



Elizabeth Andrew is in her fourteenth year as a band director in the Port Washington Schools, with experience teaching fourth through eighth grade band. Dr. Andrew directs the middle school jazz band (Gold NYSSMA rating) and a school woodwind and brass ensemble. Dr. Andrew holds a BM in Music Education from the University of New Hampshire, MA in Saxophone Performance from the Hartt School of Music, and has an EDD from Hofstra University. Dr. Andrew's performing credits include several saxophone premiers as well as performances with the Nashua New Hampshire Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra Annual Pops Benefit. Dr. Andrew is a former All-County chairperson and a certified NYSSMA adjudicator.

Andrea Antonelli is an art educator for grades 5-7 at Mineola Middle School. Andrea is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts with a BFA in Illustration. She holds an MS in Art Education from LIU Post and will complete a MA in Creative Arts Therapy Counseling from Hofstra University this Spring.

Catherine Beck has been teaching orchestra and classroom music on Long Island for over thirty years. She has presented at Balanced Mind, NYSCAME and in the Freeport Schools on topics such as instrumental teachers with classroom music assignments, Google Classroom, assessing string students and reading sessions. She received Honorable Mention in the NAFME (then MENC) lesson plan contest several years ago and is currently a Level 2 Google Certified Teacher. Mrs. Beck is currently the revisionist for the violin portion of the NYSSMA manual, and is a member of LISFA and NMEA. She received her BM in Music Education from Northwestern University and her Master's Degree in Special Education from LIU Post.

Neal Bellon is an active educator and clinician. During his twenty-four year career in the Massapequa Schools, Neal has taught a variety of disciplines in grades K-12, including general music, music theory, band, and music for special learners. He earned a BS from Hofstra University, and an MS and administrative certificate from CUNY Queens College. Currently, Neal teaches sixth and seventh grade general music at A.G. Berner Middle School in Massapequa.

Frank Bellucci has gained recognition as one of New York's most talented freelance artists. Frank is an outstanding performer, session drummer, educator and clinician. Frank recently joined Five Towns College as a Jazz Drum Instructor/Clinician.

Michael Blutman enjoys a diverse career as a trumpeter and music educator. A graduate of Juilliard and the University of Maryland, his teaching and performing credits include Ithaca College, Five Towns College, Usdan, Orchestra of St Luke's, Paragon Ragtime Orchestra, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Broadway shows, Sting, and many others. Michael also co-founded the music education publishing company Pinnacle Music Press.



Jill Lauren Boardman is a first-time presenter at Balanced Mind. She directs all the string ensembles at Freeport High School, teaches privately, and performs regularly in regional theater pit orchestras, chorale and chamber ensembles and wedding quartets. Jill is a frequent violin seating adjudicator for LISFA and NMEA. She has co-chaired for NMEA Divisions 3, 4 and 5 and is an All-State NYSSMA adjudicator. Mrs. Boardman studied with Margaret Pardee, Nathan Gottschalk, Pat Rudoff and Dorothy Kessna. Today she is excited to showcase JW Pepper's and Reynard Burns' new and old student-friendly pieces with Annmarie Buonaspinga.

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 music at Five Towns College.

AnnMarie Buonaspinga has been the orchestra director at Locust Valley MS/HS for the past eight years. As an active performer of many instruments, AnnMarie also participates in various pit orchestras and chamber ensembles all across Long Island. She has also chaired LISFA in the past and participates yearly in the NYSSMA Majors Festival with her ensembles.

Fred Camin has been involved in music for what seems like his entire life, beginning with his music education in Lynbrook. He went on to study business, education, and performance at Berklee College of Music and LIU. He has also been working with various music retail, repair, and distribution companies for the past sixteen years, and has won multiple national awards at his current position with Music & Arts where Fred has cultivated a deep knowledge of musical instruments and what makes them tick. He also maintains an active teaching studio.

Paul Caputo is currently a band director at Syosset High School where he teaches symphonic band, Jazz band, marching band and rock 'n roll history and performance. Paul holds a BFA in Music Education from LIU Post and an MA in Music from Hofstra University. Paul recently served as President of NMEA. He is an active freelance drummer and maintains his percussion studio.



Sandra Carrion's photography has been recognized for its innovation and artistry. 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. Ms. Carrion 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. She is also a founding member of fotofoto gallery and 9 East Contemporary Art Guild, both located in Huntington. She is currently teaching photography at Nassau Community College.

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, trombonist, earned a BM in Jazz Studies from SUNY Purchase College and a MM in Jazz Studies from Rutgers University. Brent was the director of the Rutgers Undergraduate Jazz Ensemble for the 2009-2010 school year as well as the associate conductor of the Five Towns College Wind Ensemble from 2010-2012. He currently directs the Nassau-Suffolk Youth Jazz Ensemble, an ensemble made up of the best young jazz musicians on Long Island. He is presently the K-12 Music Coordinator in the Cold Spring Harbor School District, where he also conducts the high school band, brass ensemble, pit orchestra and symphony orchestra.



