



Tempo!

Tempo! is published by the Michigan School Vocal Music Association to provide programming and activity information to its members monthly.

AUGUST 2023

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

August 15 | Musical Theatre Intensive Application Opens
August 15 | Vocal Jazz Intensive Application Opens
September 5 | HS Regional Honors Choirs Online Auditions Open
September 9 | Board of Directors Meeting
September 12 | 6789 Honors Choirs Online Auditions Opens
September 15 | Membership fees due
September 15 | Chamber Choir Festival Application Opens
September 15 | Musical Theatre Festival East Registration Opens
September 15 | Musical Theatre Festival West Registration Opens
September 15 | Musical Theatre Intensive Application Deadline
September 15 | Vocal Jazz Intensive Application Deadline
September 15 | MSVMA Partner Program sign-up closes

Welcome to a harmonious school year!

I hope you have had a rejuvenating summer filled with fun and family. As the calendar turns from August to September, get ready to raise your voices and inspire a new generation of musical talents. Together, we will create a symphony of learning, laughter, and unforgettable melodies through another full year of MSVMA events. As we embark on a new school year, let the power of choral music unite us, uplift our spirits, and encourage us to embrace the challenges and the magic of music and performance.

Each year, the MSVMA Board and staff look at policies and procedures that could be changed or adapted to best serve our membership. Input is heard and considered by committees and individual members. Members may submit proposals and monitor pending proposals on the MSVMA website [here](#). **These proposals** were discussed and passed at the Board meeting in July.

Thank you for your continued participation and support of MSVMA.

Erik Jacobson, Executive Director

Membership Renewal Reminder

Renew your membership Today!



Log into your membership profile at msvma.org using your email and password.



Click the Renew button and complete the process including generating an invoice that can be paid via credit card or check.



Please take a moment to review your profile information for accuracy.



Questions, contact the State Office.

Musical Theatre Intensive



MSVMA will welcome 100 singers in grades 9-12 to our Musical Theatre Intensive on Saturday, October 7 at Livonia Churchill High School. We are delighted to have an incredible panel of clinicians from the faculty of the University of Michigan, Musical Theatre Department including Catherine A. Walker.

For details from Kathryn Witkowski, Musical Theatre Intensive Coordinator, click [here](#).

For details from Ann Fisher, Musical Theatre Intensive Host, click [here](#).

Musical Theatre Information

Register Today

Vocal Jazz Intensive

VOCAL JAZZ INTENSIVE

Application is open until September 15.



Vocal Jazz Intensive is a day to learn about and sing vocal jazz, regardless of experience. We want to encourage students who are interested in singing jazz to attend and bring their knowledge back to their school program. The day also will prepare students for the All-State Jazz Honors Choir audition and encourage participation in All-State Jazz even if students do not regularly sing vocal jazz in their school programs.

Vocal Jazz Information

Register Today

Sign-up for the Partner Program

Sign-up for the MSVMA Partner Program is extended to September 15.

The purpose of the MSVMA Partner Program is to connect and support not only all teachers but especially those new to the field or to their role. In a collaborative effort, we utilize the expertise of seasoned teachers who have a desire to work alongside an assigned mentee. We are here to connect both mentees and mentors alike. The MSVMA Partner Program is designed to match participants based on grade level, specialty, and/or specific needs.

I think I echo the sentiments of many MSVMA members when I say that the help and encouragement I feel from other members helps me get through the school year. Bouncing ideas off of each other, listening and comparing successes and opportunities, and sharing resources...all of these things (and more) truly help make me feel part of a collaborative community. The Partner Program is designed to encourage this type of collaboration between members; we have a robust and diverse community in our state and this program is intended to help facilitate the exchange of ideas and support that are so incredibly valuable to our profession and our well-being!

If you'd like to learn more, visit the webpage at [MSVMA Partner Program](#). To sign up, you can use this direct link to [register](#).

Registration for this enrollment period is open through September 15. We would love to get this program off to a strong start. Feel free to contact Brian Leduc, Member-at-Large, or Sarah Stockton, President with any questions.

Submitted by Brian Leduc, Member-at-Large

Volunteer Spotlight

Kathryn Witkowski

COORDINATOR, MUSICAL THEATRE INTENSIVE

How long have you volunteered for MSVMA?

Four years! I have been volunteering in various capacities, but mainly on the Student Advisory Board and as the Coordinator for Musical Theatre Intensive.

What is your favorite memory surrounding an MSVMA event?



My favorite memory was the pre-MMC Student Day in 2021, where I got to see my peers in college connect with my colleagues in MSVMA while I got to learn and grow with them!

Who has been your musical or professional inspiration?

Kathleen Cunningham was my choir director in high school and remains to this day my biggest musical inspiration. We felt safe, cared for, impassioned, and had the space to grow in her classroom, which is the kind of space I aim to create in my voice studio.

What do you like to do with your free time outside of changing lives through music education?

I am a HUGE coffee drinker and I love to explore new cities, cafes, and thrift stores! I also like to crochet, craft, and hike.

Meet your District Managers



Matthew Smith
DISTRICT 16 MANAGER

Favorite Food: My favorite food is my secret Jack Daniel's pot roast.

Fun Fact: I enjoy Dr. Who and share the same EXACT birthday with the actor Matt Smith who was the 11th Doctor in the series.

Hobbies: My hobbies are golfing, bowling, roller coasters, cars, and Formula 1 racing.

Favorite TV Show/Movie: My favorite movie is Shawshank Redemption. My favorite TV Show is House of Cards.

Your #1 song that gets replayed (or song that you'll sing your heart out to): I can't think of just one, but I would say that I go to Queen quite a bit more than any other artist.

