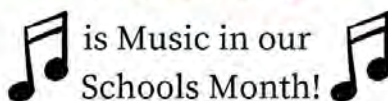




Notes



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Niskayuna Friends of Music,

March marks a year that we have been living in a pandemic. During this past year, I hope that music has brought you some peace, happiness and hope.

March is also *Music in our Schools Month*. While we cannot enjoy live music, we are excited to stream our wonderful concerts. The week of Monday, March 15th, we will present a concert each night. On Thursday, March 18th, we will be streaming a new concert featuring our seniors!

To the seniors, you have been in my heart. I know this is not the senior year you had been dreaming of. I want you to know that when you leave Niskayuna for the next chapter in your life, your legacy will always live on. There is a younger musician at Niskayuna who you have inspired. Someone that practices more because they want to perform like you do. A younger student took note of your dedication and now that student practices more because they see the results. Maybe you gave someone the confidence they needed to try out for a select ensemble. More importantly, you were kind to someone when they needed that the most. Your inspiration, dedication, confidence and kindness will carry on in the practice rooms and stage of Niskayuna.

In addition to our week of streaming concerts, we are partnering with local restaurants. Since we have not been able to fundraise as we have in previous years, we are happy to collaborate with restaurants to offer them our support while we raise money for Friends of Music. During the month of March, take a break from cooking and enjoy some delicious food from Mr. Wasabi (3/8 – 3/14) and City Squire (3/23 – 3/25). For more information, please see page 22.

Thank you to all of our members for supporting us. Thank you to the wonderful group who shows up on Zoom every month to continue our mission to encourage music in our schools.

I wish everyone the very best. I patiently wait until we can fill auditoriums, enjoy music together and give giant hugs.

With warmest regards,

~Sarah Spindler

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Welcome to Music In Our Schools Month!

The music department and Friends of Music have been working hard to find ways to celebrate and we hope our community will take advantage of some special events. Throughout this edition of NOTES, you will find information about guest lecturers at the high school, streaming events online and some information for students looking to begin instruments in elementary school. Live performances are still on hold but if new opportunities become possible, we'll work with the district to offer as many chances as we can to help students create music together.

NYSSMA Update:

Over 50 students across the district participated in the Piano festival. They uploaded auditions and received comments and scores in late February.

75 students in the middle schools and high school registered for the Solo/Ensemble festival and will send in their videos this month for adjudication.

Congratulations to all of our participants – it took some extra work this year and we are so proud of you!

The All-State Festival is being presented in March and teachers across the state had the chance to offer their applause to students. You can find a video [here](#) from the high school faculty and Mrs. Koste for some much-needed cheer!

Spring Recruitment

With all of the necessary safety precautions in place, we are developing a plan to meet current fourth and fifth graders so they can learn about the orchestra and band programs in June. Choosing an instrument to start playing in the fall will be an exciting way to end the school year and we look forward to welcoming new students. Look for information after the spring recess.

Since we were unable to recruit students last year, we will start two years of beginners in the fall – rising fifth and sixth graders. We hope that current third graders, who normally would have had the chance to choose an orchestra instrument this year, will be able to join in the winter of 2022. That decision will be made in the new school year, given the circumstances at that time.

Virtual Concerts

Family and friends can watch some past music department performances at SHOWTIX4U.COM. Please visit this website – where we usually sell tickets for the high school musical – to find the events. ([Search for Niskayuna.](#)) Tickets are **free of charge** but they must be ordered, and there is a limited number of “seats” available. We are grateful to our Spring Underwriters for their generous support to make this program possible! Details are listed below and new tickets will become available during the week of March 15 so check the site often.

All performances begin at 7:00pm. Tickets are free and are “on sale” March 8 through one hour past start time. They are first-come, first-served and more may be added throughout the week.

WWW.SHOWTIX4U.COM

Monday, 15th: NCSD 50th Anniversary Benefit (2005)

Tuesday, 16th: Mozart Requiem (2006)

Wednesday, 17th: Gala Concert (2010)

Thursday, 18th: Class of 2021 and Friends (2021)

Friday, 19th: “Disney’s The Little Mermaid” (2020)

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Thank You

It is important that I take a moment to express my gratitude for everyone's support and well wishes for the music department as we go through such unprecedented times. We are doing everything we can to keep students engaged and know it can be a struggle to stay motivated when we are so far apart. As musicians our biggest joy is playing and collaborating with others - something that has been missing - and we look forward to the day we can be together again. Until then I encourage everyone to find some quiet moments and make time to make music, alone for now but not forever. Be well and take care!

