



WCSMA



WESTCHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION



President's Message

Jamie Stroffolino

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FESTIVAL

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Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! It is my hope that you have had a restful and rejuvenating summer.

I am privileged and honored to begin my term as your President. Currently, I am the Director of Choirs at Walter Panas High School in the Lakeland Central School District. This will be my 15th year in education, having taught at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels in all areas of music. I recently attained National Board Certification in Music (2020). Alongside my wife, Jacquelyn, we have hosted NYSSMA Solo festival, NYSSMA Piano festival, and NYSSMA Major festival. Previously, I worked with a team of music educators to coordinate Area All-State for our zone. I have also served our students as a NYSSMA Solo and Majors adjudicator. I am excited and humbled to team with our membership in this new role as President.

Please join me in welcoming the following individuals onto the Board of Directors:

- Jon Riss, President-elect
- Ricky Myint, Treasurer
- Margaret Chan, Publicity
- Patrick Murphy, Area All-State (beginning in January 2023)



Additionally, we would like to thank:

- Bill Eckfeld for his many years of service to the WCSMA Board. Although he most recently served as Treasurer, Bill has helped in nearly all roles on the Board and is also a Past President.
- Suzanne Forman for her leadership as President of WCSMA for the past two years. Sue is now our immediate Past-President and will continue to generously help guide our organization.
- Janet Corvini for her commitment to the WCSMA Board of Directors as Immediate Past President. Janet will remain as a Special Advisor.
- Stephanie Merkado-Weiss for her continuation as a WCSMA Special Advisor.
- Kathleen Coletta-Feldman for her continuation as a WCSMA Special Advisor.
- Charlie Bennet for his service to WCSMA as our Public Relations Officer.

THANK
YOU

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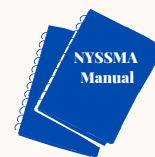




President's Message cont.

I would like to provide you with some information regarding our plans for festivals and additional happenings within Westchester County.

- Area All-State information will be coming shortly. We are excited to welcome back this festival, hosted by White Plains Public Schools, through the hard work of our AAS Coordinator Jon Riss. I am hoping that our high school teachers will consider volunteering to help at the AAS festival. If you are a new or veteran teacher this is an excellent way to get to know others from around the county.
- We are planning for a return of our All-County Jazz, Chorus, Band, and Orchestra festivals. Our All-County Coordinators (Jim Mullen, Jazz; Shadman Mirza, Orchestra; Jennifer Giustino, Chorus; and Caitlin Clarke, Band) are hard at work firming up the details.
- NYSSMA Festival details are located on our website (www.wcsma.org). Thank you to our hosts and volunteers for providing these opportunities for our students. Please note that the Piano festival is slated to return June 9-10, 2023, at Yorktown High School.
- NYSSMA has released the latest NYSSMA Manual Edition (33), and can be purchased through this website: <https://www.nyssma.org/committees/manual/>. Please make sure you refer to the latest NYSSMA Manual when planning for your students' NYSSMA experience.



The WCSMA Board of Directors is committed to serving the students and music educators of Westchester county. The past few years have brought about challenges that we could not anticipate. With your support as members, as well as the tremendous dedication of our Board of Directors, we continue to set our sights toward the future. Please let us know if we can help. We will be in regular communication regarding all of the wonderful happenings throughout the school year. Keep an eye on our website for important information and news. If you have new colleagues that are not currently WCSMA members, or if you need to renew your membership, please register at <https://wcsma.dacapomusicfestivals.com/>. Please be on the lookout for an email from TJ Bastone, our membership director, regarding membership renewal.

Most importantly, I hope that you continue to be well and keep the music alive.

Sincerely,

Jamie Stoffolino
WCSMA President



Annual Membership

TJ Bastone

I hope your school year is off to a smooth start! It has reached the time of year to renew your WCSMA membership! We look forward to many new and active members this year. In addition, [please forward this message to any new music colleagues in your district](#), and please provide me with contact information for any music teachers that may have recently retired from your district who would like to maintain membership.



