

# FOMS News

Friends of Music of Shenendehowa

Fall 2007

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## From the Academic Administrator for Music

*Dear Colleagues, Students, Friends and Families:*

*I hope this summer was both exciting and restful while affording the opportunity to enjoy the good company of family and friends. It is with great excitement and sincerity that I say "thank you" to the many folks who have welcomed me aboard our distinguished music faculty as the Academic Administrator for Music. I look forward to our many years of collaboration and service together and am honored to be a member of the Shenendehowa Music Department who is so obviously committed to excellence and the belief in music education for our children.*

*Once again I wish to acknowledge Mrs. Diane Warner and offer our deepest thanks and gratitude for all of the remarkable accomplishments and recognition she has brought to Shenendehowa and our community. I am thrilled she is able to return part time and continue her outstanding work with our high school vocal ensembles and I know she will also continue to be a wonderful resource for all of us.*

*Let me close with urging all of you to not only consider your membership with our Friends of Music, but to also become actively involved with this most dynamic organization. The Friends of Music continues to work closely with our Shenendehowa music community in many capacities. They partner with our staff to help ensure additional student opportunities for continued growth and musical excellence. With the help of their support and continued efforts such initiatives as the annual Shen music festivals, scholarship opportunities, instrument exchange program, and assistance with student participation in both county and statewide music festivals among other programs are made possible. Please join us and consider lending your talents, service, creativity and sharing in the belief of music education for students at Shenendehowa.*

*With thanks and much appreciation,  
Matthew Cremisio  
Academic Administrator for Music*

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## Music Department Welcomes:

### **Matthew Schwartz**

Matthew is a recent graduate of the Crane School of Music and completed part of his student teaching at Shenendehowa with Mr. Jim Ordon. Mr. Schwartz joins us as the band director in Tesago/Skano/Shatekon along with some overflow general music in the elementary and middle schools.

### **Jessmyn Schwartz**

Jessmyn is recent graduate of the Crane School of Music and completed part of her student teaching at Shenendehowa with Mr. Joe Gumper. Mrs. Schwartz joins us as the orchestra director at Chango and will also cover some overflow general music sections at the elementary and middle schools.

### **Natalie Walters**

Natalie joins us from the Mexico City School District where she assumed the position of high school director of bands. She has degrees from Ithaca College and New England Conservatory of Music. Natalie brings much experience with her to Shen and we are excited to have her on our staff. She joins us as our new High School East band director.

*Please join us in welcoming our new staff and wish them much success as they begin their educational endeavors with us. When we see Matthew and Jessmyn not only can we welcome them as one of our staff, we should also congratulate them as the newly Mr. and Mrs. Schwartz with their recent marriage on August 4th!*

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## Well Deserved Honors

A reception was held at Arongen honoring the recently granted Tenure of Shen staff. **Mary Grebe** and **Robyn-ElLEN Messare** were both honored from the music department. Mrs. Grebe is the general music and chorus teacher at Shatekon Elementary School and Mrs. Messare is a general music and chorus teacher at Gowana Middle School. Congratulations on this well deserved honor and we wish you much continued success in your educational endeavors with us at Shen!

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# Students Accomplishments

## New York State School Music Association Winter Conference

**Congratulations** to the following High School musicians who have been selected to participate in the New York State School Music Association Winter Conference to be held November 29 - December 2, 2007 in Rochester, New York.

These students were selected from thousands of students who competed statewide for this opportunity and the Shenendehowa Music Department along with our families and Shen community are very proud of their outstanding accomplishment.

**Elizabeth Farstad** – Mixed Chorus  
**Maria Lorenzo** – Symphonic Band  
**Jordan Nelson** – Jazz Ensemble  
**Erica Nirsberger** – Symphonic Band  
**Jonathan Rodda** – Symphony Orchestra

**Justin Siemian** – Symphonic Band  
**Adam Steinberger** – Mixed Chorus  
**Hannah Tracey** – Women's Chorus  
**Sara Tracey** – Women's Chorus  
**Kristen Valitutto** – Mixed Chorus  
**Ava Wing** – Women's Chorus