Ed Chiarello serves as adjunct professor of music and supervisor of student teachers at LIU Post and supervisor of student teachers at CUNY Queens. Ed also serves as NYSSMA Zone 13 Representative, presiding over all NYSSMA activities in Nassau County. Ed previously taught instrumental music and served as Director of Fine & Performing Arts. He has been working for several school districts as administrative consultant, and continues to work for the NYSLSA Professional Development Team facilitating PD sessions in the schools. Ed also adjudicates major instrumental ensembles for the LIMF, and previously served as state percussion chair. He plays jazz drums for the LPJO, a sixteen piece jazz ensemble that performs every other week and remains busy as a NYC theater musician having traveled and performed for fifteen Broadway Equity Tours. Additional work includes performances for the premiere of two NY Musical Theater Festival pieces. Ed continues to play for both AMDA and the NYC Off-Broadway - TADA Youth Theater as well as subbing on- and off-Broadway.

Bryan Ciminelli is the Photography Teacher at Jericho High School and has been teaching in the Jericho School District for the last five years. He has a background in Graphic Design, Digital Illustration, Photography, and specializes in incorporating new and interesting technology into the Art Classroom.

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 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.

Meegan Samantha Coleman is enjoying her twenty-second year in education. She teaches elementary music, chorus, recorder, ukulele, and yoga. She has had four choral arrangements published by Carl Fischer and her debut album, "I Hear Music," is available on Apple Music, Spotify, and YouTube. Meegan's choral and jazz arrangements have been commissioned by universities and performed internationally.



Elissa Cosenza, New York born and raised artist and Jericho Schools educator, transforms the discoveries of mind, body, and soul into layers of visual exploration. Her life's journey flows through her art into multiple levels of self-reflection based on personal experiences and global events. Elissa Joy received a BFA in Advertising Design/Package Design from the Fashion Institute of Technology. After working in the industry for some time, she then went on to receive a masters in art education and has been teaching art in public education over the last twenty years. Painting, drawing, photography, and digital graphics drives her to continue creating her own artworks. Capturing the essence of her visions, Elissa manipulates color and form with a variety of mixed media. Her pieces vary from profound statements of self and society to visual experiences of time and place.

Kathy Crawley received a MA in Music Education from Five Towns College where she studied computer assisted instruction in music education and earned the Teacher as Researcher Award. She obtained a BS in Music Therapy at SUNY Fredonia and Orff Certification from Hofstra University. Kathy is an Apple Certified Teacher and currently teaches elementary general music in the Mineola School District. She has been teaching elementary music for over twenty years and has been in Mineola since 2006 where she teaches elementary general music for grades K-2.

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.

Matthew DeLuca has been a proud Mineola teacher for twenty-four years. After receiving a BA in Theatre from The College of William and Mary, Matt spent several years acting and directing. Eventually, he realized that his deeper lifelong dream was to become a teacher, so he obtained a master's degree from Bank Street College of Education. The following September, Matt began his career as an elementary teacher in Mineola. Presently, Matt is delighted to be drawing on both of his degrees as he spends his days teaching drama to 6th graders and providing math support for 5th graders. Matt also directs the high school fall play and spring musical, and the Mineola Middle School musical for which participation over the past fourteen years has grown from sixty-five students to over 280 and serves as a shining example of a community of colleagues, students and parents working together passionately towards a common goal.



Meagan Dissinger has been teaching in public schools for ten years and is currently serving as the Oyster Bay High School Choir Director. Dr. Dissinger is an active guest lecturer, guest conductor, accompanist, and writer. She holds a BS in Music Education with minors in Special Education and Dance from the Pennsylvania State University, an MA in Piano Performance from CUNY Hunter College, and an EdM and EdD in Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Dissinger's research interests include Culturally Responsive Teaching in high school choir, music as a platform for social justice, and performance-based assessment in music.

Audra Donroe, Farmingdale Schools, is a teaching artist residing in Northport. She is currently pursuing a second Masters in curriculum development and technology. Her interests lie in further pushing her understanding of visual literacy and visual cognition to aid in the reconfiguration of art pedagogy. When she isn't painting, Audra enjoys reading her poetry at open mic nights and being with animals. Therefore, the root of her work is based on the cognitive theory of metaphors; the ability to learn and make sense of reality through what we already know. Her intuitive use of line, color, and shape, can be seen in her constant use of owls and map motifs that conjure the questions, "What is, where is, and why is my path, and what can I do to break it?" Her ability to create lessons that help students foster an artist's mindset is based on the principle that we are all artists, we all have the power to make innovative choices, and must be guided towards seeing that art has a purpose.

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.