~Eric Hughes



Music in Our Schools Month Celebration

Join us for a week of streaming events

Monday 3/15: **50th Anniversary**

Benefit Gala (2005)

Tuesday 3/16: **Mozart Requiem (2006)**

Wednesday 3/17: **Chichester Psalms
and Candide (2010)**

Thursday 3/18: **Class of 2021 and
Friends (2021)**

Friday 3/19: **"Disney's Little Mermaid"
(2020)**

Restaurant weeks featuring:

Mr. Wasabi: Mon 3/8 - Sun 3/14

3:30 - 9 pm, 1729 Union Street

City Squire: Tues 3/23 - Thurs 3/25

4 - 8 pm, 1018 Keyes Avenue



LIFT MUSIC FUND BENEFIT RECITAL

Lift Music Fund Benefit Recital by Niskayuna Alumna Hannah Staudinger



The link to the event: <https://fb.me/e/3dtrcv0u8>

Mini-Concerts for Microgrants is a fundraiser series for Lift Music Fund, featuring a mix of music and discussion about Lift Music Fund's mission. The Lift Music Fund awards microgrants to Black, Latinx, and Native American musicians to help alleviate the financial burden that is being a classical musician. Hannah's goal is to raise \$300+ for supplies such as reeds, music, and application fees and help make a career in classical music as much of a reality for these students as it was for her. Not only are donations beneficial to this cause, but overall awareness and advocacy to the younger generation goes a long way to help promote change.

The link to donations:

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/liftmusicfund2021/hannahstaudinger>

Hannah Staudinger is an oboist and educator based in Boston and Upstate NY who performs regularly with ensembles in the Boston area, most notably the Boston Civic Symphony. An active recitalist, Hannah has performed solo programs from Boston and Baltimore, and her chamber collaborations include performances with the Weston Wind Quintet and the Kammerwerke Double Wind Quintet. Hannah has studied as well with John Ferrillo, Eugene Izotov, and Michael Lisicky. This summer Hannah will be performing at the National Music Festival, studying with Jared Hauser.

Beyond performance, Hannah's research is centered in developing pedagogical strategies and mechanical advancements in order to make double reed instruments accessible to public school and underserved students across grade levels. With her research, Hannah seeks to empower teachers to teach double reed instruments and provide resources that would allow for easier and more successful instruction, impacting the lives of students across the country.

Hannah holds a Master's in Oboe Performance from Boston University, and Bachelor's degrees in Oboe Performance and Music Education from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. She strives to combine her love of musical excellence and education through outreach initiatives. Currently, Hannah is a Doctoral Candidate at Boston University studying with Mark McEwen.

SPOTLIGHT NEWS

Friends of Music interviews Marilyn Brown, General Music and Music Concepts Teacher at the Middle Schools and Applied Music Teacher at the High School & District Accompanist



Photo Courtesy: Caitlyn LaFargue

Where did you grow up?

I grew up right here, in Niskayuna. I attended Rosendale ES, Iroquois MS and NHS. My kids also attend school here. My daughter, Caitlyn is a sophomore at the high school and my son, Alex is in 7th grade at Van Antwerp MS.

How were you involved in music growing up?

My dad is very musical and I picked it up from him at a young age. I started piano lessons when I was 8. I participated in many ensembles over the years, including Choir, Jazz Band (piano) and Symphonic Band (Mallet Percussion). I also accompanied the high school choir a bit and am proud to say my senior year I participated in “Bel Canto Voices” in its first year. That same year, I also played a piano concerto with the high school orchestra. Outside of school, I was involved in music ministry at my church, Suburban Council, and travelled Europe with American Music Abroad. I was the recipient of the Niskayuna Friends of Music scholarship when I graduated high school.

Where did you go to college?

I got my Bachelor of Music in Education from Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, and Master of Education in Educational Administration from UMASS Lowell.

What are your current responsibilities with Niskayuna?

I currently teach General Music and Music Concepts at both middle schools and Applied Music at the High School. I am also the district accompanist.

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

I’ve recently taken up crocheting. I enjoy playing at open mic events, especially with my dad. And believe it or not, I still practice piano. I’m currently working on Chopin’s Polonaise Op. 53.

What are your goals?

