



ovation



Simsbury Music and Performing Arts Newsletter

June 2023

Director's Notes:

As we bring the school year to a close, I am eager to look back at the collective efforts of our teachers, students and the community in order to bring so much music and theater to our lives. Our classrooms, hallways and stages were filled with music, love and laughter and the joy of participating in the arts. I am excited to officially announce that Simsbury has once again been nominated as one of the Best Communities for Music Education in the country! The designation is an honorable one, noteworthy of recognition and pride for our community. I continue to be extremely appreciative of the support received from the Simsbury Public School administration, the parents and the community. Most of all I am extremely proud of our teachers and students who put in so much effort on a consistent basis in order to demonstrate and display their passion for the arts.

Thank you for all of your support as a community at large, especially The Friends for Music. This was an outstanding year for the Simsbury Music & Performing Arts Department and the Simsbury Community.

Angela D. Griffin

Director of Music and Performing Arts K-12





SIMSBURY MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to all the Music & Performing Arts students who were selected to participate in a variety of local and national music performance festivals this year.

Connecticut Music Education Association (CMEA) Northern Regional Festival

HIGH SCHOOL

Paris Albrecht (Choir)
Noah Antidormi (Chorus)
Eva Berry (Chorus)
Sadie Conway (Orchestra)
Matthew Flaherty (Chorus)
Camden Fuller (Chorus)
Fiona Gallo (Chorus)
Lucas Gifford (Chorus)
Eli Gold (Band)
Dan Gomez (Chorus)
Yifan Jiang (Chorus)
Benjamin Lee (Orchestra)
Jenna Lee (Orchestra)
Clare Lepak (Chorus)
Giovanni Marchetti (Chorus)
Surya Patel (Chorus)
Abigail Pennell (Chorus)
Cotton Potter (Chorus)
Rohan Rajappan (Chorus)
Kirby Reed-Brown (Band)
Matthew Reed-Brown (Band)
Quinn Robinson (Chorus)
Noah Summerer (Chorus)
Carmine Trovato (Chorus)
Lincoln Turrell (Chorus)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Aliya Dupont (Chorus)
Alice Li (Orchestra)
Isaac Lim (Band)
Katherine Petrella (Band)
Jazmine Restituyo (Band)
Isabella Savino (Chorus)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Natalie Schweizer (Chorus)
Rhys Turrell (Orchestra)
Olivia Walton (Band)
Kaitlyn Willy (Chorus)
Aaron Xu (Band)
William Zenick (Chorus)

ELEMENTARY

Nathan Gao (Orchestra)



SHS participants at
CMEA High School Festival



HJMS participants (top) at
at CMEA Middle School
Festival*



CMEA Middle School Festival Chorus

*The CMEA Middle School Festival was hosted at Simsbury High School. Congratulations to Lisa Abel, Andrew Kohanski, and Jaimie Lapine for all your efforts to make it a successful weekend!

SIMSBURY MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



Connecticut Music Education Association (CMEA) High School All-State Ensembles



SHS participants at
All State Festival

**Eva Berry (Chorus)
Camden Fuller (Chorus)
Fiona Gallo (Chorus)
Eli Gold (Band)
Dan Gomez (Chorus)
Yifan Jiang (Chorus)
Rohan Rajappan (Chorus)
Quinn Robinson (Chorus)
Noah Summerer (Chorus)**

Western Connecticut State University Honor Band Festival

**Aaron Downend
Brian Inthisone**

New England Music Festival (NEMFA)

Eli Gold (Band)



Connecticut Music Education Association (CMEA) Elementary Honors Choir

**Alex Cassidy
Josiah Canela
Andrew Convery
Cora George
Charles Hanna**

**Miranda Haywood
Caitlin Holland
Azariah Lee
Henry Pugliese
Gabby Wagner**



Tootin' Hills CMEA
participants
Back Row: Sarah
Grasso (teacher), Alex
Cassidy, Miranda
Haywood
Front Row: Cora
George, Charles
Hanna



Squadron CMEA participants
(l to r) Miriam Schreiber (teacher), Josiah Canela,
Henry Pugliese, Azariah Lee, Andrew Convery, Caitlin
Holland, Gabby Wagner, Chelsey Johnson (teacher)

SIMSBURY MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Eastern Division Honors Choir

**Camden Fuller
Carmine Trovato**

(l-r) Carmine Trovato,
Camden Fuller

American School Band Directors Association (ASBDA) Honor Band Festival

**Brian Inthisone
Kirby Reed-Brown
Matthew Reed-Brown**

UConn Honor Band

**Brian Inthisone
Kirby Reed-Brown
Matthew Reed-Brown**

Hartford Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition

*The HSO's Young Artists Competition is an elite concerto competition open to all Connecticut residents in grades 9-12. Contestants compete for cash awards and a chance to solo with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra at The Bushnell. **Eli Gold**, SHS sophomore, performed a movement of a marimba concerto with the HSO. He placed third in the overall competition and received an encore performance at the May 20th concert.*



