

The North Jersey School Music Association
proudly presents

The

*Twenty-Fourth Annual
High School
Concert Band Festival*

March 19, 2024

*West Essex Regional High School, 9:00 am
Hanover Park High School, 6:00 pm*

March 20, 2024

*Parsippany Hills High School, 9:00 am
Verona High School, 6:30 PM*

March 21, 2024

Mount Olive Middle School, 9:00 am

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
West Essex Regional High School

West Essex High School Concert Band – Elise McAloon, Director

Selection #1: Let Your Spirit Sing.....Julie Giroux
Musica Propria

Selection #2: Chant RitualsElliot Del Borgo
Belwin Band

Northern Highlands Regional High School Wind Ensemble – Taylor Rehe, Director

Selection #1: Colorado Peaks.....Samuel R. Hazo
Hal Leonard

Selection #2: Solas Ane (Yesterday's Joy).....William Owens
FJH Music

Pascack Hills Concert Band – Ryan Dore, Director

Selection #1: The Seal Lullaby.....Eric Whitacre
Murphy Music Press

Selection #2: Unknown.....Brian Balmages
FJH Music

Irvington High School Concert Band – Matthew Peterson, Director

Selection #1: Ancient Voices.....Michael Sweeney
Hal Leonard

Selection #2: Childhood Hymn.....David Holsinger
Wingert Jones

Morristown High School Symphonic Band – David Gallagher, Director

Selection #1: The Wishing Well.....Rossano Galante
Hal Leonard

Selection #2: Among The Clouds.....Brian Balmages
FJH Music

Wayne Hills High School Symphonic Band – Annie Pascale & Matthew J. Paterno Directors

Selection #1: American Barndance.....Richard L. Saucedo
Music Works

Selection #2: Kirkpatrick Fanfare.....Andrew Boyson Jr.
Wingert-Jones

Morristown High School Wind Ensemble – David Gallagher, Director

Selection #1: Hour Of Wolves.....Kimberly Archer
C. Alan

Selection #2: Mannin Veen.....Haydn Wood
Haydn Wood

West Essex High School Symphonic Winds – Elise McAloon, Director

Selection #1: Solas Ané.....Samuel R. Hazo
Hal Leonard

Selection #2: A Longford Legend.....Robert Sheldon
Alfred

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Hanover Park Regional High School

Livingston High School Wind Symphony – Michael Jedwabnik, Director

Selection #1: The Rusty Bucket (And Other Juke Joints).....Carol Brittin Chambers
Carl Fischer.

Selection #2: Like the Stars Forever and Ever.....Charles L. Booker Jr.
Alfred Publishing

Clifton High School Wind Ensemble – Bryan Stepneski, Director

Selection #1: Allerseelen.....Richard Strauss arr. Albert O. Davis
Ludwig Masters

Selection #2: Play!.....Carl Holmquist
C. Alan Publications

West Orange High School Wind Ensemble – Lewis C. Kelly, Director

Selection #1: On This Bright Morning.....David Maslanka
Maslanka Press

Selection #2: Danza No. 2.....Bruce Yurko
Ludwig Masters

Pequannock Township High School Concert Band – Anthony Streifer, Director

Selection #1: Benediction.....John Stevens
Hal Leonard

Selection #2: Lightning Field.....John Mackey
Osti Music Inc.

Hanover Park High School Symphonic Band – David Finkelstein & Joe Spina, Directors

Selection #1: On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss.....David R. Holsinger
TRN Music Publisher

Selection #2: River of Life.....Steven Reineke
C.L. Barnhouse

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Parsippany Hills High School

Parsippany Hills High School Concert Band – Michelle Christianson, Director

Selection #1: Sinfonia VI.....Timothy Broege
Manhattan Beach Music

Selection #2: Abracadabra.....Frank Ticheli
Manhattan Beach Music

West Orange High School Concert Band – Erin Lagatic, Director

Selection #1: All The Pretty Little Horses.....Anne McGinty
Queenwood/Kjos

Selection #2: Skyward.....Katahj Copley
Murphy Music Press LLC

Pascack Valley High School Symphonic Band – Craig Yaremko, Director

Selection #1: Cajun Folk Songs.....Frank Ticheli
Manhattan Beach Music

Selection #2: Lightning Field.....John Mackey
Osti Music

Randolph High School Symphonic Band – Michael S. Lichtenfeld, Director

Selection #1: West Highlands Sojourn.....Robert Sheldon
C L Barnhouse

Selection #2: Escape from the Deep.....Brian Balmages
FJH Music

Nutley High School Honors Wind Ensemble – Angelina Hamada, Director

Selection #1: Contre Qui, Rose.....Morten Lauridsen, arr. H. Robert Reynolds
Peermusic Classical