### Alternates:

**John Mars** – Chorus  
**Justin Siemian** – Jazz Ensemble  
**Mary Francis Stoule** – Chorus

**Congratulations** to the following students who participated in summer music programs:

**Joseph Valenti** – *School of Orchestral Studies – Saratoga Performing Arts Center*

**Alex Goldberg** – *Crane Youth Music at SUNY Potsdam*

**Kyle Hefflin** – *College of Saint Rose Summer Jazz Program*

**Alex Lessard** – *College of Saint Rose Summer Jazz Program*

**Steven Rosenzweig** – *College of Saint Rose Summer Jazz Program*

**Stuart Horstman** – *Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Program*

**Justin Siemian** – *Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Program*

**Jordan Nelson** – *Skidmore Summer Jazz Institute, Saratoga Performing Arts Center*

**Jordynn Zusy** – *Lutheran Summer Music Academy Festival*

**Laura Duclos** – *Hartwick Summer Music Festival*

**Megan McCarthy** – *Lutheran Summer Music Academy Festival*

**Joonas Lemetyinen** – *The Imatra, Finland Big Band Festival*

**August Lundquist** – *The Troy Middle School Summer Music Program*

**Kyle Moise** – *College of Saint Rose Summer Jazz Program*

**Barry Wygel** – *NCYC Animators, Columbus, Ohio*

## Empire State Youth Orchestra Organization

**Congratulations** to the following students who have been accepted to the Empire State Youth Orchestra Organization:

### Jazz Ensemble

**Kyle Hefflin** – HS East –  
**Steven Rosenzweig** – HS East

### Jazz Ensemble II

**Justin Siemian** – HS East  
**Joseph Valenti** – HS East  
**Robert Krupanich** – HS West  
**Will Orlowski** – HS West  
**Colin Roy** – HS West  
**Matt Goldberg** – HS East  
**Alex Lessard** – HS East  
**Jordon Nelson** – HS East

### Repertory Orchestra

**JuliAnne Patacsil** – HS East  
**Michae Gao** – Acadia MS  
**Joshua Gorton** – Acadia MS  
**Kayla Najafipour** – HS West  
**Sarah Wildes** – HS East  
**Eric Wu** – Acadia MS  
**Jenny Xie** – HS East  
**Sarah Yang** – Gowana MS  
**Jonathan Keefner** – HS East

### String Ensemble

**Steven Chrzan** – Koda MS  
**Joshua Bay** – Koda MS  
**Monica Bay** – Arongen Elementary  
**Megan DiBenedetto** – HS West  
**Lisa Lindenbaum** – Gowana MS  
**Ciara Maginn** – Koda MS  
**Emily Zhang** – Okte Elementary

### Wind Orchestra

**Marissa Barnes** – HS East  
**Jonathan Keefner** – HS East

### Youth Orchestra

**Julia Knowles** – Gowana MS  
**Keegan Donlon** – Koda MS  
**Kristen Swift** – HS East  
**Lisa Liu** – Acadia MS  
**Angela Wang** – HS West

**Congratulations** to the following High School musicians who have been accepted into the American Choral Directors Association Eastern Division High School Honor Choir:

**Stephanie Gray and Lauren Graziano**

The ACDA Eastern Convention will be held in Hartford, Connecticut on February 13-16 2008. These students were chosen by audition and will join several hundred fine singers from throughout the Northeast.

# Students Accomplishments

## **Congratulations to the following students chosen for Area All-State 2007**

Area All-State will be held this year on Friday and Saturday November 16th and 17th at Saratoga Springs High School. Rehearsals on Friday are from 1:00pm-5:00pm and on Saturday from 9:00am-1:00pm with a concert time of 2:00pm.

**Orchestra:** Maria Laurenzo, Laura Ducros, Kristen Swift, Angela Wang, and Cindy Wong.

**Band:** Cara Celorio, Kyle Heflin, Jonathan Keefner, Erica Nirsberger, Julianne Patacsil, Kyle Poore, Joseph Valenti, Peter White, and Cassandra Whitford.

**Jazz:** Jordan Nelson and Justin Siemian.

**Chorus:** Emmy Farstad, Sarah Golley, Lauren Graziano, Brendan O'Connor, Nicholas Picard, Briana Pipeczynski, Ryan Smith, Adam Steinberger, Mary Francis Stoute, Andrew Sutton, Hannah Tracey, and Sara Tracey.

