

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BPO recognizes local music students, educators, community members at annual Celebration of Music Education



Saturday, May 10 marks the annual **Celebration of Music Education** at Kleinhans Music Hall, presented by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) in partnership with the Erie County Music Educators Association (ECMEA) and the Niagara County Music Educators Association (NCMEA). This private reception and awards ceremony for honorees, music educators, administrators, and proponents of music education takes place at 6:00pm prior to the evening's BPO concert, Mendelssohn's Italian.

This year's **BPO/ECMEA Awards for Excellence in Music Education** will be presented to the following music educators for making progression possible from students' very first notes, nurturing them in the art of music:

- **Lawrence Dubill** (Hamburg Central School District)
- **Tami Feldman** (Orchard Park Central School District)
- **Thomas Stroth** (Clarence Central School District)

The **BPO/NCMEA Award for Excellence in Music Education** will be presented to **Claudia Andres** of Wilson Central School District for fostering musical growth in her students and enhancing Niagara County music programs.

The Friends of the BPO will present their **Young Musicians Scholarship Awards** to the following high school seniors, for their exceptional musical talent and pursuit of music in college:

- \$3,000 scholarship: **Angelina Fetterly**, voice (Clarence High School)
- \$2,000 scholarship: **Samuel Gugliuzza**, violin (Canisius High School)
- \$1,000 scholarship: **Aidan Tardif**, trombone (Frontier High School)

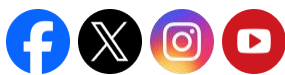
The Yadzinski Foundation, in partnership with the Friends of the BPO, will present their \$2,500 **Yadzinski Scholarship for the Arts** – recognizing a gifted high school senior studying music in college – to saxophonist **Ethan Hart** from Williamsville North High School.

Additionally, the BPO is proud to recognize **Sue Fay Allen** and **Carl Klingenschmitt** with the 2025 **BPO Leadership in Music Education Award**. Since 1994, this pair has been instrumental in connecting the BPO with the wider community. Sue Fay Allen founded the BPO's Community Spotlight program, now in its 30th year, which showcases local student performances before BPO concerts while offering reduced-price tickets to attendees. Her extensive work has also included leading the Amherst Bel Canto Choir at numerous concerts and developing musician/student outreach programs. Carl Klingenschmitt established crucial connections between the BPO and regional music education associations, ECMEA and NCMEA. He also founded and currently chairs the Friends of the BPO, coordinating their volunteer efforts in serving the BPO and fundraising.

Klingenschmitt and Allen's shared commitment to music education led them to create the Young Musicians Scholarship program. On Friday, June 13 at the Twentieth Century Club, they help host the Friends of the BPO's annual **Play it Forward** luncheon, fundraising for future Young Musicians Scholarships with a basket raffle and performances by this year's awardees. Luncheon tickets can be purchased online at bpo.org, at the Box Office in Kleinhans Music Hall, or by calling (716) 885-5000.

To read more about this year's award recipients, visit bpo.org/celebration. For interviews or images, contact Simone Viola at sviola@bpo.org.

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