

# Erik S. Piazza, Ph.D.

## Curriculum Vitae

### EDUCATION

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2023	<b>Ph.D., Music Education</b> <i>Dissertation: Creative musical activities in secondary instrumental music education (Advisor: Dr. Alden Snell)</i>	Eastman School of Music	Rochester, NY
2005	<b>M.M., Music Education</b> <i>Thesis: Emerging musical literacy (Advisor: Dr. Donna Brink Fox)</i>	Eastman School of Music	Rochester, NY
2004	<b>B.M., Music Education and Applied Saxophone Performance</b>	Eastman School of Music	Rochester, NY

### EMPLOYMENT AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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<b>Webster Central School District</b>	Webster, NY	2007-present
<b>Spry Middle School</b>		2025-present
Grade 8 concert bands, small-group lessons, jazz band		
<b>Fine Arts Instructional Specialist</b>		2023-2025
Teacher on Special Assignment, professional development and support for preK-12 music, art, and classroom teachers with their disabled and neurodivergent students		
<b>Willink Middle School</b>		2017-2023
Grades 6-8 concert bands, small-group lessons, jazz bands, and general music (hybrid and remote)		
<b>Thomas High School</b>		2012-2020
Wind Ensemble (auditioned), Jazz Ensembles (non-auditioned), Concert and Symphonic Bands (non-auditioned), chamber ensembles (saxophone, clarinet, flute), small-group lessons (all instruments). Organized collaborative performances with the Eastman Community Music School's Music Educators Wind Ensemble, 198 <sup>th</sup> Army Band, Greece Athena HS. Invited to perform at the Rochester International Jazz Festival, Webster Jazz Festival, and Brockport Jazz Festival.		
<b>Schroeder High School</b>		2007-2012
Jazz Ensembles (auditioned and non-auditioned), Concert and Symphonic Bands (non-auditioned), chamber ensembles (flute, percussion, saxophone), small-group lessons (all instruments). Mentored annual senior project.		
<b>University of Illinois Chicago</b>	Chicago, IL	August 2025
Visiting Lecturer Teaching and Learning Jazz		
<b>Eastman School of Music</b>	Rochester, NY	2016-2020
Graduate Teaching Assistant: Student Teaching Seminar and Observations (Spring 2020)		

Elementary Winds, Brass, and Percussion Methods Class (Fall 2019)  
Sophomore Skills Review (2016–2020)

<b>Rochester Institute of Technology</b>	Rochester, NY	2008
Adjunct Professor		
Saxology Jazz Ensemble		
Woodwind lessons (saxophone and flute)		
<b>Palmyra-Macedon High School</b>	Palmyra, NY	2005–2007
Wind Ensemble (auditioned), Concert Band (non-auditioned), Jazz Ensemble, AP Music Theory, small-group lessons, parade band, pep band, musical pit orchestra, and musical lighting & sound.		

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Books**

Piazza, E., Mills, J., & Ziemann, D. (2020). *Reflective music teaching: Ideas for early-career music teachers*. Low Down Publishing.

### **Refereed Journal Articles**

Piazza, E. S., & Talbot, B. C. (2021). Creative musical activities in undergraduate music education curricula. *Journal of Music Teacher Education*, 30(2), 37–50.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1057083720948463>

### **Invited Journal Articles**

Culp, M. E., Piazza, E. S., Messina, M., & O'Reilly, B. E. (2019). Engaging in research as a practicing music teacher. *School Music NEWS: The Official Publication of the New York State School Music Association*, 82(7), 27–30.

### **Reprinted Journal Articles**

Culp, M. E., Piazza, E. S., Messina, M., & O'Reilly, B. E. (2021). Engaging in research as a practicing music teacher. *Tennessee Musician*, 73(4), 30–33.

### **Dissertation**

Piazza, E. S. (2023). *Creative musical activities in secondary instrumental music education* (Publication No. 2813815276). [Doctoral dissertation, University of Rochester]. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing.

### **Blog Posts**

Piazza, E. S., & Mills, J. (2021, February 22). Reflective music teaching: Ideas for early-career music teachers. National Association for Music Education: *Music in a Minuet*.  
<https://nafme.org/reflective-music-teaching/>

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

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### Research Paper Presentations (Reviewed)

- 2025 Changing perceptions from college to classroom: Creative musical activities among early career music teachers. *Symposium on Music Teacher Education*. Butler University, Indianapolis, IN: October 24.
- 2019 Finding time for creative musical activities in undergraduate curricula. *PMEA / NAFME Eastern Division Conference*. Pittsburgh, PA: April 5.
- 2012 SMART sight-reading: Action research in a high school instrumental program. *NAfME Biennial Music Educators National Conference*. St. Louis, MO: March 30.

### Research Poster Sessions (Reviewed)

- 2019 Creative musical activities in undergraduate curricula. *PMEA / NAFME Eastern Division Conference*. Pittsburgh, PA: April 4.
- 2019 Creative musical activities. *PMEA Annual Conference*. Lancaster, PA: April 19.
- 2017 Creative musical activities in ensemble rehearsals. *NYSSMA Winter Conference*. Rochester, NY: December 2.

