

Sullivan County Music Educators' Association

Eldred Central School

Brian Nivison ~ Tina Wildrick

Fallsburg Central School

Colleen Barber ~ Lauren Bernard

Danna Clear ~ Rachel Kleinman

Liberty Central School

Eric Aweh ~ Daniel McConnell

Emily McConnell ~ Roothland Medina

Jamie Ward ~ Sarah Weber ~ Jeff Yeung

Livingston Manor Central School

Jordana Maraj ~ Daniel Smith

Monticello Central School

John Bernstein ~ Tim Buckley ~ David Chidsey

Dawn Clayton ~ Benjamin Corbett ~ Aimee Haylett

Marissa Jurow ~ Erin Kowalski ~ Allison Linen

Michael Mingo ~ Nicholas Piperato ~ Andrew Verdino

Roscoe Central School

Kelly Bullis ~ Brian Kauth

Sullivan West Central School

Amy Gonzalez ~ Jerry Hoch ~ Michele Krentz

Alison Kramer ~ Kristina Verrico

Tri-Valley Central School

Kevin Giroux ~ Regina Hartman

Kaitlyn Thietje ~ Keira Weyant ~ Matthew Weyant

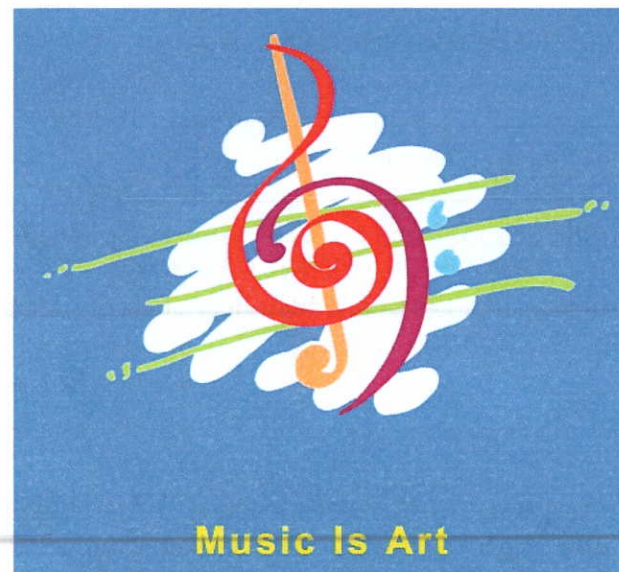
SCMEA Officers

Sarah Weber	President
Brian Kauth.....	Vice-President
Kristina Verrico	Secretary
Kevin Giroux.....	Treasurer
Andrew Verdino	Past President

The Sullivan County Music Educators' Association (SCMEA)

presents its

68th Annual All County Music Festival



Saturday, March 4, 2023

Liberty Central School

David E. Panebaker Auditorium

Eric Aweh & Daniel McConnell

Festival Chairpersons

Concert 1 - 1:30pm

Elementary Chorus

Middle School Band

Concert 2 - 3:30pm

Junior High Orchestra

Junior High Band

Concert 3 - 5:30pm

Senior High Jazz Band

Senior High Mixed Chorus

Welcome - Prior to each concert

Opening Remarks Eric Aweh & Daniel McConnell,
Festival Chairpersons
Legislative welcomes and proclamations..... Various

Program – Concert One 1:30 PM

Elementary Chorus - Vic Izzo III, Conductor

Jamie Ward (Liberty) & Jeff Yeung (Liberty), Chairpersons
Jeff Yeung, Accompanist

Ode to Peace..... Beethoven, adapted by Jill Gallina
based on the Finale from 9th Symphony
Hine Ma Tov Allan E. Naplan
This Is Me Benj Pakek & Justin Paul, arr. by Mac Huff
from "The Greatest Showman"

Middle School Band - William Greene, Conductor

Tina Wildrick (Eldred), Chairperson

Medieval Dance Thibaut de Blason, arranged by Michael Story
Ya Banks and Braes O'Bonnie Doon Scottish Folk Song,
arr. by Michael Sweeney
Swahili Folk Hymn..... Traditional, arr. by Kevin Mixon

Program – Concert Two 3:30 PM

Junior High Orchestra - Kate Stocker, Conductor

Sarah Weber (Liberty), Chairperson

March of the Meistersingers Richard Wagner,
from the Opera "Die Meistersinger" arr. Sandra Dackow
Fantasy on a Japanese Folk Song..... Brian Balmages
William Tell Overture Excerpt..... Gioacchino Rossini,
arr. Merle J. Isaac

Junior High Band - Todd Bialecki, Conductor

Brian Nivison (Eldred), Chairperson

Normandy Beach Concert March John Edmondson
Fiero Steve Hodges
Jungle Dance..... Brian Balmages

