



Notes

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Music,

What an amazing year it has been! Our musicians have been busy learning and creating beautiful music. Friends of Music has been so happy to support them along the way.

The High School production of *Oklahoma!* was a hit, we hosted a beautiful Choral Festival at Proctors, and a spectacular annual Jazz Festival. Friends of Music was also able to sponsor guest musicians and conductors, along with two Niskayuna alumni who shared their love of music with our students.

We could not provide any of these opportunities without your support! Thank you to our members and corporate donors for your generosity.

As this is my last newsletter submission, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to this organization. To the board and everyone who volunteered with Friends of Music, thank you! Thank you for becoming some of my closest friends. We cried together, laughed together, and when I look back on this part of my life, I will always remember your support and kindness.

To the students, you are the reason I took on this role. It has been an absolute honor to witness you grow as wonderful musicians and wonderful people.

To the seniors, thank you for filling my house, my car, and my heart with your music. Thank you for making my kitchen a Hamilton production, thank you for making my cars an Eras tour, and thank you for introducing me to Mean Girls, I am forever grateful.

With warmest wishes,

~Sarah Frank Spindler

**Friends of Music would like to congratulate Mrs. Holly Johnston on her retirement.
- Thank you for all you have done for our students and the music department.**

We will miss you very much!

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Welcome to the end of another school year filled with music up to the very last minute! It would seem hosting a NYSSMA festival would be the culminating event on the calendar but that was just the beginning for our department! We are following that up with nine evening concerts and community performances at Town Hall and Niska-Day, to name just a few. I hope you have the chance to enjoy our students sharing their time and talent from the stage before summer begins.

The music department welcomed several guest artists and teachers into our schools throughout the year across all grade levels and disciplines. Artists such as Linda Chesis (flute), Professor Greg Evans (percussion) and Shavon Lloyd (conductor, composer and performer) are only the most recent examples. It is through the generosity of the Friends of Music that our students have access to and learn from such a diverse and extraordinary roster of musicians. We are so thankful.

The Friends of Music also finds ways to celebrate students and bring us together. Some examples include providing tee shirts and snacks for our middle school students' trip to Music in the Parks, receptions for the District Choral Festival at Proctors Theatre, our Jazz Fest (Java Jazz) and the upcoming Senior Brunch in June.

Special thanks go to Tracy Koste, our music department secretary. We all benefit from her professionalism and kindness. Thank you to the custodians in our schools and especially to high school head custodian Karen Lasher and her staff, without whom much of what we do could not be accomplished.

Please enjoy this special time of year to reflect on the progress all our student musicians have made, and say goodbye to our seniors whom we wish the very best for. Several of our students are going on to study music education and performance in the fall. We will miss you!

Congratulations and Thank You Mrs. Johnston!

Holly Johnston joined the music faculty in 1995 and is now saying goodbye to start her retirement. During her time in Nisky, Mrs. Johnston has done it all – taught general music and chorus, took part in district festivals, successfully won grants and awards for classroom projects and adapted to the times as well. During Covid for example, she was the online instructor and created lesson plans and videos for elementary school students. We take pride in her tremendous dedication to professional development and wish her the very best as she moves into the next phase of her life. If you see her, please give her a huge “THANK YOU!”

Elementary Instrumental Music

This spring, 3rd & 4th grade students will learn about orchestra for next year. 4th graders who do not already play in orchestra will also learn about our band program. Presentations will be made in general music classes and chorus in late May and early June.

Senior Brunch

We're happy to continue our new tradition of welcoming 12th graders and their parents to celebrate with the high school music faculty this June 20th. Please find the flyer later in this edition of NOTES.

Summer Sonata Program July 29 – August 2, 2024

The Nisky “Summer Sonata” music program is a fun, weeklong camp designed for students who are already members of the NCS D bands, choirs, or orchestras. Eligible students who will be entering grades

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

6-8 for band, choir or orchestra are welcome. Made possible by the Friends of Music, this exciting opportunity is for students who enjoy music and wish to continue developing their music skills during the summer with Nisky faculty!