To plant some roots and see them grow. While I always want to improve as a teacher, right now, I want to enjoy watching my kids, and my students learn and grow in music and as people. For me, there is nothing better than to watch young people grow into wonderful adults.

What are your favorite things to do outside of school?

I love spending time with my kids and my family. I love to travel and hope to see every continent someday. I especially enjoy learning about history and different cultures; immersing myself in them, art, music, architecture, customs and especially the food. I’m a very adventurous eater.

Do you have any advice for students studying music now?

Be patient with the hard parts, and don’t spend all your time on the easy parts.

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

Always remember you’re doing what you love, and never forget to love what you do.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

GENERAL MUSIC

Thank you, Friends of Music! The 1,900 K-5 students are receiving their music department kits in the beautiful red drawstring bags provided by you. This bag was essential to keep items safely separated and secured, but your logo is a great touch! Virtual Academy students can use them to participate at home. Students at school view and participate in their classrooms.

Now that Chromebooks are out, some teachers are having the older students watch the music lesson videos up close and personal. It is encouraging to see them chant along to a song, or stand up and move to a modified "Thriller" dance. K-3 are been goofing around dancing the "Winter Wiggles!" We are still learning rhythms, doing listening lessons, identifying what Mrs. Johnston is singing in ear training (do re mi), and doing actions to songs, such as "February" or "Oh Happy Day." We are getting free resources from Carnegie Hall Explorers and received funds from the Rosendale PTO to provide a year's subscription to theSingingClassroom.com that provides songs, games and activities as a safe alternative to singing and sharing instruments! Another new free resource, Music Workshop.com provided K-5 an enrichment video doing an overview of Rhythm & Blues music. They heard Little Richard say, "Rhythm and Blues had a baby, and they named it rock 'n roll." Soon Music Workshop will assist in teaching music of indigenous peoples in North America.

Those are just some of our Black History Month activities for February, though the music of black musicians is with us all throughout the year. March is the National Association for Music Education's Music In Our Schools Month! It is also Women's History month and March Madness. How does that all connect? Well, students will be completing a Music March Madness bracket about musicians and composers, by seeing which two they prefer per lesson, until there's a Final Four and a Winning Composer/Song. Clara Schumann, Barbara Strozzi, Carole King, and Dolly Parton may be represented for example. Kids are doing a song co-written by Carole King and Maurice Sendak. Carole King was the first woman to receive The Gershwin Prize, an award also won by songwriters such as Sir Paul McCartney.

A typical Table of Contents from a music lesson video, listing the activities coming up for 30 minutes, and ALWAYS stating the Niskayuna FOM website to all 7 buildings. Fifth graders are at VA and Iroquois.

BELOW: "Johnny B. Goode" is "Go Johnny Go Go." However, we are changing "Go" to the syllable SOL from the music scale.

Do RE MI FA SOL LA TI DO and using the hand sign to show the pitch in the melody! Even though we can't sing yet, we are trying to keep our ears tuned!

Kindergarten and Grade One Music
March 1-5 Lesson 1 Table of Contents

1. "Winter Wiggles" dance
2. Chuck Berry "Johnny B. Goode" Steady beat and solfege "SOL Johnny Sol Sol"
3. Say all the months for "Chicken Soup with Rice"
4. "One to the Left" finger play
5. "February" song
6. NEW "Step by Step"
7. Little Richard "Tutti Frutti" and band instruments
8. We All Sing With the Same Voice



Join Niskayuna Friends of Music
www.niskyfom.org





ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

Big thanks to our department secretary Tracy Koste for compiling 1,900 bags and baggies of rhythm kits for every Kindergartener and 1st grader as well. Special thanks to our new President, Sarah Spindler, Soma De for this newsletter, and officers taking up new positions. Join FOM is under every table of contents of every lesson I send! Stay safe everyone and know how amazing and appreciated you are.



