

# *North Allegheny Senior High Honors Chamber Orchestra*



PMEA Annual In-Service Conference  
Bayfront Convention Center  
Erie, PA

April 19, 2024  
2:30 PM

**Principal of North Allegheny Senior High School, Mr. Matthew Buchak**

The North Allegheny School District is thankful and proud to have an amazing and robust music program. We remain grateful for the honorable invitation our Honors Chamber Orchestra has received to perform at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association's annual convention. Our students are exhilarated for this opportunity to showcase their talents in a symphony of mellifluous sounds.



Music has the potential to soothe the soul, inspire hope, and stimulate thought. The listener symbiotically benefits from the musician's performance. Music education has been linked to improved academic performance—we have all witnessed as it has enhanced cognitive ability and memory retention for generations. Through music, students learn the core skills essential for success in every field.

We recognize the tremendous sacrifice and dedication our musicians put forth each day to master their craft. We acknowledge the daily commitment and passion of our Orchestra Director, Mrs. Sarah Lavelle. We wholeheartedly congratulate our Honors Chamber Orchestra, their families, and Mrs. Lavelle on this prestigious honor.

**Music Department Chair, Mr. Robert Tozier**

Congratulations to Mrs. Sarah Lavelle, Director of the Senior High School Honors Chamber Orchestra, for being invited to perform at the 2024 PMEA Annual In-Service Conference. This is another high compliment to a program that has historically performed in an exemplary manner.



Many of these students not only perform music, they create it. The North Allegheny students are offered a variety of music performance and theory classes. These students have an average Quality Point Average of 3.86. By providing the students with superior teacher/mentors and unique opportunities, the North Allegheny School District allows these students to reach their full potential. I am so proud of Sarah Lavelle, this program, and the North Allegheny Music Department.

To quote the 19th Century philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, "Without music, life would be a mistake." Music has a noteworthy interaction with the brain and our emotions. Because there is no single part of the brain reserved for music, all parts of the brain (i.e., central, peripheral, left hemisphere, and right hemisphere) function when listening to and performing music. The entire nervous system, including auditory, kinesthetic, and visual areas, is hardwired for all people to learn and perform. Music can trigger personalities, memories, associations, emotions, and expectations. All areas of music - listening, performing, and observing - can be improved and refined through music education ("Notes and Neurons", the 2010 World Science Festival).

This performance will trigger great memories, associations, emotions, and expectations for you. We hope that this is a rewarding experience for you and that you enjoy your time with the North Allegheny Orchestra. I wish the North Allegheny Honors Chamber Orchestra and Director Sarah Lavelle the best of luck and great success at the PMEA Conference. I also wish all of the performers luck and learning during this important educational opportunity.

## **About the North Allegheny School District**

North Allegheny School District is an attractive community (pop. 45,000+) located twelve miles north of Pittsburgh. North Allegheny serves the municipalities of Bradford Woods Borough, Franklin Park Borough, Marshall Township and the Town of McCandless and encompasses a total of 48 square miles.

Much of the District is suburban-residential. New housing developments and transferees moving into the area help maintain a steady enrollment. A solid and growing tax base helps maintain economic stability. North Allegheny is the largest suburban school district in Allegheny County. The District is also one of the largest employers in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, employing over 1,000 people. It is comprised of seven K-5 elementary schools, three 6-8 middle schools, one 9-10 intermediate high school, and one 11-12 senior high school.

## **About the North Allegheny Orchestra Program**

String instruction began at North Allegheny in the early 1970s with violin lessons offered to elementary children during the school day. In 1983, Mrs. Christine Loverti began her tenure at North Allegheny and provided a vision that would carry the string program through the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Under her direction, the orchestra programs at North Allegheny flourished, and in an effort to continue to serve the needs of the local community, Mrs. Loverti began the North Allegheny Golden Strolling Strings. As Mrs. Loverti's vision continues to unfold, the string orchestra program at North Allegheny currently services over 1600 students district wide and is staffed by eleven full time string specialists.

When students reach the high school level, they are able to audition for the select chamber orchestra or continue in one of several sections of string orchestra. These orchestra classes rehearse daily, under the direction of Ms. Sarah Lavelle and Ms. Lauren Donato. All members of the high school orchestra program participate in the Golden Strolling Strings.