Students can further their musical aptitude and skills, discover music appreciation and knowledge through conversation, performance and "hands-on" projects.

Classes and ensemble rehearsals will be conducted Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 Noon, beginning July 29. The program registration fee is \$150.

Registration forms are available in the District Music Office and at www.niskyfom.org. The forms should be returned to your school music teacher or to the District Music Office at the high school. **Registration deadline is June 21.**

~Eric Hughes



NHS Music Department SENIOR BRUNCH

A Senior Brunch will be held Thursday, June 20th, 9:30a – 11:00a in the high school MUSIC SUITE. Seniors and their parents are invited to a special event that includes great food, great friends and a fond farewell.

Please join us as we celebrate your many years of hard work and terrific music-making by completing the form below. Cost is \$15 per student or adult. Feel free to contact Eric Hughes (ehughes@niskyschools.org) with any questions or concerns.

WHAT: Senior Brunch
WHERE: NHS Music Suite
WHEN: Thursday, June 20
9:30a-11:00a

NHS Music Department SENIOR BRUNCH

Student Name _____

Number Attending: ____ @ \$15 each

Total: # _____ \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Niskayuna Friends of Music
Due Date: Friday, June 7th

SUMMER SONATA



Summer Sonata

Niskayuna Friends of Music Summer Music Program

July 29- August 2, 2024: Grade 6-8 students

Summer Sonata is a one-week music program designed for students entering grades 6-8 in the fall, who are already members of the Band, Choir, or Orchestra program. This exciting opportunity is for students who enjoy music and wish to continue developing their musical skills during the summer with Nisky Music Faculty!

Students will have the opportunity to perform with others in person and take a music appreciation class. We look forward to welcoming middle school students back for some fun and enrichment!

Summer Sonata will be conducted Monday - Friday, 8:00AM - 12:00PM in the music suite at Niskayuna High School. The program registration fee is \$150 and includes a Summer Sonata t-shirt!

Please complete the attached registration and return it to the District Music Office no later than Friday, June 21st. Space is limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

Sample Daily Schedule

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 8:00 - 8:30 | All-camp choir |
| 8:40 - 9:10 | Ensemble rehearsal |
| 9:20 - 9:50 | Music Appreciation Class |
| 10:00 - 10:30 | Ensemble rehearsal |
| 10:30-11:00 | Snack |
| 11:00-11:30 | World drumming |
| 11:30-12:00 | Music Games |



SUMMER SONATA

Summer Sonata Registration Form

Due no later than Friday, June 21.

Student Name: _____

Grade in September 2024: _____ School: Iroquois ___ VA ___

Instrument/Voice: _____

T-Shirt Size: _____ Circle one: Adult Child

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

I understand all instruction will take place at Niskayuna High School, and that I am fully responsible for my child at the conclusion of each day. I have secured needed transportation to and from the program and understand all school rules will apply while students are on school grounds and Covid-19 safety precautions will apply while students are on school grounds.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Program Participation Fee: \$150. Please make checks payable to: Niskayuna Friends of Music. Due no later than June 21. Please mail to - District Music Office, NHS, 1626 Balltown Rd., Niskayuna, NY 12309. Attn: Tracy Koste

MAKE A LASTING LEGACY



The Name-A-Chair Project

In order to ensure the future success of the Niskayuna Performing Arts Programs, the community members, parents and businesses are invited to contribute to the Name-A-Chair Project. The names of those making a pledge will be engraved on the arms of the new auditorium seats.

Our Goal

We'd like to kick-off our campaign with 100 seats engraved! Contributions will support improvements in the auditorium to enhance the acoustics on stage, sound technology, and lighting for the audience.

They also make great graduation gifts or to recognize a special musician in your life.

What is the Cost?