Eli Gold performing with HSO



Lisa Abel and Paula Garza were
in attendance to show support

SIMSBURY MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



Organization of American Kodaly Educators (OAKE) National Choir

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Sydney Bell
Brianna Civitillo
Maeve Lemke
Kylie Lewis
Gibson Quinn
Alan Solomon

CONCERT TREBLE CHOIR

Eva Berry
Lily Cournoyer
Fiona Gallo

YOUTH CHOIR

Owen Biamonte
Natalie Civitillo
Tiana Delport
Lukas Gizelis
Jacob Keleher
Maleita Lemke
Rishav Mukherjee
Adam Tigno
Kaitlyn Willy



OAKE Children's Choir



SHS OAKE participants
(l to r) Miriam Schreiber (teacher),
Lily Cournoyer, Eva Berry, Fiona
Gallo



Connecticut Association of Schools Visual & Performing Arts Award

*Each year the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) honors students across the state for their achievements in Visual and Performing Arts. Simsbury High School is proud to announce **Rhiannon Wallace** and **Elijah Edwards** as the 2023 CAS award recipients.*

Rhiannon was chosen by the art teachers because of her outstanding commitment to the visual arts. She is a leader in the 2D design, AP drawing and painting studios. Rhiannon was one of the first students to go through the capstone experience and provided valuable feedback inspiring updates to the curriculum. She spends countless hours learning new techniques and programs and is always willing to share with her teachers and peers. She is the definition of a self directed learner, and does so with positivity and patience. Next year, Rhiannon plans to study art at University of CT and major in fine arts. Her dream is to work for Disney!

Elijah was chosen by the music department as the Performing Arts recipient of the CAS award because of his humility, leadership, and inclusiveness of others. Throughout the past four years, Elijah has been a member of the Pep band, Gospel Choir, Choral Revue band, and Tri-M Honor Society (where he served as President this past year). Elijah also worked as a teaching assistant for the SHS Percussion Ensemble, and has been the pit drummer for several SHS musicals. Elijah is an outstanding representative of the Simsbury Vision of a Graduate and we wish him well as he plans to study Political Science at George Washington University.



SIMSBURY MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Simsbury Friends for Music Awards of Excellence

Squadron Line

Sadie Fergusson - Band
Ryan Cadoff - Orchestra
Jacob Keleher - Chorus
Chase Martin - Jazz
Azariah Lee - Music Leadership

Latimer Lane

Seamus Harrington - Band
Nathan Gao - Orchestra
Ella Wollenberg - Chorus

Tariffville

Haley Scarcella & Adam Tigno - Band
Amelia Deary - Orchestra
Abigayle Luzietti - Chorus
Callum Joeckel - Jazz
Josephina Fox - Drama

Central

Daniel Senchukov - Band
Klara Stonawska - Orchestra
Alexis Wang - Chorus

Tootin' Hills

Alex Cassidy - Band
Kyla Lunding - Orchestra
Collins Mulready - Chorus

Henry James

Isaac Lim & Anna Chace - Band
Alice Li & Zoe Conway - Orchestra
Hannah Kosinski & Adeline Escamilla - Chorus
Kailen Thompson - Jazz
Isla Watters & Lucas George - Drama
Sanjay Agrawal & Calleigh Pearce - Music Composition
Jazmine Restituyo - Performing Arts Scholar

SHS (Class of 2023)

Caitlin Wild - Band
Jameson Bodenburg - Orchestra
Cotton Potter - Chorus
Giovanni Marchetti - Jazz
Genevieve Knight - Drama
Jack Grossman - Performing Arts Scholar
Gwen Hardee & Jenna Lee - Eric Dahlin
Memorial Scholarship

Class of 2023 Music & Performing Arts Department Award Recipients

Simsbury Light Opera Award - Skyler Bobinski
Theater Guild of Simsbury - Will Reynolds & Tanaya Shenvi Kuvelkar
Simsbury Community Band - Elijah Edwards
Tri-M Member - Emily Carroll & Carmine Trovato
Tri-M Non-member - Hannah Granger

Congratulations



SIMSBURY MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

**Squadron Line Special Chorus
had the honor of singing the National Anthem
at the Hartford Yardgoats game**



Squadron Grade 5/6 Special Chorus



After 19 years in the Simsbury Public Schools district, the Music & Performing Arts Department is saying farewell to **Dr. Stuart Younse**. Stuart originally connected with Simsbury via the Hartt Partnership before coming on board as the Director of the Simsbury High School Choir program. After successfully increasing the quality of the program and the overall enrollment of the choirs, Stuart received the distinguished designation as Simsbury Teacher of the Year in 2012. Stuart eventually became the director of the One Act Play Festival, the SHS Musical, and the SHS Spring Play. Affectionally known as "Doc" by his students, Stuart has directed over 19 theatrical productions of the SHS Musical, designed the model for our current theater curriculum, and the rest is history! Dr. Younse we are so grateful for your guidance, leadership, and friendship. We wish you best of luck on the next leg of your journey.