

**The North Jersey School Music Association
proudly presents the**

***North Jersey School
Music Association
Twenty-Sixth Annual
High School
Concert Band Festival***

March 17, 2026

West Essex Regional High School - 9:30 am & 6:00 pm

March 18, 2026

Parsippany Hills High School - 9:00 am

Parsippany High School - 6:00 pm

March 19, 2026

Mount Olive Middle School - 9:00 am

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 - 9:30 am
West Essex Regional High School

West Orange High School Concert Band - Joshua Zimmer, director

Chasing Sunlight.....Cait Nishimura
Murphy Music Press
Desert Voices.....Roland Barrett
FJH

Pompton Lakes High School Concert Band - Kevin Schaarschmidt, director

Rail Riffs.....Brian Balmages
MakeMusic
My Dearest Jane.....Erika Svanoe
Swan Maiden Press

Nutley High School Concert Band - Vincent Vicchiariello, director

Nostalgia.....Rossano Galante
Alfred
Overture for Winds.....Charles Carter
Bourne

West Orange High School Symphonic Winds - Erin Lagatic, director

Albanian Dance.....Shelley Hanson
Windependence
Cajun Folk Songs.....Frank Ticheli
I. La Belle et le Capitaine
II. Belle
Manhattan Beach

West Essex High School Concert Band - Elise McAloon, director

Iowa - May 15, 1968.....Corey J. McBride
Corey J. McBride ASCAP
Among the Clouds.....Brian Balmages
FJH

Nutley High School Wind Ensemble - Vincent Vicchiariello, director

Sheltering Sky.....John Mackey
John Mackey
In Flight.....Samuel R. Hazo
Hal Leonard

West Essex High School Symphonic Winds - Elise McAloon, director

Perthshire Majesty.....Samuel R. Hazo
Boosey & Hawkes
Illumination.....David Maslanka
Maslanka Press

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 - 6:00 pm
West Essex Regional High School

Columbia High School Symphonic Band - Peter F. Bauer, director

Chant and Savage Dance.....Brian Balmages
FJH
Lindbergh Variations.....Robert Sheldon
Birch Island Music Press

West Milford High School Symphonic Band - Anthony Paterno, director

Deep Blue.....Kevin Day
Murphy Music Press
West Highlands Sojourn.....Robert Sheldon
C. L. Barnhouse

Columbia High School Honors Wind Ensemble - Peter F. Bauer, director

Of Dark Lords and Ancient Kings.....Roland Barrett
Wingert-Jones
Symphonic Dance No. 3 - "Fiesta"Clifton Williams
Sam Fox

West Orange High School Wind Ensemble - Lewis C. Kelly, director

Suite Provencale.....Jan Van der Roost
I. Un ange a fa la crido
II. Adam a sa Coumpagno
III. Lou Fustie
IV. Lis Escoubo
De Haske
Magnolia Star.....Steve Danyew
C. Alan Publications

Livingston High School Wind Symphony - Michael Jedwabnik, director

Suite of Old American DancesRobert Russell Bennett
III. Western One-Step
V. Rag
Hal Leonard
Abram's Pursuit.....David Holsinger
TRN Music

Hackettstown High School Wind Ensemble - Adam Freeman, director

Our Castaways.....Julie Giroux
 Music Propria
Illumination.....David Maslanka
 Maslanka Press

Clifton High School Wind Ensemble - Bryan Stepneski, director

Mannin Veen.....Haydn Wood
 Boosey & Hawkes
Bridges.....Katahj Copley
 Katahj Copley Music

West Milford High School Wind Ensemble - Matthew Gramata, director

Until the Scars.....John Mackey
 Osti
Deciduous.....Viet Cuong
 Murphy Music Press

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 - 9:00 am
Parsippany Hills High School

Parsippany Hills High School Concert Band - Michelle Christianson & Lauren Schmitt, directors

Selections from Suite of Old American Dances.....Robert Russell Bennett
arr. James Curnow

I. Western One-Step
Hal Leonard
Shenandoah.....Frank Ticheli
Manhattan Beach

Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan Symphonic Band - Amy Wilcox, director

The Nature of Trees.....Cait Nishimura
Cait Nishimura Music
Sunbloom.....Gavin Lendt
Randall Standridge Music

Ramsey High School Concert Band - Andre Baruch, director

Tudor Sketches.....William Owens
FJH
Caribana Afterparty.....Omar Thomas
Omar Thomas Music

Glen Rock High School Symphonic Winds - Mathew Peterson, director

Chanteys.....Robert Sheldon
Alfred
Spirit of the Falcon.....Richard Saucedo
Hal Leonard

Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan Wind Ensemble - Amy Wilcox, director

Hymn for World Peace.....David Maslanka
Maslanka Press
Iridessi.....Katahj Copley
Katahj Copley Music