Rosendale Third Graders Dancing to "Winter Wiggles"



Niskayuna Friends of Music Enrichment Grant Bag for all K-5 Students



Items that are Included in some Music Kit Bags



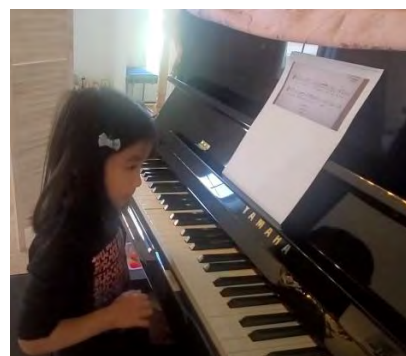
Mrs. Isenhardt's fourth graders spontaneously added Motions, from the fall's lessons about "This Land is Your Land," to the singer performing it on Inaugural Day 2021



Two sisters perform a song together at home



A second grader in Mrs. Montrello's Virtual Academy shares her music lesson videos with her little brother in a cozy spot



A first grader's parents captured the music score for folk song "Trot Old Joe" off the video, and printed it for their daughter to play on her piano

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES



A first grader who wrote how much she likes music lessons to her music teacher in the Virtual Academy Music Google Classroom



This young man comments kindly almost weekly to his music teacher to say which activity he liked, e.g. Clapping Along on YouTube to a Chinese New Year song for February 12. He even taught the "Turkey Pokey" dance with his music lesson video to his family at Thanksgiving!

~Holly Johnston

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ORCHESTRA NEWS

Our Elementary Orchestra students have been hard at work! We have started meeting once each week and having a great time making music together! In our virtual format, students are able to ask questions about lessons and we have been working on an orchestra piece that will combine all of our 5th Grade Orchestra students into one video. We can't wait to share our Campfire Songs with everyone later this spring! In lesson videos, we have been playing some fun songs and even playing some games with letter names. It is so fun to see the students and interact with them every week!!

~Stacey McClenon



MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTES

ORCHESTRA NEWS

7th and 8th Grade Orchestras have been doing rehearsals in our Google Meets. In our rehearsals we've been having fun learning new pieces to share this spring! It is so nice seeing the students and still being able to work together. Students are filling out practice charts and submitting videos for us to help them progress throughout the year. Even in this different format, I am so proud of the work these students are doing. They are self-motivated and have been advancing in their techniques and music reading skills. We look forward to being able to play together again, but everyone has done a great job adjusting to this new way of learning. Thank you to students and parents for all of your support and hard work!!



7th Grade Orchestra



8th Grade Orchestra

~Stacey McClenon

MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTES

BAND NEWS

The 7th and 8th Grade bands continue to meet virtually every other week with Mr. Pandori while students are on their remote days. We are so thrilled that we were able to begin 6th Grade Band instruction in January as well, and things have been going GREAT under the direction of Mrs. Scherer. 7th and 8th Graders had a lot of fun implementing YouTube scale warmups, in addition to the work we are doing with Smart Music. Feel free to check out one example of how we have been starting rehearsals: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taf3K3F10Qo>. For these warmups, students watch the screen and play along with their designated line - the backing track helps make things a little more enjoyable and interesting while playing scales alone and at home on the meet. Students were so proud and excited to present our "virtual" concert on December 23rd - the students worked so hard and came out of their comfort zones to record separate tracks that we edited together into two different pieces. We hope that the presentation was meaningful for families and the Niskayuna community. If we have this opportunity again later in the year, 7th and 8th Graders will look to combine their talents into one large presentation. Stay tuned!

~Phil Pandori & Karen Scherer (6th, 7th and 8th Grade Band Directors)

Music in Our Schools Month Virtual Symposium for Band Students

March is Music in Our Schools Month! Since the students will be missing out on our typical Proctors Festival this year, I wanted to take advantage of the virtual nature of our instruction and offer something special for Niskayuna Band Students. We called on some personal contacts to put together a "virtual symposium" for the students. We are very excited to present the following offering for the middle school band students.

7th and 8th Grade Bands

Wednesday, March 24th 9:00-9:30 - *"Meet the Composer" with Mr. Brian Franco*

7th and 8th Grade Bands

Thursday, March 25th 9:00-9:30 - *"Meet the Composer" with Mr. Brian Franco*

In these masterclasses, Mr. Franco will rehearse his band composition, "Stellar Engines" over Google Meet with all 7th and 8th Grade Band Students. The students will have a unique opportunity to see a piece of music through the lens of the composer. Mr. Franco will discuss his intent, how he tries to communicate his ideas through the score, what he hopes the band will do with his piece and how they can make it their own. Students will see that each piece of music has a real person behind the notes on the page, and learn how anyone can use the score to both preserve the composer's intent as well as create their own artistic interpretation as an ensemble.