Each plate is \$150 for individuals and families or \$250 for businesses. We are a 501(c)3 organization and your employer may match your contribution.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please check one:

- Individual/Family: \$150 per chair
- Business: \$250 per chair
- My contribution can be matched by my employer _____.

Please send this form with your check (made payable to Niskayuna Friends of Music) with "Name-A-Chair Project" written in the memo section to: Niskayuna Friends of Music, Niskayuna High School, 1626 Balltown Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309

Line 1:

Line 2:

There are 44 characters including letters, spaces and punctuation available per plate, divided into two 22-character rows. No messages please - only names of individuals or businesses will be engraved. Engraving can include graduation dates, such as "Mary Smith, 1999".

Please return by 5/31/2024.

SPOTLIGHT NEWS

An Interview with Mrs. Theresa Fitzmaurice, Former Niskayuna Music Teacher



Where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in Utica, NY to Louis and Daisy Joseph and the youngest of five children. Being the granddaughter of Lebanese immigrants, my Lebanese heritage was infused in my upbringing through family, church (as a Maronite Catholic) and social events. We were always busy participating in our community and school events.

When did you know that you wanted to go to music school?

We grew up surrounded by music. My paternal Grandfather played an Arabic musical instrument called the Mijwiz which is a very primitive wind instrument out of two bamboo reeds joined and carved. Circular breathing is involved and long before Kenny G appeared on the scene, I would listen and watch my grandfather play with his cheeks moving in and out, never a break in the sound or air stream. My mother felt we should play the piano...and on a minimal budget, we were given piano lessons. In 1st grade, I began lessons, but I did not make it past a year. As I grew older, I would sit at the piano, and try to copy songs my older sister was playing. Eventually, I taught myself to read and play and would find myself sitting for hours playing songs. My friends and cousins loved singing pop songs, so I was the “go to” accompanist at parties or pastimes. By 6th grade I was asked to accompany the school choir. In 8th grade I decided to play another instrument, and took up the saxophone by request of the band director. It was by 10th grade I began to express my desire to move on with music. Though my dad initially felt that music was not a career choice, I persevered and he supported my enrollment into the Crane School of Music, Potsdam in 1977. Like so many “teacher stories”, it was my love for my teachers and all their different personalities which led me to my life’s profession. And of course, in particular my high school choral teacher with whom I maintain a friendship today.

Tell us about the early days and some memorable moments of the Niskayuna music program.

I arrived in Niskayuna in 1985. At that time, Niskayuna housed only one Middle School, Iroquois. Chorus enrollment consisted of only sixteen 7th and 8th grade students and no 6th graders. With the support of administration, we developed all choruses and in two years saw the 6th grade chorus grow to over 125 students and a burst in the 7th and 8th grades. When Van Antwerp MS reopened, I moved from Iroquois to VA as General music and Choral teacher. It is exciting to see events that I started, carrying on as traditions, e.g. Jam Day and New York City trips to attend musicals. As my family was growing, it became challenging to be away from home and I made the decision to take a break from teaching and return down the road in my life. At that time, I was lead vocalist with what we called a “wedding band” playing top 40 cover charts. We played at weddings and events, including Niska Day and I remained with the band on the weekends for 11 years. After a couple of years, I resumed teaching once again at Niskayuna. It would prove to be a very useful time in my career and time in Niskayuna.

What are your experiences in the music world outside of Niskayuna?

As my children grew, I volunteered, started and directed a children’s choir as well as a chime choir at St. John the Evangelist Church. These ran under my direction from 1999 until 2012. Currently, I remain a cantor at the church for masses. Over the years, I participated as Musical Director or performer with Schenectady Light Opera making many lifelong friends. And if anyone knows me, they know my infinite love for the group, Earth Wind and Fire. The influences of African music in their music piqued my interest and would become a driving force in my developing the World Drumming program at Craig ES. Later this program with the incredible support of FOM became a district initiative providing world drums to all the elementary schools.

