



Notes

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Music,

As we enjoy the colorful leaves, cooler weather, and pumpkins on our porches, I want to welcome everyone back. I am really looking forward to another wonderful year filled with beautiful music.

I am grateful for a year of concerts, a middle school field trip, educational and performing opportunities for all students, a district wide choral festival, and our high school musical. I am very excited to see what opportunities our grant money will bring. Last year we were able to provide instruments, guest conductors/composers, and scholarships. We were also able to support the annual Jazz Festival along with the district wide Orchestra Festival.

We could not do our work without your help. Please consider becoming a friend of music or supporting our organization through a corporate membership. Our most delicious fundraiser, our pie and tea bread sale, is up and running. These treats from Mourningkill Farm Bakery are perfect for holiday entertaining or as gifts. We also are excited to offer our second apparel sale. Friends of Music merchandise makes an amazing holiday gift for the musicians you love. Visit our website, www.niskyfom.org, for information on how to order.

To the students, I am very excited to see your growth over the upcoming school year. One of my favorite things is watching a concert with the auditorium packed with proud family and friends. It is such a great event for our community to come together.

To the teachers, thank you for giving our students the knowledge and confidence to help them succeed. Thank you for your dedication to our musicians.

To those in our community who support us, thank you! We could not provide our level of commitment to the wonderful music program without your generosity. We are very lucky to have such a strong music department and I feel incredibly grateful that we are able to support our teachers and students.

As we head into the holiday season, my hope is that music provides you with joy and peace.

With warmest wishes,

Sarah Frank Spindler

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! The music department faculty is so glad to welcome students back into our classrooms and ensembles!

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

9 students were selected as participants or alternates for this year's All-State Conference to be held in Rochester. Congratulations on this honor!

Eujeong Choi, Cello, Symphony Orchestra
Lily Graham, Soprano, Mixed Chorus
Aidan Page, Tenor, Mixed Chorus
Sophie Spindler, Soprano, Mixed Chorus

Sofia Trimarchi, Alto, Mixed Chorus
Lucia Vysohlid, Tuba, Symphonic Band
Andrew Watkins, Oboe, Symphonic Band

Elizabeth Ogonowski, Soprano, Alternate
Nathan Yan, Jazz Tenor Saxophone, Alternate

AREA ALL-STATE 2023

The following students are accepted into the 2023 Area All-State festival.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Nathaniel Allen
Sean Calhoun
Aryeh Korevaar
Evelyn Mok
Isabelle Mok
Andrew Watkins

SYMPHONIC BAND

Cyrus Joo-Schwaber
Pic (Manami) Kerins
Daniel Korevaar

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Noah Martinez
Lucia Vysohlid
Nathan Yan

MIXED CHOIR

Mark Ferri
Eliana Garmil
Lily Graham
Alex LaFargue
Katherine Makrin
Samuel Meyer-Veen
Stella Myers
Elizabeth Ogonowski
Samuel Radez
Sophie Spindler
Sofia Trimarchi
Alexis Tull
Vivianne VanHoesen

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

NEW FACULTY

Dr. Timothy Solinger (Band Faculty) received a diploma from the Juilliard Pre-Collegiate Division, earned his Bachelor of Music in Music Education at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, and holds a Master of Music degree in trombone from the University of Akron. He was awarded the Doctor of Musical Arts in Trombone from SUNY Stony Brook and comes to us from the Schoharie Central School District, where he taught for six years. We are excited to welcome Dr. Solinger to Craig and the middle schools where he teaches lessons and the 6th Gr. Band.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

We're proud to announce our upcoming production of *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma!*, February 29 – March 2, 2024. Auditions take place in November and ticket sales begin in January.

DISTRICT CHORAL FESTIVAL

We're excited to return to Proctor's Theatre for our festival featuring students in grades 5-12 with a concert on Wednesday, March 13 featuring guest conductor Shavon Lloyd! Look for more details this winter.

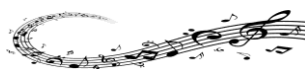
NYSSMA FESTIVAL

We're happy to share that we will host a spring NYSSMA festival here at Niskayuna High School, May 3-4. It is a wonderful opportunity for students to prepare a solo and get great feedback from music teachers from across the state. Participation is often a pre-requisite for participation in festivals like Suburban Council, Schenectady County, Area All-State and more! We hope students will take advantage of the chance and will be looking for volunteers of all ages to help us welcome about 2,000 student musicians to our school. Thank you to the Friends of Music for your support in this endeavor!

MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP

Our 7th and 8th grade band, chorus and orchestra students will travel to perform at the Music In The Parks Festival at Six Flags New England in Agawam, Massachusetts on May 10th! Information will be shared by ensemble conductors. You can reach out to your student's teacher for more information.

~Eric Hughes



MAKE A LASTING LEGACY



The Name-A-Chair Project

In order to ensure the future success of the Niskayuna Performing Arts Programs, the community members, parents and businesses are invited to contribute to the Name-A-Chair Project. The names of those making a pledge will be engraved on the arms of the new auditorium seats.

Our Goal

We'd like to kick-off our campaign with 100 seats engraved! Contributions will support improvements in the auditorium to enhance the acoustics on stage, sound technology, and lighting for the audience.

They also make great graduation gifts or to recognize a special musician in your life.

What is the Cost?

Each plate is \$150 for individuals and families or \$250 for businesses. We are a 501(c)3 organization and your employer may match your contribution.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please check one:

- Individual/Family: \$150 per chair
- Business: \$250 per chair
- My contribution can be matched by my employer _____.

Please send this form with your check (made payable to Niskayuna Friends of Music) with "Name-A-Chair Project" written in the memo section to: Niskayuna Friends of Music, Niskayuna High School, 1626 Balltown Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309

Line 1:

Line 2:

There are 44 characters including letters, spaces and punctuation available per plate, divided into two 22-character rows. No messages please - only names of individuals or businesses will be engraved. Engraving can include graduation dates, such as "Mary Smith, 1999".

Please return by 5/31/2024.

FOM PIE SALE



Niskayuna Friends of Music 2023 Pie & Tea Bread Sale




Back by popular demand for your winter holiday celebrations!

Featuring Delicious Pies and Tea Breads from Mourningkill Farms Bakery

This **PRE-ORDER ONLY** sale supports music education through enrichment grants, scholarships and district festivals.

Choose from 12 varieties of freshly made, frozen pies, and 6 varieties of freshly made tea breads (can be frozen).
Perfect as gifts or for winter celebrations!

<p>All Standard Pies are \$16.50 (10-inch) Made Without Gluten Pie is \$18.50 (8-inch) Tea Bread Loaves are \$8.50</p> <p>Online Ordering Only: https://niskyfom.org/ (Click on Pie Sale)</p> <p>Pre-Order Your Pies and Tea Breads Online October 16 - November 25, 2023</p> <p>Pick Up Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 Pick Up Time: 3:30 - 6:30 PM Pick Up Location: Niskayuna HS (Park in Lot by Old Cafe/Weight Room/Pool and Enter Through Door 14) **Pies/Breads Not Picked Up Will Be Donated**</p> <p>For questions, email niskyfompies@gmail.com or call Carey Merrill at 703-475-2436</p>	<p>12 scrumptious pie varieties to choose from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apple2. Apple Crumb3. Apple Very Berry (Apples, Raspberries, Blueberries and Blackberries)4. Cherry Crumb5. Strawberry Rhubarb6. Very Berry Crumb (Raspberries, Blueberries and Blackberries)7. Toll House (Cookie pie, Chocolate chips and Walnuts)8. Deep Fudge (Rich Brownie Pie)9. Lemon Chess (A rich lemon pie, similar in taste and texture to a lemon square cookie)10. Peanut Butter Chess (A rich peanut butter pie)11. Pecan12. Made Without Gluten Apple Crumb (the MWG flour is a mix of grains, starches, and nuts made by The Secret GF. The pies are made in a facility that also produces gluten containing products so the pies are NOT a registered "Gluten Free" product.	<p>6 delicious tea bread options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Apple Cinnamon2. Apple Macaroon3. Blueberry Poundcake4. Cherry Pecan5. Chocolate Zucchini6. Gingerbread <p>Scan to Order:</p> 
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SPOTLIGHT NEWS

Friends of Music interviews Dr. Timothy Solinger, 5th Grade Band Teacher at Craig & 6th Grade Band and Lessons Teacher at Iroquois & Van Antwerp Middle Schools



Where did you grow up?

I was born in Mount Vernon, NY, but when I was around a year old, my parents moved to a small town in the Poughkeepsie area called Poughquag.

How were you involved in music growing up?