Mr. Franco is the High School Band Director at Skaneateles School District, and an active composer and arranger. He is the founder of [yourscoremusic](https://yourscoremusic.com/), a site that features downloadable, customizable music for young instrumental groups to address individual learning in an ensemble setting. His website can be found here: <https://yourscoremusic.com/>

~Phil Pandori, 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Band/Lessons

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

CHORAL CORNER

We are excited to welcome several professors from *Westminster Choir College at Rider University* into our virtual classroom to celebrate Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM®)!

March 2 – Professor Vinroy Brown will lead **Choir** in a lecture entitled “*Antiracism in the Choral Classroom*”.

March 11 – Professor Jason Vodicka will join **Concert Chorale** to share on the topic “*Body Mapping: Body Alignment for Singing and Computing*”.

March 19 – Dr. Sharon Merchandani will be visiting **Ladies First** to give a presentation called “*Women in American Music History*”.

Project-Based Learning Presentations

Bel Canto Voices and **Studio Singers** are in the process of giving a culminating presentation for their peers in conjunction with their project-based learning that they started back in September. Students in each class brainstormed a myriad of topics to research and created an outline of three benchmarks to help them progress towards a final product. After turning in the final product, students participated in a peer review where they emailed a classmate constructive feedback and praise. Some presentations include slideshows about composers, musical eras, jazz artists and specific musical styles such as the Renaissance, Bossa Nova or Claudio Monteverdi. Other students have turned pop songs into a madrigal composition using programs such as Finale, Note Flight, Garage Band and the Acapella App. Others created a themed Spotify playlist with cover art and liner notes or artist biographies. Finally, after the presentation, each student reviews a rubric and reflects on their presentation/performance. We have been blown away by the amazing presentations and unique and creative topics that students have delved into.

NYSSMA Solo Festival (Virtual)

HS choral students are currently preparing for the NYSSMA Solo Festival. As this is a fully virtual festival, participants will be uploading their videos during the week of March 19. Students are studying works in English, Italian, and French to present to judges from all over the state. Those who are not studying privately have been attending one-on-one vocal coaching sessions with Mrs. Catalano via google meet. There will be an opportunity to sing for peers in their large ensemble classes for feedback and to help shake any nervousness in anticipation of the performance (likely virtually or in a prerecorded video).

Ladies First Name Change

During December Ladies First moved forward with a name change that will begin during the 2021-2022 school year. Students submitted suggestions and sophomore member Taryn Klein offered “A-Choired Taste” which was a great play on words! Nothing about the group’s makeup will change; this class is still for treble voices (sopranos and altos), but the alteration in title was aimed at a more inclusive group that focused not on gender, but on the voice parts that comprise the ensemble.

Concert Chorale World Premiere Opportunity

26 students in **Concert Chorale** (more than half the group!) have chosen to be part of the world premiere of Dr. Bradley Ellenbogen’s composition *Hate Has No World* as sponsored by the stellar local choral ensemble Albany Pro Musica. Students learned the music in class and had accessed instructional videos provided by the composer in addition to asynchronous sectional rehearsals with APM education director and HS choral director Brendan Hoffman (Albany HS). Students uploaded videos that will be put together in a virtual chorus format for a world premiere on April 25. Students who have taken part in this exciting event should check their email about the virtual premiere party that will be happening in conjunction with this presentation!

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Congratulations to:

Soprano

Hailey Auster
Ellen Davis
Alise Hale
Rachel Huh
Ella McDonnell
Millee Modasra
Gabriella Pizzolo
Molly Rudden
Bella Zonderman

Alto

Corrina Blood
Emily de Soyza
Catherine Lasek
Katarina Mills
Madeline Mills
Faith Potter
Caroline Skrebutenas
Katherine Sumner
Sandra Sunil

Tenor

Ryan Behar
Conor Compton
Ryce Hazard

Bass

Connor Duguid
Christian Francisco
Griffin Hall
Jesse Hoogs
Aiden Irish

Outside Performance Opportunity

The Niskayuna Farmers Market is looking to expand and include performers to showcase their talent on consecutive Saturday mornings starting in mid-July and running through mid-October. Anyone interested in sharing their talents can contact Rosemarie Perez Jaquith at rperezjaquith@gmail.com.

Keep singing!



C. M. Pizzino-Catalano
~Christina Pizzino-Catalano

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

HIGH SCHOOL STRING ORCHESTRA

High School String Orchestra has been learning in our hybrid format and has been making the smooth adjustment between in person and remote learning. When we are in person, it's fun to see so many Friends of Music masks! It is amazing to see how much more independent and confident everyone's playing has gotten as the year has progressed. All of the students have been prepared for class by learning their music. We are working on different styles of music and have been doing movie music, jazz, classical and now some modern music. This has been a great year of exploring styles and techniques.

