who came together to create rich, layered vocal arrangements that celebrate the power of the human voice. The group gained widespread attention through online videos featuring their intricate harmonies, especially their interpretations of songs from musical theater, Disney, and popular music. Comprised of professional vocalists, educators, and performers, Voctave is known for its signature "wall of sound" style, blending classical choral technique with contemporary a cappella artistry.

Winter Conference
Online Registration Opens:
Wednesday, September 9th



Invitation from the President

NYSSMA: *Music for Life*

Dear NYSSMA Colleagues, Educators, and Friends,

As both your NYSSMA President and a high school music teacher who is still in the classroom every day, I look forward to this conference from two perspectives. Like many of you, I spend my days rehearsing choirs, directing musicals, teaching students, solving problems, celebrating successes, and witnessing the incredible impact music has on young people's lives. Those daily experiences continually remind me why our work matters and why gatherings like this are so important.

This year's conference theme, *Music for Life*, is more than just a slogan—it reflects what I have experienced throughout my own life as a student, teacher, parent, and musician.

Music is there for our first performances, our greatest accomplishments, our biggest challenges, and our most treasured memories. It gives students confidence when they need it most, provides a place where they belong, and teaches lessons in perseverance, creativity, teamwork, and compassion. Whether our students pursue careers in music or simply carry a love of music into adulthood, the experiences we provide stay with them for a lifetime. *That is why what we do everyday matters.*

The Winter Conference is an opportunity to step away from our classrooms for a few days to reconnect with colleagues who understand both the challenges and the incredible rewards of being music educators. It is a chance to discover new ideas, share successful practices, renew friendships, and remind us that we are part of something much bigger than our individual schools.

I encourage you to make the most of your time here. Attend inspiring educational sessions, experience outstanding Concert Hours, visit the Exhibit Hall, reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of our All-State musicians. Every conversation has the potential to spark a new idea that you can bring back to your students.

We are especially honored to welcome Wayne Mallette, President of the NAFME Eastern Division, as our keynote speaker at the Thursday night concert. His dedication to music education and his vision for our profession will undoubtedly inspire all of us as we continue advocating for the students we serve.

I also hope you will join us Friday evening for what promises to be one of the highlights of the conference—our featured concert by **Voctave**. Their remarkable artistry, breathtaking harmonies, and innovative a cappella performances have inspired audiences around the world. Their music reminds us of something we all know: the human voice is one of the most powerful and expressive instruments we possess. It is sure to be an unforgettable evening.

As we celebrate NYSSMA's 90th Winter Conference, we also celebrate ninety years of educators who believed in the power of music to change lives. Because of their dedication, generations of students have experienced the joy of making music. Now it is our privilege—and our responsibility—to continue that legacy while embracing new ideas, supporting one another, and ensuring that every student in New York State has access to a high-quality music education.

Thank you for the passion, dedication, and countless hours you devote to your students. The rehearsals, concerts, festivals, lessons, and quiet moments of encouragement you give each day have an impact far beyond what any of us may ever know.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for everything you do for the students of New York State. Most of all, thank you for helping make *Music for Life* more than a theme—it is the gift we give our students every single day. I hope you leave Rochester inspired, energized, and proud to be part of this extraordinary profession.

I look forward to seeing you throughout the conference!