My earliest musical memories involve messing around on my Dad's drum set, singing along to The Beatles on road trips, and being completely enamored with John William's scores to Star Wars, Indiana Jones, and Hook. I started playing the trombone in the school band in 4th grade, but in 7th grade I tried to convince my parents to let me quit; luckily, they were having none of that! By the time I got to high school I was completely hooked, participating in band, symphony orchestra, marching band, choir, drama club, brass quintet, jazz

ensembles, rock bands, the local youth symphony, and any other type of group I could find.

Where did you go to college?

I completed my Bachelors at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, my Masters at the University of Akron in Ohio, and my Doctoral studies at SUNY Stony Brook on Long Island.

Do you have any favorite extracurricular activities that you want to share?

I played tennis and was involved with competitive swimming until about sophomore year of high school. I was never a particularly gifted athlete, but I enjoyed the competition, challenge, and sense of accomplishment that came with these sports.

What are your current responsibilities with Niskayuna?

I currently teach the 6th grade band, as well as 6th grade lessons at our two middle schools. I'm also responsible for the 5th grade band program at Craig Elementary.

What are your goals?

It's really important to me that the students feel seen, heard, safe, and challenged, and that every student is able to see themselves reflected in our band program. I want the kids to feel a sense of community and accomplishment and for them to understand that music is both a means of expression and a tool for getting through difficult times. As a new teacher in the district, I am also very focused on learning as much as I can about this wonderful community and getting to know my outstanding colleagues and students.

What are your favorite things to do outside of school?

History is really fascinating to me, and a great deal of what I read and watch is related to this subject; I'm particularly interested in 19th century US and 20th century world history. When I'm not playing/listening to music or reading, you can find me fishing, hiking, hanging out with our cats, or spending time with family and friends.

Do you have any advice to students studying music now?

I would tell them that the idea of talent is an incredibly overrated concept- there are no shortcuts to excellence in any field, including music. The very best athletes, musicians, artists, etc., all got to where they are because they were persistent! You can become an expert on anything you set your mind to, but only if you are willing to put in the time and effort.

Do you have any advice to students who want to pursue music as their career?

I would encourage those students to become the best overall musician they can be- take all the music classes you can and expose yourself to a wide variety of styles and genres. I would also encourage those students to become really great at a couple different things. Because music can be such a competitive field, I think it's really important to have two excellent skill sets that you can offer, whether that's playing and teaching, teaching and arranging, composing and producing, etc. In most cases, being really great at a couple different things is going to be extremely helpful in establishing yourself and building a career in this challenging but rewarding field.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

Birchwood Elementary News

The Birchwood Beagles are back to making music! Our 4th graders have been so excited about joining the instrumental program as new members of the orchestra. Our 5th graders have been just as excited about making their instrumental debut in the band. Lessons are underway and the students are having a blast with their new instruments. We are so excited for our 5th graders to participate in Niskayuna's Choral Festival this March. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our elementary students! Our students in grades 1-3 have greatly enjoyed singing, dancing, creating, exploring, and playing instruments in music class again. Our Kindergarten students are having so much fun in their first year of music class! They *love* to dance (especially when playing Freeze Dance!). We're looking forward to a wonderful school year at Birchwood!

~Rebecca Farrell

Craig Elementary News

What a great start the young musicians at Craig have begun! Kindergarteners are learning new songs, games and dances. 1st graders are exploring the difference between singing and chanting and enjoy performing with class instruments. 2nd graders have been learning about piano and forte sounds with their voices and on various classroom instruments. 3rd graders have been learning about wind instruments and learning to sing rounds. 4th graders have been learning to read music scores, are excitedly diving back into recorders and have enjoyed preparing for their very first concert this winter! Several 4th grade students have also volunteered for our Choirchime Club where we learn to perform songs together as a group. 5th graders are learning about Latin American music in observance of Latin American Heritage month. In Chorus, 5th graders were very excited to learn that they'll be participating in the Choral Festival at Proctor's Theater later this year. Several 5th graders also volunteered to join Drum Circle and are having a great time!



~Marilyn Brown

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

Glencliff Elementary News



Glencliff halls are alive with the sound of music! Students are singing the Glencliff song and more for our upcoming *Good Morning Glencliff* in October and our Veteran's Day Celebration in November.

