

Con amore

*Newburgh Free Academy
Main Campus
Music Department*

presents



*98th Annual
Winter Concert I
Thursday, December 19, 2024*

PROGRAM

Greeting.....Ms. Susan Valentino, NFA Principal

Madrigals Select Chorus

Mr. TJ Swetz, Director

Ms. Stephanie Romano, Student Conductor

Star Spangled Banner..... J. Stafford Smith
The Yellow and the BlueR. Bell Chapman
Farewell, dear love.....R. Jones
White Winter Hymnal R. Pecnold/Billingsley

Brass Quintet

Mrs. Kristina Morano, Conductor

God Rest Ye Merry GentlemenTraditional
from “Merry Christmas Mr. Bean”

Wind Ensemble

Mrs. Kristina Morano, Conductor

A Home Alone ChristmasJ. Williams, A. Menken,
J. Feldman, L. Bricusse/arr. Lavender
First Suite in E Flat for Military BandG. Holst/arr. Longfield
Chaconne
Intermezzo
March
Sleigh Ride.....L. Anderson

World Drumming

Dr. Paul Carroll, Conductor

BajaTraditional
MarianneTraditional
Carol of the BellsJ.R. Murray/arr. Carroll

Orchestra

Ms. Monica Antonelli-Guido, Conductor

Sinfonia in A minor.....G.P. Telemann/arr. Matthews
Le Froid De L’Hiver (*The Cold of the Winter*)S.H. Newbold
Last ChristmasG. Michael/arr. Bernotas
Matthew Gessner, Emilio Mordan, Nicholas Morales - Percussion
Fantasy on “Sleepers, Wake”J.S. Bach/arr. Leidig
with select Wind Ensemble Students

Full Orchestra, A Cappella Chorus, Alumni, and Guests

Hallelujah Chorus from *Messiah*G.F. Handel

ORCHESTRA

Organized 1886

PRESIDENT - ADIEN BAEZ
SECRETARY - SAORI DIAZ

VICE PRESIDENT - JACOB SECRETO
DELEGATE - SKYLA RODRIGUEZ

Violin I

Megan Duong
Saori Diaz *
Melissa Napoli
Skyla Rodriguez
Jacob Secreto ^
Joseph Vega Ramos ^

Isabelle Solis
Victoria Stillwell

Viola

Gabriella Ankudey
Aiden Baez x*
Antoni Banegas
Zahmire Coleman
Madison Coughlin *
Yasmin Gonzalez
Jasmine Rice
Clare Greaven-Smith
Janelle Terry

Cello

Ayanna Gorham
Kyng-Melikye Jones
Maya Jones *
Mia Santos
Maya Simms *

Bass

Candace Bryan *
Alivia Howard

Violin II

Jacklyn Balbuena *
Michelle Chacha-
Tenesaca
Tracey Duong *
Fabiola Noel
Amelia Reza
Alison Rodriguez

MADRIGALS

Organized 1938

PRESIDENT - STEPHANIE ROMANO

DELEGATE - MADISON GRAVEL

Soprano

Aaliyah Fryar
Sidney Hope x^
Caila McMillian
Grace Musante x^*
Stephanie Romano x^