Elizabeth Dysart is the Hofstra University Museum of Art Director of Education and Engagement. Elizabeth develops instructional materials, provides in-classroom and in-gallery teaching to K-12th grade students, professional development for educators, and in-gallery talks for the Museum's visitors. Elizabeth holds a MS in Elementary Education from CUNY Queens College, with permanent teacher certification in Nursery-Grade 6. Her teaching experience has been shaped by her unique training as an elementary education teacher, and as a teacher trainer, and writer/developer of curriculum for *Newsday*. From 2001-2016, Elizabeth was the manager and writer for *Newsday's* FutureCorps, a multimedia program highlighting Long Island students community service. Elizabeth is passionate in her commitment to inspiring students' interests, providing opportunities for museum visitors to have meaningful connection to works of art and instilling a sense of self-worth among all.



John Fallon is retired forty-year veteran choral teacher in public education who currently teaches music appreciation at Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton, SC. During his career, John taught at James M. Brown ES, Walhalla MS, Walhalla HS and the Oconee County Adult Ed program. His teaching included Pre-K through 12th grade chorus and band, drama, public speaking, presentation skills, broadcast journalism, strategies for success, and computer technology. In addition, John is a recognized comic book historian, published expert on comic art, an accomplished conference presenter and award-winning competitive speaker.

Cyndi Feinman has taught all grade levels. In addition to teaching chorus at Roslyn High School, she directs the RCP theater productions. She also owns a theater company with her husband. Currently, Mrs. Feinman is the chairperson for Division 5 All-County Mixed Chorus, as well as chair for the NYACDA Middle School Division and soon to be high school division.

Dan Freeman is an artist/producer/bassist and music technologist based in Brooklyn, and one of the world's leading experts on the integration of live instruments with laptops. Currently Dan is on the faculty at New York University's Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music where he designed the electronic music production and live performance with laptops curriculum. In the fall of 2019, he will also join the faculty at The Juilliard School. He has given workshops on electronic music production and performed at festivals, universities and schools worldwide including SXSW (Austin), Harvard University, Berklee College of Music, The Universidad de Santiago (Chile), and Sonar (Spain).

Jeanine Gallina is an art educator for grades 3-4 at Jackson Avenue Elementary School in the Mineola Schools. Jeanine is a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology with a degree in display and exhibit design, as well as a BA in Art Education from CUNY Queens College, and an MA in Sculpture from LIU Post.

Matthew Gawronski, Port Washington Schools, is the freshmen choir director at Schreiber High School and 8th grade choral director at Weber Middle School. In addition to directing his district's a cappella, chamber, and tenor choirs, Mr. Gawronski regularly performs original choral compositions with his choirs, both in school and as the adult and youth choir director for Church of the Good Shepherd in Ozone Park. More recently, Mr. Gawronski has turned his creative abilities towards developing digital choir resources that have been used by hundreds of choir directors across the country.



The Gelfer Brothers (Sam and Matthew) are performers, educators, clinicians, composers, and arrangers from Long Island. They have co-presented workshops at multiple symposiums on such topics as improvisation, ukulele in the classroom, and integration of folk fiddle styles. Sam Gelfer studied music education and double bass at SUNY Fredonia and received a masters degree from Stony Brook University. He currently teaches orchestra at multiple levels in the Farmingdale School District. Matthew Gelfer obtained a degree in film scoring from Berklee College of Music. He completed pedagogical studies at CUNY Brooklyn College and holds a masters degree from Stony Brook University. He is currently teaching middle school orchestra in the Huntington School District. While maintaining their own busy performing schedules, the Gelfer Brothers also collaborate as members of their Americana/folk band, The New Students, which has released three albums of original music. The Gelfer Brothers have published numerous original compositions for school orchestras of all skill levels. jwpepper.com.

Malcolm Gilbert has spent the past twenty-four years teaching choir on Long Island. He is the executive vice president of the Massapequa Federation of Teachers. When meeting people for the first time, he is generally assumed to be a policeman or a soldier. Like most choir teachers, Malcolm is a former competitive bodybuilder. Malcolm is an active private voice teacher, conductor, writer and guest speaker and a founding member of eVoco Voice Collective. His classroom management style has been described as effective, unconventional and “yelling at us with your eyes.” Mr. Gilbert has presented workshops at Hofstra University, ACDA and NAFME, as well as the NYSSMA Winter Conference.

Rob Gioia is the director of STAC, a multi-disciplinary arts program based in Herricks High School. For the last six years, he has developed a K-5 theater program at PS 154 in Brooklyn.

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.



Andrea Gonnella is a music teacher, composer, jazz trombonist, videographer, and mindfulness clinician. She is also a certified yoga instructor and holds an Educational Leadership Certification from LIU Post. Ms. Gonnella's chorus at George A. Jackson Elementary School in the Jericho Schools won the nationwide Give-A-Note Foundation Grant for most inspiring music video and was featured in a Disney Channel promotional video for Music In Our School's Month. Ms. Gonnella has also served as Jazz Vice President on the board of the NMEA. Recently, she has been a clinician for NYSCAME instructing on teaching mindfulness strategies to music educators and has lead the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra's Treble Choir in meditation. As a videographer and advocate for living mindfully, Ms. Gonnella and her students create music videos and instructional content on mindfulness in the classroom.