~Stacey McClenon

HIGH SCHOOL SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA

We were excited to host (virtually) *Dr. Natasha Farny, Cello Professor at SUNY Fredonia School of Music* on **March 3rd**. She presented a talk entitled *"Fierce Women: Music for Cello"*. She is an extremely accomplished cellist and educator, and we were excited to hear her lecture.

Changing the Paradigm: Exploring Women Composers



Natasha Farny, Professor of Cello, SUNY Fredonia School of Music

Natasha Farny is Professor of Cello at the State University of New York in Fredonia. Her current research interests include the study of music by women. She has given lectures on the music by women and with her cello and piano duo, Ekstasis, she has performed a program called "Women's Voices" throughout New York State. Future plans for "Women's Voices" include tours of the West Coast, a CD release in 2021, and a multimedia project that will include footage and live performance. Highlights for the year include the release of her debut CD, "French Cello Music," on the Centaur Label, a performance in NYC's Merkin Hall with the Ekstasis Duo, and a concerto performance with the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra. She is on faculty at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival, the Brancaloneoni International Music Festival, and at the Fredonia String Camp.

~Brian Mooney

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

HIGH SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND

We were excited to welcome *SSgt. Jacob Moyer* from the *President's Own Marine Band* to talk to students on **March 4th** during rehearsal. Here is a summary of what was discussed -

Audition Prep for Instrumentalists:

The audition experience does not have to be stressful. Advice and strategies provided during this clinic will help prepare students for all the knowns and unknowns of an audition at any level. Students will learn ways to minimize and control nerves, build confidence, improve consistency, and grow from every audition experience.

~Eric Hughes

HIGH SCHOOL BAND AND JAZZ

We continue High School Band and Jazz Band rehearsals in person. Though we remain 12 feet apart and masked with bell covers and follow the hybrid model, we have been able to make a lot of music together. The **Concert Band, Stage Band, Jazz Ensemble** were thrilled to present their concert program to you on December 23rd. We were excited to mix together both live music and virtual band recordings. The Jazz Bands look forward to recording more "combo" type tunes in smaller cohorts, with a few more head charts recorded as virtual bands. At the end of the year, we hope to compile all of these into one video file - a silver lining in this trying year will be these keepsake recordings. As March is Music in Our Schools Month, we have some fun activities planned - **Concert Band** will be welcoming in *Staff Sergeant Claire Ross, French Hornist* with "*The President's Own*" *United States Marine Band* for a virtual clinic on **March 9th**. We are working on bringing in other clinicians and lecturers to our band and jazz band classes as well and beginning some project-based learning. As we move into April (Jazz Appreciation Month), the **Stage Band** and **Jazz Ensemble** will be bringing in local clinicians to work virtually with students as well. We look forward to the weeks ahead and hope to share more music with you very soon!

~Phil Pandori (HS Concert Band, Stage Band, Jazz Ensemble)



BAND VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM



Nisky Band Virtual SYMPOSIUM 2021

March is Music in Our Schools Month...

This month, we will take advantage of the virtual nature of our instruction this year, and students in Mr. Pandori's ensembles will have the opportunity to work with World Class Clinicians in the Music Field. Clinics will include topics of equity and inclusion, audition prep and performance practices, pursuing careers in all areas of music, jazz improvisation and much, much more. Stay tuned for specific dates and topics...

School Day Sessions for

- 7th and 8th Grade Bands
- High School Stage Band
- High School Concert Band
- High School Jazz Ensemble
- High School MIDI Class

FEATURED CLINICIANS



Dr. Jerome Socolof
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts



Dylan Canterbury
ejazzlines, St. Rose, SUNY Schenectady



Staff Sergeant Claire Ross
United States President's Own Marine Band



Brian Franco
YourScore Music, Skaneateles Schools



Brian "Doc" Dougherty
Sennheiser Electronic Corporation



Dr. William L. Lake Jr.
The Crane School of Music

BAND VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

Music in Our Schools Month Virtual Symposium for Band Students

March is Music in Our Schools Month! Since the students will be missing out on our typical Proctors Festival this year, I wanted to take advantage of the virtual nature of our instruction and offer something special for Niskayuna Band Students. We utilized a free offering from the *President's Own Marine Band* and called on some personal contacts to put together a "virtual symposium" for the students. We are very excited to present the following offerings this month.