Selection #2: Homage to Bharat Reflections of India.....Brian Balmages
FJH Music

Randolph High School Wind Ensemble – Nicholas Fantazzi, Director

Selection #1: Mother Earth.....David Maslanka
Carl Fischer

Selection #2: Chorale and Shaker Dance.....John Zdechlik
Neil A. Kjos Music

West Orange High School Ninth Grade Band – Joshua Zimmer, Director

Selection #1: Dance Episodes.....James Curnow
Curnow Music

Selection #2: Among the Clouds.....Brian Balmages
FJH Music

West Orange High School Symphonic Winds – Erin Lagatic, Director

Selection #1: Festivo.....Vaclav Nelhybel
Belwin Mills

Selection #2: Dragonfly.....Katahj Copley
Katahj Copley Music

Mahwah High School Symphonic Band – Jeffrey Bittner, Director

Selection #1: Third Suite.....Robert Jager
II. Waltz
III. Rondo
Belwin/Alfred

Selection #2: K2: The Savage Mountain.....Julie Giroux
Musica Propria

Parsippany Hills High School Wind Ensemble – Michael Iapicca, Director

Selection #1: Amazing Grace.....Frank Ticheli
Manhattan Beach Music

Selection #2: Le Régiment de Sambre et Meuse.....Robert Planquette
Carl Fischer

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Verona High School

Whippany Park High School Wind Ensemble – Carl Sabitino, Director

Selection #1: Whispers from Beyond.....Rossano Galante
Alfred

Selection #2: Urban Dances.....Erik Morales
FJH Music

Millburn High School Wind Ensemble – Anthony Fabrizio, Director

Selection #1: On This Bright Morning.....David Maslanka
Maslanka Press

Selection #2: Danza No. 2.....Bruce Yurko
Ludwig Masters

North Bergen High School Wind Ensemble – Michael Connor, Director

Selection #1: Kirkpatrick Fanfare.....Andrew Boysen, Jr.
Wingert-Jones Publications

Selection #2: K2 "The Savage Mountain".....Julie Giroux
Musica Propria

Verona High School Concert Band – Erik Lynch, Director

Selection #1: The Glory of the Yankee Navy March.....John Philip Sousa
The United States Marine Band

Selection #2: Danza No. 2.....Bruce Yurko
Ludwig Masters

Thursday, March 21, 2024
Mount Olive Middle School

Mount Olive High School Symphonic Band – Timothy Burke, Director

Selection #1: Peacemaker March.....Karl L. King arr. Swearingen
Barnhouse

Selection #2: Suite from Bohemia.....Vaclav Nelhybel
Canyon Press

Northern Valley High School at Old Tappan Symphonic Band – Amy Wilcox, Director

Selection #1: Yorkshire Ballad.....James Barnes
Southern Music

Selection #2: Fearless.....Carol Brittin Chambers
Excelcia Music Publishing

Hackettstown High School Wind Ensemble – Adam Freeman, Director

Selection #1: An American Elegy.....Frank Ticheli
Manhattan Beach Music

Selection #2: Early Light.....Carolyn Bremer
Carl Fischer

West Morris Central High School Wind Ensemble – Mick Gibbons & Kyle Gelatka, Directors

Selection #1: Spoon River.....Percy Grainger arr. Glenn Cliffe Bainum
G. Shirmer, Inc.

Selection #2: Minimalist Dances.....Matt Conaway
C.L. Barnhouse

Northern Valley High School at Old Tappan Wind Ensemble – Amy Wilcox, Director

Selection #1: Solace Dance.....Nicole Pjunno
Murphy Music Press

Selection #2: With Heart and Voice.....David Gillingham
C Alan/McClaren Publications

Kinnelon High School Wind Ensemble – Ryan Stroud, Director

Selection #1: Heaven's Light.....Steven Reineke
C.L. Barnhouse

Selection #2: Arabian Dances.....Brian Balmages
FJH Music

Ramsey High School Wind Ensemble – Joshua Jenkins, Director

Selection #1: Ripten Wed.....Julie Giroux
Musica Propria, Inc.

