

# WCSMA

*Westchester County School Music Association*

Fall 2009

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## A Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that each of you had a relaxing and restorative summer, for prepare to the cycle of classes, rehearsals, lessons and concerts that is now underway! The leadership of WCSMA is already in action, planning the festivals, budgeting our resources, and working to keep the organization responsive to the needs of Westchester music educators.

School budgets are still tight, of course, and I would encourage everyone to make use of the WCSMA band, chorus and orchestra libraries,

free to all members. Please email me at [afoster@wcsma.org](mailto:afoster@wcsma.org) for details!

Do you have an idea for a workshop or activity that would benefit your fellow teachers? WCSMA is always looking for ways to serve the music education community; elsewhere in this newsletter you will find information on a workshop to be led by Carol Arrucci of the Hendrick Hudson schools.

I'd like to welcome our new Executive Board members: Jennifer Irlen of White Plains, who is taking over from Wilma Messenger as All-County Chorus Coordinator, and Matt Kowalski of Lakeland, who is our new Publicity Chair, replacing Robert

Geisman of Bramson's Music in Mount Kisco. We also have a new Webmaster, Bill Tonissen of White Plains. Welcome to all, and thanks for volunteering!

Best wishes to all for a fulfilling school year!

Ann Foster

## Chorus Notes

**Coordinator: Jennifer Irlen**

Dear WCSMA Colleagues,

I hope this finds you all well and that you have all had a successful start to the school year! I am very excited to be your All-County EAC/IAC Festival Coordinator and please do not ever hesitate to e-mail me with any questions or concerns. Please also welcome Mr. Jeremie Peace as our EAC Chairman, and Mr. Matthew Hommez as our IAC Chairman. Together we'll have a fabulous year!

Currently, we are still searching for a conductor (from WCSMA) for the EAC group. A few recommendations have come in, so hopefully we will soon have a conductor! If you've ever even thought for a second about being the guest conductor – go for it! It is a great addition for your resume, and can be extremely rewarding! We have a wonderful master musician, conductor and teacher who is coming to conduct the IAC group – our students are in for a real treat!

All of the forms can be found on the WCSMA website. Please complete and return the Commitment Form to me on or before **Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. The Letter of Responsibility and Registration forms should be postmarked no later than **Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**.

If for some reason, you did not receive my e-mail with the rehearsal dates, etc. Please feel free to contact me so I can add you to the distribution list. Also, if you know someone in your district who did not receive the information, please forward me his or her contact information as well.

I wish you all continued success in the school year!  
Musically yours,

Jennifer Irlen  
EAC/IAC Festival Coordinator  
[jirlen@nyc.rr.com](mailto:jirlen@nyc.rr.com) and/or  
[jenniferirrlen@wpcsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:jenniferirrlen@wpcsd.k12.ny.us)

## Band Notes

**Coordinator: Alyssa Verheyen**

Welcome back to another exciting school year!

This year we will be continuing to communicate as much as we can electronically.

Please visit the WCSMA Website frequently for updates.

Here are a few items to take note of...

**Elementary Band:** All registration materials for the December auditions will be available through WCSMA.org shortly. You will not receive any registration materials through the mail. Make sure to check the deadline dates. Please check back frequently!

**Intermediate Band:** All acceptance notifications will be sent through e-mail. Please check the website to see when these notifications will be sent out.

**A call for adjudicators**.....If you are interested in judging the elementary all county band auditions please e-mail me at [averheyen2350@bcstdny.org](mailto:averheyen2350@bcstdny.org).

If there are any new teachers in your school district please help spread the word!

Thank you for all the work you do and I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming auditions and festivals.

## Orchestra Notes

**Coordinator: Kathleen Coletta**

All County registration continues to go green!

Please visit the WCSMA website for elementary audition materials.

Save the date: Elementary Orchestra auditions will be held November 14th (Roaring Brook School in Chappaqua) with a snow date of December 5th. The deadline for applications is October 30th. Judges welcome! If you are interested in adjudicating please contact Kathleen Coletta at [kcoletta@wcsma.org](mailto:kcoletta@wcsma.org).

**Attention all orchestra directors:** We are in the process of organizing the orchestra library. If you have any music belonging to WCSMA temporarily residing in your school music library, please contact Kathleen Coletta at [kcoletta@wcsma.org](mailto:kcoletta@wcsma.org) for information pertaining to collection.

## Jazz Notes

**Coordinator: Tim Hooker**

Please remind many of your students about the up-coming All-County jazz auditions Sat, Jan 9 2010 at Mamaroneck HS.

This year looks to be another exciting year for the students as we have some great conductors ready to work with our kids and we have a totally renovated auditorium/Hall for the Concert, Friday, March 12, 2010.

As in the past, Westchester area HS jazz ensembles can think about submitting a CD of 2-3 contrasting pieces to be invited as a "guest" Band at the County Jazz Festival. Think ahead!

My best to all the music teachers to a smooth start to the school year.