~Phil Pandori, 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Band/Lessons, HS Concert Band, Stage Band, and Jazz Ensemble

High School Jazz Ensemble

Thursday, March 4th 11:00-11:25 - "What is Arts Management?" with Dr. Jerome Socolof

High School Stage Band

Friday, March 5th 11:00-11:25 - "What is Arts Management?" with Dr. Jerome Socolof

In this masterclass, Dr. Socolof will discuss careers in Arts Management. Arts Management is a field that most high school students are unaware of, and an option for students who want to stay in the arts without necessarily being a teacher or practitioner. Arts Management is a broad field with something for every interest and skill set and is perfect for people with brave and enthusiastic minds and perspectives.

Dr. Jerome Socolof is Associate Professor of Arts Management in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. His Bio can be found here:

<https://www.mcla.edu/about-mcla/faculty/jerome-socolof.php>

High School Stage Band

Monday, March 8th 11:00-11:25 - "First Steps to Jazz Improvisation" with Dylan Canterbury

High School Jazz Ensemble

Tuesday, March 9th 11:00-11:25 - "Jazz Combo Masterclass" with Dylan Canterbury

In these masterclasses, Mr. Canterbury will share his expertise and experience in both jazz improvisation and playing in a jazz combo setting. He will introduce Stage Band students to strategies and exercises as they continue to learn how to improvise solos with rhythm section. With the Jazz Ensemble, Mr. Canterbury will put these skills into real time as it relates to playing in a small group setting, fostering communication for a cohesive ensemble performance.

Dylan Canterbury (trumpet) is a Capital Region Native and an active, performer, composer, arranger and clinician. His Bio can be found here: <https://www.ejazzlines.com/pages/about-us/dylan-canterbury-biography/>

High School Concert Band

Tuesday, March 9th 1:00-1:50 - "Meet a Horn Player" - with Staff Sergeant Claire Ross

In this Masterclass, Staff Sergeant Ross will visit the band and discuss her career in a United States Military Ensemble. Staff Sergeant Ross will discuss what decisions, choices, and environment led her to where she is today. She will be sharing information about her job and what she does day to day as well as other avenues to pursue in the music field. Staff Sergeant Ross will also discuss how to properly prepare for an audition and we will hear a movement of a French Horn Solo. Students submitted questions ahead of time and the Staff Sergeant will be

BAND VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

answering these as well as any other questions that come up in real time. We will be joined (virtually) by teachers and students from Greenwich Central School District for this masterclass.

Claire Ross (Horn) is a member of the United States "President's Own" Marine Band - the top performing ensemble in the United States Military and the performing group featured at all Presidential Inaugurations. Her Bio can be found here: <https://www.marineband.marines.mil/Members/Musicians/Brass/French-Horn/>

7th and 8th Grade Bands

Wednesday, March 24th 9:00-9:30 - "Meet the Composer" with Mr. Brian Franco

7th and 8th Grade Bands

Thursday, March 25th 9:00-9:30 - "Meet the Composer" with Mr. Brian Franco

In these masterclasses, Mr. Franco will rehearse his band composition, "Stellar Engines" over Google Meet with all 7th and 8th Grade Band Students. The students will have a unique opportunity to see a piece of music through the lens of the composer. Mr. Franco will discuss his intent, how he tries to communicate his ideas through the score, what he hopes the band will do with his piece and how they can make it their own. Students will see that each piece of music has a real person behind the notes on the page, and learn how anyone can use the score to both preserve the composer's intent as well as create their own artistic interpretation as an ensemble.

Mr. Franco is the High School Band Director at Skaneateles School District, and an active composer and arranger. He is the founder of [yourscoremusic](https://yourscoremusic.com/), a site that features downloadable, customizable music for young instrumental groups to address individual learning in an ensemble setting. His website can be found here: <https://yourscoremusic.com/>

High School Concert Band

Friday, March 26th 1:00-1:50 - "Who are the People in your Neighborhood: Easy Questions with More Difficult Implications" - with Dr. William L. Lake Jr.

In this discussion, Dr. Lake will encourage students to evaluate their experiences outside of their world of sameness: what music do you listen to, who does that music represent, how often do you explore outside of those bounds, who are the people in your cell phone, what contacts do you actually call, how diverse are the people that you engage with. Dr. Lake will help students connect these questions to who we are as humans, artists, maybe future music educators but even just members of society...

