

**2024 WNY Conference Day for Music Educators**  
**Meet our Keynote Speaker, Performers, and Clinicians!**

Multiple Grammy Award-winning conductor **JoAnn Falletta** serves as Music Director of the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Connie and Marc Jacobson Music Director Laureate of the Virginia Symphony, Principal Guest Conductor of the Brevard Music Center, and Artistic Adviser to the Hawaii Symphony and the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra. Recently named as one of the 50 great conductors of all time by Gramophone Magazine, she is hailed for her work as a conductor, recording artist, audience builder and champion of American composers. Upon her appointment as Music Director of the Buffalo Philharmonic, Falletta became the first woman to lead a major American ensemble and has been credited with bringing the Philharmonic to an unprecedented level of national and international prominence. The Buffalo Philharmonic will celebrate many living American composers this coming year including Adolphus Hailstork, Gabriela Lena Frank, Kenneth Fuchs, David Ludwig, Carlos Simon, Jonathan Bailey Holland, Russell Platt, Daron Hagen, Jessie Montgomery, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Wang Jie. Her recent and upcoming North American guest conducting includes the Nashville Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, and Orchestre metropolitain. Internationally, she has conducted many of the most prominent orchestras in Europe, Asia, and South America. Pending further national and international guidance on the current COVID-19 pandemic, she is looking forward to guest conducting appearances in Canada, Poland, Sweden, and across the US this season. With a discography of over 120 titles, Falletta is a leading recording artist for Naxos. She has won two individual Grammy Awards, including the 2021 GRAMMY® Award for Best Choral Performance as Conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic in the world premiere Naxos recording, Richard Danielpour's "The Passion of Yeshua". In 2019, she won her first individual Grammy Award as conductor of the London Symphony in the Best Classical Compendium category for *Spiritualist*, her fifth world premiere recording of the music of Kenneth Fuchs. Her Naxos recording of *Mr. Tambourine Man: Seven Poems of Bob Dylan* received two Grammys in 2008. Her 2020 Naxos recording of orchestral music of Florent Schmitt with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra recently received the Diapason d'Or Award. Recent and upcoming releases by the BPO for Naxos include the complete William Walton *Façade*, with narrators Kevin Deas, Hila Plitmann, and Minnesota Public Radio Host Fred Child, and the Virginia Arts Festival Chamber Players. The recording, scheduled for release in the spring of 2022, will introduce material never heard before, and mark the 100th anniversary of William Walton's youthful masterpiece. This season will also see the Naxos release by the BPO of *Poem of Ecstasy* by Scriabin. Falletta is a member of the esteemed American Academy of Arts and Sciences, has served by presidential appointment as a Member of the National Council on the Arts during the Bush and Obama administrations, and is the recipient of many of the most prestigious conducting awards. She has introduced over 500 works by American composers, including well over 100 world premieres. ASCAP has honored her as "a leading force for music of our time". In 2019, JoAnn was named Performance Today's Classical Woman of The Year, calling her a "tireless champion, and lauding her "unique combination of artistic authority and compassion, compelling musicianship and humanity." Falletta is a strong advocate and mentor for young professional and student musicians. She has led seminars for women conductors for the League of American Orchestras and established a unique collaboration between the Buffalo Philharmonic and the Mannes College of Music to give up-and-coming conductors professional experience with a leading American orchestra. In 2018, she served on the jury of the Malko Competition in Denmark. She has had great success working with young musicians, guest conducting orchestras at top conservatories and summer programs at the National Repertory Orchestra, National Orchestral Institute, Interlochen, and Brevard Music Center, and Artistic Advisor at CIM. She has held the positions of Principal Conductor of the Ulster Orchestra, Principal Guest Conductor of the Phoenix Symphony, Music Director of the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra, Associate Conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and Music Director of the Denver Chamber Orchestra and The Women's Philharmonic. After earning her bachelor's degree at Mannes, Falletta received master's and doctoral degrees from the Juilliard School. When not on the podium, JoAnn enjoys playing classical guitar, writing, cycling, yoga, and is an avid reader.

