Women of DISTINCTION
HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Lynne Ruda

Lynne Ruda is a native of Lancaster and now teaches music at her alma mater. At Lancaster High School, she serves as conductor of the school symphony and string orchestra and is also a senior class adviser and a role model for many of her students. Ms. Ruda encourages her students to let music be their guide.

Ms. Ruda did not initially plan to be a teacher. She began studying forensic science at the University of Central Florida, but quickly realized it was not a good fit. She returned to Western New York to attend SUNY Fredonia, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in music education. She also plays the cello and holds a performance certificate.

One of the many examples of her talent, dedication and hard work came when a former student nominated her for the 2020 Music Educator Grammy, which recognizes current educators who have made a lasting contribution to music and who demonstrate a commitment to maintaining music in schools. Over 3,000 teachers from across the country were nominated, and Ms. Ruda was one of 10 finalists for the award.

Ms. Ruda volunteers with Buffalo String Works, a music school in the City's immigrant community designed to help children from around the world better understand music. She is involved with Symphony Scholars, a high school enrichment program sponsored by orchestras across the country. The program allows students to attend concerts and other performances and to meet musicians. She and her students also participate in music festivals and events at both the State and county levels and perform holiday concerts at Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Outside the classroom, Ms. Ruda is a dedicated member of the Lancaster community. She is a Lancaster Village Board trustee and chair of the board's economic development committee. Ms. Ruda and her husband also serve as members of the volunteer fire department.

Lynne Ruda was selected as a
2020 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Patrick M. Gallivan.