

Sunday, January 26, 2025

**An Afternoon of Jazz:
Youth Jazz Band,
Jazz Band and Jazz Ensemble**

1:00 pm

**Wind Symphony
and Alumni Band**

6:00 pm

Madison Theatre at Molloy University

Monday, February 10, 2025

Youth Band and Honor Band

7:30 pm

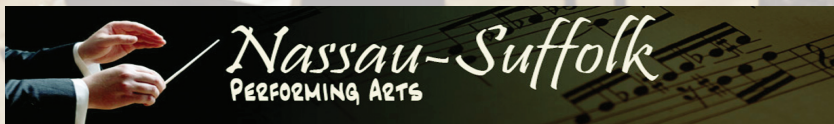
Tilles Center for the Performing Arts

*This season of Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts is
dedicated to the memory of our founder and friend
Abby Behr*



Abby Behr

1953-2024



Youth Band • Honor Band
Youth Jazz Band • Concert Band
Jazz Band • Wind Symphony
Jazz Ensemble • Alumni Band

MAY & JUNE AUDITIONS

OPEN TO STUDENTS
IN GRADES 5-12

www.nassausuffolk.org



Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 in order to provide talented student musicians from across Long Island and the metropolitan area with additional rehearsal and performance opportunities in the jazz and concert band genres. Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts is comprised of students who represent over fifty Long Island school districts and range in age from grades five through twelve. Members of Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts receive instruction and coaching from music educators and active performers. Guest soloists and clinicians have included acclaimed soloists, jazz artists, composers and conductors including members of the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

Past performances have included NAFME Conferences in Atlantic City, Hartford, New York City, Washington DC, the NYSSMA Winter Conference in Rochester, NY and three successful tours of the Hawaiian Islands. We would like to thank and acknowledge the Music Educators of Long Island for their continued support of our program. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with talented young musicians over the course of the last thirty years. We are committed to offering a high quality educational and performance-based program that will provide enriching experiences and memories that foster a lifetime love of music.

ADMINISTRATION

Steven Behr, President and CEO
Zachary deVries, Director of Operations
Steven Blutman, Director of Production
Joel Levy, Co-Founder and Music Director
Abby Behr, Founder and Executive Director Emeritus

CONDUCTORS

Larry Ballereau, Jazz Ensemble
Mandy Fara Boonshaft, Honor Band
James Dragovich, Jazz Band
Gary Henderson, Youth Band
Joel Levy, Wind Symphony
Anthony Pomponio, Youth Jazz Band

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Michael Blutman
Steven Blutman, percussion coordinator
Zachary deVries
Stephanie Ruppert
Jessica Sinisi

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025 - 1:00 PM

NASSAU-SUFFOLK YOUTH JAZZ BAND

Anthony Pomponio, Director

The Opener II	Carl Strommen (Alfred Music)
Song for My Father	Horace Silver arranged by Mark Taylor (Hal Leonard)
Blues in Hoss Flat	Count Basie and Frank Foster arranged by Mark Taylor (Hal Leonard)
Chameleon	Harvey Mason, Benny Maupin, Paul Jackson, and Herbie Hancock arranged by Michael Sweeney (Hal Leonard)

NASSAU-SUFFOLK JAZZ BAND

James Dragovich, Director

Carnival	David Samuel (Excelcia Music)
October Rain	Vince Grassi (Kendor Music)
In Walked Bud	Thelonious Monk arranged by Craig VonBerg (Heritage Jazz Works)
It's on the House	Steve Parsons (Excelcia Music)
Sonny's Place	Carl Strommen (Warner Bros.)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025 - 1:00 PM

NASSAU-SUFFOLK JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Larry Ballereau, Director

Gimme Samba Dat!.....Chris Sharp
(C. Sharp Music)

That Old Black Magic.....Harold Arlen
arranged by Mike Tomaro
(Hal Leonard)

Afro Blue.....Mongo Santamaria
arranged by Michael Philip Mossman
(Hal Leonard)

Swangalang.....Bob Mintzer
(Kendor Music)

So What.....Miles Davis
arranged by John LaBarbera
(Hal Leonard)

SPECIAL THANKS

Mineola School District Music Department, Administration & Custodial Staff
Port Washington School District Music Department, Administration & Custodial Staff
Five Towns College Administration

Susie Babcock, Karen Bernstein, Mike Cascardi, Daniel DellaMonica,
Kerri Rubenstein, Jonathan Shmuel, Karl Siewertsen

Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts alumni

Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts staff and conductors, past and present

Music educators across Long Island for their continued support of our program

NASSAU-SUFFOLK YOUTH JAZZ BAND

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Ava Fata
Zoe Mital
Daniel Paciaroni

TENOR SAXOPHONE

William Griffin
Matthew Yefresmashvili

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Amanda Present

TRUMPET

Nathan Hasselbring
Nicholas Kofod
Leo Li
Emmett Owens
Xavier Thakur

TROMBONE

Dean Korinis
Aiden Schmidt
Evan Wang

VIBRAPHONE

Serene Huynh

PIANO

Christian Sachs

GUITAR

Daniel Princian

BASS

Olivia LaBruna

DRUMS

Asher Jacobson
Brody Jacobson

NASSAU-SUFFOLK JAZZ BAND

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Noah Mallalieu
Isabella Smith
Ray Tao

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Kayleigh Murphy
John Renton
Maximus Wong

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Howie Woltmann

TRUMPET

Anton Fitzko
Jacob Goldstein

TROMBONE

Joseph Herman
Catherine Lilly
Zachary Maiman

PIANO

Nicole Princian

BASS

Jack Goodwin

DRUMS

Michael Bodzin

NASSAU-SUFFOLK JAZZ ENSEMBLE

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Jacob Boxer
Vikram Hanjan
Asher Joo

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Maximo Lopez
Sofiia Nosarieva

