

# BALANCED MIND CONFERENCE XXI

November 7, 2017

## CLINICIAN BIOGRAPHIES

**Steven Altinel** is the artistic director of the Long Island Musical Theatre Festival, whose mission is to bridge the gap between education and professional theatre. He works as a music director and pianist with students on the high school and collegiate level as well as Broadway professionals. He is also the choral director at Walt Whitman High School where he has conducted his choirs on the stages of Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall.

**Elizabeth Andrew**, twelve-year band director in the Port Washington Schools, instructs Weber Middle School's seventh and eighth grade bands, a woodwind and brass ensemble, and jazz band (Gold NYSSMA rating). Ms. Andrew holds a bachelor in music education from the University of New Hampshire and master in saxophone performance from the Hartt School of Music. Ms. Andrew's performing credits includes several saxophone premiers as well as performances with the Nashua New Hampshire Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra Annual Pops Benefit (2003). Ms. Andrew is a former All-County chairperson and a current doctoral student at Hofstra University.

**Leonard Antinori** is chairperson of the Molloy College Art Department. He received his BA in Fine Arts/Fine Arts Education from Queens College, CUNY; MS in Communications Design from Pratt Institute and PD in Administration/Supervision from Queens College, CUNY. He completed additional accredited programs in illustration at Parsons School of Design, and in computer graphics, cinema history, animation and film production at the School of Visual Arts. Professor Leonard Antinori comes to Molloy College after a long career as chairperson and faculty member of the nationally recognized Fine Arts Department at St. Francis Preparatory School in Queens. Leonard has exhibited his fine arts drawings and paintings in various solo and group shows including the 2014 Annual Armstrong Atlantic State University National 2-D Competition (finalist status); The International Center, NYC; the Ridge Street Gallery, NYC; and the Front Street Gallery in Greenport, NY. He continues to do freelance illustration and graphic design with clients including *The New York Daily News*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *McGraw-Hill Publications*, *The American Lawyer*, *The National Catholic Reporter*, Dance Theater Workshop and Citibank/Citicorp, N.A.

**Katie Aragon** is the School and Family Program educator at the Nassau County Museum of Art. She received her graduate degree from Bank Street College and a BFA in painting from Adelphi University. Her pedagogical practice has been developed in both museums and schools, with both students and families. Katie has presented at previous Balanced Mind Conferences and is a founding member of the Cultural Education Collaborative of Long Island through Nassau BOCES.

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**Stephanie Arnell** has taught in the Freeport School District for sixteen years. She teaches 5th grade general music and chorus. Mrs. Arnell holds a music education degree from The Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam and a Master's in Music Therapy from the University of Kansas as well as ESL certification from St. John's University. Mrs. Arnell has presented many NYSCAME workshops as well as at the NYSSMA Winter Conference and past Balanced Mind Conferences. Most recently, she had the opportunity to work with Steven Van Zandt and the Rock and Roll Forever Foundation writing curriculum for the teachrock.org website. This school year Mrs. Arnell and her students will be taking part in an exciting project for the organization entitled Sonic Highways: Freeport.

**Beth Atkinson** has been an art educator for the past thirty-one years at Hicksville High School. She has taught many different courses during that time including studio, drawing, painting, crafts, ceramics, sculpture and AP visual arts. Beth has exhibited her work in numerous juried and invitational exhibitions, most recently in the 2016 Long Island Biennial at the Heckscher Museum of Art. She is a permanent exhibiting artist at The Firefly Gallery in Northport and works primarily as a printmaker, but also works in book arts and sculpture. Beth has won many awards for her art and her work in the educational field and in the past been awarded Nassau County Region 9 Art Educator of the Year, NYS Art Educator of the year, C.W. Post Long Island Educator of the Year and Channel 12 Educator of the Year. She is an active member of LIATA and NYSATA and the Hicksville High School Art Department Coordinator.

**Robert E. Brase** recently began his thirty-ninth year in education. He currently serves as the Oceanside Schools Director of Fine & Performing Arts where he coordinates art, music, theatre and Arts-In-Education. In addition, Mr. Brase was previously employed by the Levittown and Malverne school districts. He has served as the President of NMEA, Nassau NYSCAME and ASA, as well as the Nassau BOCES Arts-in-Education Chairperson. However, the highlight of his career has always been the position he held as a teacher.

**Ruth Breidenbach**, Director of Arts and Community Relations Freeport Public Schools, has over twenty years experience as an elementary music educator. She continues to present workshops for NYSSMA Summer Conference. Past Adjunct professor in the Molloy College Music Education Department providing instruction for the Elementary Music Methods course. Ruth is currently the NMEA President Elect as well as assistant chair for the NYSSMA Classroom Music Committee.

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**Michael Brinzer** is a multi-instrumentalist based in New York City. The Long Island native began refining his musical talents in high school when he developed a passion for playing multiple woodwind instruments. He now plays for numerous orchestras in many genres throughout the state. In addition to performing, Michael is also an arranger, composer and teacher. His arrangements and compositions have been premiered at prestigious conservatories and universities including the Manhattan School of Music, Rutgers University, and Queens College. He currently studies Saxophone Performance at Manhattan School of Music with Dr. Paul Cohen.

**Steve Briody** is a recognized guitarist/educator, and is the author of the popular Jamey Aebersold publication "Jazz Guitar Lines of the Greats". He is a staff arranger at Smart Chart, publisher of jazz ensemble arrangements. Steve is an Associate Professor, and Director of instrumental of Music at Five Towns College in Long Island.