## **Jazz Foundation invites Shen student to perform**

**Congratulations to Jordan Nelson!** Jordan was invited to perform for a benefit concert in New York for the Jazz Foundation of America. Jordan was selected to perform with other participants from the Skidmore Summer Jazz Institute.

## **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to the following students selected by the New York State Band Directors Association for participation in their March 2008 Symposium in Syracuse.

### **High School Honors Concert Band:**

**Jonathon Keefner** (percussion), **Joseph Valenti** (clarinet), **Cassandra Whitford** (flute), and **Kyle Poore** (oboe).

### **High School Honors Jazz Band:**

**Justin Siemian** (saxophone), and **Drew Carpenter** (guitar)

### **Middle School Honors Concert Band:**

**Joonas Lemetyinen** (trombone.) Joonas currently attends Acadia and will proudly represent Shenendehowa as the first middle school student selected for the honors band.

## **A remarkable accomplishment!**

**Congratulations** to Shen high school music students, **Danielle Bouchard** and **Will Boyajian** who auditioned this past Spring and won coveted spots with the New York State Summer School of the Arts Conservatory. The two were the only pair of students in the state attending the conservatory from the same high school. The program was held July 8th-August 4th at SUNY New Paltz.

Congratulations Danielle and Will on this remarkable accomplishment!

## **Shen performing ensembles selected for Music for the Holidays 2007!**

WMHT is proud to showcase the vocal talent of our region's young people with its annual production of *Music for the Holidays*.

Congratulations to the following Shenendehowa performing ensembles who were selected for Music for the Holidays 2007:

**Shenendehowa High School East Choraliers**

**Tesago Elementary 4th & 5th Grade Chorus**

The production of **Music for the Holidays 2007** will take place **November 26-29** at WMHT's digital studios located at the **Winifred Touhey Public Broadcasting Center** in the **Rensselaer Technology Park**.

### **Programs will be broadcast on WMHT-TV:**

Sunday–Thursday,  
December 16-20, 7:30-8:00pm  
Monday–Friday, December 17-21,  
5:30 - 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 23, 5:30-8 p.m.  
Monday, December 24, 2:30-5 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 25, 10:30 a.m.

*The High School East Choraliers is directed by Mrs. Diane Warner and the Tesago Elementary Chorus is directed by, Mr. Michael Lotano.*

## Letter from the President

Fall 2007

Welcome to a new school year of music. We have already had a couple of FOMS meetings and are seeing some new faces, thanks to everyone who has joined us! We are well into planning the FOMS activities for the year and will be sending out calls for help and I'm sure we'll be able to rely on your support as in the past.

I would like to invite everyone to continue to support FOMS financially. We are giving away a gift with a paid membership, so if you've sent your membership in, stop at the FOMS table at a concert and let us know, we'll give you the thank you gift.

I would like to invite anyone who is not currently an active member to join us, to share your time and talents with this group. FOMS needs your help in order to continue supporting the music programs, students, and teachers. Please consider joining us at a monthly meeting to share your ideas and talents. We also have several open positions that need to be filled. They include: membership chair, vice president, newsletter editor, and membership committee. Please contact me if you are willing to help.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Mr. Matthew Cremesio as the new academic administrator for music. On behalf of the FOMS officers, I wish Matt all the best as he begins this chapter in his career. We welcome his ideas, support, and enthusiasm in FOMS.

Thank you for your continued support. Feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Kim Malinoski

President - Friends of Music

Email: [kmalinoski@aol.com](mailto:kmalinoski@aol.com)

## Tri-M Announces Vocal and Instrumental Music Lending Library

Tri-M is collecting sheet music and books that would otherwise be gathering dust. Once the music has been catalogued, students will be able to borrow items, as needed. Everyone has old (and probably hardly used) books for clarinets, violins, trumpets, piano, etc. We are even hoping to collect some vocal and instrumental sheet music that is acceptable at NYSSMA. Tri-M would LOVE to take them off your hands!! Nothing will be refused!

**Music can be dropped off at High School East to the attention of Mrs. Mars.**

Thank you for your support.