Ramsey High School Wind Ensemble - Josh Jenkins, director

Wayfaring Stranger.....Christopher M. Nelson
C. Alan
Play!.....Carl Holmquist
C. Alan

Randolph High School Symphonic Band - Michael Lichtenfeld, director

Appalachian Morning.....Robert Sheldon
Alfred
Alligator Alley.....Michael Daugherty
American Composers Forum

Randolph High School Wind Ensemble - Nick Fantazzi, director

Dusk.....Steven Bryant
Hal Leonard
Mouvement Frénétique.....Jonathan Dagenais
Alfred

Emerson Jr/Sr HS Concert Band - Meghan Correll, director

Earth SongFrank Ticheli
Manhattan Beach
Shepherd's Hey.....Percy Grainger
Carl Fischer

Parsippany Hills High School Wind Ensemble - Michelle Christianson & Lauren Schmitt, directors

O Magnum Mysterium.....Morten Lauridsen
trans. H. Robert Reynolds
Peer
Strange Humors.....John Mackey
Osti

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 - 6:00 pm
Parsippany High School

Morristown High School Symphonic Band - David Gallagher, director

Flying Away.....Yukiko Nishimura
Carl Fischer
Fearless.....Carol Britten Chambers
Excelcia

Wayne Hills High School Symphonic Band - Annie Pascale, director

Prelude, Siciliano and RondoMalcolm Arnold
arr. John Paynter
I. Prelude
II. Siciliano
III. Rondo
Carl Fischer
Fearless.....Carol Brittin Chambers
Excelcia

Madison High School Symphonic Band -Russell Batsch, director

Emperata Overture.....Claude T. Smith
Wingert-Jones
Mischievous Behavior.....Rossano Galante
C.L. Barnhouse

North Bergen High School Wind Ensemble - Mike Connor, director

Symphony No. 4.....Andrew Boysen, Jr.
Kjos
In Living Color.....Katahj Copley
Katahj Copley, LLC

Morristown High School Wind Ensemble - David Gallagher, director

With Heart & Voice.....David R. Gillingham
C. Alan
Conga Del Fuego Nuevo.....Arturo Marquez
trans. Oliver Nickel
Peer

Verona High School Concert Band - Erik Lynch, director

Hail to the Spirit of Liberty MarchJohn Philip Sousa
United States Marine Band
Be Thou My VisionDavid R. Gillingham
C. Alan

Bloomfield High School Wind Ensemble - Natalie Kerr, director

Cherished.....Robert Sheldon
Alfred
J.S. Jig.....Brant Karrick
Alfred

Parsippany High School Wind Ensemble - Michael Iapicca, director

Yorkshire Ballad.....James Barnes
Southern
Joy RevisitedFrank Ticheli
Manhattan Beach

Thursday, March 19, 2026 - 9:00 am
Mount Olive Middle School

Mount Olive High School Symphonic Band - Daniel Pasquale, director

Air for Band.....Frank Erickson
 Bourne
Choose Joy.....Randall D. Standridge
 RS Music

Mahwah High School Symphonic Band - Jeffrey C. Bittner, director

Light of my World.....Patrick Smith
 C. Alan
Arabesque.....Samuel Hazo
 Hal Leonard

West Morris Mendham High School Symphonic Band - Mick Gibbons, director

Darklands March.....Randall Standridge
 Grand Mesa
Tripwire.....JaRod Hall
 Alfred

Hanover Park Regional High School Symphonic Band - David Finkelstein & Adam Rack, directors

The Cave You Fear.....Michael Markowski
 Markowski Creative
American Folk Rhapsody No. 4.....Clare Grundman
 Boosey & Hawkes

West Morris Mendham High School Wind Ensemble - Mick Gibbons, director

Cenotaph.....Jack Stamp
 Kjos
Kalos Eidos.....Carol Brittin Chambers
 Excelcia

Northern Highlands Regional High School Wind Ensemble - Taylor Rehe, director

October.....Eric Whitacre
 Hal Leonard
Arabian Dances.....Brian Balmages
 FJH

Kinnelon High School Wind Ensemble - Ryan Stroud, director

The Seal Lullaby.....Eric Whitacre
Hal Leonard
Ruckus.....Randall Standridge
Grand Mesa

Hoboken High School Symphonic Band - Dave Stasiak, director

Under the Cherry Blossoms.....Randall Standridge
Grand Mesa
Cantina Band.....John Williams
arr. Johnny Vinson
Hal Leonard

Mount Olive High School Wind Ensemble Honors - Darrell Hendricks, director

Seis Manuel from Islas y Montanas.....Shelley Hanson
Boosey & Hawkes
Mannin Veen.....Haydn Wood
Boosey & Hawkes

