"Nobody is doing it better!"

These words describe St. Francis Preparatory School’s Music Department as expressed by the Middle States Association when we were the first school ever to earn the Association’s Music Credential. The Music Credential is aimed at recognizing only those schools with the most sophisticated programs and the highest goals in music education.
Since being awarded the Music Credential, 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.

**But most recently, we have opened the first phase of our new, state-of-the-art Music facilities which include a rehearsal room for our elite Chamber Orchestra, a dedicated percussion studio, a suite of 7 Wenger SoundLok sound isolation rooms for individual practice and lessons, and a classroom for our upperclassman electives. We have also renovated storage spaces, two rehearsal rooms and office space.**

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 can experience the aesthetic of music and study instruments as beginners in a community centered 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, Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, President and Secretary Clinton, and have toured Australia, England, and Italy. **Our most recent tour was to Rome and Assisi during the summer of 2016. This trip also offered a pilgrimage component for alumni and parents.**

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. **Our Advanced Placement Music Theory and History of Music courses are both offered for college credit.**
Performing Groups
- Junior Band
- Concert Band
- Jazz Band *
- String Orchestra
- Honors Orchestra *
- Chamber Orchestra *
- Concert Chorus
- Prep Chorus *
- Chamber Choir *
- Percussion Ensemble
- Honors Percussion Ensemble *
- *Honors Designation

Beginner Classes
- Woodwinds
- Brass
- Percussion *
- Strings
- *Sophomores Only

Advanced Musical Studies
- Music Theory I
- Principles of Orchestration & Electronic Composition
- Music Technology and Production
- Advanced Music Technology and Production
- Advanced Placement Music Theory *
- History of Music *
- Independent Study
- Music Lessons
- *College Credit
Recent Accomplishments

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 from PS 115, MS 74, IS 77, St. Andrew Avellino School, St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish, and the Center for Preparatory Studies in Music (Queens College) 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.
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

Mr. Marc Silvagni, SFP ‘06
Director of Percussion Studies
EdD Candidate, Hofstra University (anticipated 2017)
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. Beatrice Söderberg  
*String Orchestra Director*  
JD Candidate, Brooklyn Law (anticipated 2017)  
BM, Queens College, Aaron Copland School of Music  
Faculty 2012-2013, 2015-present

Music Department Coach  
*Mr. David Jimenez, Percussion*  
BM Candidate, The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music (anticipated 2017)

Ms. Kirsten Corwin  

MM Candidate, LIU Post (anticipated 2018)  
BM, LIU Post  
Faculty since 2016

David Y. Kobayashi, Esq., SFP ‘93  
*Co-Director of Choral Studies*  

JD, New York Law School  
BA, Binghamton University  
Faculty 2001-2008, 2011, 2012-present
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 New York State School Music Association Gold Medal Rating in a row.


- Chamber Orchestra gives the American premiere of Idillic 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 for students at PS. 115 and Our Lady of The Snows School. 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.


- 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 dedicated 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 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.