**Aaron Staebell:** "Probably not what you are expecting." "Energized, eclectic, and a weirdo that you don't want to miss." "A concoction of jazz, hip-hop, avant-garde, rock, and more." "A combination of conservatory training, raw emotion and a clever sense of musical storytelling." Aaron Staebell hails from Buffalo, NY and has lived in Rochester, NY since 2001. Jazz legend Bob Brookmeyer described Aaron as having "swing, energy and musicianship to a remarkable degree" and said, "I would hire him. My utmost praise." Having earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Staebell is an in-demand performer, clinician and composer both locally and nationwide. As a performer, Staebell is active as both a drummer and percussionist. He has played with such visionaries as Bob Brookmeyer, Maria Schneider and Tony Malaby. He has performed with smooth jazz trumpeter Rick Braun, jazz trombonist Wycliffe Gordon, and is a member of the Dave Rivello Ensemble, and world music quartet The Rita Collective. He also spent time as the drummer for the Brownman Electric Trio (Toronto, CA) and hip-hop syndicate "Gruvasylum" featuring Mad Dukez. His playing has been described as "honest, unpredictable, and refreshing" and he is a frequent first-call for recording sessions, musicals, concerts and a wide range of freelance projects. His debut album "Bending and Breaking" was released in June of 2011, and was met with outstanding reviews. Bruce Lindsay of All About Jazz called it "a debut filled with energy, enthusiasm, and invention, signaling the appearance of yet another talented newcomer on the scene." It was named by iTunes to its "New and Noteworthy" list on the day it was released. The success of the release led to Staebell being a featured interview guest on popular jazz podcast "The Jazz Session" with Jason Crane. Staebell's latest project is a collection of pieces called "Harriettstown"; a musical tribute to the town in the Adirondack Mountains that his family has called home each summer since the later 1970s. His playing can be heard on other recent releases: an album by trumpeter Dave Chisholm called "Instrumental", which combines a suite of 8 songs with a 200 page graphic novel. Staebell also plays on another Chisholm record called "Calligraphy", and a release from Ben Thomas featuring free jazz legend Tony Malaby called "Endless Mountain Regions". He is featured on a recording from Las Vegas-based composer Jennifer Bellor called "Stay", which includes the solo piece "After Hours". His latest publication, *Inspired By Masters*, is a collection of 8 solos for the young drumset student, all inspired by different famous jazz drummers, and is available at [bit.ly/inspiredbymasters](http://bit.ly/inspiredbymasters). Other works for percussion include *The State of Things* for percussion quartet and laptop, *The Seven Virtues* for percussion trio, and *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*, for percussion quartet and projected images. His self-published book, *Alternative Solos for Snare Drum*, makes use of contemporary techniques, notation and sounds within the snare drum solo repertoire. Staebell has studied with Rich Thompson, John Hollenbeck, John Riley, Tom Davis and Bill Dobbins. He has participated in workshops with Bob

Brookmeyer, Maria Schneider, Tony Malaby, Claire Fischer and Mark Helias. He spent 15 years as a public school music teacher, and was on staff for the WGI "A class" finalist Hilton Indoor Percussion. He now works as the Education Technology manager for Hal Leonard LLC, the world's largest music publisher, as well as serving as Lecturer of Drumset and Jazz at Ithaca College. He lives in Rochester, NY with his partner Sarah, and their two children. You can follow his work @aaronstaebell on Instagram or @aaronstaebelldrums on TikTok.

**Heather Holden** teaches elementary general music and chorus in the Orchard Park School District. She has served on ECMEA's Leadership Committee, the board of the NYS chapter of Gordon's Institute of Music Learning, and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra's Education Committee. Heather has presented demonstration classes and music seminars for ECMEA, NYSSMA, NY-GIML, and PMEA-District 9 and has served as a guest conductor for the ECMEA Elementary All County Chorus, MCSMA Elementary All County Chorus, the Buffalo Niagara Youth Choir, and the Amherst Bel Canto children's choir. She also mentors music education students from the University of Buffalo, Buffalo State College, SUNY Fredonia, and SUNY Potsdam, as a cooperating teacher. She was honored to be the recipient of the 2014 Buffalo State College Classroom Music Educator Award, the 2012 BPO/ECMEA Award for Excellence in Music Education, and the Holmes Elementary 2012 Kathy Pascoe Award for teaching. Heather received a bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance and Music Education from SUNY Fredonia as well as a M.M. in Vocal Performance from the Esther Boyer College of Music at Temple University. She has continued her post-graduate education at UB and holds certifications in Music Learning Theory (MLT) for Elementary General Music and Music Together for Early Childhood Music. She resides in Orchard Park, NY with her favorite musician and husband, Jamie, and their 10 year old son, Eli.

