

# North Hunterdon Music Department Alumni Newsletter

March 3rd, 2026

Hello All,

Nostalgia is on my mind.



I am in the middle of my 15th year teaching music at North Hunterdon Regional High School. I just turned 40. Right now, I am resting. North Hunterdon Theater Organization's *Shrek The Musical* was my 5th production as pit orchestra conductor. It closed with a sold out show this past Sunday afternoon (some things never change 😊). It's an honor to be part of the continuity of this program!

My name is Charlie Hopta. For Alumni of a certain age: I met **Mr. David Lockart** the year he retired, 2011; I joined the department the next year, and was a colleague of **Mr. Perry Andrews** and **Mr. Vincent Angeline** for a decade. For Alumni of another certain age: **Mrs. Katie Cudworth (née Meo)** was the *other* musical giant I worked with for that decade (plus another three years until 2024). Katie is also a North Alumni, Class of 2004.

For Alumni who aren't going to read this email: [please consider giving us money.](#)

For Alumni of *yet another* certain age (if you were taught by predecessors to any of the teachers listed above): I hope that you will help us tell the story of early North Hunterdon (and [consider giving us money](#)).

The three other wonderful current North music teachers are: **Mrs. Heidi Peterson** (NHHS Class of 1996, back home since 2021); **Mrs. Hannah Fonseca**, and **Mr. Casey Carroll** (both 2024-present). Hannah and Casey share their *own* fun connection, as she graduated from (and he taught at) High Point Regional High School up in Sussex County.

Many things about this department are very much the same as when you were here: the sounds of ensembles and individuals rehearsing pieces fill the halls during the school day, and well into many evenings. Many things are also different, of course, as change is inevitable. I hope that you felt a twinge of nostalgia at some of the names and words you just read. I also hope this nostalgia translates into your continued support; financial and otherwise 😊. Speaking of which, [here's the donation link](#) to the North Hunterdon Music Association. They are just as supportive, dedicated, and critical to our success as they were when you were here.

Special Department events coming up soon are: [The 22nd Annual Prism Concert](#) on Thursday, March 26th; and the Band, Choir and Orchestra [Disney World Field Trip](#), April 16th-20th.

What follows this introductory letter are the *many other* things we're up to, listed alphabetically. I'm including randomly selected alumni for extra nostalgia and a challenge: if you recognize a name, reach out to them. Reach out with a text, maybe an email, or even a handwritten letter. OR, better yet,

reach out to everyone you know who shared that experience with you. I promise it will be a fun distraction from whatever you've got going on.

And, if you decide to throw us a couple of bucks for every person that responds to your outreach text message / email / phone call / letter / social media post, even better. Enjoy the read!

Regards,

Charlie Hopta

## Chamber Choir

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Ms. Gianna Porfano, Class of 2016**

Current Director: Charlie Hopta ([chopta@nhvweb.net](mailto:chopta@nhvweb.net))

The audition-based Chamber Choir continues to sing advanced four-part (and beyond) choral music. Their most recent community performance was at the HCREA Luncheon, December 2025, along with the Madrigals. Their next performance will be at our **Annual Prism Concert**, March 26th, 2026.

## Concert Band (includes Freshman Band, which is its own nostalgia):

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Mrs. Alyssa Valenti (née Strouse) Class of 1999**

Current Directors: Charlie Hopta ([chopta@nhvweb.net](mailto:chopta@nhvweb.net)); Casey Carroll ([ccarroll@nhvweb.net](mailto:ccarroll@nhvweb.net))

The Concert Band is the bedrock of band activities at North Hunterdon. Their next performance will be at the CJMEA Band Festival at Bridgewater-Raritan High School on Tuesday, March 17th, 2026. The band will then perform at our **Annual Prism Concert**, March 26th, 2026.