Alto

Talia D'Addio x
Layla Gil x
Madison Gravel
Samaya Lassic x
Dayana Escobar

Tenor

Alexander Hughes
Edgar Ramirez x
Bass
Emilio Bell
Jonathan Black

x - Area All State

^ - High School All County

* - All State

* - Section Leader

* - Concertmaster

WIND ENSEMBLE

Organized 1928

PRESIDENT - DIEGO CASTELLANOS

SECRETARY - AARNA PATEL

VICE PRESIDENT - GRISSELLE HIGUERA

DELEGATE - CHARLOTTE PERRY

Flute

Azarea Palmer

Aarna Patel

Hannah Walsh *

Clarinet

Carter Babbage

Diego Castellanos *☆

Erick Higuera

Griselle Higuera *

Andrew Rodriguez ^

Pedro Montes

Benjamin Walker *

Bass Clarinet

Brendan Baxter *

Alto Saxophone

Natalia Aragon Nava

Augustina White *

Tenor Saxophone

Charlotte Perry *

Trumpet

Sidney Hope x^*☆

Princess Jimenez ☆

Marilyn Oppenheimer

Gage Szymanowicz *

Nickolas Toth

Trombone

Drake Burns *☆

Andre Thurston ^*☆

Bass

Candace Bryan

Percussion

Matthew Gessner *

Emilio Mordan *

Nicholas Morales *

WORLD DRUMMING

Organized 2024

Sean Churns

Rebekah Louissaint

Jah'ze Herring

Amelia Moore-Marmol

Xavier Phfifer-Bledsoe

Maya Simms

Sebastian Valure

Music is a more potent instrument than any other form of education because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul.

~ Plato, The Republic

x - Area All State

^ - High School All County

* - Orchestra Members

☆ - Brass Quintet

A CAPPELLA MIXED CHORUS

Organized 1933

PRESIDENT - JONATHAN BLACK
SECRETARY - ALIVIA HOWARD

VICE PRESIDENT - SAMAYA LASSIC
DELEGATE - PENELOPE BATELIC

Soprano I

Audrina Copans
Talia D'Addio x
Jhoanna Espana-
Barcenas
Tatiana Fairclough
Melanie Flores
Aaliyah Fryar
Alivia Howard
Rayanna Jacinto
Chelsea Rein
Stephanie Romano x[^]

Soprano II

Natalia Aragon Nava
Penelope Batelic
Kaelyn Black
Racquel Deines
Maya Jones
Tahiri Landolfa
Caila McMillian
Dana Mieses
Grace Musante x[^]*
Hannah Walsh

Alto I

Aleyna Birinci
Aaliyah Broomfield
Cinthia Bustamente
Tyler Decker
Camryn Leclair
Layla Gil [^]
Riley Maida
Ashley Rodriguez
Victoria Stillwell
Andrea Vasquez

Alto II

Zola Dennis
Dayana Escobar
Ziona Every
Olga Galvez Ortega
Ayanna Gorham
Madison Gravel
Samaya Lassic x
Azarea Palmer
Camryn Patterson
Samaya Lassic x

Tenor I

Francisco Baca
Alexander Hughes
Andrew Rodriguez [^]
Quinn Tracey
Colin Zamenick

Tenor II

Jonathan Black
Edgar Ramirez x
Julio Torres

Bass I

Brendan Baxter
Sutton Garcia-Otero
Makhi Patterson
Austin Van Dalinda

Bass II

Daniel Akpan
Emilio Bell
Justin Guerrero
Shamari Mays

x - Area All State

[^] - High School All County

* - All State

CONDUCTORS

MONICA ANTONELLI-GUIDO is a seasoned musician well versed in all styles of acoustic and electric guitar, bass and “all things string.” A class of ‘89 NFA alum, she began studying guitar at age 14, ironically, in the very same guitar class she teaches today. After high school, Ms. Antonelli-Guido studied classical and jazz guitar at SUNY New Paltz before switching gears and transposing herself to The College of St. Rose where she majored in Music Technology and Entertainment Arts and minored in Jazz Guitar performance. After graduating with honors in 1994, she worked as a freelance audio engineer, studio musician and private guitar instructor in New York City and the Hudson Valley area for 14 years. While teaching privately, Ms. Antonelli-Guido caught the teaching bug and decided to earn her Master’s Degree in Music Education at Western Connecticut State University, where she was the recipient of the Masters in Music Education Award (2006) for her outstanding academic achievement. She taught in the New Paltz and Beacon school districts for four years before coming to Newburgh Schools in 2009. She has taught Orchestra, Band, Chorus and General Music on all grade levels in 5 out of the 12 buildings in this district. She came to NFA, “The Big House,” in 2015 where she directs the Orchestra and the Robert D. Williams Tenor/Bass Chorus. She also teaches the Applied Guitar elective classes. Ms. Antonelli-Guido works tirelessly to inspire, motivate and teach children the importance of being a part of something greater than themselves. In addition to her teaching duties, she is an active and in demand pit musician throughout the Hudson Valley for local musical theater productions. When she’s not tuning, maintaining, teaching or playing a stringed instrument, you can find Ms. Antonelli-Guido hiking the trails in New Paltz and thrifting with her fashion forward daughter. Ms. Antonelli-Guido resides in New Paltz with her husband Jeff and two children, Gio and Anna.