Christina Guando is now entering her sixth year as a general music teacher in the Massapequa Public School District. 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 and high school levels. 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 BA and MS in Music Education from CUNY Queens College.

Caitlin Hale is the choral director at East Meadow High School where she conducts the mixed chorus, chamber choir, treble chorus, men's choir, and vocal Jazz ensemble. She is also the director of the theatre program's musical. Mrs. Hale received her BM, BMEd, and MM in Voice from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, where she studied with baritone William Sharp and served as the teaching assistant for Thomas Grubb's Singing in French classes.

Post-graduate work includes studies at the Indiana Jacobs School of Music, Eastman School of Music, Westminster Choir College, the AIMS program in Graz, Austria, and the Franco-American Vocal Academy in Perigueux, France. She has presented workshops for NYSCAME such as French and German NYSSMA Selections. Mrs. Hale is also an active church musician across Long Island.

Erin Heisel, soprano, teaches music history and directs the chamber ensemble at Adelphi University. She holds a BM from Butler University, MM from The University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a PhD from New York University, with additional graduate studies in psychology and the arts at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University. Certified by The American Yoga Academy and the Compassion Meditation Teacher Training program of the Nalanda Institute for Contemplative Science, she was the yoga and meditation teacher for the 2018 International Meaning Conference and is the meditation teacher for Change Agents at the Brooklyn Public Library. Erinheisel.com



Jim Hoare, Executive Vice President TRW, has been involved in theatre and music education for over forty years. Jim directed world high school premieres (*Once on This Island* and *Les Miserables* School Edition) and has taken numerous productions to the Thespian Festival Mainstage. He has presented workshops throughout the USA and UK and in 2011, he received the NYSTEALifetime Achievement Award. Jim is the author of “Your High School Improv Show Playbook” (TheatreFolk, 2019).

Dean Karahalís serves on the faculties of Nassau Community College, Suffolk Community College, and Five Towns College. He is a retired school district administrator and artist clinician for Conn Selmer Musical Instrument Co.. Karahalís is a graduate of Mannes College of Music, BM, Aaron Copland School of Music, CUNY Queens College, MA and Hofstra University, PD. In 1992, Karahalís was appointed Conductor/Musical Director of The Eglevsky Ballet and has been musical consultant to both the Moscow Festival Ballet and Ballet de Bordeaux. Mr. Karahalís is the founder of The Concert Pops of Long Island and serves as its conductor and music director. The Concert Pops have performed throughout the east coast in their Pops Under the Stars series and appear regularly at concert venues in New York and Florida. They have performed at benefit concerts for the American Cancer Society and the United Way. In 2012, Karahalís received the Presidential Award at Five Towns College where he teaches conducting to future musicians and music educators. He received an Honorary Doctorate for his continued contributions to the performing arts in 2013. Karahalís was honored to be selected by SCMEA to conduct the 2018 All County Music Festival. www.deankarahalis.com.

Gregory Krajci is the director of orchestras at W. Tresper Clarke High School, East Meadow Schools. During his first year at Clarke, both high school orchestras attended the NYSSMA Majors Festival, winning Gold and Gold with Distinction ratings. The Clarke Camerata, the school’s select chamber music program, performs in many community events and festivals. Prior to joining the East Meadow faculty, Mr. Krajci taught strings at H. Frank Carey High School, where he built string students from absolute beginners to performing orchestras winning consistent Gold ratings at the NYSSMA Majors Festival. Mr. Krajci also serves as the Division 5 Instrumental Vice-President for NMEA.

Julia Lang-Shapiro is the Long Beach Public Schools Director of Media, Visual & Performing Art. In addition to presenting workshops at the local, state and national levels, she the youth art month chairperson for the New York State Art Teachers Association. Mrs. Lang-Shapiro holds a BA in Art Studio, an MS in Education, and a PD in School District Administration from LIU Post.



Alexandrina Leahu is presently in her fifteenth year as an accomplished music educator. She began her career in the Roslyn School District and currently teaches at Oceanside High School where she has successfully instructed various vocal groups, music and advanced music theory, and AP music. Ms. Leahu holds a degree in piano pedagogy and choral conducting from Transilvania University in Boscov, Romania, as well as a MA in Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. She has presented at educational conferences, served as a teacher leader for the district's TAPS program, served as a Candidate Support Provider (CSP) for Long Island NBCT cohorts, and has been invited by NBPTS and Pearson to be a member of the Content Review Committee for Music Component 1 in Austin, Texas. In 2012, Ms. Leahu was invited to be an AP Music Theory Reader for the College Board and is a member of the Leadership team. An accomplished vocal performer, Alexandrina is currently a member of the women's a cappella group, "Sirens of Gotham," and was a gold medalist at the Sweet Adelines International Competition in 2018.