Membership Registration EXISTING MEMBERS:

If you are an existing member looking to renew your membership, please DO NOT re-register on DaCapo! Instead, please log into your existing account, and follow the prompts for payment:

- a. **Payment via credit card**- follow the prompts on the screen
- b. **Payment via check**- click the green button, "Click here and print this invoice." Print the invoice, and mail the check to the address on the invoice.
- c. **Payment via district**- click the green button, "Click here and print this invoice." Print the invoice for district processing. It is important that your district-issued invoice or PO includes the names of every teacher that is being paid for.

***For clarification, you can watch [THIS VIDEO](#) starting at 1:47 for video instructions.

Membership Registration NEW MEMBERS & RECENT RETIREES:

If you are a new member, or someone who has retired in the 2021-22 school year, please click [HERE](#) for a step-by-step video explaining how to create your DaCapo membership account, or follow the steps below:

2. Visit <https://wcsma.dacapomusicfestivals.com/>
 3. Click "Register"
 4. Type in the **Access Code: "wcsmateacher"**
 5. Click "Click here to enter access code"
 6. Complete the Personal Membership Information
 7. Click "Click here to register for WCSMA Festival Nominations"
 8. Log in using your newly created username and password
 9. Follow the prompts for payment at the bottom of the screen
- a. **Payment via credit card**- follow the prompts on the screen
 - b. **Payment via check**- click the green button, "Click here and print this invoice." Print the invoice, and mail the check to the address on the invoice.
 - c. **Payment via district**- click the green button, "Click here and print this invoice." Print the invoice for district processing. It is important that your district-issued invoice or PO includes the names of every teacher that is being paid for.

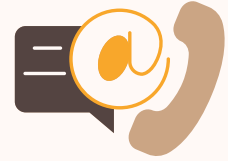
IMPORTANT

**ALL CHECKS
MUST BE MADE OUT TO
WCSMA**



FALL 2022

Annual Membership cont.



TJ Bastone

Below are some important notes regarding membership for this school year:

1. If your district pays for your dues, please ensure that your district issued invoice or PO includes the names of every teacher that is being paid for.
2. Dues for active/new members will remain at \$40.00. Membership dues for retirees will remain at \$25.00. Payment may be made via personal check or through a school purchase order. Payments should be made to WCSMA.
3. You are able to pay for your membership dues via credit card through AffiniPay (in lieu of PayPal) directly on the DaCapo site if you choose. Due to the electronic fees required by AffiniPay, the membership fee will be in the amount of \$42.00 for active/new members and \$27.00 for retired members.
4. **All membership registrations and dues will need to be submitted by November 1, 2022.** If you register after **November 1**, the fee will be \$50.00 for active/new members and \$35.00 for retirees if paid by personal check. If you pay via AffiniPay, there will be an additional \$2 surcharge.

WCSMA requests that all contact information (phone number, email address, school address) be submitted. If any member feels uncomfortable with any part of their contact information being made available in a membership directory, please email me individually. 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 via DaCapo.

If you need any additional assistance renewing your 2022-2023 WCSMA membership, please email me directly at bastonet@harrisoncsd.org.

As always, we thank you for your support and partnership. I wish you all the best in the year ahead!

Sincerely,

Thomas (TJ) Bastone

WCSMA Membership Chairperson
bastonet@harrisoncsd.org
255 Union Ave
Harrison, NY 10528



FALL 2022

Zone 11 NYSSMA Info

Kimberly Dunkin



Welcome back!

I hope you all had a restful summer.

The 2022-2023 NYSSMA festival calendar is posted and we are all set for our festivals this spring! You can find those dates, location in this newsletter. The 10-year rotation of NYSSMA festival hosting is also listed. Please look at this list carefully and start planning ahead. This rotation ensures that all our county's students have a good festival experience and that the work and hosting opportunity is shared equitably between us all.

