

**John Philip Sousa**

# National Honor Bands

**New England Region**



Dear Music Educators, Parents, and Students,

December 2018

The John Philip Sousa National Honor Bands are regional band festivals created in 2001 by the John Philip Sousa Foundation as a way to recognize band students at junior high/middle school level. Over the years, the program's success has led to the creation of bands throughout the country and has been expanded to include students at both the middle school and high school levels. We are proud to announce that the 8<sup>th</sup> New England Region festival will be happening on April 18-20, 2019 in Templeton, Massachusetts (Baldwinville), conveniently located in North Central Massachusetts immediately off of Massachusetts Route 2.

The festival is open to the most outstanding middle school and high school woodwind, brass, and percussion players from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Selection in the group is based teacher recommendation as well as playing samples submitted online. Application forms, teacher recommendation forms, and additional information are available on our website: <http://www.SousaBandsNewEngland.com/>

This year, the festival will consist of two honor bands: The Wind Ensemble, consisting mostly of students in grades 9 through 12, will be conducted by Mr. Jay S. Gephart, Professor of bands at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana and treasurer of the John Philip Sousa Foundation. We are also pleased to welcome Mr. Jared Bloch, of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, as the conductor of the Junior Honors Band, consisting mostly of students in grades 7 and 8.

As you can see from the sample schedule to the right, students are engaged in music rehearsals for most of the day, allowing for an intense musical experience. There are also sectionals and master classes which, this year, will be taught by music educators from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. The festival concludes with a concert on April 23, 2016 at historic Mechanics Hall, 321 Main Street, Worcester, MA.

Students will be housed at the Colonial Hotel, Gardner, MA, a few miles from the school, with direct bus transportation provided between the hotel and the school. There is also an option for commuter students living near Templeton, MA.

Please note that this event happens to be the end or the beginning of the April vacation for many schools in New England, and it is important to keep this fact in mind when planning.

Teachers, we ask that copy and distribute this letter to any students who you feel will meet the highest standards for participating in this festival. The application deadline is January 25, 2019 and both student applications, playing samples, and teacher recommendations need to be submitted by that date through our website. Please take the time to complete the application thoroughly and thoughtfully, as students will be selected and seated based upon the information that you provide.

Thank you for considering your students' participation in the John Philip Sousa National Honors Band - New England Region. We look forward to receiving your applications.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Reynolds, Craig A. Robbins, and Robert L. Rucinski,  
Festival Coordinators  
Bobby Rathbone, Host

## IMPORTANT FESTIVAL INFORMATION:

**Dates:** April 18-20, 2019  
**Location:** Narragansett Regional High School  
**Website:** <http://www.SousaBandsNewEngland.com/>  
**Email:** [SousaNewEnglandInfo@gmail.com](mailto:SousaNewEnglandInfo@gmail.com)

**Registration Fees:**  
**Residential Students:** \$250.00 / person  
Includes all fees, meals, hotel, and transportation.  
**Commuter Students:** \$180.00 / person  
Includes all fees and meals.

**Festival Hotel:** Colonial Hotel, Gardner, MA  
**Concert Venue:** Mechanics Hall  
Worcester, MA

## Sample Festival Schedule:

### THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019

- **Arrival**  
11:30AM - 1:30PM: Registration  
2:00PM - 2:30PM: General Meeting
- **Rehearsals**  
2:45PM - 5:00PM
- **Dinner**  
5:00PM - 6:00PM
- **Evening Rehearsals**  
6:00PM - 9:00PM
- **End of Day**  
9:00PM: Depart for hotel  
11:00PM: Student Curfew

### FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019

- **Morning Rehearsals & Sectionals**  
8:30AM-12:45PM
- **Lunch**  
12:45PM-1:45PM
- **Master Classes**  
1:45PM - 3:00PM
- **Afternoon Rehearsals**  
3:00PM - 5:00PM
- **Dinner**  
5:00PM - 6:00PM
- **Evening Rehearsals**  
6:00PM - 9:00PM
- **End of Day**  
9:00PM: Return to hotel.  
10:45PM: Student Curfew

### SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2019

- **Morning Rehearsals**  
8:45AM-11:30AM
- **Onstage Dress Rehearsals**  
8:45AM - 10:00AM: Concert Band  
10:15AM - 11:30AM: Wind Ensemble
- **Lunch**  
11:30AM - 12:30PM
- **Warm-Up**  
12:30PM - 12:50PM
- **Concert**  
1:00PM - 2:30PM

Revised – 17 December 2018 (subject to change)