## Concert Choir:

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Ms. Anita Lyons, Class of 1991**

Current Directors: Hannah Fonseca ([hfonseca@nhvweb.net](mailto:hfonseca@nhvweb.net)) & Charlie Hopta ([chopta@nhvweb.net](mailto:chopta@nhvweb.net))

Concert Choir is 65 members strong. Along with Freshman Choir, this ensemble is the foundation of vocal music at North. They have performed not only at the Winter Concert, but at our Future Lions middle school music event in November 2025, and our 8th Grade Orientation Tours in January 2026. Their next performance will be at our **Annual Prism Concert**, March 26th, 2026.

## **Freshman Choir (formerly Women's Choir):**

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Ms. Nally Steeves, Class of 2005**

Current Director: Hannah Fonseca ([hfonseca@nhvweb.net](mailto:hfonseca@nhvweb.net))

The Freshman Choir is currently 26 members strong. Along with Concert Choir, this ensemble is part of the foundation of vocal music at North Hunterdon. They are doing incredible work (including four-part harmonies) and will be featured at our **Annual Prism Concert**, March 26th, 2026.

## **Jazz Ensemble:**

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Mrs. Marlina Najjar (née Tkacik), class of 1992**

Current Director: Casey Carroll ([ccarroll@nhvweb.net](mailto:ccarroll@nhvweb.net))

The Jazz Ensemble is currently 20 members strong. Their next performance will be at the SteelStacks High School Jazz Band Showcase in Bethlehem, PA on Sunday, March 8th. The next school performance will be at our **Annual Prism Concert**, March 26th, 2026.

## **Madrigals Choir:**

(Please note: this is a select Treble choir. For Alumni of a certain age, the Chamber Choir is what used to be called the Madrigals)

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Ms. Megan Povlich, Class of 2014**

Current Director: Heidi Peterson ([hpeterson@nhvweb.net](mailto:hpeterson@nhvweb.net))

The audition-based Madrigals are currently 30 members strong. Their most recent community performance was at the HCREA Luncheon, December 2025. The next performance will be at our **Annual Prism Concert**, March 26th, 2026.

## Marching Band:

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Mr. Andy Kapetanakis, Class of 2015**

Current Director: Charlie Hopta ([chopta@nhvweb.net](mailto:chopta@nhvweb.net)) and Casey Carroll ([ccarroll@nhvweb.net](mailto:ccarroll@nhvweb.net))

The North Hunterdon 'Golden Lions' Marching Band continues to uphold the high standards and excellent showmanship of years past. Initial registration info for the 2026 Fall Season ("Escape The Nightmare") will be shared TOMORROW on Wednesday, *March 4th*.

This will also be the 20th and final year for announcer **Mr. Ralph Fader**. Please join us to hear his legendary introductions for one more season! You can next see the band in action at the Clinton St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 15th, 2026. The Golden Lions will also perform in the Flemington Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25th, 2026.

**Cool Alumni Moment:** Two Golden Lions Alumni, now members of their college marching bands, got to meet up at the Rose Bowl Game on New Year's Day this year. **Kayla Blazovic** and **Stephen Kotran**, both **NHHS Class of 2025**, got to reunite when the University of Alabama Million Dollar Band and the Indiana University Marching Hundred met with each other as part of the festivities.

**ALUMNI INVITE:** We will have interested Alumni join us for the Hunterdon County 250th Anniversary Parade on Sunday, June 14th, 2026. This parade will also be in Flemington. Interested Alumni should reach out to Parade Coordinator Mr. Casey Carroll.



## Tri-M (Modern Music Masters):

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Mr. Gregory Adair, Class of 2024**

Current Advisor: Heidi Peterson ([hpeterson@nhvweb.net](mailto:hpeterson@nhvweb.net))

Tri-M (Modern Music Masters) is a Music Honor Society open to all students that meet the necessary academic and courseload criteria. There are currently 35 active members. The group includes students from various ensembles who give back to the department by means of service, volunteerism, peer-tutoring/coaching and other endeavors. Tri-M will be sponsoring a recital on Tuesday, March 31st, 2026.

