



North Jersey School Music Association

Region I of the New Jersey Music Educators Association

www.njsma.com

January 2023

Greetings to all of our colleagues! I hope that your year is going well and all of your winter/holiday performances were successful. We are now about to embark on our busy season that will take us through early Spring.

To get things started this year on October 10th, our NJSMA Elementary Music Fall Workshop featuring guest clinician Amy Abbott was a huge success! Thank you to all participants, committee members, guest performers (The Chanteurs - NJ Choral Society ensemble) and our sponsor (Music is Elementary) for the participants' tote bags and giveaways. We were also very happy to offer the High School Chorus Festivals this year and would like to thank our adjudicators Dr. Heather Buchanan, Dr. Barbara Klemp, Dr. Nick McBride and Dr. Brandon Williams for working with our choirs. We would also like to thank our host schools; Montclair State University, Mountain Lakes High School, and Chatham High School.

The Region I High School Band, Chorus, Orchestra & Intermediate Orchestra auditions will be held this Saturday, January 7th at Clifton High School. We would like to thank the staff at Clifton High School for hosting auditions. Also, a huge thank you to our audition chairs and divisions for their hard work getting everything organized. Thanks to the continuing work of our Diversity & Inclusion Division we were able to continue our fee waiver program this year (intermediate & high school).

Our Intermediate Chorus Festival is scheduled for Friday January 20, 2023. As always, we appreciate our participating choirs, hosts, and adjudicators. The Intermediate Band & Chorus auditions will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023 with a snow date of Sunday, February 12, 2023 at Wayne Valley High School. We would like to thank Mr. Gabe Batiz and Wayne Valley HS for hosting auditions. This year's High School Region Concert Band Festival will be held March 21, 22, 23. Hosts include Parsippany Hills High School, Hanover Park High School, West Essex Regional High School and Bergenfield High School. The Intermediate Concert Band Festival will be held April 26, 2023. The evening location for this event is Pequannock Township High School and a daytime festival is also in the works.

We hope to see many of you at the NJMEA State Conference in February. There is a great slate of workshops planned for every grade level and performance area. NJSMA will be having a membership meeting on Friday, February 24th. Please check the schedule of events for the exact time and location. We are also planning to once again host a social gathering for our members. That info will also be communicated by email once time and location are confirmed.

As we look ahead, our elementary general music division is co-sponsoring a workshop with The New Jersey Youth Chorus on Saturday, April 1, 2023. "It's Elementary, My Dear" will feature a variety of workshops including Folk Dancing with a Twist (popular music), Tinikling and Orff on a Cart. Registration information is on the NJSMA website. The 5th Annual Elementary Choral Celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at Drew University. We are thrilled to welcome our guest clinicians, Dr. Nick McBride (TCNJ) and Sarah Michael (Drew University). Details can be found on the NJSMA website (<https://njsma.org/elementaryhome/>).

We will be holding our first Guitar Fest on Saturday, May 13th. More details to follow as they are confirmed. If you are interested in conducting the guitar ensemble, please email diversity@njsma.org directly.

None of our events run without many hands behind the scenes. We are always looking for volunteers with any level of experience to serve as site host, audition chair, manager and executive board member (just to name a few). If you want to be involved, we have a spot and will work alongside you throughout the entire process.

Are you interested in conducting a region ensemble? Please fill out the form on our website. Once completed, it will be immediately sent to your respective division.

Directors who would like to suggest a new high school or intermediate band solo for future auditions are encouraged to do so. The process for having a new solo considered is to contact the band chairpersons and provide a copy of the music for

them. Your suggestion will be submitted to a committee for review (NJ Band Procedures Committee for high school solos) and added to the rotation if deemed appropriate.

We are still actively trying to connect with the new teachers in our region and those who have not been active as an NJSMA member. If you are reading this or know someone, please have them reach out to our corresponding secretary (publicity@njsma.org) or fill out the contact form on our website. All relevant information about our region is on the website (njsma.org). The calendar section is up to date with all of our confirmed events as of this letter. Contact info for all executive board members/divisions is listed under the officers section.

Thank you for everything you do to provide our students with the best musical education possible. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Christopher J. DeWilde
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