Julie Lindell is one of two band directors at George W. Hewlett High School. A graduate from Indiana University, Julie received a BA in Music Education with a Minor in Instrumental Conducting. While in Bloomington, she taught in a variety of different settings beyond her main concentration as a woodwind specialist. Julie has worked with various age levels of bands, elementary general music, and violin group lessons. Julie is also a FAA Certified Private Pilot and enjoys sailing, spending time outdoors, and traveling.

Danielle Livoti has taught at New Hyde Park Memorial High School and has served as advisor to the National Art Honor Society for twelve years. She holds a BFA in Art Education from LIU Post and an MA in Studio Art from NYU. She was awarded the Teacher of the Year award from her district in 2015. Danielle has taught a range of courses including 8th grade art, studio art, drawing and painting, AP drawing as well as digital design and illustration.

Dave Lobenstein currently teaches orchestra for the Long Beach Public Schools and is an adjunct professor at Five Towns College where he instructs Jazz combo, history, and bass.



James Ludwig grew up singing as a chorister at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City where he learned to read music, sing Renaissance polyphony, tie a tie, and play ultimate frisbee. He currently teaches choral music in the Herricks School District where he works with both middle and high school singers whose energy and sense of humor are a source of constant inspiration. He is also the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra's Nassau Men's Choir Music Director. James is a member of the eVoco Voice Collective. He has served as guest conductor for district and county festivals and has presented workshops about ensemble classroom management and strategies for teaching middle school music at both all-state and regional conferences for NYSSMA, NYSCAME, and ACDA. His choral compositions are available through GIA, Hinshaw, and a self-published catalog. His works have been performed in the United States and Great Britain, including by eVoco, the FSU Choral Union, and Kansas City and Phoenix Chorales. He holds degrees from CUNY Queens College and Berklee College of Music.

Louise Millmann taught photography and experimental digital design classes for the past thirty- two years, first in Northport and then in the Jericho Schools until her retirement. She received a four-year full tuition photography scholarship to the School of Visual Arts in NYC where she received her BFA in photography then completed her MFA + 90 post graduate credits during her teaching career. She has taught specialized classes in mixed media digital photography at the New School, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Guggenheim Museum and MOMA. She currently resides in New York City. @louisemillmann or Louisemillmann.com

Jane Oberwager Gaines has over thirty years of clinical experience. She received her BA from Emory University and MS and PsyD degrees from Florida Institute of Technology. Dr. Oberwager proudly wore her captain's uniform during her Army internship at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas and served a total of three years active duty. Trained in cognitive-behavioral therapy, she specializes in positive psychology, optimal health and wellness, and how to regain mental edge for peak performance. Her private practice is in Melville. She is married and has two children, the pride and joy of her life.



Louise O'Hanlon has been an educator for the past thirty years. She is proud to have spent twenty-five of those years in the Herricks School District where she teaches treble choir, chamber choir, and mixed chorus at the high school. Louise also conducts symphonic choir and loves to expose her students to a wide variety of ethnically diverse music. Under Ms. O'Hanlon's directorship, Herricks Chamber Choir has consistently received ratings of Gold and Gold with Distinction for Level VI performance at NYSSMA. The Chamber Choir performed at the ACDA All Eastern Conference in 2012 and at the NYACDA Conference in 2016. Her choirs have also performed at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, Queens College, Adelphi University, Hofstra University, and Westminster Choir College. Ms. O'Hanlon has been a guest conductor for several Suffolk All County festivals. Her passion for world music has led to reading sessions at Westminster Choir College and a presentation at the Crane School of Music. In 2017, Ms. O'Hanlon presented world music workshops at the Balanced Mind and NYACDA conferences. In addition to choral leadership, Ms. O'Hanlon is also a health coach, a graduate of the Breathe for Change Program, where she received her 200-hour yoga teacher training and a certificate in the teaching of social emotional learning. Louise has added EFT or Tapping to her arsenal of wellness techniques and is a passionate advocate of health and wellness in her students.

Aislinn Oliveri has been a teacher at Mineola for four years but has been choreographing and directing their productions for eight. She received a BA in Theatre and Speech from Wagner College and an MA in Theatre Education from Adelphi University. She is very lucky to be a part of the Mineola community, teaching theatre and dance at the high school. Aislinn also choreographs the high school musicals, directs the 8th and 9th grade musical, and assistant directs the middle school musical. She is honored to work with passionate teachers and students who inspire her every day.

James Oshinsky is a musician and a psychologist. He teaches Improvisation in a way that is playful and socially interactive. For ten years, he has offered this approach at Adelphi University as director of the improvisation ensemble. He bases his teaching on the vocal activities of Bobby McFerrin, the instrumental activities of David Darling, and the drum circle facilitation activities of Arthur Hull.



