



*Music
Department*





“Nobody is doing it better!”

These words describe St. Francis Prep’s Music Department, as expressed by the Middle States Association when we were the ***first school ever*** to earn the Association’s *Program of Distinction* in Music, which is aimed at recognizing only those schools with the most sophisticated programs and the highest goals in music education.

In 2018, we became the ***first school ever to be re-accredited*** for the *Program of Distinction*. Middle States found that, “Students and parents exclaim that the music program is the reason for choosing SFP.”

Prep's Music department was recognized on the national level, by both the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation (NAMM) and Music for All's Advocacy in Action. NAMM describes its recognition as, "A Support Music Merit Award is an opportunity for an individual school to be acknowledged for its commitment to music education. Music for All states, "The Advocacy in Action Awards Program is designed to collect and share local music education advocacy ideas across America." Further, "In the inaugural year of the Advocacy in Action Awards, we received an unprecedented number of applications representing music programs, schools, and communities across the United States."

More locally, Prep's Music department earned a Proclamation from the Assembly of the State of New York, "on the occasion of earning the Middle States Association Program of Distinction in Music."

Finally, we have been recognized by the Long Island Music Hall of Fame and their High School Recognition Program. According to the LIMHoF, "The LIMHoF High School Recognition Program is designed to identify Long Island High School music programs that are creating valuable music experiences for their students and that are incorporating the National and New York State's Standards for the arts in creative and meaningful ways."

Students with no previous musical training have the opportunity to study music and learn instruments as beginners, in a community-centered, nurturing environment, and even experience the joy of performing after only having played for a few months.

Our more elite ensembles have performed for, among others, St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, President and Secretary Clinton, and have toured Australia, England, and Italy. ***Our next tour will be to France during the summer of 2020.***

In all, Prep teaches Music to over 60% of its students, providing enriching and unique opportunities to students ranging from playing in a student's first ever concert to performing for Popes and Presidents here in New York, and across the world.

In addition to our traditional performance program, Prep also offers courses in Music Theory, Electronic Orchestration, Music Technology, Music History, and even Independent Study. We offer a Music Lesson program, free of charge, for New York State Regents credit. Our Advanced Placement Music Theory and History of Music courses are both offered for college credit.

CURRICULUM *at a Glance*

Performing Groups

Junior Band
Concert Band
Jazz Band *

String Orchestra
Honors Orchestra *
Chamber Orchestra *

Concert Chorus
Prep Chorus *
Chamber Choir *

Percussion Ensemble
Honors Percussion
Ensemble*

*Honors Designation

Beginner Classes

Woodwinds
Brass
Percussion *
Strings

*Sophomores Only

Advanced Musical Studies

Music Theory I
Principles of Orchestration & Electronic
Composition
Advanced Placement Music Theory*

Music Technology and Production

History of Music*

Independent Study

Music Lessons (free of charge for Regents Credit)

*College Credit

Recent Accomplishments

2018 - 2019

- Prep sponsors its first Tri-M society.
- St. Francis Prep earns a National Association of Music Merchants Foundation (NAMM) Support Music Merit Award
- St. Francis Prep earns a Music for All Advocacy in Action Award.
- St. Francis Prep earns a Proclamation from the Assembly of the State of New York
- St. Francis Prep is recognized by the Long Island Music Hall of Fame and their High School Recognition Program.
- Visiting artists include Martha Mooke (Violist/Composer, Yamaha Artist), Doug Perry (Percussion Instructor, Western Connecticut State University), Jim Dooley, '94 (Emmy Award-Winning Composer), Daniel Klein, '94 (Director of the North Shore Music Festival), David Noon, (Composer and Dean Emeritus of the Manhattan School of Music), Susan Davis, (Aaron Copland School of Music), Peter Loel Boonshaft, (Hofstra University, via KHS Academic Alliance)

2016 - 2018

- Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, and The St. Francis Prep Singers tour England, including Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, Canterbury, and London.
- The combined Honors and String Orchestras present the world premiere of Brian Balmages' *Where the River Shannon Flows*.
- St. Francis Prep is named a Platinum Member of the KHS Academic Alliance.
- Chamber Orchestra presents the world premiers of two works by Brian Blamges, *A Solitary Wish*, and *Intrada*.
- Chamber Choir performs the Star Spangled Banner at a New York Mets home game at Citi Field.
- Visiting artists and clinicians include Dr. David Noon, Dr. Susan Davis, Dr. Peter Loel Boonshaft, Brian Balmages, Tony Kadleck, and Tony Tedesco.
- Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, and The St. Francis Prep Singers tour Rome, and the home of our patron, St. Francis, Assisi. This tour also included a pilgrimage component, led by Prep's Chaplain Emeritus, Fr. Bill Sweeney, for parents and alumni.
- Chamber Orchestra gives the New York premiere of *Rise*, by Steven Bryant, who also presented a clinic for the orchestra.