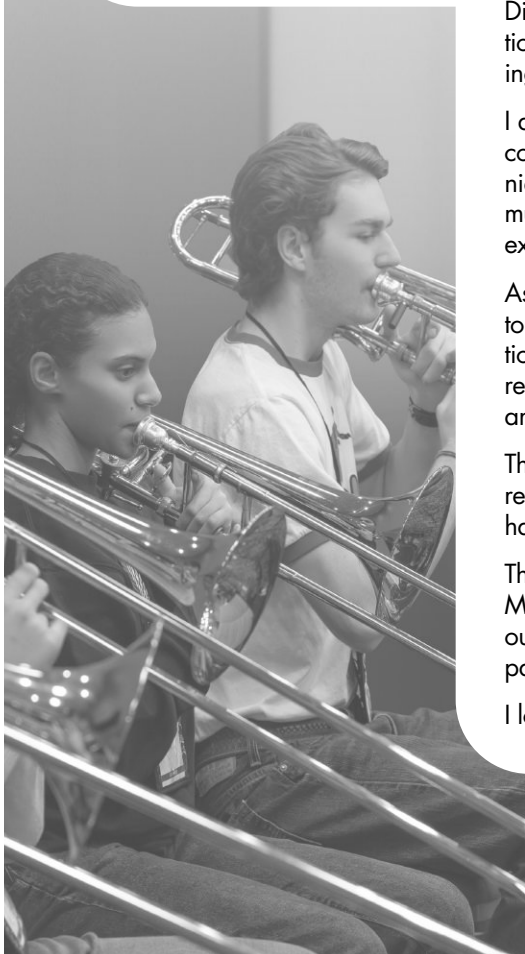


Kathy Perconti

Musically yours,

Kathy Perconti

Kathy Perconti
President, NYSSMA



WINTER CONFERENCE Concert Schedule 2026

THURSDAY

3:30pm

CC Highland CH

- Young Songwriters Showcase

7:00pm

CC Highland CH

- 27th Annual Student Electronic Showcase

4:30pm

Concert Lilac BR

- Westwinds
(Westfield High School)
- East Rochester
Percussion Ensemble

8:15pm

Concert Lilac BR

- Vox Salina
(Syracuse University)
- Crane Wind Ensemble
(SUNY Potsdam)

9:30am

Concert Lilac BR

- Syosset HS Adelettes
- New Rochelle High School
Wind Symphony

2:30pm

Concert Lilac BR

- Plattsburgh Select
Vocal Ensemble
- Rush-Henrietta
Symphonic Orchestra

1:00pm

Theater at Innovation Square

- 24th Annual Young
Composers Honors Concert

3:45pm

Hochstein Hall

- 16th Annual
Piano Showcase

8:15pm

Concert Lilac BR

Voctave

11:30am

Concert Lilac BR

- Modern Band
Showcase

2:00pm

Concert Lilac BR

- Nativity Festival Chorus
(Nativity of Our Lord School)
- Nazareth University
Night Flyers Campus
Community Band

3:30pm

**Theater at
Innovation Square**

- All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble
- All-State Instrumental Jazz Ensemble

7:30pm

Eastman Theatre

- All-State Wind Ensemble
- All-State String Orchestra
- All-State Treble Chorus

10:00am

Eastman Theatre

- All-State Mixed Chorus
- All-State Symphonic Band
- All-State Symphonic Orchestra

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Lodging Request FORM

New York State School Music Association

2026 Winter Conference - Rochester, NY
December 3-6, 2026

Conference registration and hotel reservations are now completed through one convenient online system.

Scan the QR code or visit the registration link below to begin.

<https://www.nyssma.org/nyssma-2026-winter-conference/>



HOUSING APPROVAL PROCESS

1. Complete your conference registration online.
2. If lodging is needed, select your hotel and room preferences during registration.
3. Your hotel reservation request will receive Pending status.
4. Once your conference attendance has been approved, your hotel reservation will also be approved.
5. A confirmation email will be sent once your hotel reservation has been successfully processed.

Hotel Reservations

NEW!! Reserve your room during the online conference registration process.

The registration system allows you to:

- View available conference hotels in real time
- Compare hotel options and room types
- Select your preferred hotel
- Choose your arrival and departure dates
- Complete your conference registration and hotel request in one transaction (subject to approval).

For general questions about lodging,
Call (Toll Free): 1-877-478-2111

NEW THIS YEAR!!

Reserve your hotel accommodations as part of the conference registration process.