### Panel Presentations (Reviewed)

- 2021 Research strategies for classroom teachers: Five perspectives. *Music Research and Teacher Education NAFME Biennial Conference* (virtual): February 26.
- 2018 Research forum: making connections to classroom practice. *NYSSMA Winter Conference*. Rochester, NY: December 1.

### Invited Talks

- 2026 Curriculum: Standards and Objectives. *MTL 502: Curriculum Seminar*. Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY: February 11
- 2026 Planning for inclusion: UDL meets assistive technology. *NAfME Collegiate Membership Meeting*. Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (virtual): February 17
- 2021 Convergence: Matching skills and passions with an identified need. *Entrepreneurial Thinking*. Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY (virtual): January 21
- 2020 Becoming a music educator. *Eastman Summer Saxophone Institute*. Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY (virtual): July 28
- 2018 Creative musical activities in ensemble rehearsals. *Music Education Colloquium*. Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA: February 18
- 2018 Creating time and space for creative musical activities. *Music Education for Social Change*. Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA: February 20

## REVIEWER EXPERIENCE

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International Journal of Music Education		2025-present
Guest Reviewer		
Low Down Publishing, LLC	Penfield, NY	2019-present
Founding Partner, Senior Editor, CFO		

Peer review, developmental editing, and production oversight for scholarly and practitioner music educational texts, including:

- Clark, J. (in preparation). *Music theories: A guide to analysis and composition, Vol. 1*. Low Down Publishing.
- Sneider, R. (in preparation). *Jazz guitar chord melody*. Low Down Publishing.
- Machado, A. N. (2024). *Contrabassoon Method*. Low Down Publishing.
- Clark, J. (2022). *Comprehensive rhythm studies*. Low Down Publishing.
- Ziemann, D. (2021). *Topics in jazz bass: Vol. 2, Soloing*. Low Down Publishing.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATIONS**

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### **Keynote Speaker Presentations (Invited)**

2025 Neurodiversity in Music Education. *Finger Lakes Music Educators Association PD Day*. Naples, NY: March 14.

### **In-Service Presentations (Reviewed)**

- 2026 Planning for inclusion: UDL meets assistive technology. *ABLE assembly: Arts better the lives of everyone conference*. Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA: April 10-11.
- 2024 Creating opportunities to improvise and compose with large ensembles. *NYSSMA Winter Conference*. Rochester, NY: December 7.
- 2024 Supporting the musical success of all students. *NYSSMA Winter Conference*. Rochester, NY: December 5.
- 2020 Aural-based instruction to improve middle school band sight-reading ability. *NYSSMA 2020 Cyber Summit* (virtual): December 3.
- 2018 Finding time for creative musical activities in ensemble rehearsals. *NYSSMA Winter Conference*. Rochester, NY: December 1.
- 2018 Creative musical activities to enhance achievement in ensemble rehearsals. *PMEA Annual Conference*. Lancaster, PA: April 19.

### **In-Service Presentations (Invited)**

- 2025 Planning for inclusion: UDL meets assistive technology. *NYSSMA Academy 2.0*. New York State School Music Association (virtual): November 8.
- 2025 Planning for inclusion: UDL meets assistive technology. *Teachers Teach Teachers - Conference Day Professional Development*. Webster Central School District, Webster, NY: October 8.
- 2025 Universal design for learning (UDL) in the K-8 general music classroom. *Finger Lakes Music Educators Association PD Day*. Naples, NY: March 14.
- 2024 Teaching music and art to students with disabilities. *CiTi BOCES Arts-in-Education PD Day*. Phoenix, NY: November 1.
- 2024 Creative musical activities in large ensemble rehearsals. *CiTi BOCES Arts-in-Education PD Day*. Phoenix, NY: November 1.
- 2024 Equity in the arts. *Convening on Equity in Education*. Webster Central School District, Webster, NY: March 23.
- 2024 Creative thought in music. *The First Call Musician*. Vienna, Austria (virtual): March 11.

- 2023 Prioritizing creative musical activities in ensemble rehearsals. *Orange-Ulster Music Educators Conference*. Marlboro Middle School, Marlboro, NY: November 7.
- 2023 Reflective Music Teaching. *Orange-Ulster Music Educators Conference*. Marlboro Middle School, Marlboro, NY: November 7.
- 2019 Adding improvisation and composition to your band rehearsals. *Music Creativity Summit*. SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia, NY: September 21.
- 2017 Creative musical activities in ensemble rehearsals. *Teachers Teach Teachers - Conference Day Professional Development*. Webster Central School District, Webster, NY: October 6.