Liberty Board of Education

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Peter Racette, Vice President
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Timothy Hamblin
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Derek Adams, LHS Principal
Stephen Matuszak, LHS Assistant Principal
Devin Lamar, LHS Assistant Principal
Heather Cheh, LMS Principal
Christine "Chrissy" Miraglia, LMS Assistant Principal
Dr. Robert Woods, LMS Assistant Principal
Robert England, LES Principal
Dr. Jodie MacKrell, LES Assistant Principal
Brittney Cunningham, LES Assistant Principal
Deborah Degraw, Director of Student Services
Amy Black, Assistant Director of Student Services
Terry Harclerod, Director of Technology

Performing Arts Staff

Eric Aweh Director of Music, 5-8 Instrumental
Daniel McConnell 9-12 Instrumental
Emily McConnell 9-12 Choral
Roothland Medina 4 Band/Orchestra
Jamie Ward K-4 Vocal-General
Sarah Weber 5-12 Orchestra
Jeff Yeung 5-8 Vocal-General

Tim currently serves as the accompanist for the Sullivan West Senior High, Junior High and Elementary Choirs. He is a piano teacher at Nesin Cultural Arts in Monticello and is the pianist/organist at the United Methodist Church in Liberty. Tim continues to serve as a piano and voice adjudicator for NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association). To round out his busy retirement schedule Tim is currently serving a four year term on the LCSD Board Of Education.

In his free time (LOL) he likes to compose, workout, cook, spend time with friends and is a member of the Liberty Elks. He is honored to be the guest conductor for the HS Mixed Chorus. Much gratitude and thanks to Emily McConnell, Jerry Hoch and SCMEA for giving me this opportunity.



Keira Weyant, Mixed Chorus Accompanist, received her Music Education degree from Ithaca College in 2000 as a piano major. She spent five years at Roscoe Central School as the Vocal Director, where she could combine her love of music with her love for teaching children. When she and her husband started a family, Mrs. Weyant decided to resign from her position to stay home with their children full time. In the Fall of 2019, with all of her children now in school, she returned

to the classroom as a part-time music teacher for Tri-Valley. She is now full time and teaches 4 Chorus, 5/6 Chorus, 7/8 Chorus, 5th Grade General Music, as well as 7/8 voice lessons.

During her time at home, she continues to teach private piano lessons, something she has done for more than 25 years. Mrs. Weyant is passionate about choral accompanying and has had the opportunity to accompany various Area All-State Festivals, All-County Festivals, NYSSMA Solo Festivals, musicals, and school choral programs across the state, and is a member of the worship team at MSBF Ministries.

Mrs. Weyant currently resides in Grahamsville, NY, with her husband and their four children. She has been a member of the Sullivan County Community Chorus for 11 years and looks forward to many more years with this wonderful ensemble!

Program – Concert Three 5:30 PM

Senior High Jazz Band - Robert Shaut, Conductor

Matthew Weyant (Tri-Valley), Chairperson

Back Bone Thad Jones,
arr. by Mike Carubia

Man In the Green Shirt..... Joseph Zawinul,
arr. by Bob Shaut

Tutu Marcus Miller,
arr. by Philip Mossman

Light of Mine Traditional,
arr. by Bob Shaut

Senior High Mixed Chorus - Timothy Hamblin, Conductor

Jerry Hoch (Sullivan West), Chairperson

Keira Weyant (Tri-Valley), Accompanist

Hallelujah, Amen..... George F. Handel;
arr. by Patrick M. Liebergen

Set Me As A Seal Upon My Heart David N. Childs

Hold On Adam M.L. Tice and Sally Ann Morris

I Sing Because I'm Happy Civilla Martin, Charles H. Gabriel;
arr. by Kenneth Paden; adapted by Rollo Dilworth

Elementary Chorus

Soprano

Amelia Acosta -LM
Delilah Adams-SW
Amelia Almquist-LM
Ariel Aracci-M
Rose Beyea-R
Mary Blaut-E
Kleo Bracken-TV
Lillian Bressler-SW
Daisy Mae Bruning-E
Cadence Buckler-TV
Mya Castro-M
Paityn Closs-TV
Jordyn Conklin-SW
Alexis Curry-E
Avery Decker-L
Addison Dymond-TV
Addison Eckerson-F
Alessandra Egan-SW
Ethan Escobar-SW
Maria Gelsomino-TV
Arianah Hinkley-TV
Kerry Hirsch-SW
Mackenzie Houghtaling Hopkins-SW
Nevaeh Jones-L
Abigail Kennedy-TV
Andrew Kitson-SW
Harper Matuszak-L
Balsam Metawee-M
Bianna Meyer-TV
Ava Mioglionico-TV
Rebecca Moocz-F
Bentley Moore-L
Brooke Morgan-E
Maria Nardi-F
Denali Owens-L
Evelina Piatek-R
Easton Pugh-F
Makenzie Rainey-TV
Gianna Ramos-F
Scarlett Ratner-L
Dylan Joya Reyes-L