**Matthew Bassett** became Principal Timpanist of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in 2009. Since 1993, he has been principal timpanist with Apollo's Fire (The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra). Matt can be heard on many commercial recordings with the Buffalo Philharmonic, Apollo's Fire, and the Cleveland Orchestra. In addition to his orchestral work, Mr. Bassett maintains a busy schedule of solo and chamber performance. He has performed solo and collaborative recitals focusing on both classics of the percussion/timpani repertoire and premiere performances of new music. Recent appearances include concerto performances with the Buffalo Brass Choir and the Amherst Symphony Orchestra. Matt has taught percussion to students for over 30 years. He has arranged music for percussion ensemble and has written several practice manuals for his students. Mr. Bassett frequently presents clinics and masterclasses and is a Pearl Drums, USA Concert Artist for Adams Percussion. Presently, he maintains a home teaching studio. Mr. Bassett operates a home business repairing percussion instruments, timpani mallets, and calfskin timpani heads. Matt resides in Buffalo with his daughter and his partner Kathleen Bassett, a music educator, choral conductor, vocal soloist, and founder of Buffalo Girlchoir.

**Heather Lovelace** has a degree in Music Education from SUNY Fredonia where she studied voice with Dr. Margaret Kuhl and Dr. Gerald Gray. She also has a Masters degree in Music Technology from Duquesne University (PA). Heather has over 10 years of education experience spanning grades K – 12. She is currently the director of choirs at Depew High School. Her choirs have earned Gold at NYSSMA evaluations. Heather is also very active in promoting the use of technology in the music classroom. She has given presentations throughout Western New York and has received special recognition from the Erie County Music Educators Association and New York State School Music Association for her innovative teaching style. Most recently Heather was recognized as the 2019 Vocal Teacher of the Year by Buffalo State College. In addition to her 20-year membership in the Festival Chorus, Heather has performed with several other choirs in Western New York and was the founding director of the Genesee Children's Chorus and has been a guest conductor for several All County Ensembles, in Genesee, Erie, Franklin, Niagara and Allegheny counties. She currently serves at the Director of Music at St. Katharine Drexel in Buffalo. Heather has also served as a member of the French Horn section of The Lockport Union Band AFM Local 98, as well as several community ensembles. Currently, Heather resides in Akron with her husband Marcus and their furbabies Tucker and Holly.

**Erin Ayer** has served as the Choral Director at Amherst Middle School since 2004 where she conducts six choral ensembles with nearly three hundred student members and directs the annual school musical. Mrs. Ayer currently serves as the Vice President for the Erie County Music Educators Association (ECMEA), previously serving as a member of the Board of Directors. She is a frequent presenter on the topics of music curriculum, choral music instruction, and standards-based instruction. Mrs. Ayer enjoys guest conducting honor choirs across the state and accompanying soloists and choral ensembles. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance and Music Education from Houghton College, followed by her Master's Degree in Education with a music concentration from the University at Buffalo. She is a soprano in Buffalo-based Vocalis Chamber Choir and enjoys spending her free time with her husband and family.

**John Hathaway** has taught Instrumental Music for a total of forty-seven years at Lake Shore Elementary Schools, Wilson Junior High, Kenmore East HS, Hoover Elementary School, Franklin Middle School, University at Buffalo and presently at Mount St. Mary Academy. For the last number of years, John has been in charge of the Darien Lake Music Festival each May and June, organizing evaluations and competitions for hundreds of school ensembles.

**Julie Furlong** teaches general music and chorus to students in grades K-5 at Smallwood Elementary in the Amherst Central School District. Julie received her Bachelor's degree in Music Education from SUNY Fredonia, and her Master's degree in Music Education from the University at Buffalo. She is a member of and presenter for ECMEA, NYSSMA and the BPO Education Committee, and is a past recipient of the BPO/ECMEA Award for Excellence in Music Education. Julie is a former conductor of the Presto Choir, an ensemble of the ABC Bel Canto Choirs. She is an active member of the Smallwood school community, serving on the Mindfulness and Behavior Committees, as well as directing the faculty "Sing Off" show and the annual school musical. Julie lives in Orchard Park with her husband, four crazy children and their cat, Mr. Quigley.