**Jeanne Buccino** is currently the chairperson of the art department at Saint Francis High School in Fresh Meadows. She teaches Digital Photography, Mechanical Drawing and Architecture, Ceramics, Painting and Advanced Portfolio. Jeanne moderates the Saint Francis Prep National Arts Honor Society chapter. She coordinates all art college visits and portfolio preparation for the high school. The Saint Francis Prep art department is the second high school nation-wide to receive art Middle States Accreditation. Mrs. Buccino also moderates art department painting excursions and international trips.

**Reynard Burns** is an educator, composer, and conductor who has presented clinics and workshops at conferences and in schools across the country. Drawing from his experience as an educator, topics focus on methods and suggestions to enhance the musical experience and development of students and teachers alike. His compositions are written with the goals and focus and are available from various publishers including Reynard Burns Publishing Inc.

**T.J. Carollo** is the choral director at Lynbrook North Middle School where he directs three choruses and the musical theater program. He has directed over a decade's worth of "junior" musicals.

**Sandra Carrion** currently teaches photography at Nassau Community College. Her photography has been recognized for its innovation and artistry throughout her career. Using techniques both traditional and contemporary, Sandra meticulously strives to reinvent her approach discovering underlying worlds hidden in what we walk past everyday. She is a photographer untethered, allowing only her eye to dictate what tumbles through her lens. She served as director of Soho Photo Gallery and is the creator of the popular International Krappy Kamera Competition and Exhibition held annually at Soho Photo in Manhattan. Ms. Carrion is also a founding member of fotofoto Gallery in Huntington and 9 East Contemporary Art Guild in Huntington.

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**Dennis Cashton** is a forty-five-year veteran of the live sound world. He has provided sound engineering services and sound system design to performance spaces in many places on the east coast. His expertise in mixing sound for national and world class touring acts, local artists, classical orchestras and theatrical productions spans locations from Heckscher State Park in Islip to the Beacon Theater in Manhattan, from NJPAC in Newark to PNC Bank Arts Center, from the IMAC Theater in Huntington to The Space at Westbury, and many of the local colleges. Mr. Cashton's sound engineering challenges have ranged from outdoor concerts for ten thousand people to indoor concerts at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and on the flight deck of The Intrepid. He can usually be found working at outdoor concerts during the summer months. He has done sound for TV and video productions as well as corporate events, and is an advocate for making things sound "real".

**Brent Chiarello** is currently the K-12 Music Coordinator, Jr. High Band Director and Pit Orchestra Director in the Cold Spring Harbor School District. He earned a Bachelor of Music Degree in Jazz Studies from SUNY Purchase College, a Master of Music Degree in Jazz Studies from Rutgers University, and music education certification at Five Towns College in Dix Hills, where he frequently conducted the Wind Ensemble. Mr. Chiarello has studied trombone, bass trombone and jazz composition with Conrad Herwig, Jim Pugh, John Fedchock and Bruce Eidem. He performed lead trombone with Conrad Herwig's Scarlet Knight Jazz Bones, winners of the Kai Winding Trombone Ensemble Competition and was also a finalist in the 2nd Annual Antti Rissanen Jazz Trombone Competition. Mr. Chiarello is a member of the Dave Lalama Jazz Orchestra, the Interplay Jazz Orchestra and was the trombonist for the show band on board the Queen Elizabeth II Ocean Liner's final 40th Anniversary tour. He has also performed and recorded with various artists including The Temptations, The Four Tops, The Gotham Wind Symphony, Eddie Palmieri, Paquito D'Rivera, Todd Coolman, John Reilly, Ray Vega, Pete McGuinness, Ralph Lalama and John Mosca. Mr. Chiarello has been the trombonist at the John W. Engeman Theater since it opened in 2007, and has performed several shows on Broadway. As an educator, Mr. Chiarello was the director of the Rutgers Undergraduate Jazz Ensemble for the 2009-2010 school year.

**Ed Chiarello** serves as Adjunct Professor of Music and supervisor of student teachers at LIU Post. Previously Ed served as Director of Fine & Performing Arts, and public school instrumental music teacher. He also serves as NYSSMA Zone 13 Representative, presiding over all NYSSMA activities in Nassau County. He adjudicates major instrumental ensembles for the LIMF, and served as NYSSMA state percussion chair. Ed Chiarello plays jazz drums for the LPJO, a sixteen piece jazz ensemble that performs regularly, cabaret, concerts and workshops. He is currently working on several projects creating and recording percussion, jazz and Latin percussion parts for various composers. Ed Chiarello remains busy as a NYC theater musician performing regularly at TADA, having most recently played the world premiere of "The Man in the Ceiling," book by Pulitzer Prize winner Jules Feiffer, music and lyrics by Andrew Lipka, and directed by *Hamilton* producer Jeffrey Seller. Ed worked for the Tanglewood Music Festival - Jacobs Pillow - Broadway Dance Revue under choreographer Chet Walker (Fosse) and musical director Steve Marzullo. Ed continues to sub on and off Broadway.

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**Levana Cohen**, Seattle born clarinetist, is a committed and devoted music educator. Dr. Cohen is the clarinet professor at LIU Post and teaches woodwind methods. She also serves as the clarinet instructor at Suffolk County Community College, and operates a private teaching studio in Port Washington. She has performed in numerous prestigious concert halls, having shared the stage with such artists as Frank Morelli, William Purvis, Steven Taylor, Shlomo Mintz and the Emerson String Quartet. Currently, Levana is the Principal Clarinetist for the Astoria Symphony Orchestra and appears at universities nation-wide leading masterclasses, clinics and performing recitals and concertos. Dr. Cohen is a Vandoren Regional Artist and through this program gives free clinics to music programs across Long Island. Additionally, Levana is a woodwind specialist and coach with the Metropolitan Youth Orchestras of New York, a chamber music coach for Stony Brook University, and is the director of the Port Washington Clarinet Choir. Levana holds both a MM and a DMA from Stony Brook University under the tutelage of Daniel Gilbert. She performs on Buffet Tosca clarinets and uses Vandoren mouthpiece, ligature and reed products.