Genesis Reyes Robles-F
Aaliyssa Rodriguez-L
Caleb Rusin-L
Hannah Ryan -LM
Makynlie Smith-L
Zhara Snead-F
Holly Surerus-F
Alena Tarabichi-L
Jayda Teipelke-R
Sophie Toledo-L
Celia Totten-L
Mia Vazquez-E
Raegan Wagner-L
Tera Ward-R
Sky Wolfe-SW
Sophia Zahorchak-M

Alto

Paige Amback-LM
Yasmina Bache-Seraphin-F
Isabella Beach-L
Lukas Bressler-SW
Austin Bush-TV
Evangeline Capicchioni-F
Nicolas Ciorciari-F
Annaliese Clark-F
Julianna Corrigan-M
Grace Flores da Silva-M
Matthew Decker-L
Casity DiBartolo-L
Emily Ducey-SW
Kimberly Duncan-F
Kirsten Egan-SW
Claire Ferguson-L
Isabella Garritt-TV
Emily Hadden-TV
Jacob Hinkley-TV
Carsyn Hoeftling-F
Khloe Jordy-F
Cayden Keesler-M
Alexandra Kelly-L

Allison Kelly-SW
Nathan Kinne-E
Nakita Kinney-SW
Ayla Klein-SW
Arianna Lentini-M
Margie Madrid-F
Mahi Manwani-M
Patrick Maxwell Jr.-F
Aubree McBride-R
Rachel McCarthy-SW
Zoey McCarty-SW
Annabella Mead-F
Brianna Mendez-TV
Taylor Mitchell-LM
Matthew Mootz-M
Marielyd Muniz-F
Mia Murphy-TV
Aleah Nedd-M
Brianna Novello-SW
Sariah Ocasio-L
Sara Palmer-M
Mila Park-R
Quynn Parker-R
Jeremiah Perez-E
Jackson Powell-R
Mason Roberts-LM
Arianna Rodriguez-L
Aiden Satz-L
Annaleigh Schroeder-SW
Mason Tenbus-TV
Jaxon Terwilliger-E
Jacob Tice-E
Martin Troxel-E
Tia VanValkenburg-TV
Olivia Vencak Mathern-SW
Thomas Verbert-TV
Kellan Williams-TV
Ryan Willis-M
Ethan Zheng-L

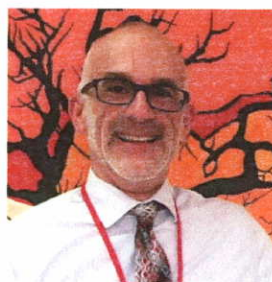


ensemble.

Bob Shaut, Senior High Jazz Band, retired from public school teaching after 37 years in the Poughkeepsie and Kingston Districts. His most outstanding accomplishment was directing the Kingston High School Jazz Ensemble and being selected to perform at Lincoln Center, having placed in the finals of the international Essentially Ellington competition. Bob also was an adjunct saxophone instructor at Vassar College as well as co-director of the Ulster Community College jazz

ensemble. As a saxophonist, Bob has performed with The Temptations, The Four Seasons, Andy Williams, Joan Rivers, Phyllis Diller, the Four Tops and many more. Currently, Bob performs with Andrea in the Father/Daughter Duo; Third Ghost (an avant garde trio); The Big Bang Big Band; The Altered Nine (jazz nonet); and with son Dan in the Dan Shaut Swing Orchestra; the Woodstock Horns in Professor Louie and the Crowmatix; and the Napoli/Shaut Sextet. Since 1985 Bob has lead Sax Life, a saxophone quartet with rhythm section. This group has had a residence at the Art Bar in Kingston, NY for two years.

Bob writes the music for several of the above groups, and some of his pieces have been performed around the country.



Timothy Hamblin, Senior High Chorus: Moving to Sullivan County in 1988 Tim began his career as a music teacher with the Liberty Central School District. During his tenure he taught at all levels, with the last 16 at the High School where he taught Music Appreciation, Piano Class and conducted the Mixed Chorus and Select Choir. Tim also served as Director of Music K-12 for several years. In June of 2021, with 33 successful and productive years, he retired.

He was active in the Sullivan County Music Educators Association throughout his career, serving as Chairperson or accompanist for numerous groups. He held the position of Vice President on the SCMEA Executive Board for many years. Working in conjunction with other dedicated, talented and supportive colleagues to promote, inspire and encourage students in the artistic process are memories Tim will forever cherish.