How the Festival is Adjudicated:

The adjudicators for tonight's festival rate the bands using the North Jersey School Music Association (NJSMA) High School Concert Band Festival Performance Assessment Rubric:

Interpretation – 30 points

Tone/Intonation – 20 points

Ensemble Technique – 20 points

Balance – 20 points

Literature – 10 points

TOTAL POINTS – 100

88 – 100 = Gold Rating

72 – 87 = Silver Rating

50 – 71 = Bronze Rating

05 – 49 = Participation Award

After each band's performance they will receive a clinic with one of our festival clinicians. At the end of each festival, awards will be given for:

- Outstanding Woodwind Section
- Outstanding Brass Section
- Outstanding Percussion Section
- Outstanding Musicianship Award(s) (for any soloists or other deserving musicians)

After the completion of the four festivals, the top four scoring ensembles will be invited to perform at the New Jersey State Concert Band Gala Concert at William Paterson University on Sunday, April 26, 2026. This concert will feature top four scoring ensembles from our region (Region I), central New Jersey (Region II) and southern New Jersey (Region III).

Our Adjudicators

Chris DeVona is the Assistant Director of Bands at James Madison University, where he conducts the Symphonic Band, directs the basketball Pep Band, and works with the Marching Royal Dukes. In addition to his ensemble responsibilities, Chris also teaches conducting and marching band procedures courses. Prior to joining the band team at JMU, Chris was on faculty at Eastern University (PA), and he taught high school and middle school band/orchestra in his home state of Connecticut.

In addition to his teaching, Chris's works as an author span from educational literature to research in the wind band field. His recent textbooks include *Small Band, Big Sound*, a resource guide for music educators, as well as *Expanding the Canon*, a conducting excerpt book that foregrounds music by living composers. Chris's research primarily addresses score interpretation and connections with contemporary music analysis; his articles are published in the *Journal of Band Research* and the journal of the International Conductor's Guild.

When not working with the JMU bands, Chris travels frequently as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator for concert and marching ensembles. During the summer and fall seasons, Chris stays actively involved with marching band and drum corps, most recently serving in leadership roles on the staffs at the Blue Knights and Jersey Surf Drum & Bugle Corps.

Chris holds undergraduate degrees from the Hartt School and the University of Hartford in music theory and mathematics, and he completed his M.M. in conducting at West Chester University (PA).

Dr. Andrea E. Brown is the Associate Director of Bands at the University of Maryland where she conducts the University of Maryland Wind Ensemble, serves as the Director of Athletic Bands, teaches conducting, and is the coordinator of the conducting division. Brown is formerly a member of the conducting faculty at the University of Michigan where she served as the assistant director of bands and was a faculty sponsor of a College of Engineering Multidisciplinary Design Project team researching conducting pedagogy technology. She also served as the director of orchestra and assistant director of bands at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. She is a frequent guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator in the US, Europe and Asia.

While under her direction, the UMD Wind Ensemble has been selected to perform at the College Band Directors National Association Eastern Division Conference, and has performed works by a diverse range of composers. Brown and the ensemble have collaborated with soloists Master Gunnery Sgt. Sam Barlow, Willie Clark, Robert DiLutis, Jennifer Piazza-Pick and Amanda Staub. She led a consortium commissioning Omar Thomas's setting of *Shenandoah* and has participated in commissions for works by Katahji Copley, Shiyung Li, Catherine Likhuta, Li Chan and Harrison Collins.

During her time at Maryland, the UMD “Mighty Sound of Maryland” Marching Band has collaborated in halftime shows with local artists such as the Critical Condition Band (DC GoGo), Mawty Maw (rap artist), Grace Chin (drum set), the Maryland Steel Pan Collective, and UMD Choirs. MSOM has also been a part of joint performances with the Howard University “Showtime” Marching Band and the Penn State “Blue” Band, and has participated in special performances at The Kennedy Center (DC), the Heisman Trophy Banquet (NY) and Bands of America Regionals (MD).

Brown has contributed to several books published by GIA Publications such as *Women in Wind Band* (Keeton-Howard & Wagner), *Rehearsing the Marching Band* (Meyer) and has had several rehearsal guides published in the popular series, *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band*. She has presented at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Oxford Conducting Institute, the Yamaha Bläserklasse in Schlitz, Germany, the International Computer Music Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the College Music Society International Conference in Sydney, Australia and multiple times at the College Band Directors National Association National Conference. Brown completed a DMA in instrumental conducting at UNC Greensboro where she was a student of John Locke and Kevin Gerald. While at UNCG, she was both guest conductor and principal horn on UNCG Wind Ensemble's *equus!*, *fireworks!*, and *finish line!* CDs released on the Equilibrium label.