**Laura Costa-Gallo** currently teaches drama, dance and yoga at Oceanside High School. She has been a performer for over twenty-five years having graduated from the Long Island High School for the Arts. She holds a degree from Tisch School of the Arts, NYU.

**Emilie D'Andrilli** is currently teaching general music/choral music for the Farmingdale Schools. Previously she taught and led choirs for the North Bellmore School District where her choirs regularly received awards at NYSSMA Majors Festivals. She participated in the creation of North Bellmore's first All-District Festival Choir. She holds a master's from Teacher's College, Columbia University, and previously attended the Manhattan School of Music and Fordham University.

**Glen Davis** is the owner/operator of G. Scott Designs, Inc., founded in 2007, which designs and installs lighting and sound systems for schools and other educational venues. He has worked extensively in the Lynbrook School District, as well as Levittown, East Rockaway, Glen Cove and others, designing lighting and sound for various K-12 productions, working with students to help them understand how these systems operate. Mr. Davis has worked in all facets of the production industry. He ran his own Long Island-based production company for over twenty years, which served school districts, national tours, corporations, and Broadway and Off-Broadway productions. He has numerous design credits to his name from regional theater to Off-Broadway.

**Erin Degnan** is currently in her fourteenth year of teaching in the Oceanside School District. She is a successful general music/choral teacher who has a great deal of experience working with the special needs population on the middle and elementary school levels. Ms. Degnan served as NMEA Classroom Music Vice President and continues to be an active member in NMEA.

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**Jason Domingo** is the North Shore High School Director of String Orchestras in Glen Head. He is fully committed to the musical growth of his students and excellence in ensemble performance. He holds a BM from the College of Fine Arts at Boston University and a MS in Music Education from LIU Post. Jason and his orchestra are eagerly preparing their upcoming performance tour throughout Portugal with the North Shore High School Music Department in February 2018.

**Lisa Drance** teaches a sequential theatre program at North Babylon High School. She has contributed to the writing of the CST in Theatre as well as other NYSED assessments and curricula. Ms. Drance is also a member of NYSTEA's Adjudication Team which prepares students for college auditions. She is a member of Long Island Scholar Artist Committee. Ms. Drance holds a MA in Theatre in Performance/Literature from Northwestern University and a MA in Theatre Production and Design from Southern Oregon University.

**Marisa D'Ulisse** is the art program manager at the Long Island Children's Museum. She has extensive experience in the art and design world, as well as over fifteen years of teaching experience in grades K-12. She has a background in art history and is also a professional artist.

**Scott J. Dunn** has been the Director of Bands at Baldwin High School since 2007. Mr. Dunn co-conducts the Concert Band, Symphony Band, Wind Symphony, and Jazz Ensemble. He has received consistent Gold with Distinction ratings at the NYSSMA major organization festival, performed twice with the Wind Symphony at Carnegie Hall, performed five times at the LIU Post Invitational Band Festival, and will perform at this year's NYSBDA Conference in March. Deeply dedicated to commissioning new works for advancing the artistic medium of the modern wind ensemble, the Baldwin Wind Symphony has commissioned and premiered many new works for winds during his tenure. In 2012, Mr. Dunn was appointed Music Director and Conductor of the Long Island Youth Orchestra, becoming only the second music director in the distinguished 55-year history of that orchestra. Mr. Dunn earned a BM in Music Education from Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts, a MM in Trombone and Wind Conducting from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and studied orchestral conducting at the Pierre Monteux School. He lives in Merrick with his wife, Patricia Blackman Dunn, and their son, Lukas.

**Elizabeth Dysart**, the Director of Education and Engagement at the Hofstra University Museum has worked with many diverse audiences. She oversees the development and implementation of education programming, services and materials for various audiences on campus and in the larger community including Hofstra University faculty and students, K-12 teachers and students, families and adults. Mrs. Dysart teaches in the galleries, conducts professional training workshops, collaborates with K-12 educators and University schools and departments and assists in writing grant proposals and program assessments.

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**Iris Elezi** teaches general music at Lawrence Road Middle School, Uniondale Schools. She created a music production course and founded a piano ensemble. Mrs. Elezi is a graduate of the Boston Conservatory where she received a MM Cum Laude and the BM Magna Cum Laude. She was a scholarship student and the winner of the piano honor's competition. In addition, she also holds a MME from CUNY. Mrs. Elezi has performed chamber and solo recitals at Seully Recital Hall, Bezanson Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall, Yamaha Salon, Tilles Center. She has been an accompanist for SCMEA, NMEA and NYSSMA All State auditions. Her teachers include Dr. Jonathan Bass, Nigel Coxe, Anita Tartari and Dr. Diana Mittler Battipaglia. She is dedicated to raising the new generation of musicians.

**John Fallon**, currently in his fortieth year as an educator, has been teaching chorus and band at Walhalla High School in South Carolina. Previously, John taught chorus and band and at the middle school and Pre-K and Kindergarten music. In addition to his education work, over the last thirty-five years John has also served as Choir Director and Service Musician at several area churches. A Massapequa native, John received a BA in Music Education from LIU Post. John holds a MA in Choral Arts from Western Carolina University and a MA in Education Administration and Supervision from Clemson University.