Elizabeth Owens, originally from Buffalo, is a graduate of the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam and the Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford, where she received a BM and MA in Music Education respectively. She taught K-12 vocal and classroom music for sixteen years in the Connetquot Schools. During her tenure at Connetquot she brought both elementary and secondary choirs to various choral festivals around the tri-state area as well as NYSSMA adjudications where they were rewarded with ratings of Superior, Gold and Gold with Distinction. This year, she has begun a new chapter of her career in the Jericho School District where she teaches K-6 vocal and classroom music. Beth resides in Garden City with her husband, two children, and dog.

Stephen C. Pagano has recently retired as a professor of music at Five Towns College. He still keeps a robust guest conducting schedule including Area All-State, NMEA, SCMEA, and was very honored to be selected as one of the conductors for the 50th Anniversary of the Messiah Sing-In at Lincoln Center in 2018. Pagano is sought after as a clinician demonstrating a wide range of choral methods. He has presented at local, state-wide, eastern, and international interest sessions involving the development of choral tone, rehearsal procedures, sight singing, and spiritual performance. For over thirty years he conducted the Freeport High School Choirs which performed throughout the Eastern United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, earning a reputation for choral excellence. Pagano's "Sight Singing Through Analysis" was selected for the NYSSMA DVD Project, which is part of the New York State Music Views-Standards Based Teaching and Learning Across the State (2009). He was selected by The Harvard Club of Long Island as Distinguished Teacher of the Year for 2009.

Angel A. Perez is a photographer specializing in headshots, portraits and the performing arts. He is currently the Hempstead Public Schools Director of Fine Arts, Music and Library Media. Angel is a graduate of Fiorello H. LaGuardia, School of Music and Art, School of the Performing Arts in NYC. He received his BA and MS in musical studies at CUNY Queens College. He is presently a saxophonist with the Northwinds Concert Band, Glen Head. www.angelperezphoto.com and [@angelperez_photography](https://www.instagram.com/angelperez_photography)

Sarah Perry, EdD, MT-BC, board certified music therapist and music educator, is adjunct assistant professor of music education at Teachers College, Columbia University, The Conservatory of Music, Brooklyn College, and Purdue University, Fort Wayne. Dr. Perry's specializations include music in special education settings, integrated arts learning, and the psychology of music. Dr. Perry also consults and leads workshops in New York City for The Harmony Program, Juilliard Global K-12 Teaching Artists, The Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall, the New York Philharmonic School Partnership Program, Midori and Friends, and the Piano Teachers Congress of New York.



Tara Pillich is an artist and art educator with sixteen years of public school experience. She has worked with all levels from pre-K to AP two-dimensional design. Ms. Pillich holds a BA from NYU and a MA from LIU Post in Visual Arts with a focus on Photography. Ms. Pillich has a passion for traditional darkroom photography, mixed media art and textile based fine art.

Jan C. Porinchak is currently in his twenty-second 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 is also 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 recently retired from her career as a band director for North Merrick Schools and was honored with a nomination for the New York Teacher of the Year and the Disney Teacher Award. She was awarded the SCOPE Teacher Service Award and has been selected twice as a Merrick Kiwanis Club Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Rakas is the founder of Teaching Positivity, providing workshops in positive psychology for educators on Long Island. She is the founder and coordinator of the Harry Chapin Practice-a-thon that supports food banks across New York State.

Marc Ratner received his bachelor of music degree from the University of Miami, his masters degree in education from Hofstra University and his educational leadership degree from Queens College. He has taught in the Mineola Public Schools for 11 years. In 2015, he was recognized by the Grammy Foundation for his work with special needs students.

Andrew Ramsingh received his bachelors and masters degrees from Queens College. He is currently teaching elementary school music. During his time at Queens College he performed in a Gamelan Balinese orchestra and directed the school's percussion ensemble.



Thomas Rizzuto holds a BS in Music Education from Molloy College and a MA in Musicology from CUNY. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in Educational Leadership for Diverse Learning Communities at Molloy College. Mr. Rizzuto has been teaching music for over a decade at all grade levels and is currently an adjunct professor of music at Molloy College. He also teaches guitar courses at Nassau Community College. Mr. Rizzuto's research has been published in numerous publications including *History Magazine*, *Discover Magazine*, and *The Wagnerian.com*. Most recently he delivered a TEDxTalk titled "Understanding the Music that Divides Us" which can be seen on the TEDx website.

Jodie Robertson received a Bachelor's in Music Education and Performance from the Crane School of Music and a Masters in Music Education with a Kodaly emphasis from Colorado State University. She is in her thirteenth year of teaching in the Herricks School District where she is currently teaching K-3 general music and middle school band lessons. Jodie has presented workshops for the elementary general music classroom at the Balanced Mind Conference and NYSSMA Winter Conference.