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Shayan Dhar

TRUMPET

Ethan Benstock
Nicholas Quan
Daniel Ramirez
Zachary St. Juste

TROMBONE

Victor Cassano
Aidan Tse
James Tsekouras

PIANO

Saira Arora

GUITAR

Jaden Pedro

BASS

Alejandro Castano

DRUMS

Christopher Izzo

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025 - 6:00 PM

NASSAU-SUFFOLK WIND SYMPHONY

Joel Levy, Conductor

Stormworks.....Stephen Melillo
(Stormworks)

I. Timestorm

II. Before the Storm

III. Into the Storm

Blue Shades.....Frank Ticheli
(Manhattan Beach Music)

The Hounds of Spring.....Alfred Reed
(Piedmont Music)

NASSAU-SUFFOLK ALUMNI BAND

James Dragovich and Joel Levy, Conductors

Festive Overture.....Dimitri Shostakovich
arranged by Donald Hunsberger
(G. Schimer)

One Life Beautiful.....Julie Giroux
(Music Propria)

Yiddish Dances.....Adam Gorb
(Alfred Music)

I. Khosidl

II. Terkishe

IV. Hora

V. Freylachs

NASSAU-SUFFOLK WIND SYMPHONY

PICCOLO

Madison Cohen

FLUTE

Maya Aboutaleb
Rebecca Chau
Stephanie Guida
Savannah Romano
Abigail Vuong

OBOE

Kohana Bloom
Avery Eisaman
Gavin Pollock

ENGLISH HORN

Kohana Bloom

BASSOON

Alexander Babwah

CLARINET

Brian Bae
Michael Bonafede
Kenneth Chen
Hailey Chi
Joe Funatomi
Brian Karaman
Oliver Smith
Aaron Turbek

BASS CLARINET

John Ryan Chaplin

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Matisse Byrnes
Lila Hershman
Daniel Lee
Emily Tang

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Clara Tebbens

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Dale Guevarra

HORN

Elliot Jaklitsch
Robby Marrali
Jayden Merino
Aidan O'Sullivan
Mekiyah Parker

TRUMPET

Ryan Borruso
Katarina Curcio
Kayleigh Hacker
Mike Hanna
Shane Kelly
Saad Khan
Evan Korman
Viviana Lora
Charlotte Tsekerides
Caleb Yu

TROMBONE

Logan D'Elia
Anthony DiSalvio
Brandon Haviken
Claud Tung

EUPHONIUM

Charlotte Huang
Brandon Rivas

TUBA

Nolan Farrelly
Katherine Murillo
Mark Porter

PERCUSSION

Malachi Burns-Sharoff
Margina Chen
Alessandra De Stefano
Charlie DellUniversita
Emma Gao
Jake Marin
Vincent Wilbur

PIANO

Matea Pribanic

NASSAU-SUFFOLK ALUMNI BAND

PICCOLO

Jessica Shenker
Jessica Sinisi

FLUTE

Erica Ascher
Megan Ashe
Alexandra Michaelis
Nicole Rode
Jessica Shenker
Jessica Sinisi
Alexandra Stewart
Nazli Todor

OBOE

Kohana Bloom
Eve Castonguay
Avery Eisaman

ENGLISH HORN

Kohana Bloom

BASSOON

Richard Blake
Andrew Palmer
Steven Waters

E-FLAT CLARINET

Alexandria deVries

CLARINET

Monica Benstock
Amanda Cicio
Zachary Dornfeld
Mindy Dragovich
Thomas Kelly
Lauren Kinane
Jenna Leen
Steven Lensky
Dennis McLoughlin
Elena Scarano
Kathleen Sparacin

BASS CLARINET

Nick Coacci
Elizabeth Neofitos
Jonathan Shmuel

CONTRABASS CLARINET

Anthony Pomponio

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Lynda Maniscalco
Gregory Sisco

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Nicholas Massimo

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Matthew Tall

HORN

Riana Bader
Amara Nogee
Roberto Oquendo
Karl Siewertsen

TRUMPET

Mike Blutman
Glenndon Gifford
Kevin Heathwood
Kenneth Kamping
Matthew Saltzman
Kevin Scully
Fiona Shonik
Vincent Tavernese
Kristen Warnokowski
Daniel Wendelken

TROMBONE

Jared Belferder
Brent Chiarello
Anthony DeCola
Jennifer Iovino
Augustin Mingoia Murphy

BASS TROMBONE

James Dragovich
Jenna Thomas

EUPHONIUM

Sophia Gianfrancesco
Don Sherman

TUBA

Zach deVries
Andre Rizzuto

PERCUSSION

David Atkinson
Steven Blutman
Brandon Bromsey
Michelle Cozzi
Jacob Krug

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025 - 7:30 PM

NASSAU-SUFFOLK YOUTH BAND

Gary Henderson, Conductor

Comet Ride.....	Brian Balmages (FJH Music)
Viking!.....	Michael Sweeney (Hal Leonard)
Irish Tune from County Derry.....	Traditional arranged by Paul Cook (Belwin Band)
Hercules vs. the Hydra.....	Scott Watson (Alfred)

NASSAU-SUFFOLK HONOR BAND

Mandy Fara Boonshaft, Conductor

Boundless.....	Chris M. Bernotas (Wingert Jones)
Stay.....	Randall D. Standridge (Randall Standridge Music)
Insurgence.....	Rossano Galante (Alfred Music)
Byzantine Dances.....	Carol Brittin Chambers (Excelcia Music)

NASSAU-SUFFOLK YOUTH BAND

FLUTE

Emily Chen
Abigail Kim
Laurel Kim
Lina Li
Michelle Ok
Lillianna Resnick
Mateo Rodriguez
Kohane Umedachi