**Gregory Fassuliotis** is a New York City based saxophonist. He has studied under the tutelage of Dr. Paul Cohen at the Manhattan School of Music where he has received a Bachelor of Music. Currently, he is a member of the Trans1t Quartet and is the go-to saxophonist for many local orchestras such as the Greenwich Village Orchestra. As an active freelancer and soloist, Gregory has performed across the country as well as in France and Monaco while also premiering works by composers Michael Brinzer and Michael Gordon. In addition to his musical pursuits, Gregory is an avid naturalist. When not in the concrete jungle, he can often be found backpacking throughout the countryside.

**Allison Friedman** has been actively teaching music for fourteen years. Currently, she teaches 6th grade chorus and 7th and 8th grade general music at Weber Middle School, Port Washington Schools. Previously, she taught K-5 general music and chorus at South Salem Elementary School, also in Port Washington. Allison has a passion for technology and she is always trying to find new and innovate ways to incorporate the latest technology in her music classes. She holds a BM in Music Education, an MA in Music Theory and Composition from LIU Post, an MA in Educational Technology from NYIT, and is a Google Certified Educator. Her biggest educational goal is to instill a love and appreciation of music in all of her students.

**Andrew Fund** is an orchestra teacher at Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools. He graduated from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam in 2012 and received a masters in music and music education from Teachers College, Columbia University in 2015.

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**David Gaines** has been the Curriculum Associate for Music in the Massapequa Public Schools since 2008. He has developed a strong interest in music and the brain and particularly the implications of this research for students with special needs. Previously, he was the band director at Massapequa High School, where his ensembles routinely performed at a high level of achievement, repeatedly receiving Level 6 Gold and Gold with Distinction ratings at NYSSMA Major Organization Festivals. It was during this time that he wrote his dissertation on high school wind repertoire. He is the current NYSSMA Past President, having previously served as President, President-Elect, 2nd Vice President, and represented Nassau County as the Zone 13 representative on the NYSSMA Executive Council. He has also served as a major ensembles, all-state and regular brass adjudicator, NYSSMA Manual Band and Wind Ensemble chair. Additionally, he has assisted in the training of new brass adjudicators. Dr. Gaines received degrees from the UMASS Amherst, Queens College, George Mason University, and Columbia University. His specialties include wind conducting and instrumental music education. He has taught both undergraduate and graduate music education and conducting courses at Queens College.

**Nichole Girgenti** teaches art at the Wheatley School in the East Williston School District. She currently teaches portfolio, advanced portfolio, media art, drawing and painting. In her personal work, Nikki explores a range of media and subject matter. She enjoys working with mixed media along with traditional drawing and painting techniques. Her process is driven by the idea that art is a vehicle for learning, self-reflection, and creative growth.

**Syd Glasser** has been teaching art for ten years and is also a professional artist. She maintains an artist residency in Sunset Park, Brooklyn and shows her work in galleries in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and the Hudson Valley. Ms. Glasser has received awards for her work in mixed media and continuously develops her work through the use of various techniques and materials.

**Marc Greene** serves as a NYSSMA All-State Voice and Vocal Jazz and Choral adjudicator. He maintains a private voice studio while serving as Director of Student Teacher Placement for the Ithaca College School of Music. He is in demand as a workshop presenter in the areas of music and arts curriculum and choral methods, as well as guest choral conducting throughout the Northeast. He currently serves as the Eastern Division President of the National Association for Music Education.

**Christina Guando** has been teaching general music in the Massapequa Public Schools for four years. She has participated in the development of the middle school general music curriculum and pioneered a life skills music program for students with special needs at both the middle school and high school level. Through the life skills music program she has developed an incredible passion for teaching music to students with special needs and taking part in the many successes her students experience through music. Christina holds a bachelor's in music education from CUNY Queens College where she graduated Summa Cum Laude. She is currently pursuing a graduate degree in music education at CUNY Queens College.



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**Heather Heckel** is an artist and educator, and teaches at Weber Middle School in Port Washington. Her freelance clients include Whole Foods Market, Kids Footlocker, Juice Pharma Worldwide, and the Park Slope Reader. Her artwork has won international awards and she has been published the past five years in the 3x3 Illustration Magazine. She wrote and illustrated a children's book that won the Moonbeam Children's Book Silver Medal for Best First Picture Book and the Next Generation Indie Book Award for Best Overall Design. The past two summers she has received four artist-in-residencies through the National Park Service.

**Shane Helfner** is the high school band director at Schreiber High School, Port Washington Schools. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music where he received a BM with Distinction in Oboe Performance, and Hofstra University where he received a MS with Distinction in Music Education. He has performed as the principal oboe of the Eastman Philharmonic and Wind Ensemble, the National Wind Ensemble, the All-Eastern Symphonic Orchestra, the All-State Band and Orchestra, the Rochester Opera Factory, the Carl Olsen's Singers Institute, and of the Flower City Society Orchestra where he recorded a soundtrack for the film "Captain Salvation." Mr. Helfner has studied at the Pre-College Division of the Juilliard School of Music, the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, the Banff Center Summer Arts Festival, the LIU Post Chamber Music Festival, and the Hidden Valley Institute of the Arts in California.

**Jim Hoare**, Vice President of Education at TRW has been involved in theatre education for forty-one years. Jim has directed over 100 shows and musicals, many high school premieres, including the first high school production of *Les Miserables*, School Edition. Jim is a past board member of NYSTEA and NMEA, and an active member of NYSTEA, the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) and the American Association of Community Theatres (AACT). Jim has presented workshops throughout the USA and UK, and is a recipient of New York's prestigious "Rod Marriott Award for Lifetime Achievement in Educational Theatre."