Amanda Rummenie has been teaching at the secondary level in the Farmingdale Schools for eighteen years. She currently teaches sculpture and studio art at the high school. Amanda also teaches methods in secondary art education at Hofstra University to both graduate and undergraduate students. As a teaching artist, Ms. Rummenie exhibits personal work in all five NYC boroughs and on Long Island. She is an abstract painter, and assemblage sculptor who graduated with high honors in art education, magna cum laude, from Hofstra University. She received her MS in Studio Art from LIU Post, Summa Cum Laude. Ms. Rummenie studied art history in Venice, Italy. Amanda is an advocate for innovative education methods and believes strongly in fostering creativity education through process based curricula.

Sal Salerno is a theatre director, designer and teacher. He holds MA and BA degrees from Hofstra University and has studied toward a Ph.D. at NYU. Mr. Salerno was 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 their Shakespearean productions. He has directed numerous productions for many other 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 NYSTEA and the Past President of LITEA. He has also presented workshops for many festivals and organizations, including NYSTEA and the Kansas State Thespian Festival.



Anthony Santanastaso is one of two band directors at George W. Hewlett High School. Anthony received his BM in Music Education and MM in Wind Conducting from Hofstra University where he performed with and studied under the direction of acclaimed conductors and clinicians Dr. Peter Loel Boonshaft, Dr. David Fryling, and Dr. David Lalama. Over the past decade, Anthony has held a variety of administrative and committee positions on the boards of the NMEA, Nassau NYSCAME, and the Balanced Mind Curriculum Conference. Anthony enjoys an active career as a freelance trumpet player, influenced to a great extent by his teachers, Mark Zauss, Carl Fischer, and Dr. Leon Petruzzi. He performs with numerous chamber, jazz, rock, and orchestral ensembles throughout the metropolitan region. Anthony is also a FAA Certified Private Pilot and a former AT-CTI Air Traffic Control student at Vaughan College of Aeronautics. He is a founding member of the Downwind Pilots Association, an organization that facilitates the camaraderie and networking of pilots within the local region. Additionally, Anthony holds the position of Air Traffic Control Specialist for an online company called PilotEdge, providing air traffic control services to the simulated environment.

Adrianna Schaefer is a chairperson for music and orchestra director in the East Meadow School District. Ms. Schaefer has enjoyed wonderful accomplishments during her fifteen years in East Meadow, such as cultivating award-winning ensembles, guest conducting for SCMEA and selection to the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society's Young Musicians Program Advisory Council. She is a conservatory trained double bassist having studied at the Eastman School of Music, followed by Lehman College and Hunter College. Ms. Schaefer has a passion for music and education and the joy it brings to everyone involved. This passion paired with high expectations and standards have earned Ms. Schaefer rewarding experiences throughout her years as an educator and administrator and continue to foster a deep sense of perseverance in all that she does. Outside the classroom she enjoys cooking and spending time with her husband and two-year-old twin boys.



Kevin Scully is director of creative arts for the Port Washington School District. Previously, he taught and served as a music department chairperson in the East Meadow School District. He has also been a band director at The American School in London, the Fairfax County Public Schools (VA), and in the Pine Bush School District in the Hudson Valley. Mr. Scully received a doctoral fellowship with the music education department at The Hartt School, University of Hartford, where he taught brass techniques, woodwind techniques and conducting, as well as supervising student teachers. He has been a guest conductor for honor ensembles in Montgomery, Orange, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties, as well as at the Eastern US Music Camp. Mr. Scully is a regular contributor of brass recording reviews for the International Trumpet Guild Journal. As a member of ensembles and as a recitalist, his performance venues have included Dallas' Meyerson Symphony Center, New York's Lincoln Center, and in London at St. John's Smith Square, The American Church in London and the Chelsea Arts Club. He has been heard on Spanish World Radio and BBC Radio 3. Mr. Scully received a BM and Performer's Certificate from the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, a MM from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and two advanced certificates in Educational Administration from CUNY Hunter College. Mr. Scully is a member of the Nassau NYSCAME Executive Board.

Gregory Sisco is a band director at East Meadow High School and the associate conductor of the Long Island Youth Orchestra. A graduate of the Ithaca College School of Music with degrees in music education and saxophone performance, Mr Sisco strives for musical excellence in all he does. He is a regular performer in groups around Long Island and maintains an active private teaching studio.

Scott Stickley has presented conducting workshops in the past for Balanced Mind. In 2017, Scott presented "Conducting for a Change" at the 2017 NYSSMA Winter Conference in Rochester. He teaches instrumental music for the Herricks Schools and is one of The Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York's longest-tenured conductors. Scott holds degrees from the University of Oregon and the University of Michigan.

Geoffrey Taylor has been teaching instrumental music in the Herricks School District since 2008. Last year he completed his doctorate in music education with his research focus being on improvisation in instrumental music, specifically outside of Jazz settings.

Jennifer Triolo teaches K-12 chorus and general music in the Herricks School District. She is the executive director and head of operations for the Long Island Children's Choir. In 2019, Jennifer conducted the OCMEA Junior High School Chorus All County Festival.



