

WCSMA

Westchester County School Music Association

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Fall 2014

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A Message from the President

Dear WCSMA Members,

Welcome to a new school year! I hope you enjoyed a rejuvenating summer that left you poised for success in this new school year. The Westchester County School Music Association is also poised for success. The preparations for the Area All-State and All-County festivals are well under way, and I am happy to report that because of the overwhelming success of the Area All-State Festival last year, we will continue to offer five ensembles in which students can perform: Mixed Chorus, Women's Chorus, Concert Band, String Orchestra, and Symphony Orchestra.

It's my pleasure to announce that for the first time in many years, the WCSMA Board of Directors is completely filled! This is the strongest that our organization has been in recent history, not only because key roles are filled, but because it represents one of the fundamental tenets of our organization: Volunteerism. We are an organization of volunteers. Whether serving on the board, chairing an ensemble, adjudicating seating auditions, or helping to register students at various events throughout the year, every small act is part of a greater whole. Together, we can continue to give the students of Westchester County a comprehensive, rich music education.

I encourage you to help others become active in our organization. If you have a colleague who is not yet a member, invite him or her to attend the Open House. The more members we have, the stronger WCSMA will be as the public face of music education in our county.

Come celebrate WCSMA's annual Open House on Tuesday, October 7th. It's a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and share your ideas and hopes for the coming year. The location for the event will remain the same as last year - The Wicked Wolf Tavern in White Plains. Area All-State acceptance folders will be distributed at the Open House. Further details about this event appear later in this newsletter.

Many thanks to our Past President, Kathleen Feldman, whose leadership has positioned WCSMA to continue operating at the highest levels of music education. I am humbled and honored to be following in her footsteps, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve alongside the best music teachers I've ever had the pleasure to know.

Sincerely,
John Catoliato

Westchester County School Music Association Membership Registration/ Renewal 2014 – 2015

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 2014 – 2015 ONLINE WCSMA DIRECTORY.

WCSMA requests that all contact information (home address, home phone, home e-mail, school address, school phone, school email) 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 2014 – 2015 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 AND OUR EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST.

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 2014 – 2015 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, 2014 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 to the address indicated on the form.*

**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, 2014 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
34th ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, October 7, 2014
4:00-6:00 PM
Copper Face Jacks (formerly Wicked Wolf) Tavern in White Plains
166B Mamaroneck Ave.
White Plains NY 10601
(914) 428-3144

Delicious food, old friends and new ones,
Free WCSMA water bottles to the first 100 member attendees, door prizes...and a meeting!

Dear Colleagues:

The Westchester County School Music Association is pleased to invite you to our 34th Annual Open House. The meeting will be held at Copper Faced Jack's Tavern, 166B Mamaroneck Ave., 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** so we can plan accordingly!

[RSVP by Clicking Here!](#)

If you encounter any problems, please email me at ntorrente@wcsma.org

Looking forward to seeing you at the Copper Face Jacks!

Sincerely yours,
Nancy Torrente
WCSMA President-Elect

**For driving directions to Copper Face Jacks Tavern, visit the following website
and enter your starting address:**

**Please note the site is still using the restaurant's old name (Wicked Wolf),
it is newly named Copper Face Jacks and is the correct establishment!**

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

All-State Bus

- WCSMA is sponsoring bus transportation to Rochester for the NYSSMA Conference.
- Note that students arriving to Rochester are not considered to be late if they all arrive on school-sponsored transportation.
- The bus will have WCSMA teachers as chaperones.
- Students may choose to take the bus one-way or round trip.
- No refunds.

Cost is \$100.

- There will be plenty of room to store/transport instruments and luggage.
- The bus will depart from the Westchester County Center in White Plains.
- The bus will drop students at the hotel.
- Westchester teachers will be in the registration area to assist students.
- The bus will depart Rochester on Sunday December 7 at 1:00PM.
- This will allow all students to return to their rooms and to collect luggage after the concerts.