Please note there is a new NYSSMA Manual Edition 33 (**green** inserts) that will take us through until Spring 2025. There are significant changes to this new manual, so please look carefully while selecting repertoire for your student solos and ensembles. Every year we have avoidable issues at festivals because students are sent with incorrect pieces, levels, editions, scales, etc, so please be diligent in reading all requirements and reach out to me if you have a question. As always, changes to the Rules and Regulations are noted with large black arrows in the margins.

Since this is a new manual, we have arranged to have Manual Editor Katie Struzik provide a workshop for us on November 2 at the Area All-State rehearsal. It will take place from 4:30-5:45 and is open to all WCSMA members, even if you are not attending AAS.

For those students who have been accepted into All-State, WCSMA has traditionally provided a bus to transport students to Rochester. There will be more details about this coming soon.

Lastly, if you are not already an NYSSMA/NAfME member, join us. Our state and country's professional music education organization, NYSSMA, and its parent organization, NAfME, help support and maintain our state, county, and local school music programs. In my experience, membership has been the best way to connect to and learn with other music educators, to stay informed and best serve our students. These organizations continue to work towards requiring every student receiving a high-level music education by a highly qualified certified music educator. [Become a member, Join/renew today.](#)

I look forward to seeing many of you at this year's festivals. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. Here's to a great year!

Kimberly Dunkin

Zone 11 NYSSMA Representative
zone11@nyssma.org



Area All-State Festival

by Jon Riss

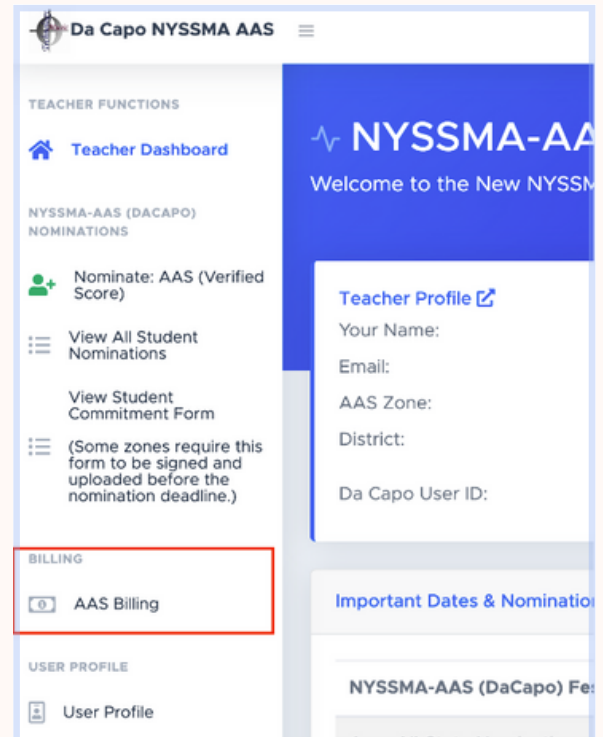
We hope you have all had a wonderful start to the school year!

Thank you for your patience as we encounter the inevitable growing pains of nominating and selecting Area All-State in a new way this year - both a new software platform and a new timeline. We have several pieces of information, two of which have come in moments before press time, so please do read each point below carefully.

1. At this time, groups have been selected. Selection results can be viewed by each nominating teacher at aas.dacapomusicfestivals.com by clicking on "AAS Billing" - a list of students accepted who were nominated by that teacher will be displayed (see screenshot below, with the area to click boxed in **red**).

2. NYSSMA's requirements for participation in school ensembles in order to be eligible for membership in AAS festivals has changed this year, as per page R-31 of the new NYSSMA Manual (Edition 33). The parts of the policy pertinent to our festival are pasted below, with the additional requirement printed in **blue**, for easy reference:

- An applicant must be a participating member of their corresponding school music organization at the time of the evaluation or audition and at the time of the applicant's membership in the Area All-State organization. Specifically:
 - An Area All-State Choral applicant must be a member of their school chorus.
 - An Area All-State String applicant must be a member of their school orchestra where such orchestra exists.
 - An Area All-State Wind or Percussion applicant must be a member of their school band or orchestra where such band or orchestra exists.
- **If the corresponding school music organization does not exist, then the applicant must be a member of some school major performing ensemble.**
- Participation is defined as a minimum of 50% attendance and practice at in-school rehearsals where such rehearsals are offered and at all concert performances with this same school organization.