## **About the North Allegheny Honors Chamber Orchestra**

The Honors Chamber Orchestra is made up of 40 dedicated, hardworking students in grades 11 and 12. Students must audition for membership in the spring of the previous school year. This ensemble studies, rehearses, and performs a wide range of music of all levels and also participates in the Golden Strolling Strings. Our students are regularly chosen to participate in PMEA events, including Honor, District, Region, State and All-Eastern Orchestras.

In this year's ensemble, there are 14 members of the National Honors Society and 14 Scholar Athletes. They are involved in 38 different school clubs such as Key Club, Speech and Debate, HOSA, and Student Council. At the end of this year, they will have completed over 240 Advanced Placement courses and 525 Honors courses. Many have participated in outside youth orchestras and various PMEA events. They have not only been leaders of the orchestra program but also outstanding representatives of our school district as well.

## THE PROGRAM

Suite for Strings.....John Rutter  
I. A-Roving

Fantasia on a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Tune.....Richard A. Stephan

Two Waltzes, Op. 54, Nos. 1 & 4.....Antonin Dvorak

Water Reflections.....Yukiko Nishimura

Paint It Black.....Mick Jagger & Keith Richards  
Arr. John Reed for The Hampton String Quartet



**NORTH ALLEGHENY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
HONORS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

**Violin**

Ralph Abdel-Massih  
Kanak Agarwal  
Sophia Aggazio  
Noel Bryan  
Chris Ha  
Navid Hasan  
Ashley Jang  
Sophia Karki  
Megumi Kawabe 2, 5  
Gavin Kondisko  
Linda Kong 1, 4, 5  
Bianca Lohan  
Arya Mehta  
Angel Qu 3, 5  
Calder Quirke  
Matthew Tan  
Sri Thirumala  
Brandon Wang  
Jack Wang 2, 5  
Benjamin Wu

**Viola**

Claire Cho 2  
William Chou  
Julia Guo  
Shea Mahon  
Rushil Surti

**Bass**

Spandana Annavajhula  
Sam Lopuszynski  
Isa Peniche

**Cello**

Daniel Balderas  
Michael Chalifoux  
Michelle Choe  
Noah Lee 3  
Cate Lenchner  
Joseph Li  
Evan Obusek  
Ethan Ouyang  
Luke Schott  
Ayan Sheikh 5  
Reilly Spitz  
Hannah Yang 1, 2, 4, 5

1= 2024 PMEA All-State Orchestra

2= 2023 PMEA All-State Orchestra

3= 2022 PMEA All-State Orchestra

4= 2024 PMEA Region Orchestra

5= 2024 PMEA District Orchestra

Thank you to the Class of 2023 for their tremendous contribution of time, talent, and hard work which helped the Honors Chamber Orchestra attain the high honor of performing at the PMEA All-State Convention:

Sabrina Ferron  
Sadie Han  
Breanne Hoffer  
Kat Klinefelter  
Karina Lin  
Zoey Martin  
Andrew McLaughlin

Kay Mi  
Tabo Mkandawire  
Josh Morton  
Maggie Mu  
Vicky Nie  
John Notaro  
Faith Pongrace

Kedar Rao  
David Shi  
Ada Sun  
William Sun  
Hanna Wang  
Maddie Whitewolf

**Mrs. Sarah Lavelle, Director**, has taught high school orchestra in the North Allegheny School District since 2006. She also directs the Golden Strolling Strings and conducts the pit orchestra for the spring musicals. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from West Virginia University, then completed her Master of Music Education at Florida State University, where she studied with Michael Allen and Karen Clarke. She lives in Pittsburgh with her husband Len, Director of Bands at North Hills High School, along with their two children, Grace and Anne.

