

WCSMA

Westchester County School Music Association

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A Message from the President

Dear WCSMA Members,

Welcome to a new school year! I hope you had a restful summer and your first few weeks of school have gone smoothly. The year has already started out on a positive note. I am pleased to announce that we are finally recognized as a tax-exempt organization! Many thanks go out to our past president, Bill Eckfeld, and to our former treasurer, Micah Sprague, for their diligence in securing our status as a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Additionally, we have some exciting new changes this year for Area All-State, with plans for a string orchestra and a new concert format. Details are forthcoming from our coordinator, John Catoliato.

I would like to remind you about our Open House on October 8th where you can reconnect with colleagues and share your ideas and hopes for the coming year. Please note the change in location to the Wicked Wolf Tavern in White Plains.

I encourage you to become active in our organization. If you have a colleague who is not yet a member, invite them to come along. The more members we have, the stronger WCSMA will be as the public face of music education in our county.

I would also like to offer a very big welcome to our new and continuing members of the Board of Directors. All the best for the coming school year!

Sincerely,
Kathleen Coletta Feldman

WESTCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

ELECTRONIC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

2013-2014

September 2013

Dear Colleague,

It has reached the time of year to renew your WCSMA membership! We encourage all music administrators to forward/copy this letter to any new music teachers in their district. We look forward to many new and active members this year! In addition, please provide me the mailing addresses of any music teachers that may have retired from your district in the past recent years. I will send the retirees a hard copy of this letter and a membership registration form.

WCSMA will ONLY be using the resources of Solochair.com to register its members (*only Retired members will receive a registration form if needed). By registering electronically, your membership information can be quickly and accurately entered. Additionally, you will have the ability to change your information as needed at any time. **However, all members will still need to send the fee (check) and a printed copy of the completed membership form through the postal mailing system.**

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALL MEMBERS (EVEN THOSE MEMBERS WHO ARE PAID FOR BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT) REGISTER FOR MEMBERSHIP VIA THE SOLOCHAIR.COM WEBSITE. ANY MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION NOT COMPLETED THROUGH SOLOCHAIR.COM WILL NOT BE VALID AND THEREFORE NOT INCLUDED IN THE 2013 – 2014 ONLINE WCSMA DIRECTORY.

WCSMA requests that all contact information (home address, home phone, home e-mail, school address, school phone, school e-mail) be submitted. **If any member feels uncomfortable with any part of their contact information being made publicly available in a membership directory, he/ she can adjust the visibility settings through the solochair.com account once logged in.** However, ALL CONTACT INFORMATION IS NEEDED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT PURPOSES ONLY (festival mailings, etc.). WCSMA promises confidentiality with any and all contact information of the membership on solochair.com.

Please read the instructions below to accurately enter your information. Those of you who used Solochair.com last year to register already have an account. All you will need to do is to verify your information **and check the appropriate boxes** to activate your 2013 – 2014 WCSMA membership. **PLEASE DELETE ANY OLD SOLOCHAIR.COM ACCOUNTS THAT YOU NO LONGER USE. HAVING MULTIPLE ACCOUNTS DISTRACTS FROM THE INTEGRITY OF OUR MEMBERSHIP DATABASE.** Your continued membership will help perpetuate WCSMA as a strong and vital force in music education throughout Westchester County and the State of New York.

Dues for the 2013 – 2014 school year will remain at \$50.00 for regular members and \$30.00 for retirees. However, those who renew their membership prior to the **October 30th, 2013** deadline will pay a discounted membership of \$40.00 for regular members and \$25.00 for retirees. **Dues for new members will be \$40.00 for the entire year.**

If you do not have an account at Solochair.com, you can easily create your own account by using the "Create a new teacher account" link at Solochair.com.

