

NEW JERSEY
BAND ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

NEW JERSEY
STATE BAND GALA
2019

SUNDAY, May 5, 2019
BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN High School
BRIDGEWATER, NJ

WELCOME...!

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome each and every one of you to Kean University for the 2019 New Jersey Band Gala. Today we will hear 12 of the finest New Jersey high school concert bands / wind ensembles that have each recently distinguished themselves with an outstanding performance at their respective regional band festivals. On behalf of the executive board of the New Jersey Band Association (NJBA), it is my pleasure to congratulate the band directors and their student musicians for their dedication to excellence, which has led to their participation in this year's annual New Jersey State Band Gala. Their outstanding achievements serve as a model and inspiration to all of us who find great satisfaction in the fact that quality music education does reside in New Jersey. Congratulations!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many school administrators and school staff members who actively champion music education in the school setting. Without their true support, musical performance would remain an unknown art form as well as an unknown form of personal expression for many of today's performers. I know that it is often very difficult to convince others of the long-term value of arts education, in spite of the fact that it remains at the core of our humanity. I thank you for all that you do to provide the opportunity for the students of your school district to receive a full and enriching education.

I also wish to thank the parents and other family members who have supported these young people in all of their endeavors, not the least of which has been their development as musicians. Parents, you hold the key to creating a brighter future for our world. Thank you for all that you do.

Last but not least, I wish to once again congratulate the conductors of each ensemble for the exceptional work that they do in teaching excellence through music performance in their respective communities.

Sincerely,
Thomas N. Connors, Ph.D.

Thomas N. Connors

Executive Board Chair, New Jersey Band Association
Director of Music, Kean University

West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South Wind Ensemble

Jesse Argenziano, Director

Superintendent of Schools.....Dr. David Aderhold
Principal.....Dennis Lepold
Board of Education President.....Anthony Fleres
Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts.....Jeffrey Santoro

The West Windsor-Plainsboro HS South Band program includes three curricular ensembles. 9th-grade students are enrolled in Concert Band and 10th-12th grade band students move into either Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble. All ensembles meet three out of every four school days and, in addition, students receive small group lessons during their study hall. After-school band activities include Jazz Ensemble and Combo, Percussion Ensemble, chamber groups, and Marching Band. Historically, the district has also offered the opportunity to travel and perform abroad, most recently in Spain, Czech Republic, and Austria. The WW-P HS South Wind Ensemble has received consistent Gold ratings from the New Jersey Band Festival and this is their fourth appearance at the NJ State Gala Concert.

Parsippany Hills High School Wind Ensemble

Michael Iapicca, Director

Superintendent of Schools.....Dr. Barbara Sargent
Board of Education President.....Frank Neglia
Principal.....Michael DiSanto
Supervisor of Grades 6-12 Math / Business / Music.....Pamela Freund
Music Parent President.....Christina Folan

The Parsippany Hills High School Wind Ensemble is the most advanced instrumental ensemble at PHHS. The band is made up of students in grades 9-12 by audition only. As part of the school curriculum, the Wind Ensemble meets daily for 44 minutes with students in attendance from 1-5 days of the week. In addition to school concerts, the band has performed at NJPAC, The Kimmel Center, and at the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Wind Band Festival at Rutgers University. The PHHS Wind Ensemble has earned a gold rating in each of its five years of participation in the NJSMA Band Festival. 2019 marks their fourth consecutive appearance at the NJ State Band Gala.

Absegami High School Wind Ensemble

Patrick O'Keefe, Director

Superintendent.....John Keenan
Principal.....Dr. Jeri-Lynn Vernon
Assistant Principal/Supervisor of World Languages, Music & Dance....Leslie Madison
Board of Education President.....Carol Houck
Band Parent President.....Kerri Kopervos

Absegami High School, located in Galloway Township, Atlantic County, has a student population of more than 1,300 students. The school is one of three secondary schools operating as part of the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School district. The Absegami Wind Ensemble is made up of students in grades 9-12, rehearsing weekly after school. Other instrumental ensembles at Absegami include marching band, jazz ensemble and a variety of chamber ensembles. The program is extremely active in the community through performances at local parades, concerts in the park, and collaborative projects with local businesses throughout the year. Absegami thanks the New Jersey Band Association and is excited to perform at this year's Gala.