**Kathleen Bassett**, Founder and Artistic Director of *Buffalo Girlchoir*, has been conducting treble choirs for over 20 years. Because of her enthusiastic pursuit of excellence, choirs under her direction have performed along-side professional orchestras including the *Buffalo*

*Philharmonic, Cleveland Pops Orchestra, and Apollo's Fire: The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra.* Her choirs have also performed at professional conferences and at choral festivals throughout North America. Passionately dedicated to music education, Ms. Bassett has taught in classrooms ranging from pre-school to college including teacher education programs. Her journey through choral music education has afforded her the opportunity to present workshops in local and state conferences including for such organizations as the *New York Chapter of the American Choral Director's Association, Erie County Music Educators Association, and Ohio Music Education Association.* She is an avid guest conductor of festival and honor choirs. As a singer, Kathleen performs with *Vocalis Chamber Choir* and has sung and recorded with *Apollo's Fire: The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra.* Ms. Bassett adores performing and rarely turns down an invitation to sing at performances large and small. Most recently, Kathleen was the director of choirs at *Immaculata Academy* where the choirs have received multiple gold, and gold with distinction ratings at NYSSMA adjudicated festivals. Her top tier choir performed in dozens of venues in the Buffalo area and recently commissioned and premiered a new choral work "Like A Bird" by Caroline Mallonee. Ms. Bassett holds a Kodaly certificate, a master's degree in piano performance, and a bachelor's degree in music education.

**David Wozniak**, a Buffalo Native, is an experienced soloist, teacher, and repair technician. David runs WozniakMusic, an instrument repair service in Western New York. This follows over a decade of repair experience working for Sam Ash Music Stores on Long Island. WozniakMusic offers repair services for all woodwinds and brass, with a specialty in vintage saxophones. WozniakMusic also offers private instruction in woodwinds and voice. David has performed with the Mobile (AL) Symphony Orchestra, the Gulf Coast (MS) Symphony Orchestra, and the Festival South (MS) Festival Orchestra. Previous guest artist engagements include Queens College (NY), Mars Hill (NC) University, San Diego State University, and the University of Louisville for their renowned New Music Festival. 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 Theisen. David earned degrees in saxophone from the University of Southern Mississippi and Fredonia State University, where he studied with Lawrence Gwozdz and Wildy Zumwalt, respectively. Besides his work as a saxophonist, David has performance and teaching experience on each of the major woodwinds. He is a member of the North American Saxophone Alliance, the National Association of Professional Band Instrument Repair Technicians, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and was recently honored as a "Friend of the Arts" by Sigma Alpha Iota.

**Jim Pace** is currently the president of the Buffalo Musicians' Association, Local 92, American Federation of Musicians. He was the senior high orchestra director and district music department chair at Lake Shore Central Schools until retiring in 2008. A member of the musicians' union for over 50 years, he was first elected president of Local 92 in 2015. An active professional musician with degrees from SUNY Fredonia and SUNY at Buffalo, Jim performs with numerous area ensembles and has directed his own band, The Frankfurters, for 42 years. He is also a Civil War re-enactor and an ordained Anglican deacon.