## **Show Choir:**

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Ms. Jessica Vosk, Class of 2002**

Current Director: Hannah Fonseca ([hfonseca@nhvweb.net](mailto:hfonseca@nhvweb.net))

The Show Choir continues to be a select choir that features pop and jazz harmonies in their repertoire, along with solo and small group features. Their next performance will be at our **Annual Prism Concert**, March 26th, 2026. Two days later, they will perform at the Roxbury Invitational Choral Contest on Saturday, March 28th, 2026.

## **Spring Play/Cabaret:**

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Mrs. Becky Burrell (née Siegrist), Class of 2004**

Current Director: Heidi Peterson ([hpeterson@nhvweb.net](mailto:hpeterson@nhvweb.net))

Spring Play/Cabaret auditions are being held this week and next. The performances (the final production of the North Hunterdon Theater Organization's year) will be Friday, May 1st, along with two performances on Saturday, May 2nd, 2026. These performances will feature both scenes and songs, including solo and ensemble works. Join us then!

## **String Orchestra:**

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Ms. Sydnee James, Class of 2021**

Current Director: Heidi Peterson ([hpeterson@nhvweb.net](mailto:hpeterson@nhvweb.net))

String Orchestra is currently 31 members strong, featuring remarkable violins, violas, cellos and bass. Their next performance will be at the CJMEA Orchestra Festival TODAY

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026. We wish them well! After today, their next performance will be at our **Annual Prism Concert**, March 26th, 2026.

## **Thespian Honor Society:**

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Mr. Joseph McDevitt, Class of 2021**

Current Advisors: Mrs. Mary Hopta ([mhopta@nhvweb.net](mailto:mhopta@nhvweb.net)) & Ms. Regina Cavo ([rcavo@nhvweb.net](mailto:rcavo@nhvweb.net))

Thespian Honor Society is a Theater Honor Society open to all students that meet the necessary point requirements. Students earn points through various theatrical endeavors - both on the stage and behind the scenes. Actors, technicians, and stagehands are all welcome. The Thespians will be hosting a Miscast performance on June 5th, 2026.

## **Wind Ensemble**

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Mrs. Kelly Hood (née O'Neil), Class of 1999**

Current Directors: Casey Carroll ([ccarroll@nhvweb.net](mailto:ccarroll@nhvweb.net)) and Charlie Hopta ([chopta@nhvweb.net](mailto:chopta@nhvweb.net))

The Wind Ensemble currently involves 20 diehard instrumentalists that rehearse most Tuesday evenings, 6-8pm. Last year we welcomed Alumni Band and Wind Ensemble members to join us as we performed *Mars, The Bringer Of War* at our Spring Concert in May. This year, once again, we are inviting Alumni to be a part of the music as we tackle the most difficult piece we've programmed in at least three years...

**ALUMNI INVITE:** Interested Alumni who can attend our final rehearsal (or as many as possible for the locals..) on Tuesday, May 12th, and the spring concert on Thursday, May 14th, should reach out to Charlie Hopta ([chopta@nhvweb.net](mailto:chopta@nhvweb.net))

## **Winter Musical (North Hunterdon Theatre Organization):**

Random Nostalgia Alumni: **Ms. Sarah Meo, Class of 2012**

Current Director: Mary Hopta ([mhopta@nhvweb.net](mailto:mhopta@nhvweb.net))

The North Hunterdon Theatre Organization just closed their production of *Shrek The Musical* on Sunday, March 1st, with a sold out Matinee show. The production included 41 cast members, 25 in stage crew and/or tech booth and 16 student musicians. Production Staff included 10 North Hunterdon staff, along with contractors, hired professionals, parent volunteers and donors.

Select songs and sections will be performed at educational field trips to Music Mountain Theater's Drama Festival on Friday, March 20th and the Bucks County Playhouse on Monday, March 23rd.

The next and final NHTO Production for the school year will be the Spring Cabaret (listed above).

Thank you for reading! Feel free to reach out to any member of the music and/or theater departments with any questions or concerns.

General Email: [nhhsmusicdept@nhvweb.net](mailto:nhhsmusicdept@nhvweb.net)

*Best Wishes,*

*North Hunterdon Regional High School Music Department*

&

*The North Hunterdon Music Association*

