



Fall 2021

Issue #1

Notes

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Niskayuna Friends of Music,

Welcome Back! I am happy to report that music is in full swing in Niskayuna. High school ensembles are reunited for full rehearsals, middle schoolers are rehearsing together before school, and music lessons have resumed. Elementary students are continuing their music curriculum and our musicians are preparing for live concerts. Time apart has definitely made us appreciate the time we will share together.

Last year, Friends of Music was able to provide masks, bell covers, and flute shields for all high school musicians. We also provided gift cards as incentives at the middle school level and individual bags to keep elementary school music supplies organized and clean. We continued to provide music scholarships and grants.

So far this year, we are happy to announce that we are providing bell covers and flute shields to all elementary and middle school band students. We will continue to assess what is needed for music students at all levels and provide appropriate support and enrichment.

We are excited to announce the return of our delicious pie sale fundraiser with some exciting new options. The pie sale will run through November with pie pick-up occurring mid-December.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of our program. We could not do this without you. Thank you to the parents for always encouraging your children. Thank you to the music department for your strong dedication to your students. Most importantly, thank you to the musicians. We are so incredibly proud of your hard work. You have persevered through a challenging time in history and we are thrilled to hear you perform for us.

I wish you and your family very happy holidays. Here is to a healthy 2022 that is full of love and music.

With warmest wishes,

~Sarah Spindler

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! The music department faculty is working hard to help students once again make music together in person and to bring live performances back to our community.

Students from the high school recently performed at the **Saratoga Springs City Center** as special guests for the New York State Council of School Superintendents annual conference. It was a pleasure and an honor to watch them perform on stage for the first time since March 2020! Thank you to Mr. Mooney, Mrs. Catalano and Mrs. Brown for preparing our students.

The performers are **Vera Amirbekian, Patrick Yang, Grace Roberts, Faith Borkowski, Eujeong Choi, Sophia Barnes, Ella McDonnell, Eden Sumner, Keller Wegter-McNelly, Ryan Behar, Aiden Irish.**



NY State Council of School Superintendents Conference Singers



NY State Council of School Superintendents Conference Wind & Strings Players

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

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

Sophia Barnes, Double bass, Symphony Orchestra

Patrick Yang, Clarinet, Symphonic Band

Duncan Wall, French horn, Symphonic Band

Emma Nobes, Soprano, Alternate

NEW FACULTY

Thomas Loomis (General Music Faculty) earned his Bachelor of Music in Music Education at the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam. He comes to us from Hampton Bays Middle School on Long Island. We are excited to welcome him to teach at Van Antwerp where he will also conduct the choirs. We are thrilled to have Mr. Loomis join us!

Elizabeth Massarone (General Music Faculty) earned her Bachelor of Music in Music Education at the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam. She also received a Master's Degree in Music Therapy from SUNY New Paltz. Most recently, Mrs. Massarone taught in the Hudson City School District. She teaches classes at Iroquois, Van Antwerp and the high school. Please welcome her to Niskayuna!

Kayla Freeden (Instrumental Music Faculty) graduated from Nazareth College with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education. She spent two years teaching band and general music at the Catskill Central School District. Ms. Freeden conducts the 6th grade band and teaches at Hillside and Craig elementary schools while Mrs. Scherer is on maternity leave.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

We're proud to announce our upcoming production of ***Mamma Mia!*** on March 4 & 5, 2022. Auditions take place in November and ticket sales begin in January.

~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 5/31/2022.

FOM PIE SALE



Niskayuna Friends of Music 2021 Pie Sale



Back by popular demand!

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, frozen tea breads.
Perfect for winter holidays!