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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### New York State School Music Association

Zone 2 Solo and Small Ensemble Festival Coordinator	2013-present
Conference All-State Seating Adjudicator (saxophone, flute)	2008-present
Certified All-State Adjudicator	2015-present

### Monroe County School Music Association

Adjudicator, All-County selection committee	2016-present
All-County Jazz Ensemble and Solo Festival Coordinator	2012-2015

### Library of Congress

Pilot study, primary source module	Spring 2018
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### Rochester Flute Association

Middle School flute competition adjudicator	Fall 2017
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### College Board

Pilot study, advanced band module	2015-2016
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### Empower: Music Technology

Web-based music technology curriculum used at the Eastman School of Music and Gettysburg College	2008-2009
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## SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT

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### Advisor

Music Technology Club	2013-2019
<p>Founded and ran extracurricular club for students to explore creative avenues for music creation and live sound production. Organized field trips to Finger Lakes Community College and Linden Oaks Recording Studio.</p>	
Future Music Professionals	2015-2019
<p>Independent study to assist music students with college preparation.</p>	

Music Technology Club 2005-2007  
 Designed and instituted a music technology studio. Founded and directed extracurricular club for students.

**Curriculum Work**

Middle School General Music 2021  
 Led team of teachers to write curriculum for Webster CSD

High School General Music 2017  
 Co-authored a project-based, music technology curriculum for Webster CSD

High School Instrumental Music (Band) 2008  
 Co-authored a district-wide curricular framework

**Additional Contributions to Webster CSD**

WCSD Summer Band 2016-2018

Invited guest series

Dr. Mark Scatterday, Eastman School of Music	2014, 2017
Dr. Jared Chase, Nazareth College	2016
Dr. Brent Talbot, Gettysburg College	2019
Asian American Cultural Exchange Group	2018
Trio Alexander	2017
ESM Chamber Music - Reed Quintet	2017
Dave Rivello	2011
Wycliffe Gordon	2009
Institute for Creative Music	2008

Coordinated field trips

Boston, MA	2018
Disney World, Orlando, FL	2008, 2012, 2016
New York City, NY	2010, 2014
Seabreeze Amusement Park, Rochester, NY	2018

Stage Manager 2013-2018

Music Lead Teacher 2014-2017

Music Department Data Specialist 2008-2011

**PROFESSIONAL MUSICAL ENGAGEMENTS**

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**Guest Conductor**

2018	Wind Symphony and Symphony Band	Gettysburg, PA
2016	Music Educators Wind Ensemble	Rochester, NY
	Invited conductor for concert performance, October 16	

2015	Orleans All-County Senior High Band Invited clinician and conductor for select band, February 6-7	Kendall, NY
<b>Performer</b>		
2026	Chicago SUNY Geneseo Alice Austin Theatre, April 15-19	Geneseo, NY
2026	Legally Blonde Brighton High School, February 5-7	Brighton, NY
2025	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Artists Unlimited, November 7-15	Greece, NY
2021-2025	Vertex Saxophone Quartet Tenor Saxophone	Rochester, NY
2012-2025	Penfield Symphony Orchestra Performances at Penfield High School	Penfield, NY
2022	42 <sup>nd</sup> Street (Greece Athena HS) Greece Performing Arts Center, February 4-13	Greece, NY
2021	Pippin (Nazareth College) Callahan Theater, October 21-24	Rochester, NY
2016	Assassins (SUNY Brockport) Tower Fine Arts Center Mainstage, April 22-30	Brockport, NY
2012-2017	Music Educators Wind Ensemble Performances at Eastman Theatre; Webster Thomas, Brockport, Fairport, and Bloomfield High Schools	Rochester, NY
2013-2015	Finger Lakes Saxophone Quartet Performances at Webster Thomas High School, Finger Lakes Wine Society, Abbey Park at Lyons	Penfield, NY
2002-2005	Eastman Wind Ensemble Performances at Eastman Theatre and Carnegie Hall	Rochester, NY

## **AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS**

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Pi Kappa Lambda – National Music Honor Society	2022-present
Kanable Scholarship – full doctoral tuition funding, Eastman School of Music	2016-2023
Shetler Prize – merit-based award to a Ph.D. student in music education	2020
Institute for Music Leadership Grant – to publish book for early-career music teachers	2019
BOCES Arts in Education grants – for guest artists/clinicians	2008-2017

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Pi Kappa Lambda	2022-present
Society for Research in Music Education (SRME)	2016-present
Society for Music Teacher Education (SMTE)	2016-present
National Association for Music Education (NAfME)	2007-present
New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA)	2007-present

## LANGUAGES

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English	Native
Spanish	Reading/Writing/Listening - Intermediate; Speaking - Basic

## PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE OF TEACHING

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2019-present	Low Down Publishing Founding Partner, CFO, and Senior Editor <a href="http://www.lowdownpublishing.com">www.lowdownpublishing.com</a>	Penfield, NY
2009-2015	Talbot & Piazza Founding Partner and CFO	Penfield, NY
2007-present	Private Saxophone Studio	Penfield, NY

## REFERENCES

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### **Sangmi Kang**

Associate Professor of Music Teaching and Learning  
Eastman School of Music

### **Brent C. Talbot**

Professor, Music Education; Head of Music  
University of Illinois Chicago

### **Alden H. Snell, II**

Associate Professor of Music Teaching and Learning; Chair, Music Teaching and Learning  
Eastman School of Music

### **Laura D'Angelo**

Music Teacher  
Webster CSD, Webster, NY

### **Tiffany DiPiazza**

Music Teacher  
Webster CSD, Webster, NY