Kindergarteners are excitedly moving and grooving in the music room, exploring their singing voices, moving to the music, echoing, and working on musical opposites. 1st Graders are singing call and response, chanting, reviewing musical rhythm reading, and working on their steady beat. 2nd graders are

performing dynamics, playing instruments, and moving to music. 3rd graders are very excited for recorders in January, but are currently working on rounds, playing instruments, and exploring the instrument families. 4th and 5th grades are working hard in general music and chorus. 5th Grade chorus will be part of the district-wide Choral Festival this year in March! Orchestra and band lessons have started and the students are thrilled. Younger grades walking by are mystified by the sounds- the squeaks, bellows, and occasional cellos coming from the instrument room.

~Abigail Luther

Hillside Elementary News

The Hillside Elementary School hallways are filled with sounds of music! The students performed the school song, *Hillside Pride* at their first Hello, Hillside! assembly. Hillside students will continue to perform at their monthly assemblies.

Kindergarten students are continuing to sing and dance to a variety of songs. We especially love singing and moving to *Wake Up, You Sleepyhead!* Our time together is full of laughter and smiles. 1st and 2nd graders enjoyed celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with a song called *Vamos A La Mar*. Currently, we are enjoying some fall festive games. 3rd and 4th graders performed the partner dance, *Sasha* and did a wonderful job. They also enjoyed reading *Drum Dream Girl* in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and were thrilled to drum along during story time. We also enjoyed performing some spooktacular songs just in time for October festivities. 5th graders have been exploring the music of Latin America and have enjoyed listening to a variety of styles including *Reggaeton* and *Salsa*. All 4th and 5th graders have the pleasure of performing as a chorus. We are working hard to prepare for our upcoming performances in the winter and spring concerts. 5th graders are excited to have the opportunity to perform in our District Choral Festival this March. We will be busy preparing music.

A special thank you to our Niskayuna Friends of Music! We appreciate your continued support throughout the years.

~Sarah Sanson

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

Elementary Bands are off to a Great Start with New Faculty

Our 5th Grade Band students are off to a wonderful start this year! We need to give a special welcome to Mr. Dave Fisk who is now the elementary band teacher at Hillside and Glencliff Elementary Schools. Mr. Fisk is a professional jazz saxophonist and a seasoned teacher who has taught here in Niskayuna for over 25 years. We are so excited to have Mr. Fisk teaching at the elementary level. Mr. Fisk also teaches the 8th Grade Band and Middle School lessons.

We also need to give a special to welcome Dr. Timothy Solinger who is the new band teacher at Craig Elementary. Besides being a professional trombone player, Dr. Solinger has many years of teaching experience with beginner instrumentalists and Middle School Band. Dr. Solinger also directs our 6th Grade Band here in Niskayuna. Welcome Dr. Solinger!

Mrs. Sue Kokernak continues to teach the bands at Birchwood and Rosendale Elementary Schools as well as teaching the 7th Grade Band and Middle School band lessons.

It is tremendously rewarding to see and hear the first sounds of a new class of band students. A big thank you goes out to the parents of this group for their assistance with practicing and their overall help with getting this program off and running! Success on an instrument begins at home! We look forward to our first concerts in January!



Mr. Dave Fisk and Dr. Timothy Solinger



Rosendale Trumpets



Birchwood Flutes

~Mr. Dave Fisk, Glencliff and Hillside Bands
~Mrs. Susan Kokernak, Birchwood and Rosendale Bands
~Dr. Timothy Solinger, Craig Band

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Choral Corner

A warm welcome back to all of the families of our enthusiastic and dedicated choral musicians. As usual, we're working hard and finding our stride as we have been diligently preparing for the first concert series.

Choral Uniforms

Students in A-Choired Taste, Choir, Concert Chorale will be following the Niskayuna HS Concert Attire Policy, where students dress in concert black (sent home via Parent Square and included in the course syllabus).

Studio Singers and Bel Canto Voices members received their uniform order sheets (black sparkly radiance dresses/vests for Studio Singers and claret satin dresses/vests for Bel Canto Voices) in September and everyone should have a dress or vest for the first concert. Please note that the fabric for the Studio dresses and vests has been discontinued and we are still ordering from the same company but you will see variations in this outfit. There is no need for students who have the previously used outfit to buy a new one.

CONGRATULATIONS

~Congratulations to **Lily Graham, Aidan Page, Sophie Spindler, and Sofia Trimarchi** who have been selected for this year's All-State Mixed Chorus. We would also like to recognize **Elizabeth Ogonowski** who has been selected as an alternate.