**William Kinslow** has been teaching music theory and music production for the past fifteen years at East Meadow High School. He is an Apple certified trainer and has helped East Meadow HS earn status as an Apple certified training facility. He is also active as an audio engineer, music producer and woodwind performer in the New York area.

**Josh Lang** is a saxophonist who lives in Brooklyn. Originally from Arizona, he studied under Dr. Jonathan Bergeron at Northern Arizona University, and he has performed across the country and in Germany and Poland. He has played with Convectus, Four Reeds, and Trans1t, as well as The Megalopolis Saxophone Orchestra and the New York Wind Orchestra. He occasionally records new works with composers from the Manhattan School of Music and New York University. In addition to performing, Josh is an engraver and arranger, including Zdeněk Lukáš' works for saxophone quartet and his editorial work on a fifteen-song children's musical, *The*

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*Grouch and the Love Bug*, for which arranged, engraved, harmonized, orchestrated, and produced backing tracks.

**Julia Lang-Shapiro** is the Director of Media, Visual and Performing Arts for Long Beach Public Schools. An exhibited and published artist, she has presented workshops at the local, state and national levels. She has presented workshops at the local, state and national levels, including Balanced Mind for the past two years. Mrs. Lang-Shapiro holds a BA in Art Studio, an MS in Education and a PD in School District Administration from LIU Post

**Michelle Lesser** has been teaching art for nineteen years. She has taught at all levels. For the past eight years, she has taught studio in art, ceramics, drawing and figure drawing at Hicksville High School. Michelle is an active member of NYSATA and LIATA and has taught workshops for NYSATA. Many of her students have been recognized for their artwork and she has also received recognition for her own work. Most recently, she has been part of the "Portrait of an Artist" exhibit at the Huntington Arts Council.

**Lauren Levine** is an art teacher at Freeport High School. She obtained her bachelors in art history and studio art from SUNY New Paltz, her masters in art education from NYU, and is currently pursuing a TESOL certificate through Molloy College. In addition to working in the Freeport Schools, Lauren leads art and mindfulness programs for incarcerated youth through the Artistic Noise, a non-profit. Lauren teaches her students about the therapeutic, empowering nature of creating art as a means to foster creativity, interpersonal aptitude and social responsibility.

**Dave Lobenstein** is a recognized jazz bassist/educator who earned his MFA at California Institute of the Arts. He currently teaches orchestra for Long Beach Public Schools, and was the longtime co-director of Adelphi University's Jazz Enrichment Program. Dave recently joined the faculty of Five Towns College as a jazz combo professor.

**James Ludwig** teaches choral music in the Herricks Schools and conducts a collegiate choir at the Webb Institute. He is passionate about helping students develop a sense of self-efficacy and responsibility through participation in choral music. His compositions for choir are self-published and also available through GIA and Hinshaw. Mr. Ludwig's works have been performed in the United States and Great Britain, including by eVoco, the FSU Choral Union, and the Phoenix Chorale under the direction of Charles Bruffy. He earned his MS in Music Education from Queens College and his BM from Berklee College of Music, where he studied Jazz improvisation and composition.

**Jeanmarie Mansfield**, Associate Director of Education at the Long Island Children's Museum, has been developing and teaching art based lessons for all ages for thirteen years. With a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design and an MAT in Education from Bennington College,

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Jeanmarie brings an understanding of how to encourage and support creation and exploration with young artists in both formal and informal educational settings.

**Justin Marks** is a high school band director at Long Beach High School where he teaches 9th grade concert band, symphonic band and jazz lab. He also is the assistant director of the Long Beach Marine's Marching Band and conducts pit orchestra. He holds a BM in Education and a performer's certificate from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and a MM in Performance from the Herberger Institute of Design and Arts at Arizona State University. Justin is also the 2017-18 NMEA chairperson for the Division 5 Concert Band.

**Gina Minielli** is a Queens-based photographer with an MFA from Queens College and a BFA from the School of Visual Arts. Upon graduation, she was the chief photographer of the New York Mets Baseball Team, later becoming the first assistant to internationally-renowned environmental portrait photographer Arnold Newman. Gina co-produced and created the photographic portraits for her book, "Incidental Heroes: Disabling the Myths About Multiple Sclerosis." The project was to photograph a variety of inspiring people from around the country. Gina Minielli is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Molloy College.

**Ann McInerney** has been a music educator in the Herricks Public Schools for eleven years. Ms. McInerney's 4th and 5th grade band at Center Street School performs regularly at the NYSSMA Majors festival and has earned both Gold and Gold with Distinction awards. She enjoys a diverse musical career that involves educating young, aspiring artists and performing. Ms. McInerney is also devoted to her private flute studio, practicing yoga and meditation, and is the lead vocalist/flutist/saxophonist of the popular funk-rock based band, Jellyband. Ann has received a BM from The Crane School of Music and most recently, her MS from The Aaron Copland School of Music. Her passion for the Contemporary genre has brought her to work with renowned musicians such as Todd Reynolds, Michael Lowenstern, David Cossin, Phil Klein, Evan Ziporyn, David Lang, Ethel, and So Percussion. She also has had the privilege of studying with renowned musicians such as Hubert Laws, Kenneth Andrews, and Tara Helen O'Connor, and Greg Patillo. Ms. McInerney is a current member of NYSSMA, NYSBDA and NafME.