**Louis Vitello** is presently in his twenty-eighth year of teaching at Clarence High School where he serves as the conductor of the Wind Ensemble, co-conductor of the Concert Band, and Chairman of the Clarence Central School District Music Department. His responsibilities also include teaching lessons and AP Music Theory, advising the Drama Club, and directing and/or producing the fall play and high school musical. Mr. Vitello received his bachelor's degree in Music Education and his master's degree in Instrumental Conducting from the University at Buffalo. While pursuing his master's degree, he was a teaching assistant to the Director of Bands, which included serving as the Associate Conductor of the UB Wind Ensemble, University Symphonic Band, and co-director of the UB Pep Band. In addition, he was a staff assistant conductor for the former Greater Buffalo Opera Company, was co-founder and director of the Western New York Youth Wind Ensemble, and has guest conducted all-county honor bands in the Western New York area and across New York State. His conducting teachers have included Sarah McKoin, Charles Peltz, Gary Burgess, Harold Farberman (Conductor's Institute), and William Silvester. Clarence Ensembles under Mr. Vitello's direction have performed at the New York State School Music Association Conference (2022), American Concert Band Association Annual Conference (2018), the New York State Band Director's Association Annual Symposium (2014 & 2010), presented clinics at the New York State School Music Association Conference (2000) & the New York State Band Director's Association Regional Workshop (2012); and have commissioned and/or premiered new works for wind band. These pieces include Persis Parshall Vehir's *Pan American Overture* (2001), Stephen Melillo's *21: Won Way* (2011), Michael Vertoske's *Madrid* (2011), David Maslanka's *Hymn for World Peace* (2015), Stephen Mellilo's *Ark of the Covenant* and *In the Darkest Darkness* (2018). In 2019, Mr. Vitello was selected as the BPO/ECMEA Outstanding Music Educator, and most recently, was appointed to the position of Music Director for the Greater Buffalo Youth Orchestra. Mr. Vitello is a member of the National Association for Music Education, New York State School Music Association, Erie County Music Educators Association, Who's Who Among American Teachers, New York State Band Directors Association, Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Association, and is an honorary member of the Kappa Kappa Psi National Band Fraternity.

Grammy award winning conductor **Dr. Adam Luebke** is a versatile conductor who specializes in raising the level of singers of all backgrounds and abilities. Appointed Music Director of Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus in 2015, his work has been described as "splendid," "articulate," "soaring," and "virtuosic." In 2023 he made his Carnegie Hall debut conducting debut and led a concert tour to England with Fredonia Choirs. He won the Grammy award for Best Choral Performance in 2020 for the recording *The Passion of Yeshua* by Richard Danielpour. At Fredonia, he teaches studio voice and conducts the College Choir. He has also taught voice class, conducting, Camerata (treble voices) and the Masterworks Chorus. He has prepared students for performances with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Western New York Chamber Orchestra, and the Hillman Opera. He is also part of the artistic team for the annual PBS program *Holiday Sounds of Fredonia*. Dr. Luebke has prepared choruses for conductors JoAnn Falletta, John Morris Russell, Gil Rose, Rossen Milanov, Carl St. Clair, Bradley Thachuk, Tim Moffit, and Stefan Sanders. He has worked with singers Hila Plitmann, Angela Brown, J'Nai Bridges, and Kevin Deas; as well as Broadway veterans Liz Calloway, Rachel Potter, and Justin Guarini. He worked alongside composers Richard Danielpour preparing the East Coast premiere performances and the world premiere recording of *The Passion of Yeshua* for Naxos, Fabio Luisi to prepare *St. Bonaventure Mass* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Chen Yi, and Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Moravec.

Recent highlights include heralded performances of Moravec's Sanctuary Road, Mozart's Requiem, Magic Flute, and Coronation Mass, Chichester Psalms, Verdi's Requiem, Carmen, Carmina Burana, Brahms' Requiem, Belshazzar's Feast, Alexander Nevsky, Vaughan Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem, Porgy and Bess, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. His choruses have appeared on the nationally broadcast radio show Performance Today, and locally on WNED Classical and WNED-TV. He has conducted the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Buffalo Chamber Players, the Amherst Symphony Orchestra; and appeared at David Geffen Hall in Lincoln Center, Kleinhans Music Hall, the Chautauqua Institution, and the National Cathedral. As a chorister, Dr. Luebke sang with the American Boychoir, St. Olaf Choir, and Westminster Choir. With these choruses, he performed with the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony, Czech Philharmonic, and Spoleto Festival USA opera chorus under Kurt Masur, Lorin Maazel, Charles Dutoit, Colin Davis, Andre Previn, Neville Marriner, Nicholas McGegan, Marvin Hamlisch, Zdenek Macal, Emmanuel Villaume, and Robert Shaw. He also appeared on stage with Wynton Marsalis, Kathleen Battle, Frederica von Stade, Benjamin Luxon, Sylvia McNair, Paul Groves, Suzanne Mentzer, Christine Goerke, David Daniels, and Chanticleer. He sings on recordings of the American Boychoir, Westminster Choir, and St. Olaf Choir on the Angel, Alliance, and Avie labels; as well as Amy Grants' platinum album Home for Christmas. Dr. Luebke received his earliest musical training at the American Boychoir School and earned degrees from St. Olaf College, Westminster Choir College, and Florida State University. His teachers include Anton Armstrong, Joseph Flummerfelt, Andre Thomas, Andrew Megill, and James Litton.

