

Torrington High School

String Quartet



**CONNECTICUT MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
ALL-STATE CONFERENCE
1:30 PM APRIL 4, 2024
HARTFORD CONVENTION CENTER
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS "BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC
EDUCATION IN AMERICA 2000-2023"**



TORRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

String Quartet



City Of Torrington



ELINOR CARBONE
Mayor

140 Main Street
Torrington, CT 06790-5245
elinor_carbone@torringtonct.org
Tel: (860) 489-2228
Fax: (860) 489-2541

February 12, 2024

Mr. Wayne Spletstoeszer
Torrington High School
50 Major Besse Drive
Torrington, CT 06790

Dear Wayne & Members of the THS String Quartet:

It was music to my ears to hear that the THS String Quartet was selected to perform at the 2024 Connecticut Music Educators Association All State Conference at the Hartford Convention Center on April 4-6, 2024.

Wayne, you and the members of the String Quartet, continue to bring national acclaim to our City and we are so very proud of your many collective accomplishments.

Congratulations also for making Torrington one of the "Best Communities for Music Education" for 23 years in a row. Keep up the good work and have fun in April.

Most sincerely,

Elinor Carbone
Mayor



TORRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

50 Major Besse Drive
Torrington, CT 06790
t. 860-489-2294 ~ f. 860-489-2853

Brian Scott
Principal
EXT 2203

Leanne Maguire
Assistant Principal
EXT 2201

Andrew Marchand
Assistant Principal
EXT 2219

Amanda Torres
Assistant Principal
EXT 2238

On behalf of our Torrington High School community, I would like to congratulate Aisley Harrison, Chloe Bayat, Emily Tacuri Penaranda, and Rosangel Baez-Batista on being selected to perform at the 2024 Connecticut Music Educators Association All-State Conference.

Selection to perform at the conference is a tremendous honor and we could not be more proud to have such a fine group representing Torrington High School. We know the incredible dedication and hard work that these young ladies have undertaken, and we join with the Connecticut Music Educators Association, their instructor Wayne Spletstoeszer in recognizing this most impressive accomplishment.

We look forward to seeing your performance and congratulations again.

Sincerely,

Brian Scott, Principal



Torrington Public Schools

MICHAEL J. WILSON
Superintendent

SUSAN B. FERGUSSON
Assistant Superintendent

February, 2024

On behalf of the Torrington Board of Education, I would like to congratulate our Torrington High School String Quartet on being selected to perform at the 2024 Connecticut Music Educators Association All-State Conference at the Hartford Convention Center in Hartford, CT.

This wonderful opportunity and achievement is a testament to their hard work and dedication. Torrington Public Schools could not be more proud of these amazing students for achieving this wonderful honor.

Congratulations again on this momentous achievement!

With great pride,

Michael J. Wilson
Superintendent



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE MICHELLE COOK
65TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4035
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E-MAIL: Michelle.Cook@igs.ct.gov

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO-TEMPORE

MEMBER
Education Committee
Public Health Committee
Human Services Committee
Joint Committee on Legislative Management

To Mr. S,

Congratulations on the tremendous honor of Torrington High School's String Quartet being selected to perform at the 2025 Connecticut Music Educators Association All-State Conference at the Hartford Convention Center, Hartford, Connecticut.

This marks the second ensemble from Torrington High School to be selected to perform at the CMEA All-State Conference. Thank you for bringing pride to Torrington through your hard work in the String Quartet. Best of luck in your performance and we look forward to many more!

Sincerely,

Representative Michelle L. Cook
65th District, Torrington

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Program

Canon in D
Johann Pachelbel

Ständchen (Serenade)
Franz Schubert

Quartet Op 1 No. 1 Minute
Joseph Haydn

Quartet No. 6 in F Major- Opus 96 "American" Mvt 1
Antonin Dvorak

Tango
Michael McLean



Aisley Harrison, Violin



Emily Tacuri Penaranda, Viola



Chloe Bayat, Violin



Rosangel Baez-Batista, Cello

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About the String Quartet

This group started when they were in seventh grade. During a combined middle school/high school orchestra concert I noticed there were a few strong players in the seventh-grade orchestra. After talking to the middle school orchestra director Tia Ward-de Leon, invited them to practice with the high school chamber group that we had just started. For the next six years, they performed for countless events in the greater Torrington area, including Waterbury Symphony, the national tour of Beatles vs Stone *A Musical Showdown*, and NBC30's 2023 Christmas Special. As seniors, being selected to perform at the 2024 Connecticut Music Educators Association All-State Conference is a fitting tribute to all their hard work and dedication.