**Rachel Nadler** is a general music and chorus teacher in the Hicksville Schools where she has worked since 2013. She is a two-time graduate of Hofstra University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance in 2011, and a master's degree in Music Education in 2012. Rachel has worked with students who learn differently for the last six years, and is thrilled to have the opportunity to share her experiences with others. She received tenure in August of 2016, and is the proud recipient of Hicksville's Dutch Lane Service Award.

**Louise O'Hanlon** has been a teacher in the Herricks Public Schools for the past twenty-four years. She earned a BM from University College Cork, Ireland, a ME from Lehman College, CUNY, and certificates in both Orff and Kodaly. Louise has a passion for World Music which she shares with all her performing groups. Her choirs have consistently received Gold and Gold with

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Distinction at NYSSMA Major Ensemble Festivals and have performed at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Westminster Choir College, Hofstra University, and the 2012 ACDA All Eastern Conference. In March 2018, Herricks Chamber Choir will participate in Henry Leck's National Choral Festival in Indianapolis, one of only eighteen choirs in the country to be invited to perform.

**Aislinn Oliveri** has been involved with theatre and dance since a very young age. She graduated from Wagner College with a degree in theatre performance and received a master's degree from Adelphi University in Educational Theatre. Aislinn has worked for the Mineola School District for seven years as a choreographer and this is her second year teaching theatre and dance in the high school and middle school. She has choreographed more than fifteen musicals and loves being able to make a story come alive on stage!

**Angel A. Perez** is a photographer specializing in headshots, portraits and the performing arts. He is currently the Director of Fine Arts, Music and Library Media in the Hempstead Public Schools. He is a graduate of Fiorello H. LaGuardia, School of Music and Art, School of the Performing Arts in NYC. He continued his musical studies at Queens College where he received a BA and MS. He is presently a saxophonist with the Northwinds Concert Band.

**Ben Pesenti** is a proud teacher in the Sewanhaka Central High School District where he teaches chorus and directs the musicals at Elmont Memorial High School. Vocal Jazz has always been one of Mr. Pesenti's main pursuits; in his college years he sang with the New York University Jazz Choir and toured with the ensemble in New Orleans and Abu Dhabi. Mr. Pesenti also directs the Vocal Jazz ensemble at Elmont High School, and for the past two years he has chaired the NMEA Vocal Jazz Ensemble.

**Tara Pillich** has been a public school Art educator on Long Island for fifteen years. She has worked with all levels from Pre-K to AP Two Dimensional Art. Tara holds a BA from NYU and a MA in Visual Arts with a focus on Photography from LIU Post. Mrs. Pillich has a passion for traditional darkroom photography and exploring the possibilities of photo and textile based mixed media.

**Chris Pitkin** is an Australian who spent many years travelling extensively through Outback Australia. He has a wide knowledge of Australia's flora, fauna and Aboriginal culture and art. He also makes and plays the traditional Aboriginal Didgeridoo, the world's oldest wind instrument. Chris now lives on Long Island, where he presents BOCES Arts in Education programs about Australia and its Aboriginal culture, art and music.

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**Jan C. Porinchak** is currently in his twentieth year of teaching middle school art in the Jericho Schools. In addition to teaching digital and traditional media, he is also the interdisciplinary program instructor. In this program, Mr. Porinchak uses art media to enhance the learning opportunities of students in science, social studies, ELA, and world languages. Jan also is a freelance scientific illustrator, whose artwork has been used by New York SeaGrant, the New York Museum of Natural History and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Jan is a volunteer hike leader for the Sierra Club and has a great appreciation for the outdoors.

**Peggy Rakas** has been teaching elementary band in North Merrick Schools since 1984. She has presented workshops on Positive Teaching Techniques and Character Development for Nassau NYSCAME, the Suffolk Symposium, the Balanced Mind Conference and at the NYSSMA Winter Conference. She has been a guest conductor for the Rockland County Music Educators Association and the East Meadow District Band. Mrs. Rakas has been honored with a nomination for the New York Teacher of the Year and the Disney Teacher Award and was awarded the SCOPE Teacher Service Award.

**Marc Ratner** has taught concert band, general music, music theory, jazz band and a life skills music class at Mineola High School for the past nine years. In 2015 and 2016, he was recognized as a quarter-finalist by the Grammy Foundation for his work with students with special needs. He received a BM from the University of Miami, a MME from Hofstra University and his Educational Administration certificate from Queens College.

**Monique Retzlaff** leads the Freeport High School Select Chorale, one of Freeport's programs which was recognized by the Long Island Music Hall of Fame. Under her directorship, the Chorale has been invited to perform at prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Empire State Building, World Trade Center, Madison Square Garden, MetLife Stadium, Citi Field, and Barclays Center. In addition, the Chorale was honored to perform the national anthem at Gov. Andrew Cuomo's State of the State address this past year. Monique's groups have achieved first place standings in every music competition in which they have participated. Her students have regularly been selected to participate in Honors Choirs including All-National, All-Eastern, All-State, ACDA and NMEA All-County. Monique is an active member of the NAFME, Kappa Delta Pi and is the choral clinician for the NMEA 2017 Peak Festival. Monique has been a choral director for the past twenty years. She holds a BM and MM in Music Education from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, and an administrative degree from LIU Post. Monique lives in Freeport with her husband and two children and enjoys sporting events and Broadway shows.

**Eric Rizzo** is the Director of Technology for the Ramapo CSD. Previously, he taught music on Long Island for seven years, teaching chorus, guitar, music technology, and kindergarten music. He is a member of the NYSSMA Music Technology Committee and has presented at many state

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and national conferences for music and technology organizations. Eric is very involved in music technology in New York State, despite not being in the classroom.