~Congratulations to **Mark Ferri, Eliana Garmil, Lily Graham, Alex LaFargue, Katherine Makrin, Samuel Meyer-Veen, Stella Myers, Elizabeth Ogonowski, Samuel Radez, Sophie Spindler, Sofia Trimarchi, Alexis Tull, and Vivianne VanHoesen** who have been accepted to the Area All-State Chorus. Students will perform at Proctors Theatre on November 18 under the direction of Dr. Han, Professor at SUNY Schenectady.

~Congratulations to the following students who have been accepted into the Empire State Youth Chorale and will perform at Melodies of Christmas on the Proctors Theatre stage in December: **Lily Graham, Carolyn Kelly, Coumba Ndiaye, and Samuel Radez.**

~Congratulations to senior, **Sophie Spindler** who has been chosen for WMHT's Classical Student of the Month. Sophie will soon record a feature at the WMHT Studios in Troy that will be featured on their website.

~Congratulations to **Sophie Spindler** and **Mathena Rush** (2023 graduate) who were selected for the Pro Musica International Choral Festival in July. Both students received a full scholarship to this event held in Ontario, Canada where they participated in and attended rehearsals, concerts, masterclasses, and coaching.

When asked about this experience, **Mathena** said, "I learned so much, too. I was kind of going into the festival a bit arrogant thinking that I knew a lot about singing and everything they're going to teach you've already taught me. But I was blown away by the guest speakers and professors... The concerts were amazing! Probably the best choral concert I've ever seen was by the Canadian Chamber Choir. They

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

were about the size of Bel, and they had the most beautiful blend. I cried at least twice during that concert. They had a very prevalent theme of indigenous rights, especially access to water. They partnered with a composer from the Cree people in Northern Canada. She worked with us on finding and respecting our voice as well as indigenous people's land. There was a huge emphasis on land acknowledgement and the importance of learning about other cultures and how they make music. I also loved the Camerata Coral de Puerto Rico. They were so fun to watch! They had so much expression and were moving. You could just tell they all loved to sing... There were so many incredible musicians I got to sing with... It was so fulfilling to sing with other hardworking singers from all over the US and Canada. I will always remember this experience, and the music. We got to keep it, so I will be looking back on it often. Thank you so much for the incredible recommendation that enabled me to have this incredible experience!"

Sophie Spindler on her experience:

This past July, I had the privilege of participating in the Pro Musica International Choral Festival at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. Surrounded by 150 international vocalists, the environment radiated with excitement, love, and a willingness to learn.

Each day, we began rehearsal with a land acknowledgement. It was important to recognize that the land we were singing on did not belong to us. One of the most impactful experiences of the festival was working with Sheryl Sewepegaham, a singer, composer, and an educator of Cree-Dene ancestry. Adhering to tradition, we learned her songs by rote. Her voice filled the entire room, and she taught us the vocal technique to copy her unique sound. I appreciated how generous Sheryl was for sharing her culture with us. Each and every one of the vocalists was actively engaged. It proved to me that we are capable of learning about, respecting, and incorporating the long-silenced stories of Indigenous communities into our world.

In addition to rehearsals, we attended workshops with topics ranging from a vocal anatomy lesson to dancing to Michael Jackson. We learned that as vocalists, our whole body is our instrument. We learned not only how to produce different sounds, but the anatomical reasoning behind our training. I also had the opportunity to take a vocal lesson with Professor Elizabeth Eschen. A 30-minute lesson left me with a multitude of new vocal exercises to add to my warmups.

The choral ensembles featured in the festival were captivating. The Canadian Chamber Choir performed a concert titled "*Where Waters Meet*" with repertoire based on the beauty of water. Our local Albany Pro Musica collaborated with Camerata Coral de Puerto Rico in their beautiful concert titled "*I Dream a World*." The festival's initiative to use music as an agent of social change was a very prominent message, and it inspired us as young musicians to carry it with us on our musical journeys.

I would most definitely recommend students to apply for the festival. From harmonizing in the stairwells to celebrating each other at the student showcase, the bonds I formed with my peers through music carry immense value. The passion, intelligence, and dedication in the rehearsal hall proved to me that music is powerful. As Dr. Rollo Dilworth, the composer and conductor of our final piece, stated, "we can be the change for the world."