We ask that all teachers of accepted students review this policy and verify that all accepted students they have nominated are eligible for AAS membership.

Area All-State Festival Cont.

Jon Riss

The Schedule is as follows:

Rehearsals

Band, Chorus, and Orchestra Rehearsal #1
Wednesday, October 19, 2022,
4:00PM-9:00PM at White Plains H.S.

Band, Chorus, and Orchestra Rehearsal #2
Wednesday, November 2, 2022,
4:00PM-9:00PM at White Plains H.S.

Band, Chorus, and Orchestra Rehearsal #3
Saturday, November 5, 2022,
9:00AM-12:00PM at White Plains H.S.

Concerts

Chorus
Saturday, November 5, 2022,
1:00PM-1:30PM at White Plains H.S.

Orchestra
Saturday, November 5, 2022,
2:00PM-2:30PM at White Plains H.S.

Band
Saturday, November 5, 2022,
3:00PM-3:30PM at White Plains H.S.

3. Please remember that all rehearsals and performances will be at White Plains High School. We are tremendously grateful to them for hosting performances, particularly since we had expected our usual venue to be available to rent again at this point. We will need to slightly adjust performance times to accommodate audience changes necessitated by the reality of seating limitations that come with holding a festival in a high school auditorium instead of a concert hall. Performance times will be 1:00 PM for Chorus, 2:00 PM for Orchestra, and 3:00 PM for Band.

4. Band and Chorus AAS music are available. For those who wish to pick music up, pertinent info is below. We will mail music not picked up out within 48-72 hours.

AAS Band music is available at Somers Intermediate School (240 Rt. 202, Somers, NY).

AAS Chorus music is available at Hastings High School (1 Mt. Hope Blvd, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY).

We are still waiting on AAS Orchestra music.



We suggest that students start to prepare by listening to available recordings of the repertoire they will be performing in November. A repertoire list can be found [here](#).



5. The NYSSMA required [COVID-19 and Contagious Disease Liability Waiver](#) can now be uploaded to each student's Da Capo account. If you have not yet submitted forms for your students, please do so by uploading a PDF of the signed form(s) to each student's entry in Da Capo. **This must be completed prior to the first rehearsal on October 19.**

6. NYSSMA does not have any vaccination, social distancing or other requirements in place for either student participants or audiences for our functions.

7. Finally, a friendly reminder to please sign-up to assist with our rehearsals and performances! Your help is greatly valued! You can find sign-ups [here](#).

We wish you and your students a successful September, and look forward to seeing you in October!

Best,
Jon Riss
Area All-State Coordinator

Senior High All-County Jazz Festival

James Mullen

Greetings Westchester band directors and jazz educators. I hope you are all off to a wonderful start to the new school year. We are so excited for the return of the Westchester All-County Jazz Festival. The dates for the 2023 Festival are as follows: All parts of the festival will take place at **Hommocks Middle School** (130 Hommocks Rd, Larchmont NY 10538).



- Auditions: Saturday, January 7th 2023 (9am-12pm)
- Rehearsal #1: Wednesday February 15 th (6:30-9:30pm)
- Rehearsal #2: Tuesday March 14 th (6:30-9:30pm)
- Rehearsal #3: Wednesday March 15 th (6:30-9:30pm)
- Concert: Friday March 17 th (St. Patrick's Day) 7:30pm

I realize it is a few months off but it would be great if you could start letting your students know about it and to start working on their prepared solos. It's been three years since we had the Jazz festival so it is literally brand new for every current Westchester high school student. With respect to new teachers and retirees, if there have been changes in your district with who directs the jazz programs please email me with names and etc. so I can update my lists.

