ZONE 1 NYSSMA NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026



JH Area All-State Thanks

Thank You to All Those Involved in making Junior High Area All-State a great success!

General Chairs

Akron CSD Music Department
Brendon Bardo
Courtney Sanville
Nina Komosinski
Akron Music Parents Association
Akron Administration

Ensemble Chairs

SSA Chorus- Kim Stachowski + Erin Alexander
SATB Chorus- Meghen Pitts
Jazz Ensemble- Marc Bridon
String Orchestra- Caeley Marsh
Concert Band- Sarah Roberts
Symphony Orchestra- Alicia Kluck

PD Session Presenters

Laura Jay & Amanda McCormick
Lauren Kirchner & Kathleen O'Mara



Senior High Area All-State

November 20-21 @ SUNY Fredonia
Please make sure to review all of the information sent out by Kevin Duncan via email to insure that your students have a positive experience.

It is going to be a great festival weekend! Thanks to all involved! (more specific thanks to come in December!)

SH Area All-State PD

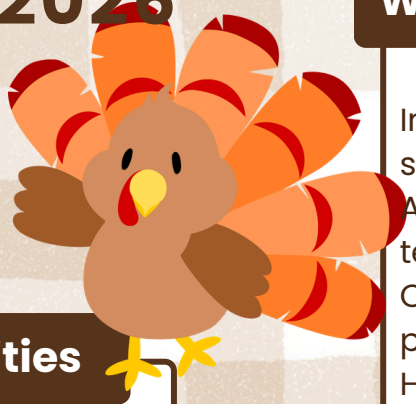
Taking Place in Mason 1022

Friday, November 20
3:30pm- Taking the Mystery Out of the Vocal Jazz Audition (Jill Neuhaus and others)

Saturday, November 21
9:30am- NYSSMA Zone 1 Meeting
10:00am- How to Register Your Students for NYSSMA Solo Festival/NYSSMA Manual
10:45am- Student-Directed Musical Theatre Productions! (Heather Lovelace and Mason Battle)

Up to 3 hours of CTLE Credit available from NYSSMA!

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Music Opportunities

ACB 2028- High School Bands

The Association of Concert Bands (ACB) will have its 50th annual convention in Niagara Falls April 30-May 4 2028. As part of the program, we are looking for five high school bands to perform and work with one of our guest composers. Currently, our guest composers are: Brian Balmages, Kevin Day, Rossano Galante, Richard Saucedo and Randall Standridge.

CLICK HERE FOR A FLYER WITH MORE DETAILS!

Erie County Historical Commission Holiday Recitals

The Commissioner of the Erie County Historical Commissions, Preethi Govindaraj, reached out about a performance opportunity for students. This event is going to be a positive experience for all! It is not a large commitment and looks like a great opportunity! Any money raised will go back to the schools/groups that are helping out!

CLICK HERE FOR A FLYER WITH MORE DETAILS!

Winter Conference Support

In addition to the many Zone 1 students performing in Conference All-State, we have several Zone 1 teachers presenting at the Conference and Zone 1 Ensembles performing during the Concert Hours!
If you are attending the conference, try to get out and show support for our Zone 1 community!

Performing Ensembles

Thursday, December 3- 4:45pm- Lilac Ballroom- West Winds (Westfield High School)- Kent Knappenberger

Saturday, December 5- 2:00pm- Lilac Ballroom- Diocese of Buffalo Nativity Festival Chorus- Riley Williams

Presenters

Larry Dubill- Thursday, December 3- 4:45pm- Financial Clarity, Preparing for Every Stage of Your Career

Lauren Kirchner & Kathleen O'Mara- Saturday, December 5- 8:15am- Applying for Jobs & Interviewing A How-To AND 9:30am- 10 Tips to Survive Your First Years of Teaching!

Laura Jay & Amanda McCormick- Saturday, December 5- 10:45am- Mastering the Art of the Multi-Level Concert

Laura Jay & Jacob Jay- Saturday, December 5- 1:15pm- Just Play: Creating Authentic Performance Experiences

Awards

Early Career Achievement- Thursday, December 3- 4:30pm- Lilac Ballroom- Patrick Towey

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Major Organization Festival Updates

Intrumental Majors Clarification

Instrumental Majors hosts will provide participating ensembles with a standard list of large percussion equipment:
4 timpani
Concert Bass Drum
Chimes
Gong
Marimba
Xylophone
Vibraphone
Bells/Glockenspiel

Anything else, instrumental groups have to bring their own equipment (including drum set for jazz ensembles).

Additionally, hosts should provide a piano/keyboard, 1 microphone, music stands and chairs.

For ALL Ensemble Directors

Teachers should plan to reach out to the festival hosts BEFORE registering for the festival. Once your time slot is confirmed, then you should register. Registration will once again open the 1st week of January, but you can reach out to the festival host as early as you'd like.

NYSSMA News

Election Results:
Electronic Voting Passed!
2nd Vice President- Scott Cannan
3rd Vice President- Shelly Bauer

NYSSMA Manual Updates:

1. **NO** All-State Multiple Percussion Auditions (Levels 1-6 are still good)
2. **Scale Preparation**- Scales must diatonically and continuously in ascending/descending octaves. Levels 1-4: Enharmonic scales do not count as independent scales!
3. **Vocal Jazz**: Now includes Level 5! The Level 6 Vocal Jazz sheet is being revised to include both Levels 5 and 6 (Spring 2027!).
4. All vocal jazz will utilize regular voice sight-reading criteria.

Adjudicator Interest

- Information for current and prospective NYSSMA Adjudicators can be found on the **Zone 1 Website**

HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!

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Upcoming Events

- Everything is currently up-to-date on the NYSSMA Zone 1 website!
- Registration Opening Dates for Festivals will be sent in December Newsletter!

2027 Solo Festival Calendar

Event	Date	Location	Chairperson
Solo Festival (ASE, no jazz, no piano)	Apr 17, 2027	Lewiston-Porter MS	Amanda Burdick
Solo Festival (ASE, AS IJ and VJ, Piano)	April 23-24, 2027	Kenmore East HS	Jill Neuhaus
Solo Festival (ASE, Piano, no jazz)	May 7-8, 2027	Salamanca HS	Lauren Kirchner
Solo Festival (ASE, Piano, no jazz)	May 21-22, 2027	Jefferson MS (Jamestown)	Gina Wakefield
Solo Festival (No All State SE,)	June 4-5, 2027	Orchard Park MS	Brad Carson
Piano ONLY Solo Festival	Jun 5, 2027	West Seneca CSD	Charlene Brooks

2027 MAJOR ORGANIZATION FESTIVAL CALENDAR

Event	Date	Location	Chairperson
Instrumental Majors	April 21-22, 2027	Springville-Griffith Institute	Joe Gervase
Instrumental Majors	May 26, 2027	Fredonia HS	Andrew Bennett
Instrumental Majors	June 2-3, 2027	North Tonawanda HS	Sarah Roberts
Choral Majors	May 19, 2027	Lockport HS	Robert Pacillo