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

~Congratulations to the following students who have been singing the National Anthem at local events:

Sophia Abel, Cindy Corpus and Priscayah Singh – Volleyball Ace’s Cancer Night on September 29

Gabriella Fountain – Homecoming Football game on October 6

Maryn Gleason and Sienna Taddeo – Girls Field Hockey Senior Night on October 11

Jacob Ciesinski, Lily Graham, and Aria Wetzal – Fun Run at Town Hall on October 14

~Congratulations to the following students who are members of Capital District Youth Chorale:

Katie Esposito, Mark Ferri, Maryn Gleason, Lily Graham, Kathryn Makrin and Aidan Page

Outside Performances

- **Bel Canto Voices** and **Studio Singers** will be performing at the Niskayuna Town Hall for their Veterans Day Ceremony on **Thursday, November 9 at 11:00 am**. Parents/guardians and community members are welcome to attend and a reception will follow. The event will be held outdoors, so please dress accordingly.
- FOM’S ANNUAL CAROLING FOR CASH FUNDRAISER continues this year! Please mark your calendar for **Monday, December 4** (December 11 snow/cold date) as members of **Studio Singers** and **Bel Canto Voices** will stroll through Old Niskayuna in Victorian costumes while singing carols and collecting funds for FOM. The fundraiser will culminate with a group performance at Union Café, 1725 Union St., at 7:00 pm.

****Parents/guardians who would be willing to chaperone by providing a vehicle for students to stay warm in will hear from Mrs. Catalano in late November (timeslots range from 4:45-7:45 p.m.). Anyone who would be willing to donate or sew/make an article of clothing for the event would be welcome to do so (we are especially in need of cloaks)!****

*****Mrs. Catalano is also in need of parents/guardians/students who would be willing to help with publicity for this event.***

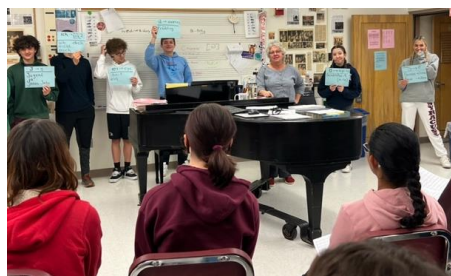
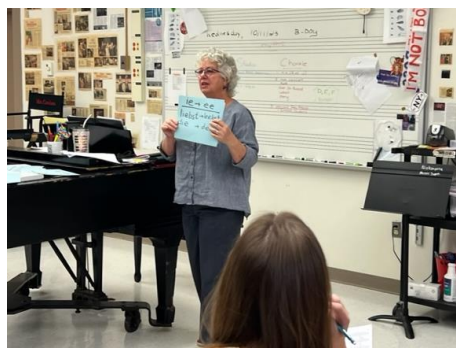
- **ALL H.S. CHORAL SINGERS** have been invited to share their voices on **Friday, December 8 at 5:00 p.m.** at the Niskayuna Town Hall for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Candy canes and hot chocolate will be served and this will be an extra credit/makeup opportunity!
- **A-Choired Taste** will be singing at the Niskayuna Community Center on **Thursday, December 7 at 11:15 am** (snow date: Thursday, December 14). Students will present a concert and join the members in a holiday sing-a-long. It has been a long tradition that this group also brings small gifts to the senior citizens in attendance.
- **Concert Chorale, Bel Canto Voices, and Studio Singers** along with **Chamber Strings, Jazz Ensemble, and Symphonic Band** will perform at the annual winter assemblies scheduled for **Wednesday, December 20** (snow date: Thursday, December 21). Any family members or friends who would like to attend are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early to sign in at the front desk. Please bring your license to present to our campus security team.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

AN EVENING IN HISTORY is set for **Monday, January 22, 2024 at 7:00 pm** (note that the time is earlier than HS concerts)! This year the social studies and music departments will come together to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of New York City.



Parent and community member, Nike Oshinowo coaching **Bel Canto Voices** in the Yoruba language to help students with the pronunciation of Nigerian folk song "Dide ta Deo"



Students from German I/II Accelerated with Frau Tracy Prebish coaching **Concert Chorale** on German art song "Liebst du um Schönheit"

Please enjoy our first round of concerts and thank you for encouraging your students to be participants in the arts!

