

# ERIK S PIAZZA, PhD

www.erikspiazza.com

28 Golf Stream Drive, Penfield, NY 14526 • (585) 739-9731 • epiazza@rochester.rr.com

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

### EDUCATION

2023	Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester Ph.D. in Music Education Dissertation: <i>Creative musical activities in secondary instrumental music education</i> . Committee Members: Alden H. Snell, II, Christopher D. Azzara, Christopher Niemiec	Rochester, NY
2005	Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester M.M. Music Education	Rochester, NY
2004	Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester B.M. Music Education and Applied Saxophone Performance	Rochester, NY

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### *Public School Appointments*

2007–present	Webster Central School District Fine Arts Instructional Specialist <i>Teacher on Special Assignment, provided professional development and support for K–8 music and art teachers</i>	Webster, NY
	Willink Middle School <i>Grades 6–8 Concert Bands, small-group lessons, Jazz Bands, and General Music (hybrid and remote)</i>	2017–2023
	Thomas High School <i>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.</i>	2012–2020
	Schroeder High School <i>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.</i>	2007–2012
2005–2007	Palmyra-Macedon High School <i>Wind Ensemble (auditioned), Concert Band (non-auditioned), Jazz Ensemble, AP Music Theory (co-teacher), small-group lessons. Coordinated sound and lighting, and pit orchestra director for <i>Bye, Bye Birdie</i> and <i>Oh,</i></i>	Palmyra, NY

*Kay! Directed parade band, pep band, musical pit orchestra (for Bye, Bye Birdie and Oh, Kay!), and musical lighting & sound.*

### Collegiate Appointments

2016–2020	Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester Graduate Teaching Assistant <i>Sophomore Skills Review</i> <i>Student Teaching Seminar and student teacher observations</i> <i>Elementary Winds, Brass, and Percussion Methods</i>	Rochester, NY
2008	Rochester Institute of Technology Adjunct Professor <i>Director of Saxology Jazz Ensemble</i> <i>Woodwind Instructor (saxophone and flute)</i>	Rochester, NY

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

### Coordinator

2013–present	New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) <i>Zone 2 All-State Solo Festival Coordinator</i>
2013–2018	Stage Manager, Thomas High School <i>Responsible for lighting and sound requirements for all auditorium events, auditorium scheduling coordinator.</i>
2014–2017	Music Lead Teacher, Thomas High School <i>Responsible for planning and facilitating collaborative team, department, and building meetings. Liaison between department, building, and administrative teams.</i>
2012–2015	Monroe County School Music Association (MCSMA) <i>All-County Jazz Ensemble and Solo Festival Co-Coordinator</i>
2008–2011	Music Department Data Specialist, Schroeder High School <i>Coordinated district-wide data collection and analysis for Student Learning Objectives performance data.</i>

### Advisor

2013–2019	Music Technology Club, Thomas High School <i>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.</i>
2015–2019	Future Music Professionals <i>Independent study to assist music students with college preparation.</i>
2017–2018	Undergraduate Independent Study <i>Mentored undergraduate research project of preparatory experience of preservice music teachers.</i>

2005–2007 Music Technology Club, Palmyra-Macedon High School  
*Designed and instituted a music technology studio. Founded and directed extracurricular club for students.*

#### *Adjudicator*

2008–present New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA)  
Conference All-State Seating Adjudicator (2008–present)  
*Wind Ensemble and Concert Band flute (2008–2010) and saxophone (2011–present) seating auditions.*  
Solo and Small Ensemble Festivals (2015–present)  
*Certified adjudicator for solo and small ensemble festivals*

2016–present Monroe County School Music Association (MCSMA)  
*Certified adjudicator for high school, junior high school, and elementary solo and small ensemble festivals. All-County selection committee.*

2017 Rochester Flute Association (RFA)  
*Middle School Flute Competition adjudicator*

#### *Curriculum Work*

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

2018 Library of Congress  
*Pilot-study of Primary Source module*

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

2015–2016 College Board  
*Pilot-study of Advanced Band Module with select Wind Ensemble*

2008–2009 Empower: Music Technology  
*Web-based music technology curriculum used at the Eastman School of Music and Gettysburg College*

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

#### *Additional Contributions to Webster CSD*

2016–2018 WCSD Summer Band  
*Co-director of one-week long summer camp for instrumental students across the Webster Central School District's four secondary schools*