Announcements

ALBION COLLEGE

ChoralFest

Friday, Nov. 10, 2023
8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Guest composer and conductor
Dr. Keith Hampton

The Annual Albion College ChoralFest brings together a number of High School choirs to meet and sing for a selected distinguished guest clinician. Choirs will perform for each other and receive

feedback from the clinician and Dr. Clayton Parr, Director of Choral Activities at Albion College. Throughout the day, you will also hear performances from Albion's Concert Choir and Briton Singers. To end the day, all the choirs will combine onstage for the closing piece, which is rehearsed during the day. This is the exciting climax to the festival with over 200 choral members on stage!

The event will take place on Friday, November 10 from 8:30 AM - 2 PM at Albion College.

Previous Clinicians include composers Stacey V Gibbs and Keith Hampton, and conductors Karyl Carlson, Lynda Hasseler, and Les Rowsey.

For more information about Choralfest, or to have your High School choirs participate in this experience every October, contact Clayton Parr, Director of Choral Activities, at cparr@albion.edu or 517.629.0251



MSVMA Partnership with Ludus!

We would love to remind our members that we continue to be a partner with Ludus for the 2023-2024 school year. Ludus has tools to help with your performance ticketing, fundraising, and marketing so you can focus on a successful performance. Our wonderful partnership includes a commitment by Ludus to donate 10% of their profits back to their partner organizations, which means that when you use Ludus, you also support choral music in our great state. Click the link below to learn more about Ludus and to sign up with our partnership code so you can continue supporting MSVMA!

<https://www.partners.ludus.com/partners/msvma>

Submitted by Ludus

A poster for a community sing event. The background is a black and white photograph of a large crowd of people. Overlaid on the image is text in white and yellow. At the top, it says "ARTS & RESISTANCE" in white, with a yellow ampersand. Below that, "COMMUNITY SING: 9/14" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Underneath, "5:30- 7PM + RECEPTION" is in white, followed by "OUTDOORS AT THE DIAG" in yellow. At the bottom, "SONGS OF RESISTANCE & HOPE" is written in white. In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for "M ARTS INITIATIVE" with a yellow "M". In the bottom center, there is a logo for "M LSA MICHIGAN COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN" with a yellow "M". In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for "M LSA LLOYD SCHOLARS FOR WRITING AND THE ARTS UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN" with a yellow "M". At the very bottom, in small white text, it says "Crowd on Diag, January 23, 1989; HS7715, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan".

The University of Michigan is hosting Community Sing. This is a participatory concert where all are

welcome to come and sing songs of resistance and hope. Dr. Eugene Rogers will be leading it and the songs will include *Lean On Me*, *Lift Every Voice*, and others.

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of something truly special. Sign up [here](#). The event will take place on Thursday, September 14 from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM at the Diag.

This event is open to the public so folks can bring along their family and friends as well.

Submitted by Jillian Burgam (Newton)



After a four-year absence, Detroit favorite Too Hot To Handel will return with a special 90-minute performance for students on January 12, 2024, at 11 AM at the Detroit Opera House. The Rackham Choir's 20th production of this exuberant, uplifting jazz-gospel take on George Frideric Handel's Messiah takes place the Friday before the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, making it ideal for celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. King. Too Hot to Handel incorporates several musical styles and scriptural messages of hope and inclusion that echo Dr. King's words of hope for peace and justice.

In addition to the Rackham Choir, the performance will feature the Detroit Opera Orchestra; tenor Rodrick Dixon, soprano Alfreda Burke, and alto Karen Marie Richardson; and the Too Hot to Handel Trio, featuring Detroit classical, gospel, and jazz musicians Marion Hayden (acoustic bass), Alvin Waddles (piano), and Dave Taylor (drums). Student tickets are available for \$10/piece, and scholarships are available.

Performance details:

When: Friday, January 12, 11 AM

Where: Detroit Opera House

Duration: 90 minutes

Performers:

Rackham Choir

Detroit Opera Orchestra

Too Hot to Handel Trio: Marion Hayden (acoustic bass), Alvin Waddles (piano), Dave Taylor (drums)

Alfreda Burke, soprano

Karen Marie Richardson, alto

Rodrick Dixon, tenor

Suzanne Mallare Acton, conductor

Tickets:

Student tickets are \$10; with every reservation for 10 students comes with a free chaperone reservation. Contact Detroit Opera House Group groupsales@detroitopera.org and 313.309.8251.

Buy your tickets [here](#).

To inquire about scholarships, contact Rackham Choir directly at administration@rackhamchoir.org.

Study guide: Before the performance, an updated curriculum guide, “Affirming Our Identities Through Music,” will be provided to students. The guide explores the Black experience through the lens of the various genres included in Too Hot To Handel and the perspective of some of the principal performers as people of color (POC) in the classical music world. “Affirming Our Identities Through Music” is also a great springboard for further discussions during Black History Month in February.

Submitted by Melissa Bunker, Rackham Choir

**Music Educator Satisfaction Survey**

Please take time to take this national survey conducted to help in efforts to retain and recruit music educators.

The survey should take around seven minutes to complete and will include sections on:

- Why you became a Music Educator
- Your satisfaction as a Music Educator
- The future of your Music Program
- Demographic Information

The survey link can be found [here](#).

Submitted by Kyle Mills, National Federation of State High School Associations

Want to submit a story for Tempo!

 feedback@msvma.org

MSVMA Sponsors

The Michigan School Vocal Music Association is proud to be supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).



To become an MSVMA sponsor, contact Executive Director Erik Jacobson at erikjacobson@msvma.org.



MSVMA | P.O. Box 1131, Big Rapids, MI 49307

[Unsubscribe debrajacks@msvma.org](mailto:debrajacks@msvma.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@msvma.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!