**Anna Mattix**, Oboe/English Horn, has been a member of the Buffalo Philharmonic since 2007. A native of Central New York, Anna studied at Ithaca College, Yale University and Indiana University. Her major teachers include Daniel Carno (Syracuse Symphony), Mark Hill, Ronald Roseman, Nicholas Daniel, Anne Leek and Theodore Baskin. Previous performing positions include Principal Oboe with the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra and English Horn with the Owensboro Symphony and Evansville Philharmonic.

Hailed as "virtuostic" by the Buffalo News, Ms. Mattix has appeared as soloist with the BPO on many occasions. Solo recording credits include The Swan of Tuonela by Jean Sibelius part of The Essential Sibelius release by Beau Fleuve in 2014 and Vox Humana by Rob Deemer, a work dedicated to Anna and premiered by BPO in 2016. Vox Humana appears on Built for Buffalo 2, Beau Fleuve, 2018. Anna has also appeared several times by invitation at the International Double Reed Society Annual Conference and has been a featured clinician for many Colleges and Universities. In addition to her work with the Philharmonic, Anna performs locally with the Buffalo Chamber Players, the ARS NOVA musicians and teaches at Buffalo State College and Canisius College. She is also a founding member of the Can-Am Trio in collaboration with Sarah Hamilton (SUNY Fredonia) and GERALYN GIOVANNETTI (Brigham Young University)

Anna, in addition to her performing schedule, has always been a passionate educator and advocate for community engagement. As a graduate student Anna was awarded the prestigious ELM and IVY Award from Yale University for her outreach work in the greater New Haven Community where she developed a mentorship program between graduate students and New Haven Public Schools that continues to this day. In Buffalo, Anna has continued her outreach efforts as a member of the BPO's Education Committee. She is a featured Teaching Artist for BPO and has created a diverse selection of programs for schools, libraries and community centers. She is committed to making music accessible for all in Western New York and using the universal language of music to help create communication in communities.

**Amy Glidden** is currently the associate concertmaster of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. Praised by the Buffalo News for her "keen rhythmic acuity, consistently fine tone, and an innate sense of phrasing," Amy has performed on stages throughout Western NY. A native of Wichita, Kansas, Amy attended the University of Kansas where she received a B.A. in Biology as well as a B.M. in Violin Performance. Subsequently, she received a Master of Violin Performance degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music. She was previously the concertmaster of the Mendocino Music Festival and the assistant concertmaster of the Marin Symphony. Amy was recently appointed concertmaster of the Saratoga Opera orchestra, in addition to traveling west each summer to participate in the Sun Valley Summer Symphony. As a chamber musician, Amy performs with the Roycroft Chamber Music Festival and the Buffalo Chamber Players, and is a founding member of the Artemis and Clara String Quartets. Amy has often performed as a soloist with the BPO, as well as solo engagements with the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra, the Amherst Symphony, the Buffalo State Philharmonic, the Cheektowaga Symphony, and the Orchard Park Symphony. She is the founding violin faculty member at the Buffalo State University string program and performed at the dedication of Buffalo State's Ciminelli Recital Hall. In addition, Amy maintains an active home studio and has given masterclasses throughout Western NY as well as nationally.