2014–2019 Invited notable guests to work with Webster students  
Dr. Mark Scatterday (Eastman School of Music, 2014, 2017)  
Dr. Jared Chase (Nazareth College, 2016)  
Dr. Brent Talbot (Gettysburg College, 2019)

2007–2019 Coordinated music department field trips  
Boston, MA (2018)  
Disney World, Orlando, FL (2008, 2012, 2016)

	New York City, NY (2010, 2014)
	Seabreeze Amusement Park, Rochester, NY (2018)
2008–2018	Hosted musicians to work or perform with Webster students
	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)

## PROFESSIONAL MUSICAL ENGAGEMENTS

### *Guest Conductor*

2018	Wind Symphony and Symphony Band	Gettysburg, PA
2016	Music Educators Wind Ensemble <i>Invited conductor for concert performance, October 16</i>	Rochester, NY
2015	Orleans All-County Senior High Band <i>Invited clinician and conductor for select band, February 6–7</i>	Kendall, NY

### *Performer*

2021–present	Vertex Saxophone Quartet <i>Tenor Saxophone</i>	Rochester, NY
2022	42 <sup>nd</sup> Street (Greece Athena HS) <i>Greece Performing Arts Center, February 4–13</i>	Greece, NY
2021	Pippin (Nazareth College) <i>Callahan Theater, October 21–24</i>	Rochester, NY
2016	Assassins (SUNY Brockport) <i>Tower Fine Arts Center Mainstage, April 22–30</i>	Brockport, NY
2012–present	Penfield Symphony Orchestra <i>Performances at Penfield High School</i>	Penfield, NY
2012–2017	Music Educators Wind Ensemble <i>Performances at Eastman Theatre; Webster Thomas, Brockport, Fairport, and Bloomfield High Schools</i>	Rochester, NY
2013–2015	Finger Lakes Saxophone Quartet <i>Performances at Webster Thomas High School, Finger Lakes Wine Society, Abbey Park at Lyons</i>	Penfield, NY
2002–2005	Eastman Wind Ensemble <i>Performances at Eastman Theatre and Carnegie Hall</i>	Rochester, NY

## PRESENTATIONS

### *Research Paper Presentations (Reviewed)*

- Piazza, E. S. (2012). SMART sight-reading: Action research in a high school instrumental program. *NAfME Biennial Music Educators National Conference*. St. Louis, MO: March 30.
- Piazza, E. S. & Talbot, B. C. (2019). Finding time for creative musical activities in undergraduate curricula. *PMEA / NAfME Eastern Division Conference*. Pittsburgh, PA: April 5.

### *Research Poster Sessions (Reviewed)*

- Piazza, E. S. & Talbot, B. C. (2019). Creative musical activities in undergraduate curricula. *PMEA / NAfME Eastern Division Conference*. Pittsburgh, PA: April 4.
- Piazza, E. S. (2019). Creative musical activities. *PMEA Annual Conference*. Lancaster, PA: April 19.
- Piazza, E. S. (2017). Creative musical activities in ensemble rehearsals. *NYSSMA Winter Conference*. Rochester, NY: December 2.

### *Panel Presentations (Reviewed)*

- Guarriello, M., Harrigan, M., Gulish, S., Piazza, E. S., & Clauhs, M. (2021). Research strategies for classroom teachers: Five perspectives. *Music Research and Teacher Education NAfME Biennial Conference*. Virtual Conference: February 26.
- Culp, M. E., Piazza, E. S., Messina, M., & O'Reilly, B. E. (2018). Research forum: making connections to classroom practice. *NYSSMA Winter Conference*. Rochester, NY: December 1.

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

- Piazza, E. S. & DiPiazza, T. (2020). Aural-based instruction to improve middle school band sight-reading ability. *NYSSMA 2020 Cyber Summit*. Virtual Presentation: December 3–5.
- Piazza, E. S. (2018). Finding time for creative musical activities in ensemble rehearsals. *NYSSMA Winter Conference*. Rochester, NY: December 1.
- Piazza, E. S. (2018). Creative musical activities to enhance achievement in ensemble rehearsals. *PMEA Annual Conference*. Lancaster, PA: April 19.

