

# MOON AREA MUSIC DEPARTMENT

presents

## *So, You Want to Be a Music Major?*

*A roundtable discussion with professional musicians and music educators*

The Moon Area Music Department invites students in grades 7-12 interested in becoming a music major to our annual "So, You Want to be a Music Major?" seminar.

The discussion will include a mixture of topics geared towards students wishing to obtain information about studying music in college.

Parents are also welcome to attend.

### Topics include:

- Degree options
- Career options based on degree
- How to prepare for a college audition
- How to select a college/university
- What to focus on as a high school musician

**Where:** Moon Area Middle School LGI  
904 Beaver Grade Rd  
Moon Township, PA 15108

**When:** Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm

**For:** Students in grades 7-12



**Christopher M. Marra** is currently the Director of Instrumental Activities at Seton Hill University. As a part of his duties, Chris is the conductor of the Westmoreland Symphonic Winds, the Sinfonia Chamber Orchestra, and teaches courses in music education and conducting. He is also currently completing a Ph.D in Music Education with an emphasis in wind band conducting from the University of Michigan. Prior to doctoral studies, Chris taught high school band and orchestra for 10 years in San Jose, CA where he held board positions with the CMEA Bay Section and the California Band Directors Association. Chris holds a B.S. in Music Education from Duquesne University and an MM in Music Education with an emphasis in wind band conducting from Northwestern University. Chris is also an active clinician and adjudicator within several state organizations as well as Drum Corps International. His research interests include: social influence in music education, music teacher retention, and undergraduate teacher preparation.

**Jessica Vaughan-Marra** has recently accepted the position of Coordinator of Music Education at Seton Hill University (Greensburg, PA). She is also currently pursuing her Ph.D. in music education with an emphasis in string pedagogy at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI). Prior to beginning her PhD, she taught instrumental music for nine years in the Cupertino Union School District (Cupertino, CA). She is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she completed her undergraduate degree in Music Education in 2006 at Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA). She received her Master's in Music Education in 2010 from Northwestern University (Evanston, IL). Her research interests include: new teacher mentoring, instructional technology in the music classroom, and student motivation.



### Contact Information:

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