C. M. Pizzino - Catalano

~Christina Pizzino-Catalano

Concert Band News

The High School Concert Band has been working hard and sounds fantastic! Students have been working diligently since the beginning of September in anticipation of our November 8th Concert. We have an exciting program planned which will feature *Flourishes* by William Owens and the programmatic piece, a class favorite, *Pilatus: Mountain of Dragons* by Steven Reinecke and arranged by Matt Conaway. We look forward to our three regular evening concerts this year (November, February and May) as well as performing at the Memorial Day Assembly again in May. Many HS Band students will have opportunities to perform in honors ensembles outside of Niskayuna this year including ESYO, Suburban Council, Area All-State, NYSBDA, All-State and NYSSMA Solo Festival held here at Niskayuna in May. Students and parents should look for information on applying for these opportunities throughout the year on the HS Music Department and FOM Websites as well as on Google Classroom and Parent Square.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Congratulations to our Area All-State participants:

Area All-State Jazz Ensemble: Noah Martinez, lead Trombone; Lucia Vysohlid, Bass Trombone; Nathan Yan, lead Tenor Saxophone

Area All-State Orchestra: Aryeh Korevaar, Bassoon; Andrew Watkins, Oboe

Area All-State Symphonic Band: Cyrus Joo-Schwaber, Horn; Pic Kerins, Piccolo; Daniel Korevaar, Trombone

SUNY Schenectady Brass Day



10 Niskayuna Students attended the third Annual Brass Day at SUNY Schenectady on October 14th. The Day was filled with masterclasses, lectures, and performances with SUNY Schenectady School of Music Faculty members Dr. Allyson Keyser and Phil Pandori. Students also had the opportunity to work with members of the professional performing brass quintet, Brass Abbey: Omar Williams (trumpet, MS Band Director at Shaker), Catherine Pandori (horn, MS and HS Band Director at Greenwich) and Michael Silvagnoli (tuba, MS Band Director at Shenendehowa). 30 student brass players

from around the Capital Region joined Brass Abbey on the culminating recital and performed Cait Nishimura's *When the Clouds Break*. It was a wonderful day of learning and fun for all!

Stage Band and Jazz Ensemble News



The High School Jazz groups are off to a GREAT start! Both groups sound fantastic and we are excited to kick off two of the November concerts (11/1 and 11/8). The pieces we are working on include jazz standards, *Walkin' Shoes*, *In a Mellow Tone*, *Afro Blue*, *Sonny Moon for Two*, as well as an arrangement of Stevie Wonder's *Superstition* and an original second line New Orleans style tune called *Alligator Alley* - look for an exciting bass line on this performed by HS Junior Miles Bisnett on his sousaphone! In addition to our two regular concerts this year in November and February, we also look forward to an Evening in History in March, where we will be teaming up with Mrs. Pizzino-Catalano and the HS Choirs as we celebrate 400 years of New York City. As always, we look forward to the annual Niskayuna

Jazz Fest in April where we will be welcoming in **Greg Evans**, Director of Jazz Studies from Binghamton University - a world class educator, jazz pedagogue and drummer.



Niskayuna Jazz Students Enjoying a Pizza Party

~Philip Pandori

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Students Who Participated in Summer Arts Programs

Anika Bidoshi	Interlochen Arts Camp acting intensive
Benjamin Bixler	Studied ballroom dance at Dance Fire
Jacob Ciesinski	Piano lessons at Modern Day School of Music
Sophia Connell	Bristol Hills Music Camp, Capital District Arts Initiative dance intensive, Upstate Youth Choreographer's Showcase
Nicholas Contreras-Perez	Capital Region Summer Trombone Institute
Katie Esposito	American Academy of Ballet, Festival of Young Artists at SPAC
Mark Ferri	Proctors Broadway Camp pit orchestra
Gabby Fountain	Dance Dimensions dance intensives, Star Power Competition Dance Nationals, Voice and Piano lessons
Anna Geveci	<i>Newsies</i> at Shen Summer Adventures
Landon Greene	Bristol Hills Music Camp
Charlotte Hull	<i>Newsies</i> at Shen Summer Adventures
Maeve Hull	<i>Newsies</i> at Shen Summer Adventures
Cyrus Joo-Schwaber	Luzerne Music Center
Alex LaFargue	<i>Matilda</i> at Schenectady Light Opera Company
Ella Lovegrove	Guitar and Voice lessons, performances at Moon & River Café
Nic Marin	Bristol Hills Music Camp
Brookelyn McDonald	Cantor at St Kateri Tekakwitha Parish and recital with the Voice Studio of Elissa Harrigan
Lincoln Merrill	Bristol Hills Music Camp
Stella Myers	<i>The Prom</i> at Proctors Broadway Camp
Pierce Olsen	Capital Region Summer Trombone Institute
Kiana Sheffield	Capital District Arts Initiative and Dance Me dance intensives
Samuel Radez	<i>Secret Garden</i> at Park Playhouse
Madhav Raj	Teen acting for NY Film Academy at Harvard University
Raghav Raj	Piano lessons
Ada Ryan	Dance Dimensions dance intensives, Star Power Competition Dance Nationals, Saxophone and Piano lessons
Sophie Spindler	Pro Musica International Choral Festival in Ontario, Canada
Lexi Tull	<i>The Prom</i> at Proctors Broadway Camp
Carlin Tysz	Bristol Hills Music Camp
Vivianne VanHoesen	CIT at Bristol Hills Music Camp, sang National Anthem at HVCC
Lucia Vysholid	Skidmore Jazz Institute
Andrew Watkins	Bristol Hills Music Camp
Nathan Yan	Skidmore Jazz Institute