As teachers, our greatest reward is watching our students find their passion and excel at it. You are looking at four of my greatest rewards. - *Wayne Spletstoeszer*



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Torrington High School Music Department *“The Pride of Torrington”*

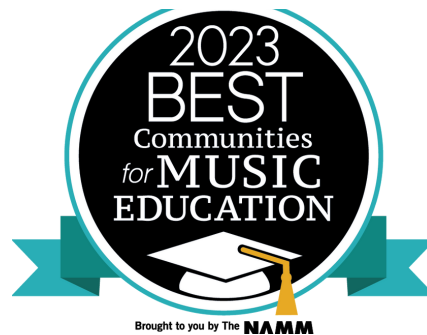


The Torrington High School Music Department is “The Pride of Torrington”. Since 1996, the THS Band has received over sixty 1st Place awards and 5 Best Overall Unit honors in parades across New England. THS has been honored to represent the State of Connecticut in the 2006 National Cherry Blossom Parade, 2010 National Independence Day Parade, and 2015 National Cherry Blossom Parades in Washington, D.C. The Band has received Superior Ratings from the Connecticut American Band Directors Association in 2017 & 2018 and was selected to perform at the 2019 Connecticut Music Educators Association All-State Conference. THS Chamber Choir has performed twice at Carnegie Hall and has received Gold and Platinum ratings at local and state adjudications. THS Orchestra has grown to its highest enrollment in school history at 60 students and includes two string quartets. The Music Technology Program at THS has been nationally recognized for the implementation of technology into the music curriculum and our music technology website, www.thsmusic.net, is currently being used by 100 K-12 schools across the US, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Costa Rica. THS was featured as a Best Practice for Music Education at the 2018 & 2019 Audio Engineering Society High School Audio Educators Conferences and is presently featured on the website us.focusrite.com as a case study for the implementation of podcasting in the curriculum.



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TORRINGTON'S MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR 23rd YEAR

Torrington has been honored to receive the 2023 Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education. The Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Torrington answered detailed questions about staffing, funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas. This award recognizes that Torrington is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The legislation guides implementation in the states and replaces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) which was often criticized for an overemphasis on testing while leaving behind subjects such as music. ESSA recommends music and the arts as important elements of a well-rounded education for all children. Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music. In a series of landmark studies by scientists and researchers at Northwestern University, a link was found between students in community music programs and life-long academic success, including higher high school graduation rates and college attendance. In another study from the University, it was discovered that the benefits of early exposure to music education improve how the brain processes and assimilates sounds, a trait that lasts well into adulthood. Beyond the Northwestern research, other studies have indicated that music education lays the foundation for individual excellence in group settings, creative problem solving, and flexibility in work situations, as well as learning how to give and receive constructive criticism to excel. Torrington has received this national designation twenty-three times. More than any other school district in Connecticut

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Wayne Spletstoeszer is in his twenty-seventh year as Director of Instrumental Music/Music Technology at Torrington High School, Torrington, Connecticut. As a presenter, Wayne has presented sessions across the East Coast on Music Technology, ESSER Money, and Pre-Service Music Education. Wayne is a frequent adjudicator, a Music First Technology Clinician, State Chair of the Connecticut Chapter of the American School Band Directors Association, and an Adjunct Professor of Music at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Connecticut

Wayne has been honored to receive the 2023 National Federation of High Schools Connecticut Outstanding Music Educator Award, the 2023 Paul Harris Fellow from the Torrington/Winsted Connecticut Rotary Club, and named a semifinalist top 25 for the 2023 GRAMMY Music Educator Award. Previous honors include Torrington High School Teacher of the Year, Torrington Public Schools Teacher of the Year, Connecticut Music Educators Association Secondary Teacher of the Year, Technology Institute for Music Educators National Technology Teacher of the Year, School Band and Orchestra Magazine 50 Directors that Make a Difference & Cover story of School Band and Orchestra Magazine in 2001.

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Torrington Public Schools Administration

Michael Wilson.....Superintendent of Schools
Susan Fergusson.....Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Kimberly A. Schulte.....Director of Human Resources
Laura Klimaszewski.....Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
Andrew Deacon, Ed.D.....Director of Academics and Intervention K-5
Tracy Kane.....Director of Academics and Intervention 6-12
Scott Petruzzelli.....Director of Finance & Operations
Donna Labbe.....Grant Writer/Community Outreach Coordinator

Torrington High School Administration

Brian Scott.....Principal
Andrew Marchand..... Assistant Principal
Kenny Pierresaint.....Assistant Principal
Amanda Torres..... Assistant Principal

Torrington Public Schools Music Staff

Timothy Brandt.....Vogel-Wetmore Elementary School
Michelle Castellano.....Southwest Elementary School
Ashlee Hyatt.....Forbes Elementary School
Bonnie Moore.....Forbes/Southwest Elementary School
Nancy RitterTorrington Elementary School
Kurt Galvan.....Torrington Middle School
Dan Hodgkins.....Torrington Middle School
Andrew Skinner.....Torrington Middle School
Tia Ward-de Leon.....Torrington Middle School
Wayne Spletstoeszer.....Torrington High School
Connor Sullivan.....Torrington High School