DR. PAUL CARROLL has taught music in Newburgh since 2001. Prior to that, he taught instrumental and general music Elizabeth, NJ and Brooklyn, NY. He has performed with such prestigious groups as the Group for Contemporary Music, the New Jersey Percussion Ensemble, Ensemble 21, Pulse Percussion Ensemble, and the Princeton Composers’ Ensemble. Paul studied in Copenhagen, Denmark with the late percussionist Bent Lylloff, where he performed with the Athelas Ensemble and the Ensemble Figura. Dr. Carroll has worked closely with many composers and has had compositions dedicated to him including “Sit Down Stand Up” by Robert Pollock and “Ritual” by Peter Zaporinuk. During the summer of 2009, Paul performed a series of solo percussion recitals and workshops in Maui and the Big Island of Hawai’i. He can be heard on many recordings, including the 2008 release of Charles Wuorinen’s The Dante Trilogy on Naxos. Most recently, Paul has recorded and performed with the New Jersey Percussion Ensemble on a series of collaborations with the Composers’ Concordance. Paul Carroll was honored to have studied with percussion pioneers Raymond DesRoches and Bent Lylloff as well as the legendary jazz drummer Joe Morello. He holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts and Masters degree from the State University at Stony Brook, and a Bachelor of Music Degree from William Paterson University.

KRISTINA MORANO has been teaching music since 2015. In 2018 Mrs. Morano came to Newburgh to teach at Horizons-on-the-Hudson. In 2023 Mrs. Morano began her journey at NFA Main Campus as the director of Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Marching Band and Jazz Ensemble. Mrs. Morano recently directed the Fall drama production “Clue.”

In 2011 Mrs. Morano attended The Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam where she completed her Bachelors in Music Education with a certification in Music in

Special Education. Afterwards, Mrs. Morano taught in the Eldred School District in Sullivan County. During this time she earned her Masters in Music Education from The Hartt School of Music as well as special certifications in music pedagogies.

Outside of teaching Mrs. Morano has performed in the New York Wind Symphony, Maybrook Wind Ensemble and many other ensembles. Mrs. Morano conducted the Broom Street Wind Ensemble for 5 years in Port Jervis, NY. She serves on the OCMEA Board as the Director of Adjudicators for OCMEA All-County events as well as adjudicates for all county auditions. Mrs. Morano teaches private lessons for saxophone and flute.

Mrs. Morano owes everything to her parents Sal and Kim Martorano. Without their support, love and encouragement she would not be where she is today. She owes her love of music to her father and mother, the two people who told her she can do anything she puts her mind to and supported her throughout her life. Mrs. Morano would also like to send a special shout out to her husband Vincent Morano who always supports her crazy adventures, late nights at work and love for music.

Mrs. Morano is extremely excited for the Hallelujah Chorus this year. Mr. Jeff Wurster, our Guest Conductor, was Mrs. Morano's Choir Director in High School. Mr. Wurster inspired her love of music and confidence in herself. He is a big reason why she does what she is doing tonight. Mr. Wurster influenced Mrs. Morano to become a music teacher and taught her to treat every student as your own and push them to their greatest potential.

TJ SWETZ is the NFA Main Choral Director of the A Cappella Mixed Chorus, the Chaminate Treble Chorus and the Madrigal Select Chorus. Mr. S. graduated from Western Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theater and a Bachelor of Science in Music Education. He began his public school career in 2019 teaching in CT. He recently returned to the Hudson Valley to work in NY State. Beyond public school, Mr.

S. has taught for about 10 years, traveling between NY and CT to teach musical theater camps, masterclasses, and private lessons for Star 2 B, ERA Productions, Fineline Theater Arts, Dutchess Community College Performing Arts Institute, and Workspace Academy where his fun, loving, and energetic teaching style drives students to take his classes again and again.

