

WCSMA

Westchester County School Music Association

WINTER NEWSLETTER

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Winter 2014

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Colleagues,

I hope you are all keeping busy and warm during these cold days of winter. This newsletter should bring you thoughts of sunny spring days to come, because festival season and end-of-year preparations are in full swing! This winter edition has a variety of useful information, including a special section for professional development and other opportunities offered by our members.

March is *Music in our Schools Month*. It all begins on Monday, March 3rd with Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA Day in Albany. This is a day for us to unite as one voice for the teachers and students of music education across New York State. There is strength in numbers and we can make a powerful statement together. Please consider joining me this year for all or part of the day.

It's not too early to send in nominations for Administrator of the Year or to submit applications for our summer study scholarships. The applications may be downloaded from wcsma.org.

One last note, please remember to carefully check the NYSSMA solo and majors deadlines on solochair.com. Festival hosts will be emailing you with information, if they have not already done so. Contact your district music supervisor or chairperson if you have not yet received information.

I look forward to seeing you at our All-County and NYSSMA festivals!

Sincerely,
Kathleen Coletta Feldman, President

Joseph R. Sugar NYSSMA Day in Albany: Monday, March 3rd

Please join us for a day of music education advocacy in Albany, NY. We have many legislators representing us from Westchester County, (members of the Senate and Assembly), and you can make a difference by coming up to Albany to meet with these men and women. If you are planning to attend, or would like more details about the day, please contact kcoletta@wcsma.org.

Summary of the day:

Location: Empire State Plaza, meeting room 6
 9:30-11:30am Meeting with legislators (we make the appointments)
 11:30 Performances by All State Ensembles
 1:00 Lunch
 2:00-4:00 More time for appointments with legislators
 5:30- Reception – All State Jazz Ensembles perform

Dear Colleagues,

If you have music that belongs to WCSMA in your library, office, garage, attic.... or like me in all of these places... you can return it during this year's All County rehearsal!

Music can be returned to the following people in the hospitality room (where the coffee and snacks will be!):

Marna Weiss will be at Seven Bridges collecting WCSMA band music at the 2/11 rehearsal.

Katherine Sinsabaugh (orchestra coordinator) will be collecting WCSMA orchestra music at all the All-County rehearsals.

Sheila DePaola (chorus coordinator) will be collecting WCSMA choral music at the 2/12 and 3/4 rehearsals.

**Not going to an all county rehearsal? Send it with a colleague!*

ALSO- we are happy to take those random Area All-State pieces lingering in the back closet!

No explanations necessary!

Nancy Torrente
 Confessed WCSMA-Owned Music Holder
 WCSMA Treasurer
 Yorktown MS and HS String Teacher

NOTES FROM THE BAND AND ORCHESTRA COORDINATORS
Lisa Sable and Katherine Sinsabaugh

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Winter and All-County Season!

We are excited to work with your students soon. We have a few reminders:

- Be sure to help your students learn their parts ahead of time.
- Band teachers are invited to sit next to their students and play at the orchestra sectional.
- Please remember that another student was not accepted because your student will be attending. If your student can't attend at the last moment, please make sure that you let the coordinator know and turn in their music asap.
- What your students need to bring: Music stand (w/ name clearly marked on all parts), all music and a pencil, required mutes and extra strings, food (the rehearsals are long).
- Concert Dress: **Men:** Black pants, white shirt and long tie; **Women:** White top and long black shirt or slacks.
- All music is due at the end of the concert.

Orchestra and Band Rehearsals:

Tuesday, February 11, 3:30PM – 6:30PM at Seven Bridges MS, Chappaqua
(Snow date 2/13)

Thursday, March 6, 3:30PM – 6:30PM at Seven Bridges MS, Chappaqua
(Snow date 3/7)

Orchestra:

Saturday, March 8, 8:15AM rehearsal at SUNY Purchase. Concert at 11AM.

Band:

Sunday, March 9, 8:15AM rehearsal at SUNY Purchase. Concert at 11AM.

Here's to a wonderful season!

Warmly,

Lisa and Katherine

NOTES FROM THE JAZZ COORDINATOR

The 2014 All-County Jazz Festival will feature two great Westchester musicians. Saxophonist, arranger and educator, Jay Brandford will be conducting the A-Band. Jay's professional resume includes playing baritone sax with the Count Basie Orchestra for several years. He has been lead alto with the Westchester Jazz Orchestra since its inception and has played countless Broadway shows, including "Billy Elliot" and "Ragtime". Among his various teaching responsibilities, Jay currently teaches at the Master's School.