Do you have any advice to students studying music now/ who want to pursue music as their career?

To any students interested in music, only you know your heart’s desire. As with all things...to be successful, find love and satisfaction, requires hard work, but the rewards are great and frequent. Music provides a means like no other. It can be a comfort, a celebration, and can help find unlikely kindred spirits, while establishing lifelong friendship. Sometimes, it is meant to be experienced as personal enjoyment, and other times, the need is great to be the one helping others to find that joy. Music offers so many opportunities beyond performance and teaching. Explore it all...you never know what will provide that click! As for my dad, when I retired after 38 years of teaching, if asked about my decision to pursue music as a career path, he simply smiles broadly and chuckles.

NISKAYUNA HS CHORAL FESTIVAL

On Wednesday, March 13th, over 600 of Niskayuna’s choral students from grades 5-12 gathered at the Proctors Theater in Schenectady to celebrate music in the Niskayuna District Choral Festival. This festival is the culmination of almost a year of careful planning and preparation, between setting up equipment, reserving the space at Proctors, and selecting and preparing repertoire, among other tasks. “It’s a huge undertaking, but so worth it!” says Christina Pizzino-Catalano, a choral teacher at Niskayuna High School and an integral part of making the Choral Festival a reality. The choral program was able to have the inspiring Shavon Lloyd as a guest conductor, coming in to work with various choral groups and ultimately directing many pieces in the festival itself. This is also the first year that the Choral Festival has been able to return after being canceled due to COVID-19. “It was fantastic to be back in this historical space,” Pizzino-Catalano said.

The Choral Festival is one of the most important events for bringing new people into the choral program at Niskayuna, especially in the high school. Many students attribute their continued involvement in choir to a positive experience singing in a Choral Festival, including senior Sofia Trimarchi. Trimarchi said that “being in middle school and getting to sing with the students in Bel Canto Voices was an incredible experience that I will never forget,” referring to a special combined performance between middle school select group Mezzo Voce and high school select group Bel Canto Voices, which was repeated this year, where Trimarchi was on the other side of the group song this time. According to her, it gave her a unique perspective to see the amount of growth she underwent as a singer and the growth the whole group underwent.

Most of all, there was an overwhelming sense of community felt by those performing in and attending the festival. Sophomore Alex Lafargue says, “I think it’s a great opportunity to share with the community what we’ve been working on and put on a show for them too.” Trimarchi shared a similar sentiment, remarking on how it allowed the community to see a diverse and interesting set of music. The festival is also a result of the fabulous community that has been built over the years. The Niskayuna Friends of Music provides invaluable promotional, organizational, and financial help with not only the Choral Festival, but also various concerts, fundraisers, and other music festivals within the district, along with much, much more. To sign off, Pizzino-Catalano says, “Stop by in 2027 and I’m sure I’ll be cooking up something wild for the next one!”



*HS Select Ensemble Concert Chorale, Dancing to Balleilakka. Directed by Shavon Lloyd
Photo: Nisky Friends of Music*



*HS Select Ensemble Studio Singers, Kicking off the Festival with Sing, Sing, Sing! Directed by Christina Pizzino-Catalano
Photo: Nisky Friends of Music*

~Emma Brooksby

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NOTES

Craig Elementary News

Craig students are springing forward with all the things they're doing in music!

Kindergarteners did an excellent job performing their play *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* showing great mastery of their speaking and singing voices, as well as demonstrating good use of classroom instruments! 1st graders are working hard to prepare for their end of year concert in May. 2nd graders composed some amazing City Songs sharing what they learned about songs in different communities. 3rd graders are working hard on their world music projects in which they share a bit of information about the traditional music of the country they will present at Countries of the World night.