Williamstown High School Wind Ensemble

Nicholas Fantazzi, Director

Superintendent of Schools.....Richard Perry
Assistant Superintendent.....Gregory Cappello
Acting Principal.....Caroline Yoder
Assistant Principal.....David Babich
Board of Education President.....Frederick Powell Jr.
Band Parent Association President.....Toni Seidel

Williamstown High School, located in Monroe Township, Gloucester County, serves approximately 1,800 students. The Band Program consists of the Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band and Marching Band. The Wind Ensemble, which was established in 2013, has earned Gold Ratings at the Region Concert Band Festivals in 2015, 2018, and 2019. The Wind Ensemble has also performed at the 2015 USBands Concert Band Festival at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia and the Temple University Concert Band Festival for the past three years. This is the Williamstown High School Wind Ensemble's second invitation to the State Gala concert, previously being invited in 2015.

Columbia High School Wind Ensemble

Peter Bauer, Director

Interim Superintendent of Schools.....Dr. Thomas Ficarra
Board of Education President.....Annemarie Maini
Interim Principal.....Dr. Kalisha Morgan
Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts.....James Manno
Music Parent Co-Presidents.....Yvette Holowczak & Jennifer Meusel
Band Parent Vice Presidents.....Lorry Ripley & Ellen Dreyer

The students and directors of the Columbia High School Honors Wind Ensemble are proud to represent the School District of South Orange and Maplewood, as well as the artistically rich communities of South Orange and Maplewood, as the group returns to the State Band Gala for the third time in the school's history. The group is one of five honors-level performing ensembles at Columbia, and is the elite wind band in the district. Admittance is via performance assessment, and members of the ensemble are expected to demonstrate and exemplify the highest level of musicianship, dedication, and professionalism. The group's continual goal is to study and perform the finest in traditional and contemporary wind band literature while giving students the experience and coaching necessary for them to be lifelong performers and artists in music.

Bridgewater-Raritan High School Wind Ensemble

Thomas Bourgault & Nicholas Mossa, Directors

Superintendent of Schools.....Russell Lazovick
Board of Education President.....Jill Gladstone
Principal.....Charles Ezell
Supervisor of Performing Arts.....Laura Craig
Band Parent Co-Presidents.....Anna Rooney & Anna Rene Jeremiah

The Bridgewater-Raritan Wind Ensemble is an auditioned ensemble comprised of students in grades 10-12. Students in this ensemble frequently study privately outside of school, are involved in regional and state honors ensembles, and contribute extensively to music at the high school. The ensemble has historically performed at several regional and state festivals, including Metropolitan Wind Band Invitational, and as a featured ensemble at the Music for All National Concert Band Festival in 2017. The ensemble has participated in several artist residencies, has featured soloists in concert, and has commissioned and premiered new compositions by renowned wind band composers.

NEW JERSEY STATE BAND GALA

Sunday, May 5, 2019
Bridgewater-Raritan High School
Afternoon Concert • 2:00 p.m.

West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South Wind Ensemble

Jesse Argenziano, conductor

Vesuvius.....Frank Ticheli
Down a Country Lane.....Aaron Copland
transcribed by Merlin Patterson
Bayou Breakdown.....Brant Karrick

Parpippany Hills High School Wind Ensemble

Michael Iapicca, conductor

Solas Ane.....Samuel R. Hazo
Speak to Me.....Dana Wilson

Absegami High School Wind Ensemble

Patrick O'Keefe, conductor

Black Granite March.....James L. Hosay
Shenandoah.....Frank Ticheli
Slava.....Leonard Bernstein
transcribed by Clare Grundman

Williamstown High School Wind Ensemble

Nicholas Fantazzi, conductor

Chase the Shouting Wind.....Vince Gassi
Again We Rise.....John Pasternak
Magnolia Star.....Steve Danyew

Columbia High School Honors Wind Ensemble

Peter Bauer, conductor

Morceau Symphonique.....Alexandre Guilmant
Louise Kern-Kensler, trombone soloist
Incantation and Dance.....John Barnes Chance

Bridgewater-Raritan High School Wind Ensemble

Thomas Bourgalt & Nicholas Mossa, conductors

Festive Overture.....Dimitri Shostakovich
arr. Donald Hunsberger
Auguries of Innocence.....William Pitts

NEW JERSEY STATE BAND GALA

Sunday, May 5, 2019
Bridgewater-Raritan High School
Evening Concert • 6:00 p.m.