Tim received his music education degree from Ithaca College with a concentration in piano performance and a minor in voice. Earning a Masters Degree in Elementary Education in 1993 from SUNY New Paltz scored Tim dual certification. Tim attended the Ithaca College Summer Music Institute in 1994 and 1995 and earned Post graduate credits in piano pedagogy, vocal pedagogy, and Advanced choral conducting.



Kate Stocker, Junior High Orchestra is an engaging educator and performer in the metropolitan New York area. Throughout her career, her passion to collaborate and make music with those around her has always been palpable.

The foundation of Ms. Stocker's career has been built on giving all students an opportunity to have a rich and rewarding musical experience, regardless of ability. During her tenure as string teacher at Briarcliff Middle School, she co-founded the Rivertowns Honors Orchestra, a multi-district festival featuring middle school orchestra and band students. As the strings teacher at the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, Ms. Stocker led her students in a concert on the hallowed stage at Carnegie Hall, as well as a performance tour to Munich and Salzburg. Ms. Stocker currently teaches strings at the Hommocks Middle School in Mamaroneck, in Westchester County. She continues to create positive musical experiences for all students by bridging the gap between elementary and middle school in a large and successful school district. Additionally, Ms. Stocker has also been director of Hommocks' musical theater program.

While the majority of her career has been in Westchester County, Ms. Stocker's ties have always remained close to her native Long Island. She is a proud alum of the Usdan Center for Creative and Performing Arts, where she spent several summers managing the orchestra program, as well as conducting the junior orchestra and piloting a beginner's strings class.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Stocker has achieved much success as a conductor and performer. She has conducted several All-County festivals around New York State, served on the board for the Westchester County School Music Association (WCSMA) and performed with and served as board president of the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Stocker is also the second violinist of the Meadowlark Quartet, which has performed at Lincoln Center, the Brooklyn Museum, and other notable concert venues.

Ms. Stocker received her Bachelor of Science in Music Education from the Sunderman Conservatory at Gettysburg College in 2007, and her Masters of Science in Music Education from Western Connecticut State University in 2011. She is humbled and honored to stand on the conductors' podium for this SCMEA festival!

Middle School Band

Flute

Hope Corbett-L
Brea Sheeley-TV
Kayleigh Vogler-SW
Sydney Moscatiello-E
Brooke Golzak-L
Kinley Stevenson-SW
Zoey Sullivan-TV

Clarinet

Anahi Rodriguez-LM
Michael Tocco-L
Adam Babcock-TV
Madelyne Maxwell-F
Sophia Horton-TV
Abigail Haff-SW
Jean Arenas Galindo-M
Tyler Mendies-E
Junior Bustillo-F
Bryce Bressler-SW
Mila Mullen-E
Cristopher Rivera-F
Connor Casey-LM
Kaitlyn Clay-E
Amelia Cole-L
Mariana Joya Reyes-L
Aubreigh Green-L

Alto Saxophone

Tyler Juron-L
Tyler Pelayes-TV
Josue Monzon Del Cid-M
Hailey Gochenour-E
Tyler Smith-L
Madeline Mingo-TV
Sophia Jacobs-F
Tessa Hyzer-R
Kassidy Grundel-SW
Andrew Potoesek-LM

Tenor Saxophone

Isabella Kutschera-SW
Liam Weyant-TV

Baritone Saxophone

Aden Speer-SW

Trumpet

Aaden Woolard-L
Gavin Lissachi-L
Haley McKean-SW
Zachary Oliver-E
Kenzie Krier-TV
Aria Partridge-SW
Madelyn Cavello-M
Victor Payton-LM
Lilly Kehrly-L
Nathan Alexy-SW

French Horn

Jaxen Counts-E
Lex Bernas-SW

Trombone

Phillip Burrous-L
Emmanuel Leon-Leon-L
Zachary Ducey-SW
Zachariah Bickham-L
Levi Wood-R
Paxton Meade-TV
Samuel Terwilliger-E
Angelina Schwartz-LM

Baritone

Michael Feijo-L

Euphonium

Gabriel Hyde-SW

Tuba

Daniel Weyer-M

Percussion

Peter Miralle-L
Hunter Kavleski-L
Rachel Zuckerman-LM
Jacob Schall-M
Logan Noren-TV
Nason Fein-E
Alison McCarthy-SW

Junior High Orchestra

Violin 1

Colten Jay Allen-L
Riley Barbato-M
Jill Baumander-L
Mackenzie Casholle-L
Tyler DeLeon-M
Olivia Matuszak-L
Gwendolyn Meddaugh-L
Adriana Ponce
Agredano-L
Kathleen Robinholt-M
Allison Vasko-L