Selection #2: Tempered Steel.....Charles Rochester Young
Southern Music

Mount Olive High School Wind Ensemble Honors – Darrell Hendricks, Director

Selection #1: October.....Eric Whitacre
Hal Leonard

Selection #2: Equus.....Eric Whitacre
Hal Leonard

How the Festival is Adjudicated

Interpretation – 30 points
Tone/Intonation – 20 points
Ensemble Technique – 20 points
Balance – 20 points
Literature – 10 points

TOTAL POINTS – 100

88 – 100 = Gold Rating
72 – 87 = Silver Rating
50 – 71 = Bronze Rating
05 – 49 = Participation Award

The Adjudicators

Dr. Shelley Axelson is currently the Director of Bands at Radford University in Virginia where she conducts the Wind Ensemble, Campus-Community Band, graduate conducting students, and teaches courses in the music education curriculum. She was previously an Assistant Professor of Music Education and Assistant Director of Bands at Montclair State University in New Jersey for twelve years where her duties included conducting the Symphonic Band and teaching courses in conducting, instrumental methods, and music education. She also served as an academic advisor, and faculty advisor for Sigma Alpha Iota, and created a Campus Band and Pep Band so students majoring in a subject other than music would have an opportunity to continue their musical education and experiences.

Dr. Axelson earned her undergraduate degree in music education from the University of South Florida, where she studied conducting with Jerry Junkin, Michael Votta, and Mallory Thompson. She continued her training by earning a Master of Music degree in Conducting at the University of Michigan, where her principal teacher was H. Robert Reynolds. After graduating from Michigan, she taught at Pasco Middle School in Dade City, Florida (co-author of the Secondary Music Curriculum), and Richardson Junior High in Richardson, Texas.

After earning her Doctorate in Conducting with Mallory Thompson at Northwestern University, Dr. Axelson was appointed Director of Bands at Central College in Pella, Iowa where she was responsible for running all aspects of the band program. After three years in Iowa, she relocated to Indianapolis, Indiana to become the Assistant Professor of Music Education at the University of Indianapolis. In 2009, she joined the faculty of the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University in New Jersey and has been at Radford University since the fall of 2022.

Dr. Axelson is a highly sought-after conductor, clinician, presenter, and adjudicator for professional development events, band festivals, honor bands, and conferences throughout the United States and Canada. She recently presented at the National Association for Music Education Regional Conference in Atlantic City and the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago.

Dr. Axelson is a proud member of the College Music Society, College Band Directors National Association, National Association for Music Education, and Sigma Alpha Iota.

Dr. Dominic Talanca is Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Dr. Talanca conducts the Symphonic Band & Pep Band, teaches courses in conducting & woodwind techniques and administers all aspects of the band program. He is also the conductor of the Wilmington Symphonic Winds, Wilmington Symphony Pops Orchestra, Wilmington Chamber Orchestra, and the OLLI New Horizons Band.

Talanca received a Bachelor of Music Education degree and a Master of Music in Wind Conducting degree from the University of North Texas, where he studied conducting with Eugene Migliaro Corporon. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting degree at Northwestern University, where he studied with Mallory Thompson.

Dr. Talanca taught for ten years in the Lewisville Independent School District in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and served as the Associate Director of Bands at Marcus High School in Flower Mound, Texas from 2006-2013, during which time the student musicians were recognized for their performances in concert and marching activities - earning numerous placements in the All-Region and All-State ensembles as well as 4 consecutive biannual Texas 5A State Marching Championship Awards.

Talanca co-authored a beginning band method, *Musical Mastery*, published by MRNS Music. The text is used in 140+ school districts (over 400 schools) in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, and internationally (e.g., Japan and Oman) – impacting an estimated 100,000+ students to date. Several universities have also adopted the book as the primary text for their instrumental methods classes.

Additionally, Dr. Talanca has contributed three chapters to GIA Publications *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* series in addition to published journal articles for the music education journals in North Carolina, Utah, Arkansas, and an article in the *WASBE Journal*. He has presented multiple times at The Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference in Chicago and numerous other music education conferences in North Carolina, Texas, and Utah. He has recorded over 450 significant works in the wind band repertoire on the Mark Custom, Klavier, Naxos, and GIA recording labels. Talanca has also had the privilege to conduct as well as perform & record with the Lone Star Wind Orchestra.

Dr. Talanca is an active conductor, clinician, and adjudicator. In recent years, he has been invited to guest conduct ensembles throughout North Carolina and across the country, regularly engaging with thousands of secondary school students each year. His professional affiliations include Pi Kappa Lambda (National Music Honor Society), the College Band Directors National Association, North Carolina Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, and he is an honorary member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

The Clinicians

Curt Ebersole has served as the Conductor and Music Director (John P. Paynter Memorial Chair) of the Westchester Symphonic Winds since 2008, fostering its exponential growth and success over the past sixteen years. He led the Westchester Symphonic Winds in their Carnegie Hall debut in 2023, their Lincoln Center debut in 2010 at Avery Fisher Hall, and in their convention and exchange performances in Chicago, Poughkeepsie, Stamford, and Syracuse, as well as annual sold-out summer festival performances at the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts (Katonah, NY) since 2014. He retired from Northern Valley Regional High School (Old Tappan, NJ) in 2013 after serving as Director of Instrumental Music for 31 years, where his ensembles were honored with consistent critical accolades and his instrumental Prism Concerts became a local rite of spring. He now serves on the faculty at The Masters School, in Dobbs Ferry, New York, where he teaches String Ensemble, Chamber Music, and Public Speaking. He earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree and a Master of Music in Conducting degree from Northwestern University, where he studied conducting with John P. Paynter and clarinet with Larry Combs, and a Master of Fine Arts in Clarinet Performance from SUNY-Purchase, where he studied with Ben Armato.