4th and 5th graders have been working so hard all year, and it is really showing! Our 4th Grade Choirchime group and 5th Grade Drum Circle are excited to perform in our upcoming Concert in May, as well as in the Craig Virtual Talent Show. And a special congratulations to all the 5th graders who were able to participate in the Choral Festival this past March! They presented a sublime concert, and I hope, created lasting memories of what an exceptional night it was!

~Marilyn Brown

Hillside Elementary News

Music is alive at Hillside Elementary School! Students continue to sing, dance, play and create. That's what it's all about! Students are learning a variety of songs for their monthly Hello, Hillside! celebrations. We enjoy performing for our Hillside Community. Kindergarten and 1st grade students sing and dance their way through class, enjoying different seasonal tunes. 2nd grade students are performing patterns of sound on the xylophone, while singing some fun folk tunes. 3rd and 4th graders are performing on the recorder. We always enjoy performing *Eye of the Tiger!* It's a class favorite. 5th graders recently improvised on C pentatonic. We had fun and put our creativity to use. Our 4th and 5th grade chorus students are working hard to prepare music for their spring concert. We hope to see you there!

A special thank you to the Niskayuna Friends of Music for supporting our talented students. We thank you for providing us with the resources necessary for music making.

~Sarah Sanson

MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTES

Music Concepts Class

Students in Mrs. Johnston's Middle School Music Concepts Class are making pan flutes from boba straws and blowing into them, making and playing a melody on a water xylophone, and playing ukuleles purchased by Niskayuna Friends of Music. Thank you so much FOM for making string instruments accessible.



Learning Ukulele



Water Xylophone



Learning Ukulele



Creating on Ukuleles



Dmitri Getting Tones from the Boba Straw Pan Flute He Made



Students Making Pan Flutes from Boba Straws

~Holly Johnston

"A music teacher helps their students find the song in their heart, the beat in their feet and a passion for life" -Unknown

- We will miss you & Best Wishes on your retirement!

NISKY FOM SPONSORS DOUBLE REED FESTIVAL

The event kicked off on Sunday, March 24th with a masterclass run by Niskayuna alumna Hannah Staudinger where roughly 15 double reed students from Niskayuna (students in grades 7-12) and other school districts in the Capital Region came to hear three Niskayuna oboists Christine Amirbekian, Emily Shim and Andrew Watkins. Ms. Staudinger coached the students on repertoire that they were preparing for NYSSMA Solo Festival.

On Monday morning, the event continued with performances for the Sixth Grade Band and elementary music students. The grand finale was a recital open to the public featuring mixed ensembles of chamber music and solos including Alyssa Morris' *Ruminations for Solo Oboe* performed by Hannah Staudinger. The recital concluded with an exciting full double reed ensemble of oboes, English horns and bassoons! Congratulations to the student performers: Christine Amirbekian, Ross Cook, Lesly Garcia, Aryeh Korevaar, Emma Pigeon, Gavaen Sheehan, Emily Shim, and Andrew Watkins. A special thanks goes out to Mrs. Joan Suda for providing piano accompaniment and special guests Elyse Barna, Sarah Becker and Rachel Gaul for helping with the double reed ensemble. You will have one more opportunity to hear the music of the oboe when Andrew Watkins performs the Mozart Oboe Concerto with the High School Symphony Orchestra on Wednesday, May 29th!



~Susan Kokernak

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Choral Corner

Moderately fast Dance groove

NC.

Please don't stop the music, mm - sic, mm - sic,
(Vocal gradually fades out)

mf

Excerpt from
"Don't Stop the Music"

It's been an AMAZING year (a personal favorite!) and it's unbelievable to think that it will soon be coming to an end. The final examination in the large ensemble classes is KARAOKE! Some students have elected to perform live solos, duets and trios for their classmates, others are providing a prerecorded video to share with their peers (often including choreography or costuming), and some are submitting a video recording for only Mrs. Catalano to view as per their comfort level. Students are allowed to sing any song that is school appropriate, including songs in other languages in addition to opportunities to accompany oneself on an instrument instead of using a backtrack. We setup the Apple TV in the classroom along with microphones and speakers to create a supportive and meaningful (and very fun) experience.