Violin 2

Olivia Bruce-L
Sophia Duarte-L
Victoria Henry-L
Aiden Hernandez Mejia-L
Andrea Hussain-M
Robert Kirk-M
Maya Ortiz-M
Genesis Paredes Torres-M
Jandi Ramirez-M
Sophia Vasko-L
Tehillah Wynter-M

Viola

Zackary Alvord-L
Omar Bravos Acevedo-M
Joshua DiBartolo-L
Sydania Foster-L
Emeliano Lima-M
Mariely Medina Orellana-L
Leo Messenger-M
Brooke Porter-L

Cello

Clara Campbell-M
Aryiah Cottman-L
Belle Gandulla-L
Ava Gwiozdowski-M
Hope Kinne-M
Kylie Melay-M
McKinzie Paterson-L
Ryleigh Schoonmaker-M
Emma Tacti-L

Bass

William Fassell-M
Roger Lynker, III-L
Emelia Rodriguez M

For the past 18 years, Bill has been teaching back in the Goshen school district as the Music Director of the 4th grade, 5th grade, and jazz bands. He also is the co-director of the Maybrook Wind Ensemble which plays throughout Orange County. As a trombone player, he has played with several groups throughout the area such as The New York Swing Exchange, Brass Quintessence, NY Wind Symphony, and the Rockland County Concert Band.

He is thrilled and grateful to have this opportunity to work with such a talented group of musicians.



Todd Bialecki, Junior High Band, is in his fourth year as a 9-12 Instrumental Director at Hornell High School. Todd is director of the Hornell High School Symphonic Band, High School Jazz Ensemble, Hornell Marching Red Raiders and also teaches Music Theory. Before joining the Hornell Music Department, Todd spent 28 years as the Director of Bands for the Alfred-Almond School District. He is an active member of the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) as both a certified brass judge and attending educator. His ensembles receive annual adjudications, consistently earning Gold and Silver ratings, with several Gold with Distinction ratings as well – the highest award in New York State. He is also a former adjunct professor of music at Alfred University and SUNY Alfred.

Mr. Bialecki has been a guest conductor across upstate New York in both Concert and Jazz. He is a member of the Great Lakes Wind Symphony and was a founding member of the Southern Tier Symphony. He has studied trumpet with Frank Cipolla of Kansas City Symphony Orchestra, David Kuehn of the Buffalo Philharmonic, and Dr. Michael Galloway of Mansfield University. His conducting mentors include Dr. Harriet Simons, Frank Cipolla, Dr. Peggy Detweiller, Dr. Michael Galloway, and Charles Peltz of the New England Conservatory of Music.

In his spare time, Mr. Bialecki enjoys cooking, hunting, fishing, skiing and the Buffalo Bills. He lives in Canisteo with his wife Lindsey and their rescue dog, Tasker.

Conductor & Accompanist Biographies



Vic Izzo III, Elementary Chorus, a native of New Paltz, NY, is a very well accomplished musician and educator. He received his Bachelors of Music: Music Education from Ithaca College and his MA in Music Pedagogy at the University of Hartford. He is currently an Elementary Music Teacher in the Poughkeepsie School District. He previously served as High School Chorus Teacher in the Minisink Valley and New Paltz Central School Districts. He has taught everything from

a Capella and group vocal lessons to Spring Musicals and Pit Orchestra direction. His choirs at Minisink Valley were nationally recognized and had given performances for Eric Whitacre, Deke Sharon, and Z. Randall Stroope. He has also hosted and chaired NYSSMA solo and ensemble festivals. He has also held the titles of Artistic Director for the Caitlin M Hammaren Community Children's Chorus in Middletown NY and Musical Director for Highland High School. His current projects also include coaching Varsity Girl's Volleyball and Varsity Co-Ed Bowling at Poughkeepsie High School. In his free time, he enjoys New York Giants football, New York Mets baseball, and groan inducing dad jokes.



Jeff Yeung, Elementary Chorus Accompanist, is a pianist and music teacher at Liberty Middle School. He graduated from Sullivan West High School in 2012. He started studying music at the Janice Center, where he studied piano, saxophone, and guitar. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance from SUNY Purchase in 2016 and received his Master's of Art in Teaching from Manhattanville College in 2021. After graduating, Jeff continued to work in Sullivan County with

the community that supported his musical development. He has performed and taught alongside local organizations, including Nesin Cultural Arts, and for schools in Sullivan County, including Liberty High School and Sullivan West High School. Jeff is the co-chair for the current All County Elementary Chorus and has accompanied All County choirs in the past.



