



These words describe St. Francis Prep's Music Department, as expressed by the Middle States Association when we were the *first school ever* to earn the Association's *Program of Distinction* in Music, which is aimed at recognizing only those schools with the most sophisticated programs and the highest goals in music education.

Since being awarded the *Program of Distinction*, we have established our Music Department Parent Association, totally redesigned our Introduction to Music curriculum to be iPad-centered, and welcomed numerous teaching artists to Prep to work with our students. Prep's Music department is now teaching record numbers of students, and performing to packed audiences.

Last spring, we became the *first school ever to be re-accredited* for the *Program of Distinction*. Middle States found that, "Students and parents exclaim that the music program is the reason for choosing SFP. The faculty embraces teaching the students through the discipline of music. With that, they bring a comprehensive study of music through relationship building and develop a deeply genuine and wholesome experience to, and for, students."

Our Music Department faculty has been heralded as, "some of the finest music educators in the country." They consistently strive to provide an environment where, "students are enthusiastic about what they are doing, work with tremendous determination and are willing to take risks and accept challenges as they strive to grow, develop their skills and become outstanding young musicians or just more knowledgeable about music."

The program has been described as having an, "open and creative atmosphere...that allows students to have fun, enjoy learning and freely express themselves through their music." Simply put, Prep provides a program that is of superior quality and is clearly articulated and comprehensive.

Students with no previous musical training have the opportunity to study music and learn instruments as beginners, in a community-centered, nurturing environment, and even experience the joy of performing after only having played for a few months.

Our more elite ensembles have performed for, among others, St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, President and Secretary Clinton, and have toured Australia, England, and Italy. *Our most recent tour was to England during the summer of 2018.*

In addition to our traditional performance program, Prep also offers courses in Music Theory, Electronic Orchestration, Music Technology and Production, Music History, and even Independent Study. We offer a Music Lesson program, free of charge, for New York State Regents credit. Our Advanced Placement Music Theory and History of Music courses are both offered for college credit.

Performing Groups

Junior Band

Jazz Band *

Concert Band

String Orchestra

Honors Orchestra *

Chamber Orchestra * **Concert Chorus** Prep Chorus * Chamber Choir * Percussion Ensemble Honors Percussion Ensemble*

Beginner Classes

Woodwinds Brass Percussion * Strings

CURRICULUM at a Glance

*Sophomores Only

Advanced Musical Studies

Principles of Orchestration & Electronic Composition Advanced Placement Music Theory* Music Technology and Production Advanced Music Technology and Production

Music Theory I

History of Music*

Independent Study

Music Lessons (free of charge for Regents Credit)

*College Credit

*Honors Designation

Recent Accomplishments

2016 - 2018

- Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, and The St. Francis Prep Singers tour England, including Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, Canterbury, and London.
- The combined Honors and String Orchestras present the world premiere of Brian Balmages' Where the River Shannon Flows.
- St. Francis Prep is named a Platinum Member of the KHS Academic Alliance.
- Chamber Orchestra presents the world premiers of two works by Brian Blamges, A Solitary Wish, and Intrada.
- Chamber Choir performs the Star Spangled Banner at a New York Mets home game at Citi Field.
- Visiting artists and clinicians include Dr. David Noon, Dr. Susan Davis, Dr. Peter Loel Boonshaft, Brian Balmages, Tony Kadleck, and Tony Tedesco.
- Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, and The St. Francis Prep Singers tour Rome, and the home of our patron, St. Francis, Assisi. This tour also included a pilgrimage component, led by Prep's Chaplain Emeritus, Fr. Bill Sweeney, for parents and alumni.
- Chamber Orchestra gives the New York premiere of *Rise*, by Steven Bryant, who also presented a clinic for the orchestra.

2014 - 2016

- St. Francis Prep's Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Choir are invited to perform at the exhibit, "Friar Francis; traces, words, images," a once-in-a-lifetime look into early Franciscan documents at Brooklyn Borough Hall.
- Two Prep students earn perfect scores on their All-State New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) solo evaluations.
- Prep continues our "Hallelujah Project," welcoming over 160 guest singers to perform Handel's Hallelujah Chorus.
- Prep welcomes students from St. Gregory the Great School, St. Kevin Catholic Academy, Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy, and PS 115 to perform at our concerts.
- Prep welcomes Triton Brass, who present a clinic and a performance for the Prep community.

FACULTY

Dr. Robert Corbino, SAS, SDA

Department Chair Band Director

EdD, New York University MA, Hunter College BA, City University of New York AA, Kingsborough Community College

Canticle Citation Award for 15, 25, and 40 Years of Service Franciscan Spirit Award, 1995 Honorary Alum, 2006 Recognition for Educational Excellence, 2013

New York State Senate Proclamation from Martin J. Golden Office of the Executive Citation from Edward P. Mangano City of New York Proclamation from Eric Ulrich Josephine Foundation 2013 Chairman's Honoree Award School Band and Orchestra Magazine, 50 Directors Who Make a Difference

Faculty since 1976

Mr. Murat Karaça

Assistant Band Director

MM, C. W. Post College Advanced Professional Studies & BM, The Juilliard School Faculty since 2006

Mr. Joseph Higgins Honors Orchestra Director

MM, SUNY Stony Brook BM, CUNY Queens College, Aaron Copland School of Music Faculty since 2009

