

Amy J. Steiner
-Educator-Conductor-Clinician-Guest Speaker-Music Director-
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A native of Eden, NY and 2-time Grammy Nominated Music Educator, **Ms. Amy J. Steiner** attended SUNY Fredonia School of Music earning a Bachelor of Music Education degree and a Masters in Music Education with an emphasis in Conducting. Amy studied under conductors Dr. Russell Mikkelson, Dr. Richard Larson, and Dr. Paula Holcomb. On her bassoon, Ms. Steiner has performed with the Erie Philharmonic, Erie Chamber Players, Cheektowaga Symphony, Erie County Wind Ensemble, Amherst Chamber Ensembles, and various other groups throughout Western New York. Amy is currently co-founder, musical director and conductor of the Buffalo Wind Symphony, recipient of the coveted Sudler Silver Scroll Award in 2018 and finalist with The American Prize in 2023.

A sought-after guest conductor and clinician around Western New York and beyond, Ms. Steiner's career as a Band Director started in the fall of 1996, in the City of Buffalo. Throughout her career, Amy earned Teacher of the Year in 2007, was recognized as a pilot program for VH-1 Save the Music, instituted a district-wide yearly Music Camp that served over 400 students yearly, conducted the All-City Band, and currently runs the Instrumental Music Program at City Honors School. Ms. Steiner also initiated several community projects including "Arts Day", "Summer Music Camp", a community outreach program for Buffalo Wind Symphony members and Buffalo Public School students and coordinated the "Extreme Makeover" Home Edition Food Drive Challenge, where she and her team broke the national volume record of food raised. Ms. Steiner was founder of "forGOT music?", a movement to save instrumental music programs in the Buffalo Public Schools. Through the "forGOT music?" movement, the Buffalo Public schools have restored instrumental music programs in the City. She also was co-founder and manager of "Southtowns Pride", an elite travel boys travel baseball team. Amy's many achievements do not go unnoticed. In 2006 and 2007 she was recognized by "Who's Who Among American Teachers", in 2010, she received a Forty Under 40 Award from Business First, in 2017 named Western New York Instrumental Music Teacher of the Year through Buffalo State College, in 2015, Amy was placed as a quarterfinalist for the Grammy's Music Educator Award, and in 2017, she was placed as semi-finalist for the award. Ms. Steiner's work has been published in several journals, most recently her career highlights within the Buffalo Public Schools was highlighted in Panoramic Magazine.

Amy's conducting career started in 2000 with the Sikora Post Community Band in Tonawanda, NY. 2002 saw Amy become co-founder and conductor of the Niagara Frontier Concert Band in the city of Buffalo. Under her direction, the new ensemble secured first runner-up at the New York State Legion Convention in 2004. In 2008, Ms. Steiner sought to expand the NFCB, and started collaborations with another local community band. A remarkable joint concert of the two groups solidified the union and in 2009, the Buffalo Wind Symphony (BWS) was formed, where Amy currently is co-founder, music director and conductor. Under her baton, the Buffalo Wind Symphony has performed in venues across Western New York, Lake George, and was chosen to perform at the Association of Concert Bands (ACB) National convention in Pennsylvania. Amy and her BWS team hosted the ACB National Music Conference in May of 2018 and added an Educational Outreach component to the convention, inviting High School Bands across NYS to participate and experience the value of Community Bands across the U.S. Under Ms. Steiner's baton, the BWS became the first band in NYS to receive the prestigious "Sousa Sudler Silver Scroll Award", putting the BWS on the map nationally as one of America's finest community bands. Amy has also guest conducted several ensembles in the area, including Amherst Chamber Ensembles, ECMEA and CCMEA All-County, and was a finalist as conductor of the Cheektowaga Symphony Orchestra. In 2018, Amy and the BWS hosted the 40th National Association of Concert Bands Convention in Buffalo, NY and will host the 50th in 2028. On the Association of Concert Bands, Amy serves as an appointed board member where she also is the recording secretary and Project Manager for the National Conventions.

In her free time, Amy enjoys being a mom of her four children, Laura Jill, Gavin Liam, London Gabrielle, and Lucas Kennan. Amy and her fiancée, Craig J. Erhard, reside in Kenmore, NY, where she also enjoys real estate, gardening, cooking, traveling, artwork, lake life, and reading.