ESYO

Congratulations to the following Niskayuna Students who were selected to join the Empire State Youth Orchestra

As a regional organization, ESYO attracts students from over 75 public and private schools throughout eastern New York State and western New England. Returning and potential members must pass a competitive audition for their positions. ESYO students range from 4th through 12th grade. The thirteen performing ensembles rehearse weekly with professional musicians as conductors and coaches. A season's schedule includes over 30 concerts, requiring over 600 hours of rehearsal time.

Kehan (Kevin) Bao	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Ruchir Bollapragada	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Sean Calhoun	Symphony Orchestra	Violin
Micah Chen	String Orchestra	Violin
Jonah Chen	Concertino Strings Orchestra	Violin
Mark Ferri	Repertory Orchestra	Clarinet
Gideon Goldberg	Repertory Jazz Orchestra	Saxophone
Matthew Huang	String Orchestra	Violin
Tarun Jacob	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Cyrus Joo-Schwaber	Symphony Orchestra	French Horn
Bhavyanshu Kandlakunta	Concertino Strings Orchestra	Violin
Haeun Kim	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Aryeh Korevaar	Symphony Orchestra	Bassoon
Isaac Lee	Concertino Strings Orchestra	Cello
Nicholas Lessard	Concertino Strings Orchestra	Cello
Arthur Leung	Symphony Orchestra	Violin
Vincent Liu	String Orchestra	Violin
Nathaniel Lossner	Wind Orchestra	Flute
Kyle Markham	Symphony Orchestra	Cello
Amelia Pack	String Orchestra	Viola
Kenton Pack	String Orchestra	Violin
Emily Shim	Symphony Orchestra	Oboe
Elie Shin	Repertory Orchestra	Cello
Simran Utturkar	Repertory Orchestra	Viola
Lucia Vysohlid	Symphony Orchestra & Youth Jazz Orchestra	Violin & Bass (Jazz)
Andrew Watkins	Symphony Orchestra	Oboe
Brendan Yan	Symphony Orchestra	Cello
Nathan Yan	Youth Jazz Orchestra	Tenor Sax
Howyue Kaydence Yeong	String Orchestra	Cello
Andrew Zhang	String Orchestra	Violin
Joelene Zheng	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Max Zheng	Symphony Orchestra & Youth Percussion Ensemble	Percussion



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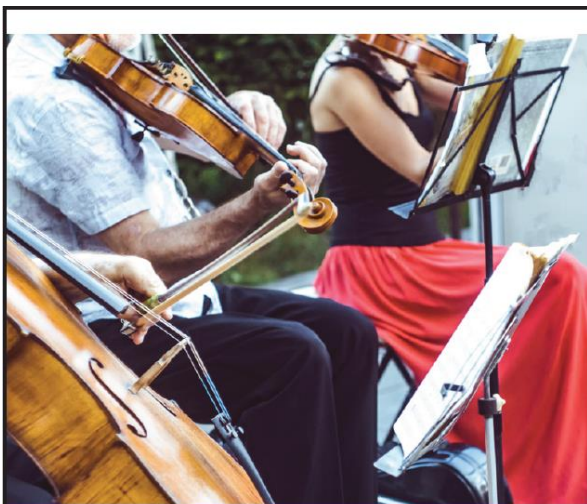
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