Westfield High School Wind Ensemble

Christopher J. Vitale, conductor

Symphony on Themes of John Philip SousaIra Hearshen
II. After The Thunderer
Serenity.....Ola Gjeilo, arr. Eric Wilson
Black Tie Blu-Bop.....J. Scott McKenzie

West Orange High School Wind Ensemble

Lewis C. Kelly, conductor

October.....Eric Whitacre
Children's March: "Over the Hills and Far Away".....Percy Grainger
ed. R. Mark Rodgers

Southern Regional High School Wind Ensemble

Kevin Moninghoff, conductor

Persis.....James L. Hosay
Slava.....Leonard Bernstein
transcribed by Clare Grundman

Clearview Regional High School Wind Ensemble

Tyler Wiernusz, conductor

Trauersinfonie.....Richard Wagner
transcribed by Erik Leidzen
Mannin Veen.....Hayden Wood

Randolph High School Wind Ensemble

Dawn Russo, conductor

Shepherd's Hey.....Percy Aldridge Grainger, arr. Rogers
Blue Shades.....Frank Ticheli

John P. Stevens High School Wind Ensemble

Andrew S. DeNicola & John Zazzali, conductors

George Washington Bridge.....William Schuman
Divertimento for Band, Op. 42.....Vincent Persichetti
4. Burlesque 5. Soliloquy
Symphonic Movement.....Vaclav Nelybhel

Westfield High School Wind Ensemble

Christopher J. Vitale, Director

Superintendent.....Dr. Margaret Dolan
Principal.....Dr. Derrick Nelson
Assistant Principals.....Jim DeSarno, Mabel Huynh, Warren Hynes
Supervisor of Visual & Performing Arts.....Thomas H. Weber Jr.
Board of Education President.....Peggy Oster
Band Parent Association Co-Presidents.....Barbara Wellnitz & Lisa Switlyk

The Westfield High School Band program is home to 215 students making up ten performing ensembles. The Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Freshman Concert Band make up the core of the band program with additional performance opportunities being provided through three jazz bands, two percussion ensembles, a winter color guard, and the 135-member Marching Blue Devils. The Westfield Bands have given performance tours of Austria, the Czech Republic, and Italy. In 2018, the Wind Ensemble was invited to perform at the New Jersey Music Educators Conference. They have given performances at Avery Fischer Hall, the Kimmel Center, and at the 2019 Music for All National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis.

West Orange High School Wind Ensemble

Lewis C. Kelly, Director / Erin Lagatic, Assoc. Director / Joshua Zimmer, Asst. Director

Acting Superintendent of Schools.....Eveny de Mendez
Principal.....Hayden Moore
Director of Visual & Performing Arts.....Louis Quagliato
Board of Education President.....Ken Alper
Music Booster Presidents.....Michael Adelson, Matthew Mongelli

The Visual and Performing Arts Department at West Orange High School offers a comprehensive selection of courses in the areas of band, choir, orchestra, theatre, dance, and music theory. The band program serves more than 225 students with curricular opportunities that include Ninth Grade Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Winds, and Wind Ensemble. Honors credit is offered to members of the Wind Ensemble, as each member participates in a chamber music ensemble. Additionally, students can participate in the Marching Mountaineers, two jazz ensembles, two winter color guards, pit orchestra, and percussion ensemble. The Wind Ensemble has recently performed at Carnegie Hall, the annual New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA) convention, and the Music For All National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Southern Regional High School Wind Ensemble

Kevin Moninghoff, Director

Superintendent.....Craig Henry
Assistant Superintendent.....Megan Vile
District Principal.....Eric Wilhelm
Board of Education President.....Scott Waters
Board of Education Vice President.....R. Scott Zoladz
Assistant Principal, Fine & Performing Arts Supervisor.....Dr. Richard Falletta

The Southern Regional High School music program is a comprehensive program that offers a myriad of opportunities for students in the district. It includes Honors Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Honors Chorus, Jazz Vocal Ensemble, Boys Choir, Orchestra, Music Theory, Guitar Class, Jazz Band, Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band, Indoor Drum line, Indoor Guard, student-run Chamber Ensembles and Bell Choir. Since the inception of the State Gala, the Ensemble has been invited to perform 12 times. With two NJIAJE jazz championships and 4 T.O.B. A.C.C. titles in its history, Southern Regional has developed a rich tradition of bringing high quality live music to its audiences throughout the state.

Clearview Regional High School Wind Ensemble

Tyler Wiernusz, Director

Gerald DeLoach, Assistant Director / Thomas Maiorello, Director of Percussion

Superintendent of Schools.....John Horchak III
Board of Education President.....Michele Giaquinto
Principal.....Keith Brook
Supervisor of Visual & Performing Arts.....Kate Bourquin
Band Parents President.....David Taylor

The Clearview Regional High School instrumental music program is a tiered system of ensembles seeking to facilitate the complete musical development of its students. The Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, and various chamber ensembles meet during school hours as part of a balanced array of curricular musical offerings. Extra-curricular ensembles, such as the marching band, jazz band, and color guard, meet throughout the year, supplementing the curriculum. The Clearview Regional High School Wind Ensemble is the premier wind band in the district. The Honors Wind Ensemble keeps a full calendar of events throughout the school year; performing on and off campus and in support of the local community. The Wind Ensemble and its members have received numerous accolades at the region and state levels, including ensemble a performance at the 2018 NJMEA State Conference.