OBOE

Karina Lin

CLARINET

Stella Cherniak
Annabel Hsu
Eloise Hwang
Craig Jiang
Noah Kim
Rubin Kim
Annalisa Milia
Hanna Miller
Emilia Parisi
Leo Perret
Nivin Peter
Sanya Sharma
Timothy Song

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Titus Ho
Noelle Ki
Lexi Lisnitzer
Vihaan Nande
Kaizen Redito
Terrance Smetana
Edison Yang

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Caleb Chen

HORN

Michael Borowski
Thomas Lee
James LoRusso
Lianie Lung

TRUMPET

Joseph Asaro
Ethan Chiu
Amelia Emmel
Madison Gallo
Ana Goren
Leo Li
Wesley Perret
Nathan Present
Leo Prindle
Christian Sachs
Dominick Trotta
Max Wu

TROMBONE

Michael Keating
Elliot Kim
Logan Levy
Hudson Liang
Justin Morales
Kaisen Pan
Robert Tung
Liam Wu
Maxwell Yoon

EUPHONIUM

Elijah Green
Lucas Ho
Mikayla Lonborg
Dustin Lu
Mateo Murillo

TUBA

Montgomery Dorcely

PERCUSSION

Joshua Belferder
Justin Du
Kendall Evans
Wilder Lee
Sofia Morton
Nico Semerdjian
Isabella Shin
Mac Slansky
Luke Tseng

NASSAU-SUFFOLK HONOR BAND

PICCOLO

Kayla Yang

FLUTE

Florence Chang
Lillian Chen
Tess Cheng
Megan Chi
Grace Deng
Skylar Johnson
Victoria Koo
Jiachen Liu
Ashley Peng
Queena Su
Ariel Suen

OBOE

Clara Jo

CLARINET

Lena Chaberek
Daniel Chang
Olivia Choe
Julia Guida
Angela Guo
Jerome Huang
Erin Kelly
Romina (DaOhn) Kim
Michelle Lee
Bryce Lin
Kingston Ng
Rylee Pai
Andy Ryoo
Stephanie Suh
Aria Yim
Sean Zamorano

BASS CLARINET

Ben Donaghy
Gustav Jusiega
Matthew Zheng
Ashley Zhuo

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Daniel Dong
Jerry Lin
Samuel Rosen
Leon Song
Lucas Yim
Harrison Yoo

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Paul Moon
Angelina Wong

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Amanda Present

HORN

Sean Corrigan
Livia Feusi
Dylan Gomes
Ethan Kong
Ryan Langis
Erica Lebron
Avi Levin
Kiernan Neville

TRUMPET

Jordan Belferder
Ryan Berke
Harry Frieze
Nathan Hasselbring
Brayden Johnson
Lena Kim
Samuel Peng
Remy Pokrassa
Luke Serna
Keira Tans

TROMBONE

Joseph Cardarelli
Saya Kodama
Christian Lung
Aiden Schmidt
Jonah Sefick
Evan Wang
Jayden Yeo

EUPHONIUM

Joshua Lee
Nico Liuzzo
Gabriel Miranda
Matthew Rubenstein
Hridhaan Shetty

TUBA

Jordan Adelman
Aaryan Chopra
Advay Danwale
Ethan Fong
Christian Knopf
Daniel Zheng

PERCUSSION

Alexa Curet
Sarah Earls
Norman Jiang
Jaydon Li
Eli Porter
Ezra Smolow
Abraham Tharakkal
Juliet Weiss

PIANO

Julia Guida

BASS

Olivia LaBruna

ABOUT THE STAFF

Laurence Ballereau was a member of the music faculty of the Syosset Central School District for 35 years, and retired in June 2020. At Syosset he was the Director of Bands at the High School, conducting the Jazz and Wind Ensembles. Mr. Ballereau holds a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Hofstra University and a Masters Degree in Music Education from Long Island University, C.W. Post campus.

In 2010 Mr. Ballereau was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame as the Educator of Note. He was recognized for his development of a three-course curriculum for students who are interested in pursuing a career in the music industry. The courses, Commercial Music, Recording for Musicians and Improvising Music, helped the Syosset Music Department attain national recognition, including a 2001 Kennedy Center Award and five-time designation as a Grammy Signature School. The Wind Ensemble, under Mr. Ballereau's direction, has received numerous Level VI Gold with Distinction, NYSSMA ratings.

In 2011 the PTA of the Syosset Central School District presented Mr. Ballereau with the Jenkins Award, acknowledging the significant contributions he has made to students through music education. In addition, has been recognized throughout his educational career by Who's Who Among American Teachers.

In 2017 Mr. Ballereau became a Grammy Music Educator Quarterfinalist. Mr. Ballereau has been nominated to Who's Who Among American Teachers numerous times and he is a sought-after educational clinician and guest conductor.

Mr. Ballereau is currently the conductor of the Jazz Ensemble for Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts and is an adjunct professor at Hofstra University teaching woodwind methods. He previously served as an adjunct professor of saxophone at Teacher's College at Columbia University. Mr. Ballereau is a member of the NYSSMA Technology Committee and is a certified member of TI:ME (Technology in Music Education).

In addition to his career as an educator, Mr. Ballereau works as a band leader, woodwind player, guitarist and vocalist, and has performed with such well known artists as Dave Brubeck, Tony Bennett, Liza Minnelli, Jeff Kashiwa, Conrad Korsch, Michael Feinstein, Idina Menzel, Phoebe Snow and Billy Taylor. He has also performed in and conducted numerous pit orchestras for regional theatre companies.

In addition to conducting and performing, Mr. Ballereau runs his own recording studio, where he mixes, arranges and produces independent recordings for broadcast television and film. He has released two CDs of his original compositions, available on all streaming platforms.

Mandy Fara Boonshaft, conductor of the Nassau-Suffolk Honor Band since its inception in 2010, is a member of the music education faculty of the Syosset Central School District. She is currently a band director at South Woods Middle School. Prior to her appointment in Syosset, she was a band director at both Commack Middle School and George W. Hewlett High School.