David Van Boxel has taught elementary band in Manhasset for twelve years. He received his BM in Performance and MME from The University of Akron School of Music, serving as a graduate assistant in bands under the direction of Robert D. Jorgensen, Dr. Laurie Lafferty and Dr. Gene Milford. David is also the assistant marching band director of the Manhasset High School Indian Marching Band which has received ten consecutive New York State Championships in group 1A US Bands competitions. David enjoys collaborating with his colleagues and focusing on interdisciplinary and interactive performance opportunities for his students.

Jonathan Watkins, with over thirty-nine years in the music field, has collaborated within every component of the music industry. His company, Wright Music, headed by Chrystal Conklin prides itself as a partner with musicians and schools of all levels. Jonathan is an accomplished bassoonist and continues to teach and perform professionally. Both Chrystal and Jonathan have presented numerous clinics on Long Island, NYC schools and at the yearly NYSSMA Conference.

Brian J. Wagner-Yeung received his BA and MS in Music Education from CUNY Queens College. He is currently pursuing an advanced certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders from CUNY Brooklyn College. He is currently split between two schools in Brooklyn: PS 370K and Brooklyn School of Inquiry. He has worked with students on the elementary, middle school, and high school level, where he has worked with students who have severe special needs in addition to students who are gifted and talented. Mr. Wagner has taught general music, string orchestra, musical theatre, and performing arts. He is a classically trained cellist, and currently plays regularly in the NYC area. He is the membership and workshop chair to MEANYC, in addition to being the editor of their journal *Presto!* and the District 75 representative. He has presented, and co-presented workshops for NYSSMA, NYCDOE, SCMEA, OMEA, NJMEA, CMEA, PMEA, NYSCAME, ABLE Assembly, NAFME National In-Service Biennial, Eastern and Western Division Conferences, as well as two online webinars. He has also presented lectures at CUNY Brooklyn and Queens College, and NYU. In addition, his papers and articles have been published in *International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, *School Music News*, *Tempo*, *Maryland Music Educator*, *Bluegrass Music News*, *Windsong Journal*, and *DARTS Newsletter*, in addition to four articles for NAFME's *Music in a Minuet*.

Heather Waters completed her Ph.D. in Music Education as a Temple University Fellow. She earned National Board Certification in Music: early and middle childhood, and certifications in Orff-Schulwerk, Kodály, and Music Learning Theory. She presents frequently at national and international music education conferences, and is currently the coordinator of music education at Adelphi University and the managing director of the Early Childhood Music and Movement Association.



Marichelle Weill, East Rockaway UFSD, received her BM and MM from the Crane School of Music. As a performer, she has experience playing in various symphonic orchestras, rock orchestras, chamber ensembles, musical theater productions, and rock bands. As an educator, Marichelle strongly believes in using music as a tool to teach her students kindness, passion, and compassion.

Jenna Witterman is currently in her fourth year of teaching in the Oceanside School District. She earned her BM in Music Education from SUNY Fredonia and her MA in Music History from LIU Post. Jenna is an active member of NMEA and NYSSMA as a chairperson and adjudicator. She also enjoys embracing her passion for playing clarinet as member of the Brooklyn Wind Symphony.

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. Besides his work as a saxophonist, David has performance and teaching experience on all of the woodwinds. Additionally, he studied wind conducting under Thomas Fraschillo. David is a member of the North American Saxophone Alliance, the International Double Reed Society, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and was recently honored as a "Friend of the Arts" by Sigma Alpha Iota. He teaches at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, in addition to his private studio.

Marilyn Zucker currently teaches art at Park Avenue School in the Westbury School District. Her background combines art education, museum education, and theatre arts. She completed a BA in Visual Arts and Art History with intention to design museum exhibits. Museum exhibition led to set design, and she designed scenery for many performances. She was the art director of North Merrick's Theatre Arts program, while working in the education department of the Hofstra University Art Museum with students Grade 1 through college. Marilyn went on to receive her MS in Art Education, hoping to combine her passions in the visual arts, and to share them with children.



ACRONYM KEY

ABLE: Arts Better the Lives of Everyone
ACDA: American Choral Directors Association
ASA: Art Supervisors Association
ASTA: American String Teachers Association
CASA: Contemporary A Cappella Society
CMEA: Connecticut Music Educators Association
CST: Content Specialty Test
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
NBCT: National Board Certified Teacher
NBPTS: National Boards for Professional Teaching Standards
NMEA: Nassau Music Educators Association
NJMEA: New Jersey Music Educators Association
NYACDA: New York American Choral Directors Association
NYCDOE: New York City Department of Education
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
OCMEA: Orange County Music Educators Association
OMEA: Ohio Music Educators Association
PMEA: Pennsylvania Music Educators Association
SCMEA: Suffolk County Music Educators Association
SCOPE: Suffolk County Organization for the Promotion of Education
WCSMA: Westchester County School Music Association