

Hello to everyone in the New England Music Festival Association community! I hope that you are finding ways to enjoy the summer weather and time with family and friends during this unprecedented time. I missed seeing everyone at the Concert Festival, and while it was a decision that had to be made, it was of course disappointing not being able to come together to rehearse and perform the music under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Peterson. She wishes you all of the best in your musical endeavors, and I hope that you get the opportunity to work with her again in the future.

Now we will look ahead to the 2021 NEMFA Concert Festival. The band will be conducted by Dr. Matthew Westgate, the Director of Wind Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Westgate has an impressive biography- please check it out! I have had the pleasure of working with him at a Vermont District Music Festival, and he is a fantastic conductor and music educator. Dr. Westgate has selected a wonderful program for the 2021 NEMFA Concert Band: *Magnolia Star* by Steve Danyew, *Angels in the Architecture* by Frank Ticheli, and *Radetzky March* by Johann Strauss/Alfred Reed.

Please encourage any student musicians that you know to perform in the December New England Solo and Ensemble Festival in order to be eligible for the New England Concert Festival Band. This is not an opportunity to miss with an amazing conductor and wonderful repertoire! It was a pleasure to serve as the NEMFA Band Manager this past year and I look forward to continuing in this role. I wish you all a great summer and I hope to see you all at the 2020 NEMFA Solo and Ensemble Festival in December!

Sincerely,

Danielle Conerty