In addition to teaching, Mr. S is a professional actor, singer, and dancer. He has over 15 years of training, has worked in professional theater companies, and helps to train young performers wanting to audition for professional theater. He is a grateful recipient of the 2016 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Award for Distinguished Performance by an Actor in a Musical for his role of Robert Martin in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Mr. S. has worked with choreographers and Broadway legends such as Scott Wise, Elizabeth Parkinson, and Mary-Ann Lamb, and has even performed for the great Stephen Sondheim. Mr. S credits his parents, owners of In Motion Dance Center in Lagrangeville, NY, with his exposure to music, theater, and dance at an early age. Mr. S continues his involvement in the family studio as the middle and advanced tap teacher at In Motion Dance.

When not teaching or acting, Mr. S. enjoys anime, playing video games, and roller skating. He believes it is important to remember the things that keep you young as you get older so that you do not lose the spark that helped begin your journey. He wants to give a special shoutout to his parents Tom and Jackie Swetz, his brother Brandon Swetz, his inspiration to be a music teacher Amy Kilroy, and his beautiful fiancée Haley for helping him and guiding him along his journey to become the chorus teacher he has always dreamed of.

JEFFREY WURSTER: GUEST CONDUCTOR

Jeffrey Wurster retired in June of 2019 after 34 years in public education. He has taught all levels of music, from elementary through high school. For seventeen years, Mr. Wurster served as Director of Choral Music at Washingtonville High School here in Orange County. He is a proud alumnus of the NFA class of 1976, having played trombone in Concert Band and Stage Band as well as singing in Boys Glee and the Academy Rivertown Review. He taught for 10 years in Newburgh at Fostertown School, Meadow Hill and North Junior High School before finishing his career in Washingtonville. Mr. Wurster has served as director of several All-County vocal and instrumental groups in the Hudson Valley and he is honored and thrilled to be the conductor of the 2024 NFA Hallelujah Chorus.

Mr. Wurster has performed with several regional vocal ensembles, including Kairos: A Consort of Singers, Classic Choral Society of Orange County, and Newburgh Chamber Chorale. He is also active locally as a free-lance singer, trombonist, and bass player with organizations such as the Main Street Jazz Ensemble, Hudson Valley Swing Orchestra, the Southern Dutchess Concert Band, the Big Band Sound, the Swing Shift Orchestra, and the Rockin' Horns Band.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager - Brandon Latchman ('20)

Lighting Designer/Light Board Operator - Brandon Latchman ('20)

Assistant Stage Manager - Brendan Baxter ('26)

Back Stage Manager - Diego Castellanos ('25)

Set Assistant - Hannah Walsh ('25)

Light Board Assistant - Alena Ruback ('26)

Audio/Visual Assistant - Carlos Rodriguez ('28)

Music 'brings us together, helping us reflect upon who we are, where we have come from, and what lies ahead.' The arts and music transcend 'languages, cultures, and borders' ... and helps 'exchange ideas and styles and share in the artistic vibrancy born from diverse experiences and traditions.'

~ Barack Obama

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Jackielyn Manning Campbell, Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Susan Valentino, Co-Principal

Matthew Spellman, Vice Principal

Andrew Cameron, Assistant Principal

Margaret Chesser, Interim Assistant Principal

Patrick Kavanagh, Assistant Principal

Michael Ragusa, Assistant Principal

Carlos Santiago, Assistant Principal

Rachel Schuyler, Assistant Principal

Kristen Johnsen, Director of Fine and Performing Arts

Kevin Foster and the NFA Custodial Staff

Ushers - NFA ROTC

Cover Art - Mia Santos ('26)

MUSIC COUNCIL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Talia D'Addio - President

Brendan Baxter - Vice President

Sidney Hope - Secretary

Maya Simms - Treasurer

Access program notes
here:



Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them - a world of work, culture, intellectual activity, and human involvement. The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music.

~ Gerald R. Ford

UPCOMING 2025 PERFORMANCES

January 7 - Guitar and Piano Recital

January 16 - Winter Concert II

February 13 - Scholarship Concert & Faculty Recital

March 27 - Music in Our Schools Month Assembly & Livestream

April 24 - EKE & Percussion Ensemble Concert

May 1 - Spring Concert I

May 8 - Spring Concert II

May 14 - Solo Recital

May 18 - Town of New Windsor Parade

May 29 - Guitar and Piano Recital

June 12 - Music Banquet and Awards Night

June 26 - NFA Graduation