**NO LODGING REQUESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED OVER THE PHONE
EMAIL, POSTAL MAIL, & FAX SUBMISSIONS
WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Housing Request Deadline: October 26, 2026

After this date, most listed hotels and rates will be sold out. The online Conference Registration Link will supply the most updated list of hotels and availability for your convenience.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Housing requests are accepted **online only**.
- **Mail-in and faxed request forms are no longer accepted.**
- Hotel rooms are subject to availability.
- Register early for the best selection of accommodations.

Acknowledgment & Confirmation: Visit Rochester Housing Desk at DePrez Travel will email the primary occupant confirmation of their hotel reservation. Please review the confirmation, as it contains important information regarding payment deadlines and accepted forms of payment.

Reservations: Reservations must be made with a valid credit card number to guarantee your room. (Card must expire after December 2026.) Your card will not be charged until arrival at hotel and you present a physical card. Reservations made with invalid credit cards will not be accepted by the hotels and your reservation will be forfeited. Please note: No-Shows will be charged for one (1) room night + tax.

Checks: If you plan to pay by check, please review your confirmation to see if your hotel accepts checks. And, if so, by when they must be received.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be made in writing to DePrez Travel prior to October 26, 2026. Any cancellations after that (but no later than 72 hours prior to your arrival date) must be made directly with hotel. **"No Shows" will not be refunded.**

Rochester Downtown Convention District

	Single Occupancy:	Double Occupancy:	Triple Occupancy:	Quad Occupancy:
Hyatt Regency (Breakfast and Dinner)	\$292.41	\$406.82	\$529.23	\$638.64
Hilton Garden Inn Rochester Downtown (Breakfast and Dinner)	\$279.00	\$404.00	\$529.00	\$654.00

The following is located beyond Downtown Convention District.

Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown Rochester (Buffet Breakfast Included)	Per Room/Per Night \$234.00
Courtyard by Marriot Downtown Rochester (No Meals)	Per Room/Per Night \$212.00
Courtyard by Marriott Rochester/Brighton (No Meals)	Per Room/Per Night \$223.00
Marriott Rochester Airport (No Meals)	Per Room/Per Night \$200.00

All Registrations are processed online at:



www.nyssma.org

Starting Wednesday, September 9th

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

90TH ANNUAL
WINTER CONFERENCE

Registration

You will need your 9 digit NAFME Member ID and expiration date to register.

Your NAFME membership MUST BE CURRENT at time of conference in order to register. If your membership expires prior to December 3rd, renew before registering. The membership will extend for one year from current expiration date.

Credit Card Payment

On payment page, **click *credit card*** and follow all of the prompts.

Check

On payment page, **click *check***. The check should be received by the NYSSMA Office within two weeks of your online registration. Be sure to include your name on the check.*

School Purchase Order

On payment page, **click *purchase order***. The purchase order should be received by the NYSSMA Office within two weeks of your online registration. Be sure to include your name on the P.O.*

Mail Checks & Purchase Orders to:

New York State School Music Association

718 The Plain Road

Westbury, NY 11590-5956

conference@nyssma.org

Registration Type	Until Nov 15	After Nov 15
Full Conference Active Members	\$255	\$295
Full Conference Retired Members	\$0	\$0
Full Conference Collegiate Members	\$55	\$65
One Day ACTIVE Members	\$140	\$170
Non-Music Educator Guest	\$60	\$60

Conference registration includes tickets to
All-State Concerts

- **PRESENTERS** need to contact **Stuart Rauch** (srauch@nyssma.org) for a link to register.
- **HOTELS – New This Year: Hotel reservations can be made ONLY online during the registration process.**

REGISTRATION CANCELLATION POLICY –

Through November 15 - \$35.00 fee.

After November 15 - NO REFUNDS

During the registration process, it is recommended that you **DO NOT** select the Opt-Out of emails feature. If you do Opt-Out, you will NOT receive any further conference emails, including registration acceptance confirmation and conference updates.

***Checks and purchase orders will not be accepted by mail after November 15. All payments after this date must be brought directly to the registration desk at the conference.**