TRIP TO ROCHESTER

Departure Date: Thursday December 4, 2014

Departure time: 6:30 AM

RETURN TRIP FROM ROCHESTER

Departure Date: Sunday December 7, 2014

Departure Time: 1:00 pm

Estimated Time of Arrival to the County Center is 8 PM

Send completed form to:

Tom Arduini

8 Brooke Club Drive Apt. 1

Ossining, NY 10562

Fill out and return the form below with payment.

Name: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____ NYSSMA GROUP _____

_____ I will ride the bus ONE WAY to Rochester

_____ I will ride the bus ROUND TRIP to Rochester and back to White Plains

_____ I will ride the bus ONE WAY From Rochester to White Plains

Enclose a check for \$100 payable to "WCSMA"

Tom Arduini 8 Brooke Club Drive, 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.

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.

Elementary Band: All registration materials for the November 22, 2014 auditions are available on the website. Registration materials will NOT be sent through the mail. Make sure to check the deadline dates. No late registrations will be accepted!

Intermediate Band: Acceptance notifications will be sent via e-mail this year. **If you no longer have a particular student, please pass along the information to his or her current teacher and let me know of the change.** 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.*

Please remember that music cannot be sent out until all teachers have returned commitment forms and one check payable to WCSMA.

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.

CHORAL NOTES

Welcome back! I am excited to announce that this year's Elementary Chorus will be conducted by Dr. Susan Avery from Ithaca College and the Intermediate Chorus will be conducted by Westchester's own Elizabeth Melito from Westlake (Mt. Pleasant).

If you have not received an e-mail from me with paperwork please visit the www.wcsma.org, Festivals, All County Chorus page. Commitment forms are due by October 17th, payment and registration forms are due by November 7th. The first elementary and intermediate directors who return a complete registration packet to me will receive a \$10 iTunes gift card!

Rehearsal music will again be distributed once I have received payment or a P.O. from your district. These rehearsal packets should be distributed to your students, used for all rehearsals and destroyed after the concert. Originals will be available for borrowing through the WCSMA Choral Library, now housed in Mamaroneck.

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 Coordinator

ORCHESTRA NOTES

Greetings All!

Welcome back to another exciting year of music making!

A few things as we get the year started:

- 1) WCSMA is very excited to announce this year's All-County Orchestra conductors. Gregory Verheyn (hailing from Queensbury, NY) will be our Elementary Orchestra conductor and Dr. Michele Zanky (coming locally from Pelham, NY) will be our Intermediate Orchestra conductor. Thank you to Jamie Stroffolino and Jackie Curtis for volunteering to be chair people to help organize and run the festival.
- 2) Elementary All-County Auditions will be **November 15th, 2014** at Hillside Elementary School in Hastings-On-Hudson. Audition information and registration forms have gone out via email and are due back **October 31st**. If you did not receive an email from me, please let me know and I will add you to my contact list.
- 3) Intermediate and Elementary All-County acceptance letters and practice parts will be scanned and emailed. Please make sure your WCSMA dues are paid and we have the correct email address for you on SoloChair.
- 4) All string players are invited help adjudicate the Elementary Strings Auditions November 15th. If you would like to volunteer, please send me an email: concrak@hohschools.org

I hope the fall season brings lots of excellent music making for everyone.

-Kathryn Condra

JAZZ FESTIVAL NOTES

The All-County Jazz Festival will be held at Edgemont Jr/Sr High School again this year. Auditions will be at Greenville Elementary School on Saturday, January 10, from 9:00am to 12:00pm (*note the earlier start time*). (Snow Date Monday, Jan. 12, 3:30 – 7:30 PM).