On May 8 at 11:30 am, members of The Musicians of Ma'alwyck will be at Niskayuna HS to perform a portion of their performance entitled *Forbidden Music Regained: A concert series elevating the voices of Dutch composers who were persecuted in the Second World War*. Students from last semester's Holocaust and Genocide Studies class will join choral students for a performance and Q&A. Thank you to FOM for funding this very special and poignant performance. For more information on the full program, please visit <https://musiciansofmaalwyck.org>.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Jacob Ciesinski** who is the recipient of the Octavo Singers Scholarship!

Please join us on **Sunday, June 9 at 5:00 pm at MiSci** as Concert Chorale, Chamber Strings, vocalists, instrumentalists, members of our advanced German and Drama classes, students from the Art Department, faculty members, and the STEAM bus come together to put on a **STUDENTIADE (Schubertiade)**. This event will feature the music of Austrian composer Franz Schubert (1797-1828) and cross-departmental collaborations. More information on tickets coming soon! **A SPECIAL THANKS TO Niskayuna Community Foundation, Capital Region OB/GYN, First National Bank of Scotia, C2 Design Group and Little Family Foundation for helping underwrite this event!**

CHORAL UNIFORMS

- Students in **Bel Canto Voices and Studio Singers** will receive their order forms for uniforms in the fall, upon returning to school.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

- **ALL USED BEL CANTO VOICES and STUDIO SINGERS' UNIFORMS THAT WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR RESALE MUST BE DRY-CLEANED AND TURNED IN BY FRIDAY, JUNE 21.** Students can bring uniforms to the choir room before classes end (or when they are in for testing), or you can drop uniforms at the front entrance of the HS. Any uniform that is stained, damaged or in poor condition will not be accepted for resale and will be discarded. Any uniform turned in for resale that does not have the correct paperwork attached in order to contact the seller will be donated to the Friends of Music. *Paperwork will be shared on Parent Square and will be handed out during class in early June.*

*With the change in the Niskayuna HS Concert Attire policy (concert black), students with old Ladies First and Concert Chorale uniforms can donate them having been dry-cleaned and in good condition.

Outside Performances:

~Look for **Studio Singers** at the Niska Day Parade on **Saturday, May 18**. The students will be performing on a float so generously provided by the town and will kick off the day on the Craig School Grounds in the Entertainment Tent at noon!

~**Bel Canto Voices** will once again provide music for the Memorial Day Ceremony at the high school on **Thursday, May 23 at 10:15 am**.

~**Studio Singers** will be performing their annual Cabaret Concert on **Thursday, June 13 at 10:45 am**. *Please head toward the Choir room where we will use the back entrance of the auditorium* as the stage will be setup for this special performance. Students will present duets, trios and ensembles from standard jazz, pop and musical theatre repertoire. Please give yourself ample time to sign in at the front desk (ID required) if you are coming from off grounds. All families, friends, faculty, and staff members are welcome to attend.

Notes of Thanks

To the Niskayuna Friends of Music, especially the slate of INCREDIBLE officers who are exiting with their senior children: THANK YOU for your unwavering support of our school music program. Your commitment to our students, staff, and community are never unnoticed and the continuous generous financial contributions give us all opportunities that are above and beyond. Your presence at music events is a gift and this organization is the pinnacle of what a Friends of Music can be. The social media presence, innovative fundraising ideas, and quick turnaround for requests have never been stronger.

To the Niskayuna Music Faculty and Staff (including our Director of Music Education, Mr. Hughes): it is a privilege to work with such outstanding educators and musicians. The extra hours that you give to support our students at evening concerts beyond the school day is above and beyond. Thank you to Ms. Luanne Hawk for collaborating as our accompanist for the majority of this year – we LOVE working with you!

