



NYSSMA NEWS



ZONE 11
SEPTEMBER 2025

ZONE 11 AREA ALL-STATE

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15

Rehearsal #1 from 4:00-9:00 at WPHS

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 29

Rehearsal #2 from 4:00-9:00 at WPHS

THURSDAY OCTOBER 30

Rehearsal #3 from 9:00-3:00 at SUNY
Concert at 8:00 at SUNY

Reminder: AAS fees increased to \$30 this year!

ZONE 11 AREA ALL-STATE CONDUCTORS

BAND

Dr. Jamal Duncan

STRING ORCHESTRA

Dr. Richard Webb

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Jim Millar

TREBLE & MIXED CHORUSES

Shoshana Hershkowitz & Eric Williamson

NYACDA/NYSBDA REBATE

If you attended either of the summer conferences offered by NYACDA or NYSBDA, you can be reimbursed \$20 from NYSSMA. Please fill out the link below by September 15.

Rebate offer: [Click here](#)



NYSSMA ACADEMY

NYSSMA is again offering **four virtual workshops** throughout the year on a variety of topics. Click below for details on the dates, times, and topics of each session. **CTLE credit is available.**

NYSSMA Academy:
[Details and Registration here](#)

NYSSMA ELECTIONS

Please keep an eye out for a ballot arriving in the mail toward the end of September. This year, Zone 11 members are eligible to vote on three items:

- President-Elect
- Zone 11 Representative
- A change to the constitution

If your membership was active as of 9/1, you should receive a paper ballot in the mail. If you are joining or renewing after 9/1 and want to ensure you receive a ballot, please email me as soon as possible. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining.

Your vote matters. Please stay informed and make your voice heard. If you have questions about the voting process, don't hesitate to reach out — I'll do my best to assist you.



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WINTER CONFERENCE AND ALL-STATE

81 students from Zone 11 were accepted into All-State ensembles, or listed as alternates. There were 6,339 applications (5,584 students), and roughly 800 students were selected. Additionally, we have 3 students in the Piano Showcase, 4 in the Composer Showcase, 5 in the Electronic Music Showcase, 1 in the Songwriting Showcase, and 2 in the first-ever Modern Band. Bravo!

HOTEL INFO

Ensembles will rehearse where housed (except Instrumental Jazz and String Orchestra)

- **DOUBLETREE:**
 - Mixed Chorus
 - Treble Chorus
 - Vocal Jazz
- **MARRIOTT AIRPORT:** Symphony Orchestra
- **WYNDHAM (Former Holiday Inn):**
 - Symphonic Band - Ballroom
 - Wind Ensemble - River Room
 - Instrumental Jazz - Hilton Lower Level
 - String Orchestra - Hyatt Ballrooms ABC

ALL-STATE CONDUCTORS

SYMPHONIC BAND: Dr. Courtney Snyder

WIND ENSEMBLE: Dr. David Vandewalker

TREBLE CHORUS: Dr. Jennifer Sengin

Accompanist: Jon Riss

MIXED CHORUS: Dr. Brandon Boyd

Accompanist: Alison Shaut

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Dr. Jeff Meyer

STRING ORCHESTRA: Anthony Elliott

INSTRUMENTAL JAZZ: Ellen Rowe

VOCAL JAZZ: Alison Crockett

WCSMA RECEPTION

If you are attending the NYSSMA Winter Conference in Rochester, please join us at our WCSMA reception! We are switching things up this year and changing the time and location. Stay tuned for more details. WCSMA will provide some light bites and a free drink! Please stop by and say hello!

BUS TO ROCHESTER

WCSMA is offering a bus for Zone 11 All-State students. **Cost for students is \$150.** Details will be released soon, but you may inform students of this transportation option.

If you would like a free ride to/from Rochester, please consider being a bus chaperone!

Deadline for payment will be 11/1.





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NEW DIGITAL MANUAL

I would highly recommend familiarizing yourself with the new digital manual *before* the spring festival season begins. Keep in mind it is new to all of us, myself included. There will be kinks, and I am also learning alongside you. If you see any issues, please let me know and I will pass the information on to those who can fix them.

SOLO FESTIVALS

April 10-11: PIANO

- Walter Panas HS (Lakeland)
- Patrick Murphy, host

April 24-25: STRINGS I-IV (+harp/guitar)

- Springhurst Elementary (Dobbs Ferry)
- David Hertzberg & Paul Huneke, hosts

May 8-9: DOWN-COUNTY

- Louis M. Klein MS (Harrison)
- Matt Royal, host

May 29-30: UP-COUNTY/JAZZ*

- Somers HS
- Ricky Myint, host

* jazz alternates up/down county each year

MAJORS FESTIVALS

Last year was the first time we used two sites, and we experienced both the advantages and challenges of that approach. This year, we will again have two sites; however, organized by **choral** and **instrumental** rather than by proximity. We will have two choral days and three instrumental.

CHORAL: Fox Lane MS (Bedford)
May 19-20

INSTRUMENTAL: Mamaroneck HS
May 18-20

HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

If you're a new teacher or new to Zone 11, please feel free to say hello if you see me around—I love meeting new people!

Whether you're new or a veteran teacher, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions about NYSSMA. Have a fantastic start to the 2025-2026 year!

Kirshen
zonellenyssma.org

STAY UPDATED: RENEW!

To continue receiving updates at the state and national level, please make sure that your NYSSMA/NAfME membership does not lapse. You may renew your membership at the link below.

Renew [here](#).