Mrs. Boonshaft is a graduate of Hofstra University, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education with a concentration in flute performance, graduating cum laude with departmental honors. Mrs. Boonshaft also holds a Master of Arts degree in Wind Conducting from Hofstra University, where she served as the Graduate Conducting Associate from 2005-2008, conducting both the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band.

Ensembles under Mrs. Boonshaft's direction have received numerous Gold with Distinction ratings at NYSSMA Major Organization Festivals, have been invited to perform at the New York State Band Director's Symposium, and have performed at clinics and workshops for composers and conductors such as Robert W. Smith, Christian Wilhelm, and Sean O'Loughlin. In addition to performances on Long Island, the Nassau-Suffolk Honor Band has commissioned and premiered works by renowned composers Richard Saucedo and Randall Standridge and was chosen to perform at the prestigious National Association for Music Education Eastern Division Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

A composer of works for concert band and percussion ensemble, Mrs. Boonshaft is currently published by Row-Loff Publications. In addition, she continues to keep an active performance schedule. She is a founding member of the Long Island Flute Quartet and has performed with a number of regional orchestras and ensembles. She has studied flute and piccolo with Carol Wincenc, Patricia Spencer, Susan Deaver, Mindy Kaufman, John Oberbrunner, Ted Mordoff, John Littlefield and John Wion.

Mrs. Boonshaft is an active member of the Nassau Music Educators Association, the New York State Band Directors Association and the New York State School Music Association, for which she is a certified Major Organization and Woodwind Adjudicator. Extremely active as a guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator and workshop presenter for band festivals, universities, schools and conferences, she has served as guest conductor for the Hampton Music Educators Association High School Honors Band Festival, Suburban Council (Albany) Music Festival, Suffolk County Music Educators Association Division 2 East All-County Band, Orange County High School All-County Band, the Bristol Township School District Honors Band in Bucks County (Pennsylvania), the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Region 10 Middle School Band 1, the Sweetwater District Honor Concert Band in Chula Vista, California, and most recently, the Murrieta Valley Middle School Honor Band in Murrieta Valley, California. She has served numerous times as an adjudicator for the prestigious Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival in Sydney, Australia; was a session presenter at the Sydney Music Education Conference, Maryborough Music Conference, New York State Band Director's Symposium and the New York State School Music Association Conference; and presented masterclasses in flute performance in Queensland, Australia. Mrs. Boonshaft was the featured artist on the KHS America Academic Alliance Reference video for Jupiter flutes. In addition, she is an educational clinician for KHS America, Jupiter Band Instruments and Azumi Flutes. Mrs. Boonshaft resides in Garden City, NY with her husband Peter and their two kitties, Graham and Emerson.

James Dragovich was a band director for the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools for thirty-three years, twenty-nine spent as director of bands at George W. Hewlett High School. Under his direction, the Hewlett bands received numerous awards and recognitions. Both the Hewlett High School Wind Ensemble and Concert Band received gold ratings at NYSSMA Festivals, the Hewlett Marching Band received a first place award in the NYC Columbus Day Parade and the Hewlett Jazz Orchestra performed at many jazz festivals and conferences including the 2014 NYSSMA Winter Conference. All of his high school ensembles toured on a regular basis and performance destinations included Walt Disney World, Montreal and Quebec Canada, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Carnegie Hall and Puerto Rico. During his public school tenure Mr. Dragovich served as a cooperating teacher to over forty college students, all of whom are enjoying careers in music education.

Mr. Dragovich received his bachelor's degree in Music Education with a concentration in Percussion from Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus. Upon graduation Mr. Dragovich was offered a graduate assistantship to continue his studies at LIU, where he graduated with a master's degree in Music Education. He went on to serve on the music faculty of LIU Post teaching percussion methods for thirteen years. Mr Dragovich also studied at Hofstra University where he received a master's degree in Wind Conducting. While attending Hofstra he served as the graduate conducting associate to both the Hofstra Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. Upon his graduation Mr. Dragovich joined the Hofstra faculty and taught both brass and percussion methods on the graduate and undergraduate level for nine years.

As a conductor Mr. Dragovich has commissioned and conducted the world premieres of numerous works written for both symphonic band and jazz ensemble. Guest soloist with his ensembles include Stanley Drucker, Joseph Alessi, Mike Davis, Cecil Bridgewater, John Riley, Jack Schatz, Dave Pietro, Pete McGuinness, Jim Snidero and Mike Carubia, to name a few. As a performer Mr. Dragovich has always maintained an active schedule and has worked with many entertainers and jazz artists including Billy Eckstine, Jerry Vale, the Four Freshman, Clem DeRosa's Mighty Swing Machine, Ray Alexander and the Four Aces, in addition to various bands, orchestra and theater productions in the metropolitan region, including his own 17 piece jazz orchestra.

At present Mr. Dragovich is Director of Bands at Five Towns College where he directs the college wind ensemble and jazz orchestra. He also conducts the Nassau Suffolk Jazz Band, is an adjudicator for Music in the Parks, Festivals of Music and the Long Island Music Festival while serving as a guest clinician for Educational Tours, Inc. He is a member of the Board of Directors for Best Bands and Choirs International and the American Chamber Ensemble. Mr. Dragovich works as a BOCES Artist in Residence and serves as the state treasurer for the New York State Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society and is the percussion editor for the School Music News, a publication of NYSSMA. He is also a co-director of Percussion on The Sound (POTS!) A pre-collegiate program for percussion students and presents a week long residency each summer at Five Towns College. Mr. Dragovich continues to be in demand as a guest conductor, clinician and performer while maintaining his own teaching studio specializing in concert percussion, drum set, and instrumental conducting. He presently resides in Amity Harbor, NY with his wife Mindy where he enjoys cycling, gardening and being Izolda's grandpa!