FACULTY

Dr. Robert Corbino, SAS, SDA

Department Chair

Band Director

EdD, New York University

MA, Hunter College

BA, City University of New York

AA, Kingsborough Community College

Canticle Citation Award for 15, 25, and 40 Years of Service

Franciscan Spirit Award, 1995

Honorary Alum, 2006

Recognition for Educational Excellence, 2013

New York State Senate Proclamation from Martin J. Golden

Office of the Executive Citation from Edward P. Mangano

City of New York Proclamation from Eric Ulrich

Josephine Foundation 2013 Chairman's Honoree Award

School Band and Orchestra Magazine, 50 Directors Who
Make a Difference

Faculty since 1976

Mr. Murat Karaça

Assistant Band Director

MM, C. W. Post College

Advanced Professional Studies & BM, The Juilliard School

Faculty since 2006

Mr. Joseph Higgins

Honors Orchestra Director

MM, SUNY Stony Brook

BM, CUNY Queens College, Aaron Copland School of Music

Faculty since 2009

Dr. Marc A. Silvagni, SFP '06

Director of Percussion Studies

EdD, Hofstra University

MA, Hofstra University

BM & BA, Binghamton University

Faculty since 2012

Mr. Robert L. Johnston

Director of String Studies

Co-Internal Coordinator, MSA

Director of Publicity & Public Relations

MAT, Lehman College

MM & BM, Manhattan School of Music

Canticle Citation Award for 15 Years of Service

Honorary Alum, 2014

Recognition for Educational Excellence, 2008

Assisi Pilgrim, 2008

New York State Senate Certificate of Merit

Faculty since 1997

Ms. Kirsten Corwin, SFP '11

Concert Chorus Director

BM, LIU Post

Faculty since 2016

David Y. Kobayashi, Esq., SFP '93

Director of Choral Studies

JD, New York Law School

BA, Binghamton University

Faculty 2001-2008, 2011, 2012-present

Mr. David Jimenez

Percussion Coach

BFA, The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music

Coach since 2012



Recent Accomplishments

2014 - 2016

- St. Francis Prep's Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Choir are invited to perform at the exhibit, "Friar Francis; traces, words, images," a once-in-a-lifetime look into early Franciscan documents at Brooklyn Borough Hall.
- Two Prep students earn perfect scores on their All-State New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) solo evaluations.
- Prep continues our "Hallelujah Project," welcoming over 160 guest singers to perform Handel's Hallelujah Chorus.
- Prep welcomes students from St. Gregory the Great School, St. Kevin Catholic Academy, Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy, and PS 115 to perform at our concerts.
- Prep welcomes Triton Brass, who present a clinic and a performance for the Prep community.

2010 - 2014

- Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, and The St. Francis Prep Singers tour London. This is Prep's largest tour ever, with 101 participants, including students, faculty, staff, and family members.
- Chamber Orchestra earns their second straight New York State School Music Association Gold Medal Rating in a row.
- Jazz Band participates in "Hometown Hall of Famers™," honoring Vince Lombardi, '33, sponsored by the National Football League and Allstate Insurance Company, and Prep's Red & Blue Terrier Ring of Honor Inaugural Gala.
- Chamber Orchestra gives the American premiere of *Idillio Sinfonico*, by Victor Kioulaphides, who also visited Prep to work with our students.





- Dr. Robert Corbino, Prep's longtime Chairperson of Music, earns a New York State Senate proclamation from Martin J. Golden, an Office of the Executive Citation from Edward P. Mangano, a City of New York Proclamation from Eric Ulrich, and the Josephine Foundation's 2013 Chairman's Honoree Award, all for his years of dedicated and successful service to the students of Prep. He also receives Prep's Excellence in Education Award. 2013.

- In a first, Chamber Orchestra participates in Prep's Annual year-end Art Show, "Moving Up," by performing on the roof of the school. 2012.

- St. Francis Prep starts a beginner String program for students at P.S. 115. 2012.

- Jazz Band, Chamber Choir, and Chamber Orchestra tour Italy, including Rome, Florence, Orvieto, and the home of St. Francis and St. Clare, Assisi. 2011.

- Chamber Choir performs for the 2011 Columbus Day parade. 2011.

- Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble perform for Prep's annual Walk-A-Thons. 2011-present.

- St. Francis Preparatory School becomes the first school ever to earn the Middle States Association's Music Credential, which is aimed at recognizing only those schools with the most sophisticated programs and the highest goals in music education. 2011.



Music Library and Lab



Prep boasts a Music Library featuring texts, periodicals and sheet music, including the complete New Grove Encyclopedia of Music, and the complete recorded works of composers such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and Stravinsky.

Our Electronic Music equipment features iMacs with the latest versions of Finale, Garritan Libraries, Pro Tools and Logic.

Recent Accomplishments

2008 - 2010

- Jazz Band, Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra present four concerts in London. 2010.
- Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra perform for the live broadcast of the Mass celebrating Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio's 40th Anniversary of ordination. 2010.
- Chamber Orchestra invited to perform for Archbishop Timothy Dolan at a private reception hosted by the Diocese of Brooklyn. 2009.
- The Music Department develops and presents seminars for students and parents featuring a panel of distinguished professionals discussing the importance of musical study. 2009-10.
- Prep's Director of String Studies, Robert L. Johnston receives Prep's Excellence in Education Award, and is also selected as an Assisi Pilgrim. He subsequently earns a New York State Senate Certificate of Merit in recognition of exceptional service as a teacher. 2008-09.
- Chamber Orchestra invited to perform at the internationally televised Formal Diplomatic Departure Ceremony of Pope Benedict XVI. 2008.



Years Past . . .

- Marching Band invited to perform for the parade honoring release of the Iranian Hostages. 1982.
- Marching Band performs on Good Morning America. 1998.
- Thirteen Members of the Prep Concert Band, under the direction of Dr. David Y. Kobayashi, travel to Australia to participate in the inaugural Eric Whitacre Band Festival. 2004.
- Composer/Orchestrator, James Dooley, '94, working with Hans Zimmer, receives his first Emmy award for the score for the TV show "Pushing Daisies." 2008.
- Prep students make New York State School Music Association All-State ensembles, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2018, and 2019. Music Educator's National Conference All-Eastern Honors Ensembles, 2006, 2010.



ST. FRANCIS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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