### *Lectures and Professional Development Presentations (Invited)*

- Piazza, E. S. (2023). Prioritizing creative musical activities in ensemble rehearsals. *Orange-Ulster Music Educators Conference*. Marlboro Middle School, Marlboro, NY: November 7.
- Piazza, E. S. (2023). Reflective Music Teaching. *Orange-Ulster Music Educators Conference*. Marlboro Middle School, Marlboro, NY: November 7.
- Piazza, E. S. (2021). Convergence: Matching skills and passions with an identified need. *Entrepreneurial Thinking*. Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY (virtual interview): January 21.
- Piazza, E. S. (2020). Becoming a music educator. *Eastman Summer Saxophone Institute*. Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY (virtual): July 28.
- Piazza, E. S. (2019). Adding improvisation and composition to your band rehearsals. *Music Creativity Summit*. SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia, NY: September 21.

- Piazza, E. S. (2018). Creative musical activities in ensemble rehearsals. *Music Education Colloquium*. Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA: February 18.
- Piazza, E. S. (2018). Creating time and space for creative musical activities. *Music Education for Social Change*. Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA: February 20.
- Piazza, E. S. (2018). Creative musical activities. *Doctoral Day Presentations*. Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY: January 26.
- Piazza, E. S. (2017). Creative musical activities in ensemble rehearsals. *Teachers Teach Teachers – Conference Day Professional Development*. Webster Central School District, Webster, NY: October 6.

## PUBLICATIONS

### *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>

### *Authored Books*

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

### *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 Post*

- 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/>

### *Publications as Editor*

- Ziemann, D. (2021). *Topics in jazz bass: Vol. 2, Soloing*. Low Down Publishing.
- Clark, J. *Comprehensive rhythmic studies: Sequential exercises to develop rhythmic literacy*. Low Down Publishing.
- Machado, A. (in press). *A comprehensive method for the contrabassoon*.

Sneider, R. (in preparation). *Jazz guitar chord melody: A visual and theoretical guide to combining chords and melody in solo and trio playing*. Low Down Publishing.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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|--------------|---|
| 2020         | Shetler Prize (Eastman School of Music)<br><i>\$1000 award given to an outstanding Ph.D. student in music education on the basis of merit</i> |
| 2016–present | Kanable Scholarship (Eastman School of Music)<br><i>A tuition scholarship to fully-fund all doctoral coursework</i>                           |

## GRANTS

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|------|--|
| 2019 | Institute for Music Leadership Grant<br><i>\$800 to publish a book for early-career music teachers</i> |
| 2019 | Professional Development Funding<br><i>\$300 to present at the NAFME Eastern Division Conference</i>   |
| 2018 | Professional Development Funding<br><i>\$300 to present at the PMEA Annual Conference</i>              |
| 2017 | BOCES Arts in Education<br><i>\$150 for guest clinician, Dr. Mark Scatterday</i>                       |
| 2016 | BOCES Arts in Education<br><i>\$150 for guest clinician, Dr. Jared Chase</i>                           |
| 2011 | BOCES Arts in Education<br><i>\$150 for guest clinician and conductor, Russell Scarbrough</i>          |
| 2009 | BOCES Arts in Education<br><i>\$1000 for guest clinician and performer, Wycliffe Gordon</i>            |
| 2009 | Music & Arts Grant<br><i>\$150 for guest clinician and performer, Wycliffe Gordon</i>                  |
| 2009 | Yamaha Grant<br><i>\$150 for guest clinician and performer, Wycliffe Gordon</i>                        |
| 2008 | BOCES Arts in Education<br><i>\$500 to commission a jazz piece by Dave Rivello</i>                     |

## LANGUAGES

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

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2022–present | Pi Kappa Lambda                         |
| 2007–present | New York State School Music Association |

- 2007–present National Association for Music Education  
*formerly Music Educators National Conference, 2007–2011*
- 2012–2015 New York State Band Directors Association
- 2009–2012 Webster Music Educators Cooperation

### **PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE OF TEACHING**

- 2019–present Low Down Publishing, LLC Penfield, NY  
*Founding Partner and Senior Editor*  
[www.lowdownpublishing.com](http://www.lowdownpublishing.com)
- 2009–2015 Talbot & Piazza Penfield, NY  
*Founding Partner and CFO*
- 2005–present Private Saxophone Studio Penfield, NY