The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

- 1st Rehearsal- **Wednesday, Feb. 25 2015** (Snow Date Thurs., Feb. 26)
 2nd Rehearsal- **Tuesday, March 17, 2015** (Snow Date Thurs. March 19)
 3rd Rehearsal- **Wednesday, March 18, 2015** (Snow Date Thurs March 19)
 Concert- **Friday, March 20, 2015** Edgemont HS 8:00 p.m. (Clinic 6:15-7:15)

As in the past, students who score the highest on their auditions will be placed into either the A or B Jazz Band, provided we have enough students of each instrument family audition. This is a standard big-band instrumentation of saxophones, trumpets and trombones, and rhythm section of piano, bass, drums and vibes. Students wishing to audition for All-County Jazz should prepare a Level 5 or 6 Jazz Solo from the NYSSMA Manual and will be asked to do some sight-reading and either improvise or play some scales. Registration materials will be available on the website soon. Please encourage your jazz'ers to audition. We look forward to having another great All-County Jazz event this March!

-David Brandom

WCSMA Calendar of Events 2014-2015

Tuesday, October 7, 2014
WCSMA Open House
Location TBA 4:00-6:00 PM
(Board of Dir. Meeting to follow)

Wednesday, October 22, 2014
Area All-State Pre-Rehearsal
White Plains High School
4:00- 9:00 PM

Wednesday, November 5, 2014
Area All-State Rehearsal
White Plains High School
4:00-9:00 PM

Thursday, November 6, 2014
Area All-State Rehearsal
SUNY Purchase
Rehearsal: 9:00AM-3:30PM
Concert 8:00 PM

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

Saturday, November 15, 2014
(Snow Date Sat., November 22)
**Elementary All-County String
Auditions**
Location TBA
8:30 - 11:30 AM

Saturday, November 22, 2014
(Snow Date Sat., December 13)
**Elementary All-County Band
Auditions**
PVC Middle School, Croton
8:30 - 11:30 AM

Monday, February 9, 2015
(Snow date Tues. Feb. 10)
All-County Chorus Rehearsal
Sleepy Hollow HS
3:30 - 6:30 PM

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
(Snow Date Thurs., Feb. 12)
All-County Band/Orch Reh
Seven Bridges MS, Chappaqua
3:30 - 6:30

Tuesday, March 10, 2015
(Snow Date Wed. March 11)
All-County Chorus Rehearsal
Sleepy Hollow HS
3:30 - 6:30 PM

Thursday, March 12, 2015
(Snow Date Fri., March 13)
**All-County Band/Orchestra
Rehearsal**
Seven Bridges MS, Chappaqua
3:30 - 6:30 PM

Saturday, March 14, 2015
**Elementary and Intermediate
All-County Music Festival**
SUNY Purchase Performing Arts
Center
Band Concert 11:00 AM
Choral Concert 4:00 PM

Sunday, March 15, 2015
**Elementary and Intermediate
All-County Music Festival**
SUNY Purchase Performing Arts
Center
Orchestra Concert 11:00 AM

**SENIOR HIGH ALL-
COUNTY JAZZ FESTIVAL
DATES**

Saturday, January 10, 2015
**All-County Jazz Band
Auditions**
Greenville ES, Edgemont
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
(Snow Date Monday, Jan. 12,
3:30 - 7:30 PM)

Wednesday, Feb. 25 2015
(Snow Date Thurs., Feb. 26)
**All-County Jazz Band
Rehearsal**
Edgemont HS
6:30 - 9:30 PM

Tuesday, March 17, 2015
(Snow Date Thurs. March 19)
**All-County Jazz Band
Rehearsal**
Edgemont HS
6:30 - 9:30 PM

Wednesday, March 18, 2015
(Snow Date Thurs March 19)
**All-County Jazz Band
Rehearsal**
Edgemont HS
6:30 - 9:30 PM

Friday, March 20, 2015
**Senior High All-County Jazz
Concert**
Edgemont HS
8:00 p.m. (Clinic 6:15-7:15)

2015
**NYSSMA Solo & Ensemble
Evaluation Festival (Down-
County)**
TBA

2015
**NYSSMA Solo & Ensemble
Evaluation Festival (Up-
County)**
TBA

2015
NYSSMA Piano Festival
TBA

2015
NYSSMA Majors
TBA

WCSMA Board of Directors 2014-2015

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

Public Relations

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

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