Conducting the B-Band this year will be trombonist, Steve Bleifuss. Among his long list of professional gigs, Steve has played lead trombone with the Tommy Dorsey and Glen Miller Orchestras and can be heard in the pit of "Lion King" on Broadway. Steve teaches in the Scarsdale School District currently and has taught in Ardsley, Edgemont and many other schools.

Both of these fine Jazz Educators have chosen exciting programs for the All-County groups. We hope that teachers and students alike from around the county will come out to the performance to hear some of the best young jazz musicians in Westchester.

David Brandom
All-County Jazz Coordinator

NOTES FROM THE CHORAL COORDINATOR

This year WCSMA is delighted to honor 224 singers in the elementary chorus and 195 students in the intermediate chorus. We look forward to seeing all of our fine singers and their teachers at Sleepy Hollow High School on Wednesday, February 12th (snow date is the 13th).

The choral library will be relocating from Briarcliff to Mamaroneck following the Winter Break. If you have any music to return to the collection please bring it to the All-County rehearsals. We will send out an e-mail to rally the troops and help move the music. Keep a lookout in your inboxes!

Thank you for all you do for our young musicians!

Best,
Sheila DePaola
Sdepaola@wcsma.org

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year, the Westchester County School Music Association is proud to present an award honoring a Westchester administrator who has been a supportive advocate for music education in our schools. The award is a reflection of the insight, commitment, energy, and dedication exhibited by the administrator. Administrators are nominated by WCSMA members and selected through a voting process by our Board of Directors.

If you would like to nominate an administrator for this award, return the nomination form along with a short written description of the person and your reasons for nominating them. The nomination form may be found [here](#) on wcsma.org. The deadline for submissions is April 1.

*A note about the selection process: Nominations are presented to the Board without identifying names and locations to prevent bias. Only the President, a non-voting member, is aware of the identities of the nominees at the time of selection. WCSMA members are ineligible for the nomination.

MILTON A. WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SUMMER STUDY

Once again, WCSMA is offering two (2) \$500 scholarships for students in Westchester County. These scholarships are available for students of WCSMA members, entering grades 10, 11, or 12 in the 2014-15 school year, and must be used for summer study in music.

The criteria are as follows:

- Student must be a good school citizen.
- Student must demonstrate outstanding musicianship and leadership.
- Student's school music teacher must be a member of the Westchester County School Music Association in good standing.
- Student must be an active participant in WCSMA and/or NYSSMA events, such as the WCSMA All-County, Area All-State, or NYSSMA solo festivals.

Please submit the following for consideration:

- A music teacher recommendation, stating why the student is deserving of such a scholarship.
- A student essay of at least 250 words stating how the student will use this scholarship to enhance their own musicianship and how it will enhance their school community.
- Application (located on wcsma.org)

*Students who have already received this scholarship will not be considered in consecutive years.

Applications may be found on the WCSMA website and must be postmarked by April 15th. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The application may be scanned and sent through e-mail.

Dear WCSMA Members,

We have exciting news! At last, your chance to attend.....

Mark O'Connor Method Teacher Training Workshop!

Mark O'Connor is one of America's premier violinists and fiddle players. The O'Connor Method is based on Eight Principles: Listening, Practice, Progression, Exercising, Performance, Relevance, Creativity and Expression. His method books combine the use of classical violin technique and theory along with American music, history and improvisation. For more information on Mark O'Connor and his method, visit his website at: www.markoconnor.com

Dates:

Friday, March 21 3:30-6:30 PM

Saturday, March 22 10 AM-6PM

Sunday, March 23 10 AM-4 PM

Who may attend:

Any interested teacher

Location:

All sessions will be held at:
Larchmont Music Academy
2089 Boston Post Rd.
Larchmont, NY 10538

Cost:

Price for Friday ONLY with Mark O'Connor: FREE

Price for only weekend sessions and books: \$350.

WCSMA members receive a 50% discount from Larchmont Music Academy (weekend plus books): \$175.

Registration:

larchmontmusicacademy.com click login to register. Follow directions and click on Mark O'Connor tab

*15 PD hours and / or College credit available.

****This wonderful professional development workshop is being hosted by the Larchmont Music Academy. www.larchmontmusicacademy.com

Additional Professional Development Opportunities

Today's Music Specialist; Developing an Enriching, Interdisciplinary Music Program (June 30 - July 3, 2014)

The goal of this course is to provide Elementary Music Specialists with tools and resources needed to create artistically rich music programs leading to a broader impact in the school community and beyond.