September 15, 2009

Dear Westchester Musician:

Congratulations on being selected as a conference All-State organization member or alternate. The Westchester County Music Educators are proud of your achievement. The conference, held in Rochester, may pose a transportation concern for some of the 45 musicians representing Westchester County schools. To alleviate this concern, the Westchester County Music Educators Association (WCSMA) will charter a bus to and from the NYSSMA Conference. We encourage all students to take advantage of this convenient transportation option. There will be plenty of room for luggage and instruments, and we will be dropped off at the hotel where we will be able to register together and proceed to seat auditions, etc... A return bus will depart after all of the concerts on Sunday. If you are an alternate you may hear from NYSSMA at any time as positions become available. Please keep this information handy and notify me as soon as you discover you will need a seat on the bus.

Since parents may be traveling to Rochester to attend the concerts, there may be students who will wish to ride the bus only one-way. Please indicate your plans on the reservation form.

If you are unsure of whether you will be riding the return bus and do not indicate that you will not ride home on the reservation form, **please present the bus chaperone with written permission to not ride the bus to Westchester BEFORE the concerts.**

**The cost for the bus is \$95.00 regardless of whether you ride round trip or one-way.**

**Please return the reservation form with payment made to: WCSMA**

### **Bus Information**

The bus will depart from the **County Center** in White Plains.

Thursday, December 3, 2009	6:30am	Load bus at the County Center
	6:45am	Depart for Rochester <b>NOTE: We will not wait for latecomers</b>
Thursday, December 3	1:30pm	Arrive at Clarion Riverside Hotel in Rochester
Sunday, December 6	1:30pm (approx)	Depart from Clarion Riverside Hotel, Rochester
	8:30pm (approx)	Arrive at County Center

Confirmation of your reservation and detailed information will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment.

Please feel free to e-mail me at: [zone11@nyssma.org](mailto:zone11@nyssma.org)

**Charter Bus Reservation  
Transportation to NYSSMA All-State Conference**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

All-State Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell to call in case of emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ This is the best way to contact me.

**Check one:**

I will ride the bus both ways \_\_\_\_\_

I will only ride the bus to Rochester \_\_\_\_\_

I will only ride the bus from Rochester \_\_\_\_\_

I will ride the bus to Rochester, but am undecided about the return trip \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a written note of permission not to return on the bus to the chaperone before the concert on Wednesday.

**Enclose a check for \$95 made payable to WCSMA**

**Mail to:  
Adam Shatraw  
66 Main St, Apt 725  
Yonkers, NY 10701**

## **General Information**

I recommend the following:

A hard case for your instrument, with name tag. Expect all instruments to be placed in the undercarriage of the bus. There is limited storage in the passenger compartment.

Bring something to do. It is a 6.5 hour bus trip, not including stops. Bring books, homework, cards or games. You may also bring videos. The bus is equipped with a video player hopefully DVD, I'll know at Area All-State).

Bring snacks and/or food money. We will be stopping for lunch.

If you are returning to Westchester on the bus, pay close attention to the place and time where the bus will be meeting.

Obey the chaperones and give them your utmost attention and respect.

Also:

The County Center is located in White Plains at the intersection of Route 119, The Bronx River Parkway, and Route 100 (Central Ave.). It is across the street from the City Limits Diner.

Those students taking the bus home should meet at the designated area after the final concert (around 1:30pm). Please keep in contact with your chaperone. If your plans change and you decide not to return on the bus, PLEASE PROVIDE WRITTEN PERMISSION TO THE CHAPERONE.

# Important Events: Fall / Winter 2009 Calendar

Wednesday, October 21, 2009  
Area All-State Pre-Festival Rehearsal  
White Plains High School  
4:00-9:00 PM

Wednesday, November 4, 2009  
Area All State Festival Rehearsal  
White Plains High School  
4:00-9:00 PM

Thursday, November 5, 2009  
Area All-State Festival  
SUNY Performing Arts Center  
Rehearsal 9:00 AM – 3:15 PM

Thursday, November 5, 2009  
Area All-State Festival  
SUNY Performing Arts Center  
Concert at 8:00 PM

Saturday, November 14, 2009  
(Snow Date December 5, 2009)  
Elementary All-County Auditions STRINGS ONLY  
Roaring Brook Elementary School - Chappaqua  
8:30-11:30 AM

Saturday, December 12, 2009  
(Snow Date December 19, 2009)  
Elementary All-County Auditions WINDS AND PERCUSSION ONLY  
Location TBD  
8:30-11:30 AM

Saturday, January 9, 2010  
(Snow Date Monday, January 11, 2010, 3:30-6:30 PM)  
Senior High All-County Jazz Festival Auditions  
Mamaroneck High School, Mamaroneck  
10:00AM-2:00PM

# WCSMA Executive Board

## 2009-2010

Ann Foster President  
Bill Eckfeld President-Elect  
Marna Weiss Past President  
Area All-State Coordinator Nancy Torrente  
Jazz All-County COordinator Time Hooker  
Elementary & Intermediate All-County Orchestra Coordinator Kathleen Coletta  
Elementary & Intermediate All-County Chorus Coordinator Jennifer Irlen  
Elementary & Intermediate All-County Band Coordinator Alyssa Verheyen  
Corresponding Secretary Kate Stocker  
Recording Secretary Suzanne Foreman  
Treasurer Bradley Morrison  
Membership Mark Zizolfo  
Publicity Matt Kowalski  
NYSSMA Representative Adam Shatraw  
Webmaster Bill Tonissen

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## Public Relations

**Westchester County School  
Music Association**  
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[www.wcsma.org](http://www.wcsma.org)  
1-877-WCSMA NY