## Faculty News:

**Walter Chaikowski** was invited to present a workshop at the annual CASDA Conference in October. Mr. Chaikowski is recognized as a National Board Certified music teacher and currently teaches music at Okte Elementary school.

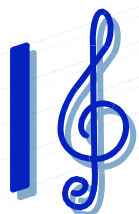
**Diane Warner** was invited to present a workshop at the annual CASDA Conference in October. Mrs. Warner is currently the director of the High School East Choraliers and Mostly Acapella select choral groups.

**Joe Gumper** has accepted the offer and will serve as interim conductor for the 2007-2008 season with the Empire State Youth String Orchestra. Mr. Gumper is currently the High School Orchestra Director .

**Danielle Cremesio** recently presented a jazz vocal recital and completed her Masters Degree in Jazz Studies from The College of Saint Rose. Mrs. Cremesio currently teaches instrumental lessons in the middle school and high school as well as conducts the high school Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band.

**Matthew Cremesio** was appointed to the office of Vice President of the New York State Chapter of the International Association of Jazz Educators.

**Heather Baird** was invited to serve on the New York State American Choral Directors Association Executive Board as our Eastern New York Representative and she will host the fall planning meeting for the Eastern part of the State in October. Ms. Baird is currently the director of the High School Concert Choirs as well as the High School West select Choraliers.



# FRIENDS OF MUSIC OF SHENENDEHOWA

## *Who are Friends of Music of Shenendehowa?*

We are a group of parents, students, teachers, and community members who feel that music is a vital part of educational and social development. We are working to ensure that opportunities for musical performance and appreciation are available to everyone in our community.

## *What have we done in the past year?*

- ♪ Supported Shenendehowa students participating in Conference All-State and the American Choral Directors Association chorus.
- ♪ Organized holiday concert receptions and refreshments concession at the High School Musical.
- ♪ Paid fees for Surburban council and Area All-State musicians.
- ♪ Published a newsletter informing members of students' accomplishments, school concerts, and music in the community.
- ♪ Supported the spring Shenendehowa Jazz Festival and the Orchestra All District Festival.
- ♪ Provided music appreciation awards for grades 5 and 8.
- ♪ Sponsored two music scholarships for Shenendehowa High School seniors.
- ♪ Sponsored one mini-grant for summer music study.
- ♪ Held a Student Recognition Night in June honoring all students participating in NYSSMA.

## *What are we planning for next year with your support?*

- ♪ To increase support for scholarships and special teacher requests for the music program.
- ♪ To continue the development, support, and advertisement of student music and music in the community.
- ♪ To support and contribute to projects developed by Shenendehowa music teachers.
- ♪ To financially support and assist in organizing the Shenendehowa All-District Festivals.
- ♪ To support the participation in All County, Area All-State, and Conference All-State ensembles.
- ♪ To continue to sponsor a musical instrument exchange.
- ♪ To bring additional resources (instruments, computers, keyboards, etc.) to the music classrooms.

We welcome all parents, students, and friends to join the Friends of Music of Shenendehowa (F.O.M.S.) and to attend our monthly meetings. Meetings for 2007 – 2008 are: 8/30, 9/27, 10/25, 11/29, 1/24, 2/21, 3/20, 4/17, 5/22, & 6/16 at 7:30 PM in the Choir/Orchestra Room (RM #164) at the HS East Building. **Dues are tax deductible** and entitle you to receive our newsletter.

## Friends of Music of Shenendehowa Membership

(One year membership effective August 2007 through August 2008)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Member last year (Y/N)? \_\_\_\_\_  
(as you wish it to be listed in a program)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please include so we can tell you about meetings & events)

Children's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Can You Help?     Refreshments     Newsletter     T-shirt sales     FOMS Building Rep

Membership Levels (circle):

- \$ 5.00 Student                      \$ 10.00 Sponsor
- \$ 25.00 Family/Benefactor        \_\_\_\_\_ Other
- \$ 100.00 Corporate Silver
- \$ 200.00 Corporate Gold

Please make checks payable to F.O.M.S. and mail to:

F.O.M.S.  
P.O. Box 1164  
Clifton Park, NY 12065

PO Box 1164  
Clifton Park, New York 12065

Friends of Music of Shenendehowa

# FOMS NEWS

## Join us at FOMS

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Thank you for your support!