<p>All Pies are \$15.00 Tea Bread Loaves are \$7.00 Online Ordering Only: https://niskyfom.org/ (Click on Pie Sale)</p> <p>Pre-Order Your Pies and Tea Breads Online November 1 - November 26, 2021</p> <p>Pick Up Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 Pick Up Time: 3:30 - 6:30 PM Pick Up Location: Niskayuna HS</p> <p>(Parking Lot off of Nott Street) **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. Apple 2. Strawberry Rhubarb 3. Apple Crumb 4. Blueberry Crumb 5. Cherry Crumb 6. Strawberry Rhubarb Crumb 7. Very Berry Crumb (Raspberries, Blueberries and Blackberries) 8. Pumpkin 9. Pecan 10. Toll House (Cookie Pie, Chocolate Chips and Walnuts) 11. Deep Fudge (Rich Brownie Pie) 12. Coconut Supreme (Coconut, Chocolate Chips and Pecans in a Custardy base) 	<p>NEW this year: 6 tea bread options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chocolate Zucchini 2. Apple Cinnamon 3. Apple Cranberry 4. Banana Nut 5. Cherry Pecan 6. Orange Poppy Seed
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SPOTLIGHT NEWS

Spotlight on Elizabeth Massarone

Friends of Music is thrilled to welcome all of our new music teachers to the district. In this issue we interview **Elizabeth Massarone**, general music teacher at **Iroquois** and **Van Antwerp Middle Schools** and at the **High School**.



Where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in Schenectady, NY. I attended Schenectady High School.

How were you involved in music growing up?

I grew up in a musical family. I began singing at the age of 3. At family parties, I would put on concerts and charge admission to family members. In school, I played clarinet and sang in choir. Once I attended high school, I was heavily involved in the musical theatre program at SHS. I had leading roles in "Little Shop of Horrors," and "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." Overall, my experiences in school were the determining factors of my choice in career.

Where did you go to college?

I attended the Crane School of Music and earned a B.M. in Music Education. I attended SUNY New Paltz earning a M.S. in Music Therapy.

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

I am a fitness enthusiast and a runner. I love the outdoors, especially being on the water. I also love making Italian food and desserts!

What are your current responsibilities with Niskayuna?

I teach general music at the middle schools and high school. I am also responsible for accompanying the elementary and middle school choirs for the concerts.

What are your goals?

My goals are to continue developing positive rapport with my students and colleagues. Not only do I want my students to learn music, but I also want to continue to create a fun immersive classroom environment that encompasses social emotional learning.

What are your favorite things to do outside of school?

I love being with my family. I have a husband and daughter. During the summer we spend a lot of time traveling and going to our family camp which is near the water. In the winter, I enjoy celebrating the holidays.

Do you have any advice to students studying music now?

Enjoy it and don't be afraid to make mistakes. While flawless performances are great and certainly something to be proud of, I learned the most from the mistakes or onstage mishaps that I had when I was studying music.

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

Don't let anything hold you back from your dreams. Music as a career can definitely be challenging but it's important that you never lose sight of what you truly want to do. Keep practicing your main instruments, don't be afraid to think outside the box, and definitely engage in some self-care from time to time.

SUMMER SONATA

Musical Fun at Summer Sonata

The Niskayuna Friends of Music hosted a week-long workshop in August 2021 to give middle school band, orchestra and choral students a chance to work together in person! The workshop featured individual ensemble time where students worked on pieces for band, orchestra and all-camp choir. The middle part of the morning highlighted an array of musical activities ranging from dance, music composition and even a “kitchen” percussion ensemble. The final part of each day allowed for all students to combine into one ensemble giving strings, band and choral students the opportunity to work together on combined literature. Students ended the week performing two pieces for each other - **“Chicken in the Kitchen”** and **“All That Jazz”** from the hit musical Chicago. The Music Department hopes to run this camp again in Summer 2022. Stay tuned for information later in the year and we hope you can join us next summer for this enriching experience!



~Mrs. Sue Kokernak, Mrs. Stacey McClenon and Mrs. Julie Wilson

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

Craig Elementary General Music News

Craig has had a great start to the school and students are really enjoying learning how to respond, connect, perform and create music! Kindergarteners have been learning to echo, through singing, chanting and movement. 1st graders have been creating their own call and responses to class songs. 2nd graders have been exploring piano and forte sounds with their voices, on boomwhackers and creating their own dynamics to lyrics of songs. 3rd graders have been learning about wind instruments and how sound waves are created and vary sounds based on different types of instruments. 4th and 5th graders have been learning to read music scores by incorporating their chromebooks into music lessons and are enjoying preparing for their very first concert this winter!