A proponent of inclusion and equity issues in the music profession, Brown is a frequent guest speaker on these topics. Brown is the founder of “Women Rising to the Podium”- an online group of over 5000 members supporting and celebrating women band directors. She currently serves on the CBDNA Diversity Committee and was a founding member of the Drum Corps International InStep Committee.

Brown previously served on the brass and conducting instructional staff of the DCI World Champion Phantom Regiment (2004 – 2017). Other marching organizations she has instructed include the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band and Carolina Crown. Brown has served as a music judge for Drum Corps International since the 2022 season and has been a member of the John Philip Sousa Foundation Sudler Shield Jury since 2021. Brown was also invited to be a director for the 2024 D-Day 80th Anniversary Collegiate Mass Band and led the group in its performances in Normandy, France.

As a performer, Brown was a member of the AA Brass Quintet, which won the International Brass Quintet Competition hosted by Fred Mills at the University of Georgia. She performed with the horn sections of the Boston Brass All Stars Big Band, North Carolina Symphony, Winston-Salem Symphony and the Brevard Music Center Orchestra. Brown has studied brass performance and pedagogy with Abigail Pack, J.D. Shaw, Jack Masarie, Freddy Martin, Dottie Bennett, Randy Kohlenberg, Richard Steffen and Ed Bach.

Originally from Milan, Tennessee, she is a graduate of Austin Peay State University and earned a master of music degree in horn performance and a master of music education degree with a cognate in instrumental conducting from UNCG. Prior to her position at Georgia Tech, Brown was the assistant director of bands at Austin Peay State University and taught public school in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and

Dallas, Texas. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Pi Kappa Lambda, WASBE, NAFME and CBDNA. She was awarded the Rose of Honor as a member of Sigma Alpha Iota Women's Music Fraternity and is an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. Brown lives just outside of Washington, D.C. in College Park, MD, with her dog, Carter.

Our Clinicians

Dennis Argul is a music educator and administrator with a 40 - year career in the NJ Public Schools system. He is currently an adjunct professor at Montclair State University, mentoring clinical interns, coordinating their respective clinical placements, and teaching various courses for the Department of Teaching and Learning and the Cali School of Music. Dennis is also a member of the NJ Music Administrators Association, the NJ Music Education Association, a member of the NJ September Ready Task Force, NJ Steering Arts Committee and Director of the NJ State Solo and Ensemble Festival.

As a performer, Dennis is a freelance low brass musician, specializing in bass trombone, and performs with many ensembles in the NY/NJ metropolitan area. Dennis Argul has been active in the marching arts activity as a performer, arranger, composer, clinician, and designer. For the last four decades Dennis has also been an adjudicator for many organizations and genres, most recently enjoying his experiences as a judge with Drum Corps International.

John Palatucci is a performing musician on euphonium and trombone as well as a singer, conductor, clinician, an adjudicator and educator. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education and a Master of Arts degree in music performance from Montclair State College of New Jersey as well as a Master of Education degree in educational leadership with all accompanying certificates and licenses from NJ EXCEL. Making his New York solo debut in 1983, from 1986-2005 he served the famous Goldman Memorial Band of NYC as principal euphonium, featured soloist, conductor, and business manager. He has toured and recorded with Keith Brion's New Sousa Band and the Gramercy Brass Orchestra as well as with other musical luminaries ranging from Placido Domingo to Dave Brubeck to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. He is a charter member of the NJ Wind Symphony where he serves as associate conductor, principal euphonium, and featured soloist. Since 1990, he is the music director of the Orpheus Club Men's Chorus of Ridgewood. Recent appearances include soloing with the Westchester Symphonic Winds at the Caramoor Festival, the world premiere of Patrick Burn's Vignettes for solo euphonium and concert band with the NJ Wind Symphony, Yankee Stadium and conducting at St. Patrick's Cathedral and the National Chorale's Messiah Sing-Ins on the stage of Lincoln Center's David Geffen Hall.

Special Thanks and Acknowledgements

Festival Hosts:

Elise McAloon - West Essex Regional High School

Michelle Christianson & Lauren Schmitt - Parsippany Hills High School

Michael Iapicca & Erin Neglio - Parsippany High School

Darrell Hendricks & Melany McQueeney - Mount Olive Middle School

NJSMA Concert Band Festival Co-Chairs:

Michael Iapicca - Parsippany High School

Lewis C. Kelly - West Orange High School

NJSMA Band Division Co-Chairs:

Xavier Bonilla - Roy W. Brown Middle School

Christopher DeWilde - Anthony Wayne Middle School

Amy Wilcox - Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan

A very special thank you goes out to the administration and custodial staff at each of our host schools. In addition, the success of this festival is only possible with the help of each school's Music/Band Parent Associations - many thanks!