Randolph High School Wind Ensemble

Dawn Russo, Director

Superintendent of Schools.....Jennifer Fano
Board of Education President.....Ronald Conti
Principal.....Debbie Iosso
Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts K-12.....Frank Perrone
Band Parent President.....Pam Williams

The Bands of Randolph at RHS center around a three-tier concert band system. Students in the band program audition for placement in Concert Band, Symphonic Winds or Wind Ensemble. Each student also receives a group lesson several times a marking period. The instrumental department enjoys strong support from the community. The Randolph Township School District has a long-standing tradition of a strong music program. The NAMM Foundation has named the Randolph Township School District to the Best Communities for Music Education 12 times. The RHS Wind Ensemble has performed at the NAFME Eastern Division Conference, two Prelude Concerts at New Jersey Wind Symphony Concerts and presented a clinic at the NJMEA State Conference, in addition to performances at the Mid-Atlantic Honors Wind Band Festival.

John P. Stevens High School Wind Ensemble

Andrew S. DeNicola, Director • John Zazzali, Associate Director

Superintendent of Schools.....Dr. Paul Saxton
Board of Education President.....Jerry Shi
Principal.....Gail Pawlikowski
Supervisor of Visual & Fine Arts.....Robert Pisphecky
Band Parent President.....Debbie Schildkraut

John P. Stevens High School Wind Ensemble hails from a music program truly devoted to providing a variety of opportunities to its young musicians. All members of the wind ensemble perform monthly in a small ensemble of their choice, and are encouraged to reach out and serve the community. Individuals are stimulated to challenge themselves by auditioning for region and statewide ensembles each year. We take pride in having represented the state of New Jersey as having the most number of students from one school for both Region and All-State level bands, consistently over the past two decades. Whether it's serving the community at local tree-lightings, township festivals, parades, or performing at local and statewide festivals, these diligent and bright musicians continuously bring their musical involvement to the highest level possible.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks are extended to the
Administration and Faculty of
Bridgewater-Raritan High School

Russell Lazovick • Superintendent of Schools

Jill Gladstone • Board of Education President

Charles Ezell • Principal

Laura Craig • Supervisor of Performing Arts

Anna Rooney & Anna Rene Jeremiah
Band Parent Co-Presidents

Thomas Bourgault & Nicholas Mossa • Band Directors

NEW JERSEY BAND ASSOCIATION

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NEW JERSEY STATE BAND GALA

The New Jersey State Band Gala Concert is an annual educational activity that serves more than 750 instrumental music students from New Jersey's public high schools in a day-long series of performances.

The Gala Concert is the culmination of a larger, statewide educational program, the New Jersey State Band Festival, which encourages the participation of every high school band in the state. The high school bands that perform in the Gala Concert are chosen through a series of three competitive preliminary rounds in three regions of the state: north, central and south. Each year, more than 150 high school bands from all over New Jersey participate in the preliminary rounds of the New Jersey Band Festival. Because of the high degree of preparation and practice that each band and its individuals members devote to this activity, the New Jersey Band Festival fosters personal growth and achievement for nearly 10,000 music students in New Jersey each year.

In years past, a very small proportion of New Jersey music ensembles were capable of more than a moderate level of achievement when compared to ensembles from other parts of the country. However, since the inauguration of the statewide festival, the level has improved dramatically. Currently bands from New Jersey travel to competitions throughout the United States and Europe and return with outstanding success. Such success can be directly attributable to the statewide band festival and the culminating Concert Gala. The Gala has become the foremost musical goal of bands in the State of New Jersey.

Now in its 37th season, the New Jersey State Band Festival was established in 1983 by Dr. William H. Silvester, then Director of Bands at The College of New Jersey, who served as the festival's administrator for 15 years. In 1998, after fifteen years of operation, the festival grew too large to run at TCNJ, and so a new, expanded organization was developed, under the direction of Darryl J. Bott.

With the establishment of the New Jersey Band Association in 2006, it was decided that the New Jersey State Band Gala Concerts would take place under the sponsorship of the newly-formed association. This year, the administration of the Gala is once again under the direction of Darryl J. Bott, Director of University Bands at Rutgers University.

Since the inception of the Gala, the number of music students staying within the state to study music on the college level has been remarkable. The road to the Gala has been a significant incentive for high school-age students to become involved in music and many of them see the benefits of staying in-state to study. In turn, the music education graduates of our state colleges are entering the field with higher goals and expectations, and are helping to continue to raise the level of music in New Jersey's schools.