~Marilyn Brown

Hillside Elementary

Students are engaging in a wide variety of musical activities at Hillside Elementary School! Hillside Elementary School students are continuing to learn their new school song, **Hillside Pride**, written by Mrs. Sanson.

Kindergarten and first graders sing and dance to a wide variety of songs. Second graders enjoy performing on a variety of percussion instruments. Third and fourth graders accompany their singing and movement on xylophone. Fifth graders accompany their singing and movement on xylophone while also learning about different music genres. Fourth and fifth graders participate in chorus singing a variety of songs. Music is alive at Hillside Elementary School!

~Sarah Sanson

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

Glenclyff Elementary

We are excited to be back in the music room making music! Students have started the year by once again singing and using instruments. Fourth and Fifth Graders have embarked on their chorus journey with Fifth Graders also beginning their band and orchestra lessons. Kindergarteners and First graders have entered the music room for the first time! They have been excited to move, sing, and play musical instruments. Second and third graders have been expanding their music making to be more complex with dynamics, rounds, and multiple instrumental parts. Fourth graders have been exploring voice types while fifth graders have experienced and researched musical genres. We are looking forward to making music together this school year!



~Abigail Luther

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

Rosendale Elementary

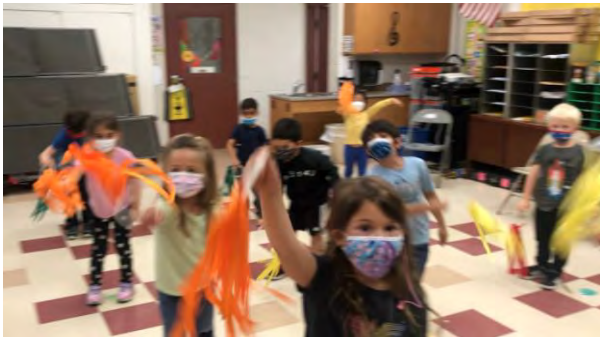
It is a celebration here at Rosendale! We are all so delighted to be together in our music room again. Hopes and dreams are the latest concurrent unit for Grades 2-5 along with echo, chanting, call and response singing, piano/forte, singing rounds, the wind family, the vocal voices Soprano/Alto/Tenor and Bass, and genres of music. What are hopes and dreams? It is a beginning to the end of the year student-driven aspect of responsive classroom teaching. By opening up access to something students want to learn, they become involved in making class procedures smooth, making sense of the rules, and seeing the lesson plans include what they wished for. My hope is that all those things will happen, especially after watching me in movies all year. To that end, I also hope that no student will leave their Rosendale music room in June, thinking, "What was that in the cupboard? What was that near the window and why did we never get to play it?" In support of their hopes and mine, every effort has been made to procure instruments from Ecuador, Togo, Japan, the southwest US, Chile, and others representative of cultures we will study. They have had these demonstrated in person and with pros on video in their grade 2-5 google classrooms. Mr. DiCaprio also bought us a kids' size \$220 Remo gathering drum set up for two children facing each other 3 feet apart from his principal funds as his commitment to world cultures in music, learning about Indigenous peoples and their music at Rosendale, and community building with the children.

All grades are starting or refreshing good vocal technique, such as pitch, posture, and ear training. Movement to music is essential while keeping three feet apart. We are thrilled to put new curriculum standards from the department on the ground. So far, the students understand the vocabulary of RESPOND and CONNECT. To watch CONNECT happen is wonderful, whether it's, "My grandmother sings this to me at home in French," or, "I heard this when we went to Spain this summer," or just seeing RESPOND: 2nd graders bouncing to piano/forte sounds in the Isley Brothers, "**Shout**" or Gershwin's "**American In Paris**."

Finally, we are blessed at Rosendale to have fourth and fifth graders eager to participate in the chorus that has had such a long tradition of positivity, engagement, and even philanthropy. Our departing principal Mr. DiCaprio purchased us mailboxes for our stage for our packets of songs. The Rosendale PTO purchased us highlighters to mark our scores: the girls are highlighting soprano parts, and the boys are designating their alto lines. We have so much support from our custodian, teacher assistants, our fan Mrs. Okonski who is our cashier at lunch, and Mrs. Brennan, our social worker. She came in to help us regulate our bodies and feelings as we transition from a 5th grade lunch period right into a 45 minutes chorus class in the cafeteria.