**Jodie Robertson** is an elementary general music teacher in Herricks UFSD. She currently teaches K-3 general music. Jodie has her Bachelors in Music Education and Performance from Crane School of Music and her Masters in Kodaly Music Education from Colorado State University. Jodie has presented at the NYSSMA Winter Conference and Balanced Mind Conference.

**Tim Roda** is a New York-based artist who received his BFA from Pennsylvania State University and his MFA from the University of Washington, Seattle. Both degrees focused in ceramics. Mr. Roda was an artist in residence at the Archie Bray Foundation, received a Fulbright Award to Italy and was awarded a Kennedy Family Fellowship through the University of South Florida. Roda's artwork is represented by galleries in New York, Seattle, Berlin and Toronto. His work is in prominent public and private collections. Roda has previously taught at New York University, SUNY Purchase, Hofstra, NJCU, University of Washington, Pennsylvania College of Art & Design, Molloy College.

**Dalia Rodriguez** is an artist and arts administrator with over twenty years of classroom experience. She graduated with an MFA from Teachers College Columbia University and completed her administrative credentials at LIU Post. Ms. Rodriguez is the North Shore Schools Director of Fine and Performing Arts.

**Jocelyn Rodriguez** is the district art facilitator for the Freeport Public Schools, where she serves as the liaison between administration and teachers and leads all K-12 art exhibitions and art activities in the district. She has educated students in the discipline of art for the past fourteen years. Jocelyn is a graduate of FIT, NYIT, Adelphi University and Stony Brook University, having studied visual art, technology and school building administration. She is passionate about the arts and works diligently to foster creativity and individual expression in her students.

**Susan Rogan** has been teaching choral and general music in the Lawrence Public Schools since 2006. She holds a BA in Music from Barnard College, an MA in Music Composition from the Aaron Copland School of Music, and an ABD in Musicology at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She had the honor of introducing the Parakeet Whistle program this summer to an eager group of third graders. The Parakeet music learning method was created and founded by Vinnie Kilduff. He is a Grammy award-winning multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter, primarily known for his work with U2, The Waterboys, Clannad and Sinead O'Connor. He plays tin whistle, Uilleann Pipes, guitar, mandolin, piano, harmonica, bodhran and flute. He is described as one of Ireland's best known contemporary tin whistle players.

**Joseph Romano** has taught music for twenty-nine years. He is director of bands at General Douglas MacArthur High School, Levittown. Mr. Romano has served as an Adjunct Professor at

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Hofstra University and presented conference sessions at the Balance Mind Conference and NYSSMA Winter Conference. His writings have appeared in many publications including *National Band Association Journal* and *The Instrumentalist*. Ensembles under his direction have earned superior ratings at several music festivals. He is chairperson of his district's APPR committee and proudly serves his union as Corresponding Secretary. Mr. Romano considers his greatest personal achievement his precious daughter, Sonia.

**Amy Rostholder** teaches beginner strings to 3rd graders and a 4-5 senior orchestra in the Syosset Schools. Amy is active in NMEA where she has chaired All County Division 1 for the past six years.

**Kathy Rostholder** recently retired from the Bellmore School District where she taught the 4th grade Junior Orchestra, the 5-6 Senior Orchestra, and Chamber Ensemble. Her Senior Orchestra competed at the Music in the Parks Festivals, placing first each time. Kathy was active in NMEA and LISFA, has played in numerous ensembles on the Island and is currently performing with the South Shore Symphony.

**Charles Rufino**, master violin maker, has been immersed in the violin world since 1974. After ten years of studies with international masters he opened his shop in Huntington where he makes violins, violas and cellos. In 1998 he established The Long Island Violin Shop to share his expertise with string teachers and their students, and teaches a yearly course of instrument repair for music educators at Stony Brook University.

**Sal Salerno** is a theatre director, designer and teacher living and working on Long Island.. He holds MA and BA degrees from Hofstra University and has studied toward a Ph.D. at NYU. Mr. Salerno has been an overseas special member of the Royal Shakespeare Company Summer School, which he attended for five years. Sal has directed and performed regionally and internationally for over thirty years. He has been director of drama for the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD, On Tour Company Theatre Program at Calhoun High School since 1985. His school productions have won awards including for Shakespearean Productions. He has directed numerous productions for many outside groups including The CAP Center and the Island Shakespeare Company, which he started in 1979. He is a past artistic director for Hofstra University's Gray Wig, a member of the NYSTEAs and the Past President of LITEA. He has also presented workshops for many festivals and organizations, including NYSTEAs and the Kansas State Thespian Festival.

**Karl Siewertsen** has been a teacher in the Plainedge Schools for the past twelve years, ten of which were spent at the John H. West Elementary School where he taught 4th and 5th grade bands and orchestras. His ensembles have consistently participated in the NYSSMA majors festival and received Gold and Gold with Distinction ratings. He is in his fourth year as the NMEA VP for Division 1 East. Previously he was VP For Division 2 and band chairperson.

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**Michelina Sobolewski** is currently an elementary orchestra teacher in the Herricks School District. Her orchestras perform regularly at the NYSSMA Major Organization Evaluation Festival, consistently receiving Gold and Gold With Distinction ratings. She received her Bachelor of Music Education at the Crane School of Music where she studied viola with Dr. Peter Bucknell and Dr. Shelly Tramposh. She received her master's degree from Stony Brook University, and Suzuki certification from the Hartt School of Music under the guidance of Carrie Reuning-Hummel, one of the first Suzuki students in the United States. Mrs. Sobolewski also is the conductor of the MYO Nassau String Orchestra. She is an active member of the music community, having served as a chairperson for NMEA and the LISFA newsletter editor. She has performed with Sound Symphony Orchestra and a variety of pit orchestras in Nassau County. As a clinician, Mrs. Sobolewski has presented workshops at the Balanced Mind Conference relating to programming and curriculum development. In addition to her passion for music, she is a certified yoga instructor for kids and adults focusing on how breathing and mindful movements can help to improve musicians.