Bill Greene, Middle School Band, has lived in Orange County for most of his life. After graduating from Goshen High School in 1999, he continued his studies at SUNY Fredonia, where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. While teaching in the Valley Central school district, Bill also completed his Graduate Degree in Music Pedagogy at the Hartt School of Music located in Hartford Connecticut.

Junior High Band

Flute

Liahna Mullen-E
Damaris Garcia-L
Joseph DiBartolo-L
Kaitlyn Drobysch-SW
Cassandra Porter-L
Alexia Clark-F
Peyton Stevenson-SW
Olivia Counts-E

Oboe

Iman Mameri-SW
Jovi Roosa-M

Clarinet

Ethan Clark-SW
Gracyn Halloran-SW
Anna Furman-TV
Matthew Weinstein-M
Marissa Yannetta-SW
Mackenzie Bush-TV
Meghan Kelly-SW
Madison Daw-E
Aimee Walton-SW
Chanel Han-F
Jayden Rodriguez-SW
Sophronia Kuchar-F
Brooklyn Vieiro-SW
Lily Green-R

Bass Clarinet

Jarvin Nunez Mejia-F
Grace Ward-LM

Alto Saxophone

Klaudia Wysocki-E
Carmela Burgio-L
Brady Knight-TV
Tyler Stevenson-SW

Tenor Saxophone

Jasper Hance-M

Baritone Saxophone

Alec Hubert-SW
Thomas Macias Olarte-M

Trumpet

Marissa Gochenour-E
Jocelyn Doyle-SW
Ryan Hoch-SW
Gianna Lewis-L
Sophia Richardson-TV
Angela Wheeler-L
Taylor Schwartz-L
Angelina Magie-L
Dion Knight-M

French Horn

Gwen Redman-TV
Phoenix Stanton-TV
Sara Hollenbeck-LM

Trombone

Brandon Buschmann-L
Phillo Romero-L
Tristin Revell-M
David Hoag-LM

Baritone

Leah Russell-F

Tuba

Liam Bernas-SW
William Blume-TV

Percussion

Kiamesha Camacho-Torres-M
John Mingo-TV
Aaron Edwards-TV
Cynthia Leon-L
Tabitha Smith-E
Eric Moocz-F
Elizabeth Cruz Cruz-L

Senior High Jazz Band

Alto Saxophone

Connor Weyant - TV
Dylan Nichols - L
Michael Feltman - M

Tenor Saxophone

Sienna Dutcher - LM
Elaina Louise Ramirez - L

Baritone Saxophone

Dante Tallia - M
Peter March - SW

Trumpet

Filiberto Nieves - L
Henry Simon - SW
Noah Edwards - TV
Sincere Warren - L
Francis Giorgianni - M

Trombone

Ksenia Sosnowski - E
Robert Pape-Laucella - M
Derek Wheeler - L
Boise Sellers - L
Anthony Aubain Jr. - L
Erin Lenihan - LM

Piano

Angela Cordischi - SW

Bass

Autumn Walsh - E

Percussion

Armaan Butler - TV
Van Furman - TV

Hold On: A few months ago I heard a presentation by Sullivan 180 on the health and welfare of our county residents. Various statistical data was shared. There was one on teenage suicide that was most disturbing to me. Sullivan County has the 2nd highest rate of teenage suicide in the state. While the complexities of why are complicated we must work to change this sobering statistic.

This song was written for a friend whose brother had committed suicide. Adam Tice shared the following about his composition "While there are many songs that invite individuals to a community to a community of faith, I have found very few that name the commitment of the community to an individual." It was the poignant lyrics and expressive melody that immediately drew me to choose this selection. "And when your hope is gone and you can't hold on, we will hold on to you" is the repeated message in this song and one I hope we embrace as a community. Music can comfort the distressed.

I Sing Because I'm Happy: Civilla Martin wrote this in 1905 when she was visiting Elmira, NY with her husband. While there they met a lady whose deteriorating health confined her to bed. Her husband had been crippled and used a wheelchair for mobility. The Martin's were inspired by the positive spirit of the elderly couple despite their extreme health challenges. When Mr. Martin asked what provided them the strength of positivity when dealing with such adversity the women responded "his eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me". That phrase stuck with Mrs. Martin and the rest, shall we say, is history.

Based on the gospel hymn "His Eye Is On The Sparrow" this arrangement provides the listener with characteristics of the gospel style. While the root of the text is biblically based, other interpretations can exist in our modern society. The history of popular music derived from the roots of jazz. Jazz, of course, developed from and has characteristics of the African American Spiritual. From a historical perspective programming spirituals has always been my way of not forgetting our cultural journey. Spirituals inherently leave a person feeling uplifted and that is how I like to leave an audience. After the pandemic rendered choirs silent I wanted an uplifting and energetic closing selection that expressed the passion and joy singing provides. Do I sing because I'm happy or Am I happy because I sing? It does not matter, just SING! Out of the silence, music survives and once again we sing. Music alone shall live, never to die.