It makes my 31st year in teaching better than any so far and keeps me young. Thank you, Friends of Music for sustaining us last year. Thank you for this newsletter, The Notes. Please join www.niskyfom.org, and consider being a co-liaison for Rosendale. hjohnston@niskyschools.org

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES



*Mrs. Roe's Kindergarten waving autumn-colored ribbons to "Leaves Are Falling"
(Tune of "Frere Jacques" an echo song)*



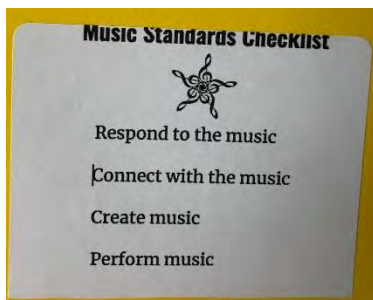
*NEW Section of Rosendale's Female
Composer/Conductor Wall 1098 A.D. -Present*



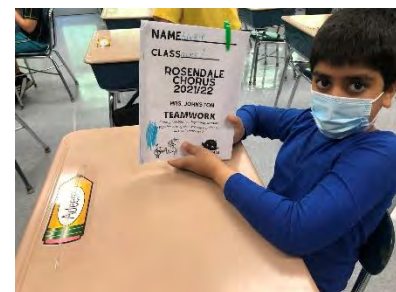
*New 5th grade students proudly show one of
the chorus mailboxes they assembled*



*A new 5th grade student and his buddy proudly show
chorus mailboxes they assembled*



*Grades 2-5 Dept. Standards sticker in their music
class folders*



*A 4th grader holds his first Rosendale Chorus
packet/new highlighter*

~Holly Johnston

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

Fifth Grade Band Is Back!

Our Fifth Grade Band students are off to a wonderful start to the year with lessons that began the week of September 27th. Ms. Kayla Freeden is the Fifth Grade Band teacher at Craig and Hillside Schools this year while Mrs. Scherer is out on maternity leave. Mrs. Kokernak teaches the bands at Birchwood and Rosendale, and Mr. Pandori teaches the Glencliff Band.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the Friends of Music for providing all of our band students with bell covers so we can have in-person lessons with proper safety measures in place.

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!



Rosendale Clarinets are ready for music



Craig Alto Saxophones hard at work

~Ms. Kayla Freeden, Craig and Hillside Bands
~Mrs. Susan Kokernak, Birchwood and Rosendale Bands
~Mr. Philip Pandori, Glencliff Band

MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTES

General Music and Choir at VA

Hello! My name is Tom Loomis and it's been an absolute thrill to be working at Van Antwerp Middle School and teaching General Music and Chorus so far this year. I am a graduate of the Crane School of Music and am coming from Long Island where I was also previously teaching General Music and Chorus. In General Music, 7th grade has been exploring different composers and the lives they led, while 8th grade has been delving into genres and how contemporary artists blend them together. Also, the choruses have been making beautiful music early in the mornings! It's easy to tell how much everyone has missed making music with each other, and just being together in general. I'm looking forward to everything that this school year has to offer, and thank you very much for this opportunity!

~Thomas Loomis, Van Antwerp MS

Sixth Grade Band

I am so excited to be directing the Sixth Grade Band while Mrs. Karen Scherer is out on maternity leave! Our sixth graders had their first lesson the week of September 20, and just a couple of weeks later, began band rehearsals on October 4. We are currently working through our new band method book, **Making Music Matter**, to learn notes, rhythms, and other musical elements and how to rehearse in a large ensemble. This work is preparing our students to begin rehearsing music for their first concert which will take place on January 12. I look forward to watching these musicians grow over the next several months and can't wait for our first concert this winter!