Dr. Lake is Assistant Professor of Band at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. His Bio can be found here: <https://www.potsdam.edu/about/directory/faculty/lakewl>



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Best Wishes to the Class of 2021!

GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program

FOM has joined the list of charitable institutions that are supported by the GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program. Through this program, individual contributions of \$25 or more from employees and/or retirees are matched dollar for dollar. Eligible gifts may be registered online on our *membership page* or by phone at 1-800-305-0669.

Niskayuna Friends of Music is a wonderful organization of volunteers providing their time, energy, and funds for the Music Department. Would you consider joining at <https://niskyfom.org/>? You can also scan the following QR Code as a direct link to joining Friends of Music.



Follow us on Facebook  or Instagram !

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Niskayuna Friends of Music Senior Scholarship

This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating Niskayuna music student who plans to pursue formal music studies in college.

Selection is based on the student's musical experience and achievement, commitment to school and community, involvement in music activities, conduct, citizenship, and a written essay.

Applications are available to students online at the FOM webpage (niskyfom.org) in early March.

Completed applications should be emailed to FOM Senior Scholarship Committee Chair, Kristin Bidoshi, at bidoshik@union.edu. The 2021 application deadline is 12:00 pm Thursday, April 1.

The Senior Scholarship Committee of the Niskayuna Friends of Music makes the final decision on the scholarship award recipient based on the recommendation of an independent panel of judges. The winner will be announced during the May 2021 Concert Series.



Senior Scholarship Application -- 2021

Please print or type neatly. Do not write or attach any information on the back of these pages. Use a separate sheet of paper to include additional information. Submit this form and all application materials electronically to FOM Senior Scholarship Committee Chair, Kristin Bidoshi, at bidoshik@union.edu **before** 12:00 pm Thursday, April 1, 2021.

NAME _____

ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER _____

I. List Instrument(s)/Voice studied: _____

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Number of years studied (If multiple instruments, please list separately):

List your private teachers since the time you began study:

Current private lesson teacher(s): _____

2. Musical organizations/ensembles in which you have participated at Niskayuna Central Schools:

<u>Ensemble</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>	<u>Teacher(s)</u>
-----------------	----------------	-------------------

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

f. _____

3. List major out-of-school music organization involvement (*e.g.*, All-State, Suburban Council, ESYO, SLOC, etc.):

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>	<u>Part/Chair</u>
---------------------	----------------	-------------------

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

4. List other out-of-school activities (*e.g.*, community groups, clubs, religious organizations, choirs, etc.). Please use a separate sheet of paper for additional space. Do not write on the back of the application form.

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Year(s)</u>	<u>Position</u>
---------------------	----------------	-----------------

a. _____

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

5. Solos or Recitals performed in public:

<u>Title/Composer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue /Sponsoring Organization</u>
-----------------------	-------------	---------------------------------------

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

6. Please write or type a short (500 word maximum) essay on **the role music plays in your life**. The essay is not meant to be a restatement of your musical accomplishments. (Attach on a separate sheet)

7. Please supply the following information:

a) Which college do you plan to attend? If you are awaiting acceptance acknowledgement, to which colleges have you applied?

b) What specific area of concentration do you plan to pursue (music performance, theater, music education, etc.)

8. Please list any music-related future competitions or events in which you plan to participate prior to graduation from Niskayuna High School:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Position/part</u>
--------------	-------------	----------------------

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

9. Please list any other important information which will help the committee better assess your qualifications for the award. (Attach on a separate sheet)

Any questions may be directed to:
Friends of Music Scholarship Committee
c/o Kristin Bidoshi, Chair
bidoshik@union.edu ; (518) 630-6102

Please submit this form and all application materials electronically to FOM Senior Scholarship Committee Chair, Kristin Bidoshi, at bidoshik@union.edu no later than 12:00 pm Thursday, April 1, 2021.

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a happy, healthy,
and bright future!

Joyce Serbalik Choi
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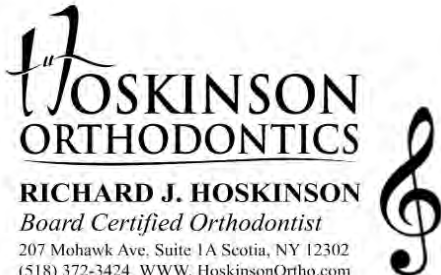
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