Directions for Electronic Registration

1. *Log on to Solochair.com. Current users should use the same email address and password that you used last year. If you have forgotten your information, there is a link on the Solochair.com site that will send you your information.*
2. *Once logged on, go to the 'Edit account info' link. Verify that your information is correct.*
3. *There is new information to enter at the bottom of the page. Please carefully review and check the appropriate boxes to indicate your teaching areas for WCSMA purposes.*
4. *When you have finished verifying and updating this page, click the submit button at the bottom of the page. At the next prompt, click the return to 'My Account' page.*
5. *On the 'My Account' page, click the 'Print Your Membership Invoice' link on the left side of the page.*
6. *Print the invoice page and complete the bottom section of the page indicating your membership status (new, renewal, retired). At the bottom of the page, indicate the method of payment for your membership. Mail your membership invoice form as soon as possible.*

Special note for those teachers who plan to have their school district pay for their membership: Please mail me one copy of your invoice as soon as possible. Submit a separate copy of your invoice page to your district for processing. **Include the purchase order number with your registration form** by October 30th, 2013 to qualify for the discount.

Thank you for your support. Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and rewarding school year!

Sincerely,
Mark Zizolfo - WCSMA Membership

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION
33rd ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE**

**Tuesday, October 8, 2013
4:00-6:00 PM**

**Wicked Wolf Tavern in White Plains
166 Mamaroneck Ave.
White Plains NY 10601
(914) 428-3144**

Delicious food, old friends and new ones, door prizes...and a *meeting!*

Dear Colleagues:

The Westchester County School Music Association is pleased to invite you to our 32nd Annual Open House. The meeting will be held at the Wicked Wolf Tavern, 166 Mamaroneck Ave. (near the intersection of E. Post Road), White Plains, NY 10601 . The afternoon will give you an opportunity to catch up and chat with colleagues as well as share your ideas with the newest members of the WCSMA Executive Board.

Is there a new music teacher in your district? We encourage you to bring new colleagues from your district in an effort to get them acquainted with WCSMA and help them make some connections in the process. Mark Zizolfo, our Membership Chairperson, will also be on hand to renew your WCSMA membership.

We've done our best to make this a wonderful get-together with plenty of food and drink. All we need now is **you!** The event is free, but we would appreciate your RSVP via email, so we can plan accordingly!

If you encounter any problems, please call me at 646-732-5962 or email me at jacatoliato@gmail.com.

To help us plan, please RSVP to JCatoliato@wcsma.org by October 6.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Wicked Wolf!

Sincerely yours,
John Catoliato
WCSMA President-Elect

**For driving directions to Wicked Wolf Tavern, visit their website
and enter your starting address in the DIRECTIONS box
on the right hand part of the webpage:**

<http://www.wickedwolfwp.com/contact-directions.php>

NYSSMA ZONE 11

AREA ALL-STATE 2013

Dear Colleagues,

Below, please find information about the 2013 Area All-State Festival in Westchester.

DATES OF REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCE:

PLEASE CLEAR ALL DATES LISTED BELOW. IF A STUDENT IS UNABLE TO ATTEND ANY PART OF A REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE (FOR ANY REASON), HE/SHE IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION IN AREA ALL-STATE. No student will perform in the concert if he/she has not attended all rehearsals for the entire length of the rehearsal.

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Area All-State Pre-Festival Rehearsal

White Plains High School, 4:00-9:00 PM

Wednesday, November 6, 2013

Area All-State Festival Rehearsal

White Plains High School, 4:00-9:00 PM

Thursday, November 7, 2013

Area All-State Festival

SUNY Performing Arts Center, Rehearsal 9:00 AM – 3:15 PM

Thursday, November 7, 2013

Area All-State Concert

SUNY Performing Arts Center

Concert at 8:00 PM

Please pass this information on to any new faculty members in your high school music department. We look forward to working with you and your students! If you have any other questions, please contact:

John at jcatoliato@mail.edgemont.org or JACatoliato@gmail.com

I'm very happy to be back as Zone Rep again. I hope that Adam is enjoying his new job in the Syracuse area. Here are a few items for the beginning of the school year.

The sign up form for the All-State bus will be posted on the WCSMA website. All of my NYSSMA documents and information will be posted on the Zone 11 page at NYSSMA.org when the remake of the site is completed. In the interim all NYSSMA information will be posted at WCSMA.org.

I am currently speaking with a district to host the Majors Festival. It will most likely be a Friday or Thursday/Friday festival with no Saturday adjudications. Last year only one school requested a Saturday slot so we will try to accommodate all groups during a school day.