Gary Henderson has been teaching instrumental music in the New York public school system for the past twenty five years. Currently, he is the band director at Bowling Green Elementary School in East Meadow, NY. Gary received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education from Hofstra University and a Master of Jazz and Commercial Music Degree from Five Towns College.

Mr. Henderson is the director of the Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts Youth Band. He is an active clinician and has served as guest conductor for several All-County and All-District Festivals. He is a composer of elementary level band music. His piece, "The Path of The Viking" (written for the Seaford School District), appears in the NYSSMA Manual as a Level One Band composition. His Bowling Green Fifth Grade Band has won several awards including a Level 2 "Gold with Distinction" rating at the NYSSMA Majors Festival.

Mr. Henderson has written and co-authored several books published by Pinnacle Music Press, Inc, including "The Prerequisites: A Sequential Method for Beginner Winds" (with Frank Bonasera), "Foundations: 120 Progressive Chorales, Warm Ups, and Targeted Exercises for Band" (with Joey Devassy), "Foundations for Orchestra" (with Kristen Bean), and "Five Pieces for First Year Band".

Mr. Henderson is the founder and co-director of the Interplay Jazz Orchestra. The group maintains a monthly residency at The Jazz Loft in Stony Brook, NY. The ensemble plays several of his compositions and arrangements and has recorded four albums. Their second release, "Detour", placed at #9 on the CMJ Year-End Jazz Radio Charts for 2016, peaking at #4 for three straight weeks that February.

Mr. Henderson is a member of BMI; his song writing credits include music used for MTV's "Say What? Karaoke", the myNetworkTV soap opera "Desire", and even a Japanese game show! Mr. Henderson has performed all across the United States and most of Europe. In 1997 he was nominated for "Instrumentalist of the Year" as part of the Long Island Music Awards as well as a "Concert Promoter of the Year" by the Long Island Voice. Mr. Henderson resides in West Islip, New York.

Joel Levy received a Bachelor of Music Degree from SUNY Potsdam, and a Master of Music Degree in Performance from Stony Brook University. Mr. Levy taught at both the middle and high school levels on Long Island since 1980. He retired as band director and department chair at East Meadow High School after a 34 year teaching career. His various ensembles have won numerous awards of distinction, which include 13 first place finishes in the New York City Columbus Day Parade.

Joel Levy has been a guest soloist and clinician for several Long Island school districts and he has served as guest conductor for the Suffolk All-County Festival Bands. He has been the guest conductor at the U. S. Eastern Music Camp at Colgate University, at George Mason University in Virginia and at the CW Post Band Festival. He has also served as guest conductor and clinician at Fresno State University in California and for the Fairfax, Virginia school district.

Under Mr. Levy's direction, the Nassau-Suffolk Wind Symphony has performed at MENC National and Eastern Division Conferences. Guest soloists with the Wind Symphony have included Phil Smith, Joe Alessi, Stanley Drucker, Carol Wincenc, Lew Tabackin, Erik Ralske, Michael Blutman, Steven Blutman, Julian Rose, Patrick Sheridan and Ed Joffe. Mr. Levy is also conductor of the Nassau-Suffolk Alumni Band the Bay Shore/Brightwaters Community Band as well as the Long Island Youth Orchestra.

As an active musician in the New York metropolitan area, Mr. Levy has performed with the Merrick Symphony, Long Island Concert Pops, Queens Festival Band, Long Island Masterworks Orchestra, Francis C. Roberts and company, and the New York Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Levy played frequently in the Broadway production of Thoroughly Modern Millie. Additional Broadway credits include Fosse, Little Women, Sweet Charity and Young Frankenstein. Currently Mr. Levy performs with the Richie Laconia Bad Little Big Band, Interplay Jazz Orchestra, Leon Petruzzi Jazz Orchestra, Jim Dragovich Hit the Bricks Big Band, Jazz Loft Big Band and the FM Steely Dan Tribute Band. He also performs at the Engemen Theater, Argyle Theater, Gateway Theater and the Bay Street Theater in Sag Harbor.

Mr. Levy has taught courses for Five Towns College, SUNY Potsdam and was a faculty member of the C.W. Post, Long Island University faculty, teaching clarinet, saxophone and flute. Mr. Levy is pleased to have been listed in Who's Who Among American Teachers on numerous occasions. In addition, Mr. Levy has been featured on Rico's thelessonroom.com, and is a D'Addario educational clinician and performing artist.

Anthony Pomponio has been a music educator for the past twenty years. During that time, he has taught every grade from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Currently, Mr. Pomponio teaches concert band, jazz band, music theory, and music technology at South Side High School in Rockville Centre, NY. Prior to his appointment at the high school, Mr. Pomponio spent his first eleven years in Rockville Centre at South Side Middle School teaching concert band, marching band, jazz band, and music technology.

Mr. Pomponio is an active member of the Nassau Music Educators Association. He has served as chairperson for many all-county concert bands, has been an annual committee member for jazz band selections, and currently serves as the Division 5 Instrumental Vice President.

Mr. Pomponio maintains an active performing schedule and can be found playing bass clarinet, baritone saxophone, and several other woodwind instruments in a variety of symphony orchestras, concert bands, theatre orchestras, chamber ensembles, and jazz/commercial groups (where his four-horn arrangements can be heard) in the Long Island area.

Mr. Pomponio is a graduate of Hofstra University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education and a Master of Arts degree in Wind Conducting while studying saxophone and clarinet.

Mr. Pomponio is a Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts alumnus and is honored to continue his involvement with the organization as Director of the Youth Jazz Band.