~Kayla Freeden, 6th Grade Band

Seventh Grade Band Together Again

The Seventh Grade Band is having a terrific start to the year. The students are learning to play, blend and articulate together as well as learning the steps to following a conductor. The group is currently working on three selections – a March, an Overture and an artistic piece called “**Moai**” which features Polynesian drumming, improvisation and interesting musical effects across all sections of the band. We look forward to performing our first live performance on Thursday, December 9th at 7pm at the High School Auditorium.



7th Grade Band percussionists learn to work together



7th Grade Band prepares for rehearsal

~Sue Kokernak, 7th Grade Band

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Choral Corner

Thank you to all of the students who are members of the HS choral ensembles and those who have returned to choral music (and parents/guardians, thank you for encouraging your children)! We are currently masked, three feet apart and four of the five HS choral ensembles are back in the Choir Room; this is such a great change from the twelve/six feet protocols required last year!

Choral Uniforms

At this time students in A-Choired Taste, Choir and Concert Chorale will be following the new 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 have elected to keep the same uniforms (black sparkly radiance dresses/vests for Studio Singers and red satin dresses/vests for Bel Canto Voices). However, students who choose the vests will now wear a black button-up to follow the new Niskayuna HS Concert Attire Policy. 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 junior **Emma Nobes** who has been selected as an alternate for this year's All-State Mixed Chorus!

- **ALL H.S. CHORAL SINGERS** are invited to share their voices on **Sunday, December 5 at 5:30 p.m.** at the Niskayuna Town Hall for the **Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony**. This will be an outdoor event with masks required for the singers. Candy canes and chocolate will be served and this will be an extra credit/makeup opportunity!
- WE ARE BRINGING BACK FOM'S ANNUAL CAROLING FOR CASH FUNDRAISER!!! Things will look a little different this year, but please mark your calendar for **Monday, December 6** (December 13 snow/cold date) as members of **Studio Singers** and **Bel Canto Voices** will be popping up for short performances at localized spots in our community. Please see the schedule below:

5:15 – 5:30 pm – Rexford Fire Department and Niskayuna Town Hall

5:45 – 6:00 pm – Iroquois MS and Van Antwerp MS

6:30 – 7:00 pm – Union Café (1725 Union St.)

Students will dress in Victorian costumes and will be singing carols while collecting funds for the Niskayuna FOM. The day will culminate with a group performance at Union Café at Upper Union Street at 6:30 p.m. ***Mrs. Catalano is in need of parents/guardians who would be willing to help with the publicity portion of this fundraiser. Please email her at cpizzino-catalano@niskyschools.org if you are willing to assist.***

Welcome back. Thank you for helping reignite our passion for singing and making music together.

C. M. Pizzino-Catalano

~Christina Pizzino-Catalano

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

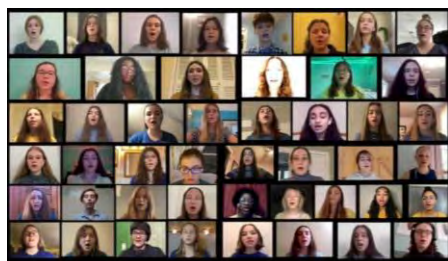
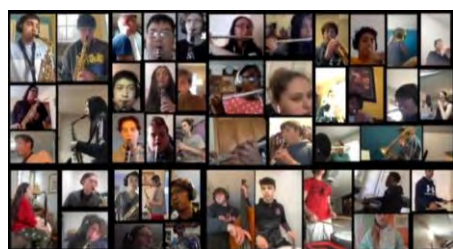
High School Concert Band and High School Stage Band

HS Stage Band and Concert Band students are THRILLED to be back playing together as full ensembles this year! Following CDC and Department of Health guidelines, we are rehearsing at 3 feet distancing with bell covers on all wind instruments and masks for percussionists. We thank the Friends of Music for reimbursing our bell cover purchase and allowing school music to happen very close to normal again this year. Both groups debut for the year on November 18th at 7:30PM at the HS and each student will be allowed to have two family members present for the concert (with a required sign in). Concert Band will perform again in February and May, and Stage Band will perform at our annual Jazz Festival which will be back this year on April 6 - we are very excited and will be sharing guest artist information with families soon. We look forward to performing diverse concert programs all year making an effort to include underrepresented composers. We would like to highlight one such composer in this issue of Notes, Cait Nishimura. The concert band has really enjoyed rehearsing Nishimura's "**Chasing Sunlight**" which we will be performing on our November 18th program - her full biography can be viewed here: https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/2438/1237/files/Cait_Nishimura_full_bio_Fall_2020.pdf?v=1606626591

~Philip Pandori

JUNE CONCERTS

Thank you to our Middle School and High School students for your beautiful music! Thank you to the teachers for all your hard work!