To the singers in the class of 2024: you are a VERY special group of musicians and human beings. Just a few years ago we were twelve feet apart, masked, struggling to make music together in the auditorium.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

You are some of the best singers to come through this program since I have been here. Please keep in touch and let us know your whereabouts and DON'T STOP SINGING (even if only in the shower, your dorm room, or your place of employment). You are always welcome back in the music wing and in our lives.

If you are reading this, I once again challenge you to this: encourage a child, friend, colleague, or peer to return to the music program if they have drifted away. The wonderful thing about chorus is that it isn't about each of us as individuals, but our success as a team who will always be there for you. You are always welcome to rejoin – we will be waiting with open arms (and ears)!

See you in the fall as hues of orange, yellow, red, and brown envelop us as we reconvene to make beautiful music together once again!

C. M. Pizzino-Catalano

~Christina Pizzino-Catalano, Director of Choral Studies

Jazz News

The High School Stage Band and Jazz Ensemble, as well as Studio Singers and Middle School Jazz Band, spent three days with Guest Artist Greg Evans. Mr. Evans, a renowned drummer and pedagog, came to us from Binghamton University where he is Director of Jazz Studies. A culminating concert on April 17th featured all of these ensembles in an unforgettable night after an enriching three days. Thank you to FOM for funding this wonderful yearly event. We look forward to one more performance at the Town Hall Gazebo on Tuesday, June 6th at 7pm!



HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Band News

HS Concert and Symphonic Band Students participated in a Masterclass with Linda Chesis, flautist and Woodwind Chair at the Manhattan School of Music. This masterclass was made possible through a partnership with the Schenectady-Saratoga Symphony Orchestra and our Niskayuna Friends of Music. The SSSO also provided free student tickets and discounted Niskayuna faculty and family tickets to anyone interested in attending Ms. Chesis' concert with the Orchestra on April 27th and 28th. We have many Niskayuna Music Faculty who are members of the SSSO and student tickets are always free to all concerts!



Concert Band

The High School Concert Band is looking forward to honoring our local Veterans once again at the annual ceremony on May 23rd at 10:15. The Concert Band will be providing incidental music as guests gather near the NHS flagpole. As part of the ceremony, the band will also be playing an Armed Forces Salute honoring each branch of the United States Military and recognizing our guests as they stand for their anthem. This event is open to the public and we hope to see you there! Our final formal concert will be held on May 30th in the HS Auditorium where we will be presenting a full program and honoring our seniors.

~Philip Pandori

FRIENDS OF MUSIC/MEMBERSHIP



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GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program

FOM has joined the list of charitable institutions that are supported by the GE Foundation Matching Gifts Program. Through this program, individual contributions of \$25 or more from employees and/or retirees are matched dollar for dollar. Eligible gifts may be registered online on our *membership page* or by phone at 1-800-305-0669.

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**Niskayuna Friends of Music
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**For their very generous support of our music programs and
for their dedication and service to our schools and community.**

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*Owner Kahina Van Dyke is a former member of the
Niskayuna High School band and orchestra*

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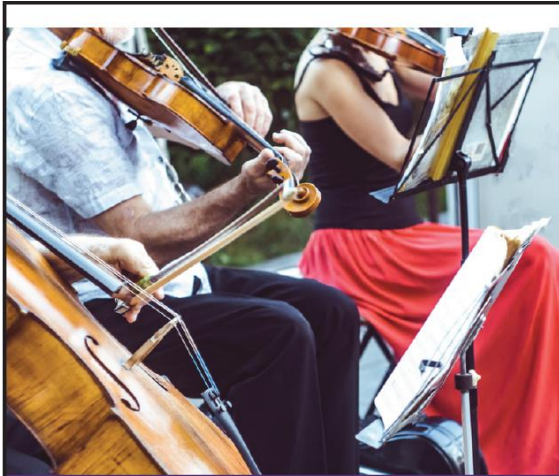
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