Abby Behr was the co-founder and Executive Director of Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts from 1994-2024. In November of 2018, she was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame as the 2017 Educator of Note. Mrs. Behr was a past president of the Nassau County Chapter of the New York State Council of Music Administrators of Music Education and of the Nassau Music Educators Association. She had served on the New York State School Music Association Awards and Recognition Committee since 1998 and was the Eastern Division Chairperson of Tri-M Music Honor Society from 2000 to 2012. Mrs. Behr had been cited in several editions of Who's Who Among America's Teachers and was recognized for her commitment to music education at the 1996 New York State School Music Association's County Presidents' Assembly. She was awarded the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers PTA Award for outstanding service to all children and youth in 1993 and 2002.

Abby Behr was the Director of Music and Art for the East Meadow Public Schools from 2001 until her retirement in January 2015. Under her leadership, the district had the distinction of being one of only twelve school districts in the United States recognized by the National Association for Music Education as having a Model Music Education Program, the only New York State school district selected as the recipient of the prestigious NYSSMA Presidential Citation Award twice, and awarded "One of the Best Communities for Music Education in America" annually by the NAMM Foundation. During her tenure as a teacher in East Meadow, she was a band director at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Mrs. Behr was also the chapter sponsor and advisor of East Meadow High School's Tri-M Music Honor Society and served as the Color Guard Director of the marching band. She had taught music in the Brentwood, Lawrence, and East Meadow Public Schools. Mrs. Behr held a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Music and a Professional Degree in Educational Administration from Long Island University, C. W. Post College.

Appointed as President & CEO of Nassau-Suffolk performing arts in 2024, **Steven Behr** has an extensive history in performance and ensemble management. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with degrees in Violin Performance and Economics, Steven has performed in over 80 countries worldwide as both a soloist and orchestral musician. He has held management roles with many esteemed ensembles, including the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, American Symphony Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra, and Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, among others. He also serves as a programming consultant to orchestras around the country.

An alumnus and former Concertmaster of the Long Island Youth Orchestra, Steven has served as President and CEO for LIYO since 2017, succeeding LIYO's founder, Martin Dreiwitz, and most recently organizing tours to Central Europe, Australia and the South Pacific.

A Long Island native and graduate of Oceanside High School, Mr. Behr has dedicated his career to furthering the musical and social opportunities for future generations of musicians.

Michael Blutman enjoys a diverse career as a trumpeter and music educator. A graduate of The Juilliard School and the University of Maryland, some of his performing and recording credits include: Paragon Ragtime Orchestra, the National, Albany, New Haven, Harrisburg, Hartford, Stamford, and American symphonies, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, American Ballet Theater, Sting, David Parsons Dance Company, Jonathan Batiste Jazz Band, Broadway's Phantom of the Opera, David Bowie's band, and many others. Michael's trumpet instructors include: Chris Gekker, Mark Gould, Steven Hendrickson and William Vacchiano.

As an educator, some of Michael's teaching credits include: Jericho School District (music theory instructor, jazz ensemble director, assistant band director), Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts (artist in residence), Five Towns College, Usdan Center for the Arts (department co-chair, jazz director, trumpet and chamber music instructor), East Meadow's Fusing Culture and Curriculum (coordinator and teaching artist), Ithaca College (sabbatical assistant professor), and the American Symphony Orchestra (former education manager). He is also a clinician for colleges, primary and secondary schools, maintains a private trumpet studio, and is a published music education author (featured articles in NYSSMA's School Music News and the International Trumpet Guild journal).

Michael and his brother Steven (also an artist in residence with Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts) co-founded the music education publishing company, Pinnacle Music Press, and are co-authors of its Festival Sight Reading series (www.pinmusicpress.com).

A classical and jazz musician, percussionist **Steve Blutman** has performed and recorded with some of the top orchestras, jazz ensembles, and show productions. Highlights include performances with The Cleveland Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, Honolulu Symphony, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Canton Symphony, Youngstown Symphony, Mansfield Symphony, Akron Symphony, Erie Philharmonic, New World Symphony, Blue Man Group and Broadway and Off-Broadway productions. Music Festivals include multiple summers with the Orchestra of the Americas (South America) and the AIMS Orchestra (Graz, Austria). Steve has also done extensive touring with The Cleveland Orchestra throughout Europe and the United States.

An avid educator, Steve is 'Director of Percussion Studies' at Long Island University (LIU Post) and an Adjunct Professor of Music at Hofstra University. He is an "Artist-in-Residence" for school districts on Long Island and a regular guest clinician for public schools and colleges in the greater New York area. Steve frequently leads professional development sessions on percussion pedagogy with educators across the country. In addition, he proudly serves as the percussion coordinator for Nassau Suffolk Performing Arts and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Long Island Youth Orchestra. A previous appointment was as Percussion Co-Chair for New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA).

Steve is the majority owner of Pinnacle Music Press, Inc, established in 2012. The company has published dozens of unique books including the 19 volume Festival Sight Reading series, of which he is the co-author. His thriving private teaching studio is also a division of Pinnacle Music Press, Inc.

A graduate of Cleveland Institute of Music (Masters of Music) and Hofstra University (BS in Music Ed), Steve's primary instruction occurred under the tutelage of Paul Yancich, Richard Weiner, Pablo Rieppi, David Ratajzak, and Tony Tedesco.

Zachary deVries graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education and completed his Master of Music Degree in Music Education at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. Currently, Mr. deVries is a band director at East Meadow High School where he teaches Concert Band, Jazz Band, Marching Band, and brass lessons. Additionally, he has directed the Woodland Middle School Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade Bands, Jazz Band, Jazz Ensemble and Wind Ensemble.

Mr. deVries' students have achieved significant success at NYSSMA festivals and have been selected for participation in All-County, All-State, and All-Eastern ensembles. Students from his studio have been chosen to perform at international competitions such as the Leonard Falcone Tuba Euphonium Competition and have pursued further studies at universities and conservatories nationwide. Before his role in the East Meadow School District, Mr. deVries served as the Director of Athletic Bands at Boston University, leading the Marching Band and Pep Band. Under his guidance, the Boston University Bands excelled in regional and national performances, including the NCAA Basketball and Hockey Tournaments. Notably, he directed the Marching Band as the opening act for J. Geils Band and Aerosmith at Fenway Park in 2010.