Normandy Beach: This appealing and stately British style march has been a staple in the repertoire for young bands since it was first published in 1982. Written using a tempo which is slower than typical American marches, it opens with a feature for percussion and flutes. Gradually other sections join the mix until reaching the magnificent strains for full band. From there, the instrumentation thins out, leading to a reprise of the flute and percussion statement. - Publisher's program note

Fiero: This dynamic Latin-style piece features expanded percussion parts and aggressive rhythms, highlighting a soaring, Spanish-style melody, featuring a variety of dynamics and syncopated rhythms. Publisher's program note

Senior High Mixed Chorus:

Hallelujah, Amen: This popular piece in the classic choral world is from Handel's Oratorio Judas Maccabeus. Oratorios were dramatic works, composed as if they were operas, but specifically designed not to be staged. During Handel's time stage productions were not allowed during the season of Lent so he developed this medium to maneuver around the strict rule. His other famous oratorio is The Messiah with the famous "Hallelujah Chorus".

Judah was considered a warrior for driving the Greek occupants out of Judea. When he was killed in a victorious battle his brothers, father and followers were completely disheartened. The Maccabees, who were inspired by Judah, eventually ousted the Greeks from the land for good. They celebrated this victory with the holiday Hanukkah. The celebratory spirit of the music is conveyed throughout the song with its energetic tempo. In the text we are reminded of the significant honor and respect his faithful followers had for Judah. Music can celebrate and honor.

Set Me As A Seal Upon My Heart: The text from the Song of Solomon is perhaps the most descriptive in explaining the power of love. During the time of King Solomon it was custom to seal documents or anything of importance with a piece of wax with the King's imprint. The opening of the text is the bride asking the King to set her like a seal upon his heart. A sealed document with an image of the king meant that the king took ownership of the contents. A seal with her image and his image perfectly matched for in marriage they became one. Heart to heart because their love is unquenchable and stronger than death.

David Childs conveys the concept of becoming one by having the choir sing parts of the text in unison. The large intervals contained in the beautiful opening melody makes this a rigorous piece for high school choirs. Music can express or describe eternal love.

Senior High Mixed Chorus

Soprano

Leanna Auletta-M
Kai Colon-M
Megan Cristaldi-LM
Zeimoni Dansby-L
Aisha Darboe-F
Sarah Dye-M
Jordan Dymond-TV
Jayla Edwards-L
Sophia Ferguson-L
Arianna Gonzalez-F
Jordan Hewlett-L
Charlyanna Johnson-L
Nevaeha Jones-LM
Angelina Kehrley-Eld
Julia Kurthy-M
Anastasia Matos-LM
Kansas Miner-R
Brook Mulholland-TV
Tabitha Mulholland-TV
Eden Noren-TV
Semaj-zae Potter-F
Samantha Powell-R
Noah Rivera-M
Genesis Rivera Medina-F
Alexa Rogers-SW
Ariel Roycroft-SW
Cyriah Russell-F
Allie Sierens-SW
Anabella Wagner-SW
Mykenzi Williams-L
Jewel Wright-LM
Madison Yonker-TV
Rachael Yusko-SW

Alto

Kristen Amoroso-Eld
Lucy Arzilli-SW
Frances Ball-LM
Halie Cheng-LM
Rayanna Cottman-L
Bintou Darboe-F
Cheyenne Decker-SW
Natalie Edwards-Eld
Kaydence Everitt-SW
Joselin Flores Galeas-TV
Lianna GissentanerL
Emily Hathaway-LM
Grace Hernandez-L
Julia Juron-L
Sierra Kaplan-F
Hannah McGruder-M
Catherine Pena-F
Angelina Rodriguez-L
Cassandra Rose-F
Alexandra Ruiz-F
Emily Rusin-TV
Ariana Small-TV
Erin Spear-M
Olivia Stickle-R
Aden Volpe-SW
Kaitlyn Weiss-M
Bronwynn Wolcott-LM
Julia Wysokinska-M
Rachel Yaun-L

Tenor

Michael Browne-SW
Alexander Depuy-F
Nathan Desrochers-L
Eli Desrochers-L
Alexander Depuy-McBride-F
Morris Germann-M
Ethan Hoch-SW
Jacob Hyde-SW
Jacob Kelly-L
Wesley Kinne-R
Mark Klein-TV
Joshua Kratz-L
RJ Leach-TV
William Martinez Martinez-F
Luke Robinholt-M
Logan Weyant-TV

