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## PCHS and BBHS musicians among the best in New York

Both **Port Chester** and **Blind Brook High Schools** musicians earned state recognitions for their musical talents.

Two **Port Chester** senior trumpet players, Brooke Pietrafesa and Isabella Roca, along with trombonist John Montemurro, received statewide recognition when they were chosen for the New York State Band Directors' Association's (NYSBDA) **High School Honor Jazz Ensemble**. This is Montemurro's and Pietrafesa's second year in the group and Roca's third year. Additionally, trombonist Charles Simmons was chosen as an alternate.

The **Port Chester** trio traveled to Liverpool, N. Y. for an intensive weekend of rehearsals and clinics at the 34th annual NYSBDA Symposium that culminated in a formal concert on Sunday, Mar. 8.

Three **Blind Brook** students, Melissa Blum, Josh Handler and Conor Vogt, also travelled to the NYSBDA Symposium to perform with the honor band.

All the students were selected based on their extremely **high** scores at last year's NYSSMA Spring Solo Festival and teacher recommendations. The **Port Chester** students' **school** band director is Bob Vitti, while Howard Levy serves as **Blind Brook's** band teacher and director.

From **Port Chester High School**, Pietrafesa and Roca have also been selected to participate in the Westchester All-County Jazz Ensemble. After a series of rehearsals during the week of Mar. 16, they will perform in the 25th annual Westchester County **School** Music Association's (WCSMA) All-County Jazz Festival at Edgemont **High School** on Friday, Mar. 20.



**Port Chester High School** musicians John Montemurro (left), Charles Simmons, Isabella Roca and Brooke Pietrafesa stand around their band director, Bob Vitti.  
COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER ROCA



**Blind Brook High School's** Josh Handler (left), Melissa Blum and Conor Vogt at the New York State Band Directors' Association annual symposium Mar. 6-8.