Between 2008 and 2014, Mr. deVries was on the faculty at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute alongside Mike Roylance, principal tuba of the Boston Symphony and Pops Orchestras. During this time, he collaborated with Mr. Roylance in co-writing and teaching the Tuba Euphonium Workshop curriculum.

An alumnus of the Nassau-Suffolk ensembles, Mr. deVries now serves as the Director of Operations and Low Brass Artist-in-Residence for Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts. As an active performer, he has performed with various ensembles, including the Long Island Tuba Quartet, Long Island Wind Ensemble, Nassau-Suffolk Alumni Band, Jazz Loft Big Band, and Atlantic Wind Symphony.

Throughout his career, Mr. deVries has studied with Mike Roylance, Bill Troiano, and Willie Clark. Additionally, he has had the privilege of performing in concerts or recitals with notable musicians such as Joseph Alessi, Bob Carpenter, Stanley Drucker, Claude Kashnig, Eli Newberger, Dennis Nulty, Mike Roylance, and Philip Smith. Mr. deVries lives in Islip with his wife, Alexandria, and their daughter, Phoebe.

Stephanie Ruppert is a band teacher in the New Hyde Park-Garden City Park School District where she has been teaching elementary school band since 2011. Prior to working in the New Hyde Park-Garden City Park School District, Stephanie taught band in the Farmingdale School District for two years.

Mrs. Ruppert holds a Bachelor of Music Education Degree and Flute Performance from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, as well as a Master of Music History and Performance Degree from LIU Post.

Mrs. Ruppert maintains a private flute studio and actively performs with the St. Martin of Tours orchestra in Amityville. Mrs. Ruppert teachers include Helen Campo - flute player from Broadway's "Wicked", Susan Deaver, Kenneth Andrews, and Kathleen Miller. Mrs. Ruppert serves as an artist-in-residence with the Youth Band and Honor Band. In addition, Mrs. Ruppert is a proud alumna of the Nassau-Suffolk Concert Band and Wind Symphony.

Jessica Sinisi is a teacher in the Bethpage School District, where she has taught for the past seventeen years. Currently, Ms. Sinisi teaches elementary band and orchestra and previously served as the director, vocal director, and pit orchestra conductor for the high school theater department. Ms. Sinisi received her Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from the Hofstra University Honors College and her Masters of Music Degree from SUNY Stony Brook.

Ms. Sinisi maintains a private studio and has performed with the Massapequa Philharmonic Orchestra, the Long Island Wind Ensemble, and has performed in numerous pit orchestras both at the John W. Engeman Theater and in theaters across New York. An active member of the Nassau Music Educators Association, Ms. Sinisi was the chairperson for the Nassau All-County Division IV Band and also served as the secondary chairperson for the Long Island String Festival Association for several years.

Ms. Sinisi is a proud alumna of the Nassau-Suffolk Concert Band and Wind Symphony and performs in the Nassau Suffolk Alumni Band. Ms. Sinisi has toured Hawaii with the Nassau-Suffolk Vocal Jazz Ensemble and worked for several years as the Vocal Jazz sound technician. Ms. Sinisi currently serves as an artist in residence for the Youth Band and Honor Band.

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NASSAU-SUFFOLK WIND SYMPHONY

STORMWORKS...“Wu Li” has many meanings... one is “patterns of Organic Energy”, another is “emptiness”. One of our greatest and most interesting storms is the one that dances in our imaginations as we instantly hurl ourselves through past, present and future thought. Here we were, there we are...somewhere is where we could be, and so runs the storm of time.

Before the STORM...Before the storm there is quiet, mystery, hopeful anticipation and uncertainty. This movement is the “eye” of the STORMWORKS trilogy. What is it like before the storm... before life?

Into the STORM! In front of us, always raging, either obviously swirling or mysteriously quiet is a storm. That storm is within us. It is outside of us. This piece is about the heroic charging forward of the individual, the on-purpose clenching of fists and the determination to move in to that storm, facing life, good and not-so-good with head-on clarity. This is a theme for US, not for some movie hero, but for the real and true-to-life individuals who embrace each day...storming.

Stormworks was premiered by the United States Air Force Band of the East on 26 August 1990. I would like to dedicate this work to the members of this fine ensemble and to Captain Robert Pouliot, whose love and energy bring life to it. It is also dedicated to those represented by the Band of the East, the defenders of our country, past, present and future, the greatest Storm-Facers of all.

Blue Shades...In 1992 I composed a concerto for traditional jazz band and orchestra, *Playing with Fire*, for the Jim Cullum Jazz Band and the San Antonio Symphony. I experienced tremendous joy during the creation of *Playing with Fire*, and my love for early jazz is expressed in every bar of the concerto. However, after completing it, I knew that the traditional jazz influences dominated the work, leaving little room for my own musical voice to come through. I felt a strong need to compose another work, one that would combine my love of early jazz with my own musical style.

Four years, and several compositions later, I finally took the opportunity to realize that need by composing *Blue Shades*. As its title suggests, the work alludes to the blues, and a jazz feeling is prevalent -- however, it is not literally a blues piece. There is not a single 12-bar blues progression to be found, and except for a few isolated sections, the eighth-note is not swung.

The work, however, is heavily influenced by the blues: “Blue notes” (flatted 3rds, 5ths, and 7ths) are used constantly; blues harmonies, rhythms, and melodic idioms pervade the work; and many “shades of blue” are depicted, from bright blue, to dark, to dirty, to hot blue.