Bass

Andrew Bensimon-F
Lennie Gleyzer-M
Liam Haering-R
Jaxon Ingber-F
James Letohic-L
Collin Mentnech-TV
Braden Powell-R
Logan Schmeiser-R
Eoin Smith-M
Jackson Wolcott-L

Program Notes

Elementary Chorus

Ode To Peace: The story of Ludwig Van Beethoven's inclusion of "Ode To Joy" in his final 9th Symphony has been passed down for generations. Many recount of Beethoven "crazily" wandering around the towns humming Friedrich Schillers children's tune, never knowing the masterpiece that would emerge. The tragedy is that Beethoven would never hear his final work, as by this time he had become completely deaf. I can only imagine the pain and torture for someone with such a perfect gift to have to endure the slow loss of hearing starting in 1803 until his death in 1827. I am so glad to have shared this beautiful piece with your children that so expertly incorporates Beethoven with the beautiful idea of "peace and love for all man-kind in Jill Gallina Original text.

Hine ma tov: "Behold, how good it is for brethren to dwell together in peace." When I think of this text I am reminded very fondly of the story of two first-grade boys who got their haircut the same and wore the same exact outfit to trick their teacher even though they were both of different races. This beautiful story and the children I teach every day in the Poughkeepsie City School District lead me to believe our future is going to turn out just fine.

On a personal note, it is very special to me to share the choral music of Allan Naplan. He, as am I, was a graduate of the Ithaca College School of Music.

This Is Me from The Greatest Showman: How fortunate we are to be living during the time of the resurgence of the movie musical. This song speaks of standing up and being proud of who you are. This is a beautiful message for these and all times.

Middle School Band

Medieval Dance is based upon a secular song, Amours, que porra devenir (O love, what will become of me) composed by the French nobleman and poet Thibaut de Blason probably around 1200 A.D. This new arrangement is marked "Lively," The mixolydian melody is first played by flute, oboe, trumpet, and bells in octave unisons, but the straightforward and effective scoring allows every section a melodic opportunity.

Ye Banks and Braes O'Bonnie Doon: The Banks O' Doon is a Scots song written by Robert Burns in 1791, sometimes known as Ye Banks and Braes (after the opening line of the third version). Burns set the lyrics to an air called The Caledonian Hunt's Delight. Michael Sweeney takes this tender and lyrical folk song and creates a marvelous setting. This arrangement provides a wealth of musicality through creative harmonies and skilled scoring. Every section gets a chance to play the melody at some point.

Swahili Folk Hymn: This spirited number from East Africa will keep all members busy. Percussionists play authentic rhythms that groove and there is an optional section where students can easily improvise, compose or play written solos.

Junior High Orchestra

March of the Meistersingers from the Opera "Die Meistersinger.": Richard Wagner's opera Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg is one of his later dramas, and an opera "full of daylight." The March heard on stage today uses "huge, broad, rich [overlapping] themes" to convey optimism and confidence. The opera explores the value of music as an art form, with the Meistersingers of the title referring to the townspeople of the German city of Nuremberg who have trained long and hard to earn the title of "Master Singer." One such singer in Wagner's story offers his daughter's hand in marriage to the winner of a singing competition that he arranges. Program note paraphrased from Julian Johnson's video introduction to Glyndebourne Opera's first production of Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg.

Fantasy on a Japanese Folk Song: "Based on the enchanting melody of Sakura, Sakura, this fantasy on the popular Japanese folk song winds through several melodic shifts and harmonic variations," writes modern-day composer, conductor, and educator Brian Balmages. The tune evokes the beautiful pink cherry blossoms that are widespread during Spring in Japan. Slower and delicate, it provides a welcome contrast to the other selections in today's performance.

William Tell Overture Excerpt: Composer Giachino Rossini probably never imagined in 1829 that his opera's first few minutes would become one of the most ubiquitous and recognizable musical themes ever. You may know the William Tell Overture as the theme song to the American Western drama The Lone Ranger. Since the 1930's, movies, radio, and television have reinforced the "memory" of this piece in the minds of many in America and around the world.

William Tell was a hero in Swiss legend. Rossini set the story of William Tell to music, and the tune we know today was born. The galloping theme is introduced by a lone trumpet in the original work, then joined by horns and strings in a wild release of pent up energy following the slower, more tension-filled opening of the Overture. Program note paraphrased from Betsy Schwarm, contributor to Encyclopedia Britannica.

Junior High Band

Jungle Dance is a new type of piece for me [Brian Balmages]. It depicts a celebration in the middle of a jungle. It is not specific to people -- it actually represents the celebration of all living things -- animals, plants, and people-- all coming together in a high energy celebration of life and nature. The melody itself is quite infectious and is treated as a passacaglia... The melody repeats constantly while the textures, rhythms and harmonies around it change and develop. - Program Note by composer