### **North Allegheny Schools**

Bradford Woods Elementary School (BWE)  
Carson Middle School (CMS)  
Franklin Elementary School (FES)  
Hosack Elementary School (HES)  
Ingomar Elementary School (IES)  
Ingomar Middle School (IMS)  
Marshall Elementary School (MES)  
Marshall Middle School (MMS)  
McKnight Elementary School (MCK)  
North Allegheny Intermediate High School (NAI)  
North Allegheny Senior High School (NASH)  
Peebles Elementary School (PES)

### **North Allegheny Music Staff**

Stephen Baldanzi, <i>NAI Band/General</i>	Julia Leone, <i>MES Orchestra</i>
Stephanie Bragiell, <i>CMS/IMS Chorus/General</i>	Allison Long, <i>IMS Band</i>
Jamie Davis, <i>IMS Chorus/General</i>	Rachel McGuire, <i>FES Chorus/General</i>
Lauren Donato, <i>NAI/IMS Orchestra</i>	Madeline Monahan, <i>MCK Chorus/General</i>
Megan Froehlich, <i>MES Chorus/General</i>	Dennis Morton, <i>MCK Orchestra</i>
Courtney Geary, <i>CMS Band/General</i>	Amy Reese, <i>MCK Chorus/General</i>
Matt Gillott, <i>MMS General</i>	Sara Rodack, <i>MES Chorus/General</i>
Nathan Goodrich, <i>CMS Orchestra/General</i>	Bryan Sable, <i>NAI Chorus/General</i>
Linda Granite, <i>MMS Band/General</i>	Troy Schaltenbrand, <i>HES/PES Orchestra</i>
Heather Helsel, <i>MMS Chorus</i>	Steve Schmidt, <i>BWE Chorus/General</i>
Lisa Hoffmann, <i>FES Chorus/General</i>	David Schmiech, <i>NASH Chorus/General</i>
Amy Kegel, <i>HES Chorus/General</i>	Carrie Semanco, <i>BWE Orchestra</i>
Dan Klicker, <i>BWE/HES Band</i>	Timothy Sheridan, <i>MES Band</i>
Sarah Klicker, <i>MES Orchestra</i>	Todd Stefan, <i>NASH Band</i>
Stephen Kraus, <i>PES/MCK Band</i>	Robert Tozier, <i>NASH General</i>
Sarah Lavelle, <i>NAI/NASH Orchestra</i>	Clare Tunney, <i>PES Chorus/General</i>
Adam Leasure, <i>FES/IES Band</i>	Kimberly Watton, <i>HES/IES Orchestra</i>
Dana Leasure, <i>MMS Orchestra</i>	Andrew Whitt, <i>FES Orchestra</i>
Beth Leckey, <i>IES Chorus/General</i>	David Woten, <i>CMS Chorus/General</i>

**The North Allegheny School District Administration**

Dr. Brendan Hyland, *Superintendent of Schools*  
Mr. Dave Deramo, *Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education*  
Dr. Michele Dowell, *Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education*  
Mr. Steven Smith, *Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction K-12*  
Dr. Amy DeLuca, *Director of Student Services*

**The North Allegheny School District Board of School Directors**

Mrs. Libby Blackburn  
Ms. Leslie Britton Dozier  
Dr. Robert Gibbs  
Ms. Paige Hardy  
Mr. Richard McClure  
Dr. Anisha Shah  
Dr. Vidya Szymkowiak  
Mrs. Elizabeth M. J. Warner  
Mr. Michael Weniger

**The North Allegheny Senior High School Administration**

Mr. Matthew Buchak, *Principal*  
Mr. Garrett Miller, *Assistant Principal*  
Mr. T. J. Salopek, *Assistant Principal*

**The North Allegheny Orchestra Parents Association Executive Board**

Ms. Stefanie Chou, *President*  
Ms. Renee Hesseling, *Vice President*  
Ms. Heather Susini, *Secretary*  
Mr. Aaron Lenchner, *Treasurer*

*Many Thanks:*

Dr. Erin Ellis, Prof. Andrea Priester Houde, Prof. Mary Grace Johnson,  
Dr. Andrew Kohn, Dr. Rotem Weinberg, *West Virginia University*  
Mr. Brian Worsdale, *Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra*

Lauren Donato, Dana Leasure, Nate Goodrich  
Steve Baldanzi, Bryan Sable, David Schmiech, Todd Stefan, Bob Tozier  
Mairi Cooper, Stephanie Glover, Jeanne Tupper  
Michael Allen, David Buetzow, Stephen Gage,  
Bill Galvin, Areta Kalogeras, Christine Loverti, Rebecca MacLeod  
Len, Grace, Annie