At times, *Blue Shades* burlesques some of the clichés from the Big Band era, not as a mockery of those conventions, but as a tribute. A slow and quiet middle section recalls the atmosphere of a dark, smoky blues haunt. An extended clarinet

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solo played near the end recalls Benny Goodman's hot playing style, and ushers in a series of "wailing" brass chords recalling the train whistle effects commonly used during that era.

Blue Shades was commissioned by a consortium of thirty university, community, and high school concert bands under the auspices of the Worldwide Concurrent Premieres and Commissioning Fund.

The Hounds of Spring was commissioned by, and dedicated to, the John L. Forster Secondary School Concert Band of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and its director, Gerald A. N. Brown. The world premiere was in Windsor on May 8, 1980, conducted by the composer.

According to Alfred Reed, When the hounds of spring are in winter's traces, a magical picture of young love in springtime, forms the basis for the present purely musical setting, in traditional three-part overture form, of this lovely paean... an attempt to capture the twin elements of the poem, exuberant youthful gaiety and the sweetness of tender love, in an appropriate musical texture.

NASSAU-SUFFOLK ALUMNI BAND

Festive Overture was composed in 1954, in the period between Symphony No. 10 and the Violin Concerto. Its American premiere was given by Maurice Abravanel and the Utah Symphony Orchestra on November 16, 1955. In 1956, the New York Philharmonic under Dmitri Mitropoulos presented the overture in Carnegie Hall. A Russian band version of the overture was released in 1958 and utilized the standard instrumentation of the Russian military band, i.e., a complete orchestral wind, brass and percussion section plus a full family of saxhorns, ranging from the Bb soprano down through the Bb contrabass saxhorn. This new edition has been scored for the instrumentation of the American symphonic band. The Festive Overture is an excellent curtain raiser and contains one of Shostakovich's greatest attributes -- the ability write a long sustained melodic line combined with a pulsating rhythmic drive. In addition to the flowing melodic passages, there are also examples of staccato rhythmic sections which set off the flowing line and the variant fanfares. It is truly a "festive overture."

One Life Beautiful was written in memory of Heather Cramer Reu for her "one life beautiful" that brought so much love and joy to our lives. The piece was commissioned by Ray and Molly Cramer, husband Philip Reu and children, and brother Jeremy, his wife, Michelle, and children.

Yiddish Dances was commissioned by Timothy Reynish for his 60th birthday. It is very much a party piece and brings together two of my abiding musical passions: the symphonic wind ensemble and klezmer -- the folk music of the Yiddish speaking people. The piece is about fourteen minutes long and is in five movements, all based on set klezmer dances:

- I. Khosidl - a medium tempo 2/4 in which the music moves between satire,

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sentimentality, and pathos.

- II. Terkische - an up-tempo Jewish tango.
- III. Doina - a free recitative in which various instruments in the band get a chance to show off.
- IV. Hora - slow 3/8 time with a characteristic rocking rhythm.
- V. Freylachs - very fast 2/4 time in which themes from the previous movements are recalled, ending in a riotous “booze-up” for all concerned.

Le Chaim! - to Life!

NASSAU-SUFFOLK HONOR BAND

Boundless...Being a part of a band is about being part of something bigger than yourself, very much like a family. We are bound by the relationships we make, but are boundless in what we can dream and achieve in life. Together, we are stronger. This piece celebrates having no limits in life!

Stay...The composer writes: On a trip in 2023, I read the following on the back of a T-shirt. “Hey, you, the one reading this. The world is better with you in it.” It had a profound emotional impact on me, and I decided to put those feelings into music. The result is this work entitled Stay. This piece is intended to be an anthem of hope, love, and understanding for those who find it challenging to go on in the face of adversity and for those who sometimes feel that the weight of the world is too much to bear. The piece carries a paraphrase of that message at the top of the score and on all of the parts: “Hey you. The one playing this. The world is better with you in it.”

*1 in 5 adults in the US experience mental health issues each year.
1 in 6 youths in the US experience mental health issues each year.
90% of suicides worldwide are attributable to mental health.
Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in the US.*

The composer continues: I am not naive enough to believe that a simple statement at the top of a piece of music or that a performance of one of my works will be enough to pull someone back from the edge...My goal with [this piece] is to tear down social taboos around discussing these issues, to ease a sense of isolation (you are NOT alone), and to educate and inform people so they will seek out the tools they need to lead happy and successful lives or assist others in seeking help.

And to you. The one reading this. The world is better with YOU in it, too.

Insurgence... In a world where food is rationed based on wealth and status, the poor have formed a task force to gain equality. This piece begins with a driving, rhythmic ostinato in the winds, low brass, and percussion. Soaring, aggressive horn lines take the lead in this post apocalyptic setting. This theme is passed to the trumpet section, then winds, heralding their presence in this work. The piece transitions to a slightly lyrical section, capturing the pain and struggle these hu-

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mans must endure during these challenging times. The piece recapitulates the main theme with full ensemble, bringing this composition to a thunderous conclusion.

Byzantine Dances portrays a set of Turkish Dances. The opening dance is fast and energetic, written in the style of a Roma Gypsy dance. The slower section in the middle of the piece is written in the style of a Zeybek dance. This type of dance is often performed by a solo dancer symbolizing courage and heroism. The dancer uses out-stretched arms, almost resembling a great hawk. The piece uses uniquely Turkish-sounding elements, such as melodic material based on the exotic sounding Byzantine scale or Harmonic Major scale, and the Turkish Zills, or finger cymbals, which are often used in dances of this region.

The Byzantine Empire, also known as the Eastern Roman Empire, lasted from about 400-1453 A.D. and covered much of the area of what is now Turkey. With the conquest of the Byzantine Empire's capital, Constantinople, the Ottoman Empire began its reign in 1453. After WW1, the Ottoman Empire fell, and the Republic of Turkey was formed in 1923.

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