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## **All State Festival & Winter Conference Returns to Rochester For a Live, In-Person Experience**

***Officials eager to welcome students back to live music festival while adhering to  
COVID-19 restrictions***

Westbury, NY / November 8, 2021 – The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) is excited to announce a return to the Rochester Riverside Convention Center and the historic Eastman Theater on December 2 – 5 for the 2021 All State Festival and Winter Conference, after the pandemic forced an historic cancelation in 2020.

In line with requirements set forth by the Eastman Theater, all students will be vaccinated and those in attendance for the concerts must wear a mask.

Canceled last year for the third time in NYSSMA history due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year will welcome five hundred (500) students performing in five (5) ensembles led by the following conductors:

- All State Vocal Jazz Ensemble – Diane Abrahamian, Eastman Community Music School
- All State Instrumental Jazz Ensemble – Jim Pugh, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- All State Mixed Chorus – Dr. J.D. Burnett, University of Georgia
- All State Symphonic Band – Dr. Russel Mikkelson, The Ohio State University
- All State Symphony Orchestra – Dr. Rachel Dirks, Kansas State University

“We are excited to return to Rochester and look forward to seeing and hearing our all state students perform live,” said Dr. David M. Brown, NYSSMA president. “They will be paired with outstanding nationally-recognized conductors, and our members will participate in valuable professional development opportunities. We are grateful to the many New York school districts state for doing their best to maintain their music programs throughout the pandemic, and look forward to welcoming students in December.”

NYSSMA, the New York State School Music Association, is the largest state affiliate of the National Association for Music Education. Its mission is to advance music education across New York State for its membership and students in member school programs.

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