Dr. Marc A. Silvagni, SFP '06 Director of Percussion Studies

EdD, Hofstra University MA, Hofstra University BM & BA, Binghamton University Faculty since 2012

Mr. Robert L. Johnston

Director of String Studies Co-Internal Coordinator, MSA Director of Publicity & Public Relations

MAT, Lehman College MM & BM, Manhattan School of Music

Canticle Citation Award for 15 Years of Service Honorary Alum, 2014 Recognition for Educational Excellence, 2008 Assisi Pilgrim, 2008

New York State Senate Certificate of Merit Faculty since 1997

Ms. Kirsten Corwin

Concert Chorus Director BM, LIU Post Faculty since 2016

David Y. Kobayashi, Esq., SFP '93 Director of Choral Studies

JD, New York Law School BA, Binghamton University Faculty 2001-2008, 2011, 2012-present

Mr. David Jimenez

Percussion Coach

BFA, The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music

Coach since 2012



Recent Accomplishments



2010 - 2014

- Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, and The St. Francis Prep Singers tour London. This is Prep's largest tour ever, with 101 participants, including students, faculty, staff, and family members.
- Chamber Orchestra earns their second straight New York State School Music Association Gold Medal Rating in a row.
- Jazz Band participates in "Hometown Hall of Famers", honoring Vince Lombardi, '33, sponsored by the National Football League and Allstate Insurance Company, and Prep's Red & Blue Terrier Ring of Honor Inaugural Gala.
- Chamber Orchestra gives the American premiere of *Idillio Sinfonico*, by Victor Kioulaphides, who also visited Prep to work with our students.
- Dr. Robert Corbino, Prep's longtime Chairperson of Music, earns a New York State Senate proclamation from Martin J. Golden, an Office of the Executive Citation from Edward P. Mangano, a City of New York Proclamation from Eric Ulrich, and the Josephine Foundation's 2013 Chairman's Honoree Award, all for his years of dedicated and successful service to the students of Prep. He also receives Prep's Excellence in Education Award. 2013.



- In a first, Chamber Orchestra participates in Prep's Annual year-end Art Show, "Moving Up," by performing on the roof of the school. 2012.
- St. Francis Prep starts a beginner String program or students at P.S. 115. 2012.
- Jazz Band, Chamber Choir, and Chamber Orchestra tour Italy, including Rome, Florence, Orvieto, and the home of St. Francis and St. Clare, Assisi. 2011.
- Chamber Choir performs for the 2011 Columbus Day parade. 2011.
- Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble perform for Prep's annual Walk-A-Thons. 2011-present.
- St. Francis Preparatory School becomes the first school ever to earn the Middle States Association's Music Credential, which is aimed at recognizing only those schools with the most sophisticated programs and the highest goals in music education. 2011.



Music Library and Lab



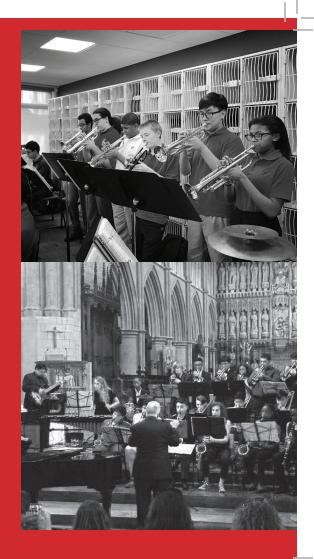
Prep boasts a Music Library featuring texts, periodicals and sheet music, including the complete New Grove
Encyclopedia of Music, and the complete recorded works of composers such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and Stravinsky.

Our Electronic Music equipment features iMacs with the latest versions of Finale, Garritan Libraries, Pro Tools and Logic.

Recent Accomplishments

2008 - 2010

- Jazz Band, Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra present four concerts in London. 2010.
- Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra perform for the live broadcast of the Mass celebrating Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio's 40th Anniversary of ordination. 2010.
- Chamber Orchestra invited to perform for Archbishop Timothy Dolan at a private reception hosted by the Diocese of Brooklyn. 2009.
- The Music Department develops and presents seminars for students and parents featuring a panel of distinguished professionals discussing the importance of musical study. 2009-10.
- Prep's Director of String Studies, Robert L. Johnston receives Prep's Excellence in Education Award, and is also selected as an Assisi Pilgrim. He subsequently earns a New York State Senate Certificate of Merit in recognition of exceptional service as a teacher. 2008-09.
- Chamber Orchestra invited to perform at the internationally televised Formal Diplomatic Departure Ceremony of Pope Benedict XVI. 2008.



Years Past . . .

- Marching Band invited to perform for the parade honoring release of the Iranian Hostages. 1982.
- Marching Band performs on Good Morning America. 1998.
- Thirteen Members of the Prep Concert Band, under the direction of Dr. David Y. Kobayashi, travel to Australia to participate in the inaugural Eric Whitacre Band Festival. 2004.
- Composer/Orchestrator, James Dooley, '94, working with Hans Zimmer, receives his first Emmy award for the score for the TV show "Pushing Daisies." 2008.
- Prep students make New York State School Music Association All-State ensembles, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2015, and 2018. Music Educator's National Conference All-Eastern Honors Ensembles, 2006, 2010.