**Deborah Zehler** has a BM Degree in Music Education, Applied Percussion, and a Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. Her MA is from the University of St. Thomas with a concentration in Orff-Schulwerk. Deborah is a recipient of the Classroom Music Teacher of the Year Award by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Erie County Council for Music Educators as well as a recipient of the NYS Educator of the Year award presented by the New York State English Council (for her innovative ideas of combining literature with music.) She's performed at Carnegie Hall. She has Three books published by Heritage Music Press (Lorenz Corp.), "Teach Me Something New Today," "We're Gonna Play Today," and "Play-a-Palooza." She can be found in many Lorenz Corp. publications including "Activate Online". Schott Music Corporation has published Deborah's book, "The Animal Cracker Suite and Other Poems." Deborah Zehler Teaches Orff Level II at Minot State University as well as Movement Level I and Recorder level I. She has presented many workshops and sessions across the United State and Canada since 1996 on the local, state and national level. Deborah has taught Orff Level I and III pedagogy as well as Movement I and Recorder I and II. She teaches grades K-5 general/vocal music, dance, drama, puppetry, as well as percussion lessons at Heritage Heights Elementary School in the Sweet Home Central School District in Amherst, New York. She is currently composing music for a new musical. Deborah resides in Depew, NY with her husband Tom and their children.

Korean-born American musician **Sungmin Shin** maintains a vigorous schedule, seamlessly navigating the unpredictable musical landscape of the 21st century. Sungmin is an artist-teacher, arts leadership advocate, composer, consultant, engineer-producer, ensemble director, entrepreneur, improviser, multi-instrumentalist, music theorist, and scholar. He is frequently invited to adjudicate, compose, perform, speak,

and teach at major international competitions, events, and festivals as well as at top level collegiate music programs. Dr. Shin is Associate Professor of Practice at the University at Buffalo where he directs the guitar program and guitar ensembles. For full bio and more information, please visit - <http://sunguitar.com>.

Trombonist **John Hasselback, Jr.**, began his musical career at an early age, performing with his father as a young teenager. He received a Bachelor of Music Performance degree from the Hartt School of Music, where he studied both Classical and Jazz Music, and apprenticed with the legendary Jackie McLean. He has since received Education and Graduate degrees from SUNY Fredonia and Empire State College. John has been very active as a performer, working across the United States and Europe with many noted Jazz artists including Jaki Byard, Don Menza, Maynard Ferguson, Roswell Rudd, Gap Mangione and Chuck Mangione. He is a featured soloist on recordings with Gap Mangione, Kenny Wheeler, and Don Menza. "Menza Lines," which was recorded live in Los Angeles at the "Stratospheric" celebration of Maynard Ferguson's 75th birthday, was selected as one of the top releases of 2005 by the critics of Jazz Times Magazine. Recently, John was a featured member of the Don Menza Quintet, performing in Munich Germany, and performed as a member of the Ron Carter "Great Big Band" at Birdland in New York City. In the summer of 2022, John performed across Europe as a member of the "Dameronia Legacy All Stars," with some of New York and Europe's finest musicians including Jim Rotondi, Dick Oatts, Gary Smulyan and Bernd Reiter. He has served as an Artistic Director for the Buffalo Jazz Collective, dedicated to preserving, celebrating, and advancing the rich Jazz heritage of Western New York. Activities with this organization have included performances with guest artists Sam Noto, Pat LaBarbera, Steve Davis, Freddie Hendrix, James Burton III, Kirk MacDonald, Brad Leali and Bobby Militello. John has been named "Top Jazz Trombonist in Western New York" by the JazzBuffalo poll numerous times since the poll's inception in 2014. As a dedicated educator, John has taught at Buffalo State College, Lockport High School, Ellicottville Central Schools, and is currently in his 24th year at West Seneca Central Schools, where he is the director of the Jazz Ensemble at West Senior High School and serves as the coordinator of the district's annual Jazz festival. Additionally, he serves as the Erie County Music Educators Association Chairman for Jazz. He has previously served as the High School Jazz Ensemble Chairman for NYSSMA Zone 1, and the Western New York Zone Representative for the International Association of Jazz Educators. He has been an adjudicator, conductor of numerous county and state level honors ensembles, and is an in-demand clinician, performing as guest artist at a number of school districts and colleges, including SUNY Fredonia, Snow College in Utah, the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, CT, and the University of Rhode Island.