The Down-County festival is still not scheduled. Rye Neck is slated in the rotation to host the festival. There was no commitment from them before I took over at the beginning of the school year, and I still have no commitment from them. I will try to resolve this issue. It is impossible to expect the Up-County festival to absorb an additional 2500 auditions in addition to its own 2500. The Up-County festival will not be accepting any Down-County applications. If anyone is interested in hosting the Down-County festival outside of the rotation, please reach out to me. You will be able to schedule the weekend that works best for your district resources. If anyone would like information about hosting a festival feel free to call or email me. I will be happy to guide you through the process from planning to closing. Dobbs Ferry, Elmsford and North Salem are scheduled for 2015 festivals. Harrison, Katonah/Lewisboro and Valhalla are scheduled for 2016. It is never too early to approach your administrators and plan the festival into the school calendar.

Please consider stopping by for emergency adjudicator training at the Area All-State and All-County festivals. We desperately need woodwind, string and vocal judges at our festivals on a regular basis. If learning a bit about it before you volunteer to help will alleviate the slightest reluctance to give it a try, please think about attending a training session. More specific information will follow.

The Down-County schools are listed on the **Division of Schools for Zone 11** document, which can be downloaded from the Zone 11 page at NYSSMA.org

I hope everyone has had a successful start to the new school year. I look forward to a successful Area All-State Festival, as well as the Piano, Majors and Solo Festivals.

-Tom Arduini, NYSSMA Zone 11 Representative

The **2013 NYSSMA Distinguished Service Award** goes to our very own, Dr. Earl Groner! Earl will be honored at the NYSSMA Winter Conference in Rochester. He is most deserving of this prestigious award and we are grateful for his years of exemplary service to our community. Congratulations!

NYSSMA ALL-STATE BUS

Dear Westchester Musician:

Congratulations on being selected as a conference All-State organization member or alternate. The Westchester County Music Educators are proud of your achievement. The conference, held in Rochester, may pose a transportation concern for some of the 45 musicians representing Westchester County schools. To alleviate this concern, the Westchester County Music Educators Association (WCSMA) **will charter a bus to and from the NYSSMA Conference.**

We encourage all students to take advantage of this convenient transportation option. There will be plenty of room for luggage and instruments, and we will be dropped off at the hotel where we will be able to register together and proceed to seat auditions. Travelling as a group will also insure that no one is penalized for late arrival caused by weather or traffic.

A return bus will depart after all of the concerts on Sunday. Since parents may be traveling to Rochester to attend the concerts, there may be students who will wish to ride the bus only one-way. Please indicate your plans on the reservation form.

If you are an alternate you may hear from NYSSMA at any time as positions become available. Please keep this information handy and notify me as soon as you discover you will need a seat on the bus.

If you are unsure whether you will be riding the return bus, **please present the bus chaperone with written permission to *not ride* the bus back to Westchester before you depart Rochester by alternate transportation.**

The cost for the bus is \$95.00 regardless of whether you ride round trip or one-way.

Please return the reservation form with payment made to: WCSMA

Professional Development:

Some of our members offer professional development courses throughout the year through accredited institutions. If you teach a course and would like to be included in a special edition newsletter this winter, please send your information, (course name, brief description, institution), to kcoletta@wcsma.org.

BUS INFORMATION

The bus will depart from the **County Center** in White Plains.

Thursday, December 5, 2013 6:30am
Load bus @ County Center

6:45am
Depart for Rochester

NOTE: We will not wait for latecomers

Thursday, December 5 1:30pm
Arrive at Hotel in Rochester

Sunday, December 8 1:30pm
Depart Hotel, Rochester
8:30pm
Arrive at County Center

Confirmation of your reservation will be e-mailed to you upon receipt of payment.

Please feel free to e-mail me at: zone11@nyssma.org

NAME: _____ CELL#: _____

School: _____ All-State Organization: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

- I WILL RIDE THE BUS TO ROCHESTER ONLY
- I WILL RIDE THE BUS BOTH WAYS
- I WILL ONLY RIDE THE RETURN BUS

Enclose a Check for \$95 payable to WCSMA

Mail to: Tom Arduini
8 Brooke Club Drive Apt 1
Ossining, NY 10562

BAND NOTES

COORDINATOR: LISA SABLE

Welcome back to another year of music in our schools!

We are continuing to communicate through the web so please visit the WCSMA website (www.WCSMA.org) frequently to find answers to your questions and check for updates.