Auditioning instruments include alto, tenor; baritone saxes; trumpets; trombones and rhythm section members (guitar/bass/piano/vibes/drums). Auditions consist of three parts (1) a prepared level 5 or 6 Jazz NYSSMA solo, (2) Jazz Sight Reading, and (3) Improvisation (level 5/6). **(Please note there has been some changes made in the Jazz section of the new edition of the NYSSMA manual. Please make sure you are looking edition 33).**

Please encourage your Jazz students to audition so we can insure enough participants to make two complete big bands. 🌞 I look forward to seeing your students at the January 2023 audition and please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks and take care,

James P. Mullen

jmullen@mamkschools.org

All-County Jazz Coordinator



Board of Directors

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Past President
Area All-State Coordinator
Senior High Jazz Festival Coordinator
Elementary & Intermediate Band Festival Coordinator
Elementary & Intermediate Choral Festival Coordinator
Elementary & Intermediate Orchestra Festival Coordinator
NYSSMA Zone Representative
Corresponding Secretary
Recording Secretary
Treasurer
Membership
Publicity
Webmaster
Special Advisor
Special Advisor
Special Advisor



Jamie Stroffolino
Jon Riss
Sue Forman
Jon Riss
James Mullen
Caitlin Clarke
Jennifer Giustino
Shadman Mirza
Kimberly Dunkin
Jessica Yeung
Dana Celestino
Ricky Myint
TJ Bastone
Margaret Chan
Marna Ellen Weiss
Kathleen Coletta Feldman
Janet Corvini
Stephanie Merkado-Weiss



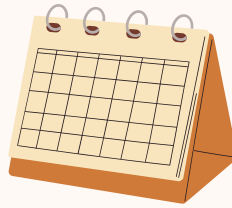
We need you!

Please sign-up to assist with our Area All-State rehearsals and performances!

Your help is greatly valued!
You can find sign-ups [here](#).



Calendar of Events



WCSMA Open House

October 3rd

2022 NAFME National Conference

November 2 - 6, 2022
National Harbor, Maryland

2022 NYSSMA (R) Winter

Conference December 1 - 4, 2022
Rochester, NY

AREA ALL-STATE

Area All-State Rehearsal #1

Wednesday, October 19, 2022
White Plains High School
4:00 - 9:00 PM

Area All-State Rehearsal #2

Wednesday, November 2, 2022
White Plains High School
4:00 - 9:00 PM

Area All-State Festival

Saturday, November 5, 2022
White Plains High School
Rehearsal #3 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Concert 2:00 PM

ALL-COUNTY BAND & ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL DATES

All-County Band, Chorus & Orchestra Rehearsals and Concert Dates (TBD)

SR. HIGH ALL-COUNTY JAZZ FESTIVAL DATES

All-County Jazz Band Auditions

Saturday, January 7, 2023
Hommocks, MS, Mamaroneck
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

All-County Jazz Band Rehearsal #1

Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Hommocks, MS, Mamaroneck
6:30 - 9:30 PM

All-County Jazz Band Rehearsal #2

Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Hommocks, MS, Mamaroneck
6:30 - 9:30 PM

All-County Jazz Band Rehearsal #3

Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Hommocks, MS, Mamaroneck
6:30 - 9:30 PM

All-County Jazz Band Concert

Friday, March 15, 2023
Hommocks, MS, Mamaroneck
7:30 PM Concert

NYSSMA FESTIVAL DATES

Down-County Festival

March 10 & 11, 2023
Scarsdale
Lisa Forte, Host
No piano, classical guitar, harp, or Strings I-IV

Strings Levels 1-4 Festival

(Including ALL levels harp and guitar) April 14-15, 2023 Rye Neck
Caitlin Clarke & Jessica Yeung, Hosts

Up - County Festival

April 21-22, 2023
Ossining
Kate Mathews, Host
No jazz, piano, classical guitar, harp, or Strings I-IV

Piano Festival

June 9-10, 2023
Yorktown
Jennifer Flynn, Host

Majors Festival

May 23 (Orchestra)
May 24 (Band)
May 25 (Chorus)
Walter Panas High School
Jamie Stroffolino, Host