Texas native, **Lisa Hasselback** received her high school education at Interlochen Arts Academy where she studied piano, oboe and mallet percussion. She attended The Hartt School of music at the University of Hartford and received her Bachelors degree in African-American Jazz Studies under the leadership of alto saxophonist, Jackie McLean. At Hartt she studied piano with pianists, Jaki Byard and Hotep Galeta. She received a minor in French from Middlebury College in Vermont. She received her master's degree in Education from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. She has taught elementary and middle school general music since 1988 and has been employed by Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union-Free School District since 1990. Presently she teaches vocal music to kindergartners, 2nd and 3rd graders at Hoover Elementary School. She has been a pianist in the Buffalo, NY area since 1988. She has played with the Buffalo Philharmonic Pops Orchestra for trumpeter Byron Stripling and vocalist Marva Hicks, The New York Voices, Liz Callaway singing the Carole King songbook; the American Idol winner, Melinda Doolittle; the concert opener for Gladys Knight and most recently for the BPO Prohibition Concert featuring vocalists Bronson Norris Murphy, Madison Claire Parks and Myra Maud. Lisa has toured with The Four Lads, The Four Aces and The Chordettes. She has played for Bob Newhart at Chautauqua Institute. She has played with Houston Person at the Albright-Knox Summer Jazz Series. Williamsville East High School Legends of Jazz Concert Series has hosted her playing with featured artists Veronica Swift, Ernie Watts, Regina Carter, Houston Person, John Pizzarelli, Karin Allyson and Jane Monheit. She has accompanied The Drifters at the Niagara Casino, played for Channel 7's Variety Club Telethon and for Aretha Franklin at Art Park. Buffalo Jazz Collective has featured trumpeter Freddie Hendrix, Buffalo's own, tenor saxophonist, Don Menza and trumpeter, Sam Noto as well as Canada's tenor giants Pat LaBarbara and Kirk McDonald all for which she has accompanied. In Buffalo she has played as a soloist and has been a part of numerous small combos, most notably Wendell Rivera's Latin Jazz Ensemble as well as Sabu Adeyola's Oasis Trio. Through the years she has played in big bands and jazz festivals in the Buffalo area and continues to teach private lessons. She and her husband, trombonist, John Hasselback, Jr., make their home in East Aurora, NY and have three grown children.

**Wayne Moose** has been educating student musicians in the Williamsville Central School District for twenty-three years, where he has taught Orchestra, Jazz, Vocal Jazz, Composition, Theory, arranging and musicianship classes. He has been a presenter and clinician for ECMEA, ECMEA Jazz and NYSSMA, and currently serves as the chairperson for the Jazz bass section for the NYSSMA manual. Wayne regularly performs with the many great musicians residing in Buffalo., In addition, he has performed with artists such as Freddie Cole, Kevin Mahogany, Karrin Allyson, John Pizzarelli, Gene Bertoncini, Jane Monheit, Houston Person, The Glenn Miller Orchestra, Bill Charlap, Jeff Tyzik, The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

**Dr. John Bacon**, percussionist, composer and educator, has performed with Lester Bowie, Roswell Rudd, Bobby Previte, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Bobby Militello and as a leader in a variety of ensembles. He teaches percussion at UB and SUNY Fredonia and is head of Jazz at Villa Maria College in Buffalo, NY. He holds a PhD. in Music Composition from SUNY at Buffalo. His diverse skills as a percussionist, trap drummer and vibe player have been featured with a wide range of groups including the Slee Sinfonietta, Maelstrom Percussion Ensemble, and the Genkin Philharmonic. His music has been performed by an eclectic array of musicians, including The Amherst Saxophone Quartet, Leroy Jenkins, the New Jazz Orchestra of Buffalo, the New York New Music Ensemble, Amanda Deboer and the Colorfield Ensemble, Duo Cuentista, Ensemble Laboratorium, Wooden Cities and the UB Percussion Ensemble. He has toured in England, Italy, Canada, and the US. He has recorded with Paul Bley, Roswell Rudd, Don Menza and George Caldwell. Recent CD releases featuring his music include "Pausa Live" with the Buffalo Jazz Octet on Cadence Records and "Migration" by resAUnance with vocalist Esin Gunduz, cellist Jonathan Golove and pianist Michael McNeil, on FMR records. John is a 2013 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship Award recipient in Music/Sound and a New York State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Composer Commission with Christopher Jentsch

2015. John was voted Jazz Musician, Jazz Educator and Jazz Drummer of the year 2015 and 2016 by JazzBuffalo. John is the curator of a series of thematically linked performances called "Jazz Impressions" that are presented yearly around WNY. You can find more information about John, at [johnbaconjr.com](http://johnbaconjr.com).