**Ellen Stavitsky**, an artist and educator, has taught at The Dalton School for twenty years and is currently chair of the art department. She holds a MFA in painting from Pratt Institute and a ME from Harvard Graduate School of Education. She exhibited frequently at OK Harris Works of Art, as well as other galleries throughout the United States. Her artwork is in numerous private and public collections, including The Brooklyn Museum, The Butler Museum of American Art, The Cleveland Museum of Art, The Joseph Hirshhorn Museum and The National Museum of American Art. She received a Ford Foundation Studio Grant and numerous Juror's awards.

**Geoffrey Taylor** directs the jazz program for Herricks, as well as 8th grade band. He recently completed a dissertation as part of a DMA on improv in band and orchestra, and is passionate to see this become more commonplace.

**Molly H. Tittler** has been a high school band and color guard director for over a decade. Throughout her career, her ensembles have received top placements at the state and regional level in USBands, Musical Arts Conference, Mid Atlantic Indoor Network, New York State Field Band, and NYC Columbus Day Parade. She has competed with and taught several drum and bugle corps including Phantom Regiment, Boston Crusaders, Jersey Surf, and Fusion Core. Upon coming to East Meadow High School, Ms. Tittler has continued the legacy of excellence in the marching program, as well as founding a competitive winter guard.



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**Susan Turner** is an adjunct professor and cooperating teacher in Hofstra University's Dance Education program. Concurrently, Turner teaches dance at Walt Whitman High School, South Huntington. Her students have received numerous awards for dance and choreography at the national and state levels. Ms. Turner is also a theatre director and choreographer and teaches a variety of creative workshops and professional development classes for museums, schools and arts organizations.. She serves as the dance representative for the Long Island Scholar Artist Award. Ms. Turner founded Turner Dance in 1996, a non-profit modern dance company, which performed throughout the North East and abroad for ten years. Turner received a Bachelor's Degree with Honors from Boston College and her MA in Dance and Dance Education from Teachers College, Columbia University.

**Stacy Wasson** has been teaching elementary art for twenty-five years. She currently teaches at Washington Rose Elementary School in Roosevelt. Stacy subscribes to her own motto, live vividly, and views her entire life as her greatest work of art. With avocations in theater, storytelling and historical reenactment, her passion for the visual arts transfers to the greater world around her. When not teaching art, Stacy may be found jousting on horseback or riding a Sherman tank.

**Erica Whitman Davis** has taught vocal music for thirty-eight years. With Level III Orff certification and a Dalcroze Certificate from the Manhattan School of Music, Erica is a past president of LIAOSA. She has presented sessions at AOSA National Conferences, and Long Island and Northern New Jersey Orff chapters. She has presented workshops for NYSSMA, NYSCAME, and Balanced Mind. Erica has conducted Saturday workshops for children at Nassau and Suffolk PEAK festivals and the SCMEA Recorder Festival. A contributor to the Macmillan 1988 music series, *Music and You*, she was selected as "Educator of the Week" by Long Island's TV Channel 55.

**David Wozniak**, a native of Buffalo, is an experienced soloist, teacher, conductor, chamber musician, and repair technician. An avid proponent of new music, David has worked with many composers including Gregg Rossetti, Jonathan David, Martha Sullivan, Sy Brandon, Marc Satterwhite, and Alan Theissen. David's premiere recording, *American Fusion*, was released on Emeritus Records and featured four world-premiere recordings. David earned degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi and Fredonia State University, where he studied with Lawrence Gwozdz and Wildy Zumwalt, respectively. He also has received coaching from Harry-Kinross White. David is a member of the North American Saxophone Alliance, the International Double Reed Society, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and currently teaches at Borough of Manhattan Community College.

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**Eli Yamin** is an internationally acclaimed pianist, composer, educator and singer. He is the co-founder, managing and artistic director of Jazz Power Initiative (formerly The Jazz Drama Program), a non profit, 501(c)3 organization that transforms lives through jazz arts education. Eli is also the founding director of Jazz at Lincoln Center's Middle School Jazz Academy. His three youth-centered musicals: *Nora's Ark*,  *Holding the Torch for Liberty* and *Message from Saturn*, have been performed in four languages bringing diverse communities together through jazz to tell socially uplifting stories.

**Michael Young** is a musician and educator who has performed and taught throughout the country and around the world. He is currently teaching the next generation of musicians at Bayview Elementary School and electronic music at Freeport High School. Mike has also taught Video Editing and 3D Animation to students in the college arena.

## **Key:**

ACDA: American Choral Directors Association

ASA: Art Supervisors Association

ASTA: American String Teachers Association

CASA: Contemporary A Cappella Society

LIMF: Long Island Music Festival

LISFA: Long Island String Festival Association

LITEA: Long Island Theatre Education Association

MEANYC: Music Educators' Association of New York City

NAEA: National Art Educators Association

NAfME: National Association for Music education

NBA: National Band Association

NMEA: Nassau Music Educators Association

NYSBDA: New York State Band Directors Association

NYSCAME: New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education

NYSSMA: New York State School Music Association

NYSTEA: New York State Theatre Education Association

SCMEA: Suffolk County Music Educators Association

SCOPE: Suffolk County Organization for the Promotion of Education