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 twelve 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.

Moudgalya Bandaru	Concertino Strings	Violin
Ratna Bandaru	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Kehan Bao	Concertino Strings	Violin
Sophia Barnes	Symphony Orchestra	Bass
Ruchir Bollapragada	String Orchestra	Violin
Faith Borkowski	Symphony Orchestra	Violin
Vidhu Bulumulla	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Sean Calhoun	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
Micah Chen	Concertino Strings	Violin
Eujeong Choi	Symphony Orchestra	Cello
Pallavi Datta	Symphony Orchestra	Violin
Arin Khare	Youth Jazz Orchestra	Trumpet
Aryeh Korevaar	Repertory Orchestra	Bassoon
Vincent Liu	Concertino Strings	Violin
Kyle Markham	Symphony Orchestra	Cello
Cristina Rojo	Repertory Orchestra	Clarinet
Vincent Shi	Repertory Jazz	Alto Sax
Diane Son	String Orchestra	Viola
Simran Utturkar	String Orchestra	Viola
Duncan Wall	Symphony Orchestra	French Horn
Henry Wang	Repertory Orchestra	Viola
Andrew Watkins	Repertory Orchestra	Oboe
Brendan Yan	String Orchestra	Cello
Nathan Yan	Youth Jazz Orchestra	Tenor Sax
Xuning Ying	Symphony Orchestra	Violin
April Zhang	Repertory Orchestra	Violin
David Zhao	Wind Orchestra	Trumpet
Joelene Zheng	String Orchestra	Violin



FRIENDS OF MUSIC



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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.

Join us on Facebook @niskyfom & Instagram: niskyfriendsofmusic

www.niskyfom.org

You can also scan the following QR Code as a direct link to joining Friends of Music.



FRIENDS OF MUSIC

Dear Niskayuna Friends of Music,

What a year it's been! Never before have we been through such change and adaptation – including in our music programs. Thanks to our community's support of Friends of Music, we have kept music alive in our schools.

We are deeply proud of:

- Our **students**, who worked so hard to play and sing, either at home or in masks, six feet apart, learning new technology to make videos and recordings;
- Our **teachers**, who found creative new ways to teach music, inspiring students despite the shared disappointment of being unable to perform live concerts;
- Our **parents**, who answered the call to play a much larger role in helping students log on to meets, record videos and stay motivated to practice;
- Our **community**, who came together to celebrate Music in Our Schools Month last March through online concerts and performances.

At every turn, Friends of Music has been there to help. Providing masks for high school students; gifts cards and incentives for middle school students; personal music kits for elementary school students – and instrument bell covers for musicians in all grades.

We could not have played this vital role without the generosity of parents like you. That is why we are writing to ask you to support Friends of Music. More than ever, we want to keep our students making beautiful music!

We plan to provide grants for music enrichment, sponsor NYSSMA All-State students, present a Jazz Festival in April and provide senior scholarships. However, we know things can change quickly, and your support allows our parent volunteers to work with music teachers to provide essential tools to allow students to continue singing and playing together.

To make your donation via PayPal, visit: niskyfom.org. You can also mail a check to: Niskayuna Friends of Music, c/o H.S. Music Dept., 1626 Balltown Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

On behalf of our students, teachers, and parent board of directors, thank you in advance for your generosity. May music continue to bring joy to your family!

Eric Hughes
Maggie Vinciguerra
Sarah Bilofsky
Co-Chairs, 2021-2022 FOM Membership Drive

COMMUNITY SPONSORS



Jennifer S. Rudolph
Branch Operations Officer

Niskayuna Office
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Niskayuna, NY 12309

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