Orff Schulwerk Certification Courses

(July 7 - July 18, 2014)

Levels I - II

Co-taught by Don DuPont and Brian Hiller

Hofstra University

Summer Studies for Music Educators

Department of Music

New Academic Building 101B

160 Hofstra University

Hempstead, NY 11549-1120

516.463.5490

For more information please contact

Craig Knapp

mrknapp@aol.com

Opportunities for your students:

Hudson Valley Music Club Student Awards

Auditions Sunday, April 6, 2014

Performance on Monday, April 28, 2014

1pm Dobbs Ferry Women's Club

The deadline for application is March 17, 2014

Contact Lila Ainsworth for more information: mail@lainsworth.org

The competition is open to high school students who reside in Westchester County. The four winning musicians will perform in a public concert presented by the Hudson Valley Music Club on Monday, April 28, 2014 at 1pm at the Dobbs Ferry Woman's Club. This is a wonderful opportunity for accomplished student musicians to perform solo or chamber music for a very enthusiastic audience in an acoustically wonderful space which houses a Steinway grand piano. Students will also receive publicity in local newspapers and cash awards.

This information is provided as a courtesy to our members. If you would like to be included in the spring newsletter, please email kcoletta@wcsma.org

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- 9:00 PM

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

~~Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2014~~
 Snow Date- Thurs., Feb. 6
**All-County Jazz Band
 Rehearsal**
 Edgemont High School
 6:00 - 9:30 PM

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014
 (Snow Date- Thurs., Feb. 27)
**All-County Jazz Band
 Rehearsal**
 Edgemont High School
 6:00 - 9:30 PM

Wednesday, Feb, 26, 2014
 (Snow Date- Thurs., Feb. 27)
**All-County Jazz Band
 Rehearsal**
 Edgemont High School
 6:00 - 9:30 PM

Friday, Feb. 28, 2014
**Senior High All-County Jazz
 Concert**
 (Snow Date- Sat., March 1)
 Edgemont High School
 8:00 p.m. (Clinic 6:45-7:45)

NYSSMA FESTIVALS

Friday, March 28 &
 Saturday, March 29, 2014
**NYSSMA Solo & Ensemble
 Evaluation Festival
 (Down- County)**
 Rye Neck MS/HS

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

Friday, May 16 &
 Saturday, May 17, 2014
NYSSMA Piano Festival
 Lakeland High School
 Bob Schwartz, host

WCSMA Board of Directors – Vacancies for 2014-2016

The terms of following positions on the Board of Directors will be available to applicants and nominees beginning July 1, 2014. Each term is two years long. Incumbent elected officials are more than welcome to run again, as there is not limit on the number of terms a person may hold, except for President positions. Please contact John Catoliato at JACatoliato@gmail.com if you are interested in running for one of these positions or if you would like to nominate a WCSMA member for one of the following positions:

President-Elect - The President-Elect shall perform the duties in the absence of or at the request of the President; coordinate and revise the Elementary and Intermediate instrumental audition lists; arrange for general and special meetings, including the Open House and Retirement Dinner; serve as chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Area All-State Coordinator - The Area All-State Coordinator shall be in charge of and coordinate the annual Area All-State Festival; be assisted by the Mixed Chorus, Women's Chorus, Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestra and Band chairpersons; follow procedures as outlined in the NYSSMA Area All-State Festival Manual.

Treasurer - The Treasurer shall keep accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements of WCSMA and deposit all moneys, evidences of indebtedness, and other valuable documents.

Recording Secretary - The Recording Secretary shall keep a complete record and minutes of all Board meetings; summarize the minutes of each meeting and reproduce copies for each Board Member; perform other secretarial duties at the request of the President.

Publicity Chairperson - The Publicity Chairperson shall publicize the festivals and other activities of the organization and serve as the representative to the NYSSMA Publicity Committee.

All-County Choral Coordinator – The All-County Choral Coordinator shall be in charge of and coordinate the annual All County Elementary and Intermediate Choral Festival; be assisted by Elementary and Intermediate Choral chairpersons; follow procedures as outlined in the WCSMA Festival Manual; and revise and update these as appropriate and necessary (all revisions are subject to the approval of the Executive Board).

All-County Orchestra Coordinator - The All-County Orchestra Coordinator shall be in charge of and coordinate the annual All County Elementary and Intermediate Orchestra Festival; be assisted by Elementary and Intermediate Choral chairpersons; follow procedures as outlined in the WCSMA Festival Manual; and revise and update these as appropriate and necessary (all revisions are subject to the approval of the Executive Board).

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

Norman Brooks, former WCSMA President (1990-1992) and Supervisor of Music for New Rochelle Public Schools, passed away on January 10, 2014 in Arizona. Our hearts go out to his wife, Barbara and to his family and loved ones. Information about a memorial service in the spring will be sent to the membership as soon as it is available.

Public Relations

Westchester County School Music Association
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 Mount Kisco, NY 10549
www.wcsma.org