Ebersole has served as a guest conductor and clinician for numerous county, regional, all-state, university, and adult community ensembles around the world, including multiple performances at Carnegie Hall, as well as Avery Fisher Hall, Symphony Space, University of Georgia, Syracuse University, Hartwick College, Georgia State University, and with the US Army Field Band, in addition to performances in Las Vegas, South Korea, and Sydney, Australia. He is the founding coordinator of the Music Educators of Bergen County Wind Conducting Symposium. He has served as a clinician at the Midwest Clinic, Temple University Wind Conducting and Teaching Workshops, Florida Music Educators Association Convention, New York State Band Directors Association, and presented his TED Talk, "Framing Failure," at TEDxOneonta in 2017. He is a practitioner of Positive Psychology and the Harkness Method. His performance credits encompass solo and ensemble performances as both a clarinetist and basset hornist, and include an appearance with the West Point Band on their recording of the Roy Harris Symphony (2022).

Ebersole has earned multiple awards, including the New Jersey Music Educators Association Master Music Teacher Award (2003), New Jersey Governor's Award in Arts (2003), New Jersey Governor's Teacher Recognition Award (2009), the Yale University Distinguished Music Educator Award (2011), and the Jane Rechtman Faculty Chair at The Masters School (2019-2023). Ebersole led the Westchester Symphonic Winds to earn triple awards in The American Prize competition, including first place for community wind ensemble, second place as conductor, and third place for American music performance in 2019. He serves as a volunteer tour guide and docent at the Percy Grainger Home & Studio in White Plains, New York. His professional memberships include NAFME, CBDNA, and Pi Kappa Lambda.

Ebersole is a native of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and a current resident of White Plains, New York. In addition to his busy musical life, he enjoys riding America's fastest and tallest roller coasters.

Dr. Todd Nichols currently serves as Director of University Bands at Rutgers University. His duties include oversight and administration of the university band program, directing the Marching Scarlet Knights and Symphonic Winds, and teaching various courses including undergraduate and graduate conducting. As Director of the Marching Scarlet Knights, Nichols led highly acclaimed performances for the NFL's nationally televised Monday Night Football and for President Joe Biden.

Nichols annually serves as a guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and recording producer and is especially honored to have guest conducted the United States Army Field Band. Nichols is an advocate for new compositions supporting the efforts of composers in over 30 commissions. Nichols currently serves as President for the Big Ten Band Directors' Association.

As artistic director for the Eastern Wind Symphony, Nichols conducted highly acclaimed performances at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center and recorded recent releases Resurgence and Elements. Under his direction, the EWS received multiple Grammy Award nominations of eligibility and have been invited to perform at major conventions including the 2021 and 2015 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, 2019 ACB National Convention, 2017 NAFME All Eastern Convention, and 2017 ITG Conference. In addition, Nichols currently serves as Assistant Conductor for the Garden State Symphonic Band.

For nineteen years Nichols served as Director of Bands at Roxbury and Edison High School in New Jersey, where his ensembles were recognized for outstanding performance at numerous local, state, and many prestigious national festivals and concerts. Nichols recently co-authored two articles accepted for publication in The Journal of Band Research and WASBE Journal. His professional affiliations include the BIG, WASBE, CBDNA, and AFM.

Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

West Essex Regional High School Host: Elise McAloon

Hanover Park Regional High School: Joseph Spina

Parsippany Hills High School Hosts: Michelle Christianson and Michael Iapicca

Verona High School Host: Erik Lynch

Mount Olive Middle School Hosts: Darrel Henricks and Melany McQueeney

Festival Co-Chairs:

Mike Iapicca - Parsippany Hills High School

John J. Maiello - retired

Amy Wilcox - Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan

NJSMA Band Division Chairs:

Michelle Christianson - Parsippany Hills High School

Lewis C. Kelly - West Orange High School

Chris Zwarych - Hackettstown Middle School

A very special thank you goes out to the administration and custodial staff at each of our host schools. In addition, the success of this festival is only possible with the help of each school's Music/Band Parent Associations - many thanks!