Important items to take note of...

CHAIRPERSON WANTED! (for either Elementary or Intermediate)

Elementary Band: All registration materials for the December auditions will be available as a download through WCSMA.org shortly. Registration materials will NOT be sent through the mail. Make sure to check the deadline dates. No late registrations will be accepted, please check back frequently!

Intermediate Band: Acceptance notifications will be sent through e-mail this year. Please check the website to see when these notifications will be sent out. *Make sure your WCSMA registration (through Solochair) has your current email information to expedite this process.*

Call for adjudicators.... As you know, the elementary auditions cannot happen without your help. If you are interested in judging the elementary all county band auditions please let me know by e-mail at lsable@wcsma.org or by phone.

Spread the word. If there are new teachers in your school district, please encourage them to get involved! Thank you for all the work you do. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming auditions and festivals.

NEWS FROM THE CHORAL COORDINATOR

Happy Fall Colleagues!

This year is shaping up nicely for our All County Chorus Festival! We have a dynamic guest conductor ready to strike up the Intermediate group and our ever growing Elementary students will be graced with one of our very own! Please visit the WCSMA website and get your commitment forms to be by October 11th. Music will be distributed electronically this year for practice prior to the first rehearsal. I will get you electronic files as soon as I receive payment for your student fees and students will receive the originals at the first practice in February. This will hopefully get more practice time for you and less headaches with lost music and broken envelopes. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to give our students a wonderful experience. Best of luck this school year!

~Sheila DePaola
sdepaola@wcsma.org
 WCSMA EAC/IAC Choral

NOTES FROM THE ORCHESTRA COORDINATOR

Dear Colleagues,
Happy Fall and welcome back!

A few things:

1. Elementary Orchestra Auditions will be held on Saturday November 16, (Snow Date is November 23) at Mamaroneck Avenue School in Mamaroneck. Stay tuned - information packets will be sent out soon. They are also available on our WCSMA website.
2. Intermediate orchestra personnel will be announced by email later this fall. In addition all music will be emailed out like last year. As such, please make sure that I have the correct email for you on solo chair.
3. All string teachers are invited to adjudicate Elementary String Auditions. Let me know if you can help. My email is KSinsabaugh@mamkschools.org

Most importantly - here's to a wonderful school year!

Warmly,
Dr. Katherine Sinsabaugh

NOTES FROM THE JAZZ COORDINATOR

Greetings to all of you jazz educators!

An email will go out shortly with details concerning the 2014 All-County Jazz Festival. Briefly though, we've decided to hold the Festival in late February this year to avoid the conflicts that seem to arise every year with many districts' Spring Musical. It looks like Edgemont will be hosting, but I will be able to confirm this soon.

Here are the dates:

Auditions: Saturday, January 11

Rehearsal #1: Wednesday, February 5

Rehearsal #2: Tuesday, February 25

Rehearsal #3: Wednesday, February 26

Concert: Friday, February 28 [snow date: Sat, March 1]

It is my hope that more students [and teachers] will be able and willing to participate, knowing that the Festival will not keep them from being able to perform for their schools' musical. The Festival will once again feature one Middle School and one High School Jazz Band. Auditions will be by CD or DVD so it's not too early to start preparing for that!

Thanks to all! Welcome back.

David Brandom
All-County Jazz Coordinator

WCSMA Calendar of Events 2013-2014

Tuesday, October 8, 2013
WCSMA Open House
 Wicked Wolf Tavern,
 White Plains
 4:00-6:00 PM
 (Board of Dir. Meeting to follow)

Wednesday, October 23, 2013
Area All-State Pre-Rehearsal
 White Plains High School
 4:00- 9:15 PM

Wednesday, November 6, 2013
Area All-State Rehearsal
 White Plains High School
 4:00-9:15 PM

Thursday, November 7, 2013
Area All-State Rehearsal
 SUNY Purchase
 9:00AM-3:30PM
Concert 8:00 PM

**BAND, ORCHESTRA,
 CHORUS ALL-COUNTY
 FESTIVAL DATES**

Saturday, November 16, 2013
 (Snow Date Sat., November 23)
**Elementary All-County String
 Auditions**
 Mamaroneck Avenue School
 8:30 - 11:30 AM

Saturday, November 23, 2013
 (Snow Date Sat., December 14)
**Elementary All-County Band
 Auditions**
 PVC Middle School, Croton
 8:30 - 11:30 AM

Tuesday, February 11, 2014
 (Snow Date Thurs., Feb. 13)
All-County Band/Orch Reh
 Seven Bridges MS, Chappaqua
 3:30 - 6:30

Wednesday, February 12, 2014
 (Snow date Thurs. Feb. 13)
All-County Chorus Rehearsal
 Sleepy Hollow HS
 3:30 - 6:30 PM

Tuesday, March 4
 (Snow Date Fri., March 5)
All-County Chorus Rehearsal
 Sleepy Hollow HS
 3:30 - 6:30 PM

Thursday, March 6, 2014
 (Snow Date Fri., March 7)
**All-County Band/Orchestra
 Rehearsal**
 Seven Bridges MS, Chappaqua
 3:30 - 6:30 PM

Saturday, March 8, 2014
**Elementary and Intermediate
 All-County Music Festival**
 SUNY Purchase
 Orchestra Concert 11:00 AM
 Choral Concert 4:00 PM

Sunday, March 9, 2014
**Elementary and Intermediate
 All-County Music Festival**
 SUNY Purchase
 Band Concert 11:00 AM

**SENIOR HIGH ALL-
 COUNTY JAZZ DATES**

Saturday, January 11, 2014
**All-County Jazz Band
 Auditions**
 Location TBA
 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 (Snow Date Monday, Jan. 13,
 3:30 - 7:30 PM)

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014
 (Snow Date Thurs., Feb. 6)
**All-County Jazz Band
 Rehearsal**
 Location TBA
 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014
 (Snow Date Thurs. Feb. 27)
**All-County Jazz Band
 Rehearsal**
 Location TBA
 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Wednesday, Feb, 26, 2014
 (Snow Date Thurs Feb, 27)
**All-County Jazz Band
 Rehearsal**
 Location TBA
 6:30 - 9:30 PM

Friday, Feb. 28, 2014
**Senior High All-County Jazz
 Concert**
 (Snow Date TBA)
 Location TBA
 8:00 p.m. (Clinic 6:15-7:15)

Friday, April 25 & Saturday,
 April 26, 2014
**NYSSMA Solo & Ensemble
 Evaluation Festival (Up-
 County)**
 Horace Greely HS, Chappaqua

Wednesday, May 21 &
 Thursday, May 22, 2014
NYSSMA Majors
 Fox Lane, Bedford

2014 (dates TBA)
**NYSSMA Solo & Ensemble
 Evaluation Festival (Down-
 County)**

NYSSMA Piano Festival
 Lakeland High School
 Bob Schwartz, host

WCSMA Board of Directors 2013-2014

PRESIDENT: Kathleen Coletta Feldman
PRESIDENT-ELECT: John Catoliato
PAST PRESIDENT: Bill Eckfeld
AREA ALL STATE COORDINATOR: John Catoliato
SENIOR HIGH JAZZ FESTIVAL COORDINATOR: David Brandom
ELEMENTARY & INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL COORDINATOR: Katherine Sinsabaugh
ELEMENTARY & INTERMEDIATE CHORAL FESTIVAL COORDINATOR: Sheila DePaola
ELEMENTARY & INTERMEDIATE BAND FESTIVAL COORDINATOR: Lisa Sable
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Jeremie Peace
RECORDING SECRETARY: Sue Forman
TREASURER: Nancy Torrente
MEMBERSHIP: Mark Zizolfo
**PUBLICITY: vacant*
NYSSMA ZONE REPRESENTATIVE: Tom Arduini
WEBMASTER: Marna Ellen Weiss
SPECIAL ADVISOR: Stephanie Merkado-Weiss
SPECIAL ADVISOR: Bernie Klinger

*Board Vacancies: If you would like be considered to serve as a current Board Member, please contact John Catoliato, President-Elect, jcatoliato@wcsma.org

In Memoriam:

Many of you have inquired about donations honoring our colleagues who have passed. The following links will lead you to funds set up to directly benefit the children of [Dan Kerness](#) and [Christine Chu McGovern](#).

Public Relations

Westchester County School Music Association
P.O. Box 604
Mount Kisco, NY 10549
www.wcsma.org