



# *Tempo!*

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

August 2022



## Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- September 6 | HS Regional Honors Choir Online Auditions Open
- September 12 | 6-7-8-9 Regional Honors Choir Online Auditions Open
- September 15 | Musical Theatre S&E Registration Opens
- September 15 | Mini-grant Application Deadline
- September 20 | Chamber Choir Application Deadline
- September 20 | Musical Theatre Intensive Deadline
- October 1 | Vocal Jazz Intensive Registration Deadline

# VOCAL JAZZ INTENSIVE



The VJI is a day to learn about and sing vocal jazz, regardless of experience. We want to encourage any student who is 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 even if students do not regularly sing vocal jazz in their school programs. In addition to sessions on vocal jazz singing, students will have the opportunity to sing two pieces as a mass choir on the Forest Hills Vocal Jazz Invitational Concert.

Registration fee \$25

**The deadline to apply is October 1 at 11:59 p.m.**

[More Information](#)

[Registration](#)



## Summer Conference

AUGUST 3-4, 2022

Congratulations to the Summer Conference Committee of Eric Cadena and Bridgit Cook for the delivery of an outstanding professional development opportunity for MSMVA members.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this a meaningful networking opportunity. Summer Conference was a content-rich and well-managed event.


Highlights included:

- Superb Headliner sessions with Roger Emerson
  - Exceptionally interesting breakout sessions with our presenters
  - Insightful, thought-provoking and humorous remarks by Erich Wangeman, our Teacher of the Year
  - Generous support from our sponsors, Educational Tours, Inc., Hal Leonard, Interlochen Center for the Arts and Musical Resources
  - State Board Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECH) certified programming
- Stunningly beautiful river and bridge views at the Blue Water Convention Center and

- Stunningly beautiful river and bridge views at the Blue Water Convention Center and DoubleTree Hotel in Port Huron

Make plans now to attend Summer Conference 2023 during the last week of July.

Submitted by Eric Cadena, Director of All-State Festival and Summer Conference



# CAROLYN F. LEEP SCHOLARSHIP

## **Congratulations to 2022 Leep Scholars Andrew Moore and Elliot Plummer**

The 2022 Carolyn F. Leep Scholarship has been awarded and each of the scholars will receive \$1,000.00 to support their pursuit of advanced degrees.

*“On behalf of the MSVMA Board of Directors, congratulations to our recipients of the Carolyn Leep Scholarship, Andrew Moore and Elliot Plummer! We hope this support helps each of you achieve your educational goals and enhances your effectiveness in your vocal music classrooms.”* Angel Ginnert, Past President and Leep

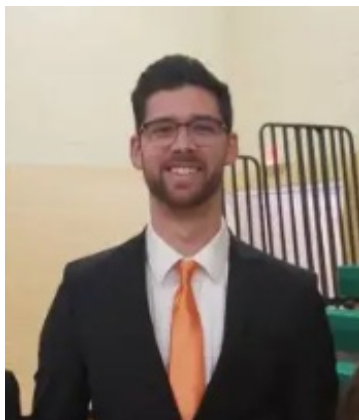




**Andrew Moore**  
**Hastings High School**  
**Hastings Area School System**

As the Director of 8-12 Grade Choirs in the Hastings Area School System since August 2019, Andrew is tasked with recruiting and maintaining a choral program that provides meaningful and high-quality music education to students at every level of musicianship. He directs 5 curricular choirs, the musical, and is starting an extracurricular choir, a student conducting program, and a 3rd-5th grade choir for students from five local elementary schools. He also is a Choral Scholar at Park Congregational Church in Grand Rapids. A graduate of Olivet Nazarene University, Andrew is enrolled in the Michigan State University Summer Masters in Choral Conducting program and will use the scholarship funds to continue his studies with an anticipated 2023 graduation.

*“The Leep Scholarship will support me as I continue to connect with brilliant musicians and teachers from all over the teaching community and delve deeper into the skill of conducting. I believe that my ability to communicate with clarity, focus in rehearsal, problem solve, connect our performance to history and culture, and allow students to express more freely has already increased. I am eager to learn more and continue to hone my craft.”* Andrew Moore



**Elliot Plummer**  
**Ludington High School and O.J. DeJonge Middle School**  
**Ludington Area Schools**

Elliot is beginning his eighth year of teaching vocal music at Ludington Area Schools and serves as the Director of Choirs at Ludington High School and at O.J. DeJonge Middle School. At his church, Path of Life Ministries, he is the Worship Leader and is one of the lead teachers for its high school youth group. A graduate of Grand Valley State University in 2015 with a Bachelor of Music Education, Elliot will use his scholarship to support his pursuit of a Master of Music in Choral Conducting at Messiah University.

*“The scholarship application states that Carolyn Leep “worked tirelessly for 20 years to provide MSVMA members with materials to support their efforts as music educators.” I would align my own heart’s desires with Carolyn’s in that I want to continue to work fervently for my students, community members and church to support their efforts in*

community members and children to support their efforts in growing as musicians and people.” Elliot Plummer

The Carolyn F. Leep Scholarship is made possible through generous donations of individuals and MSVMA Districts. If you are interested in making a gift to the Leep Scholarship or to the Leep Scholarship Endowment, please contact Debra Jacks at [debrajacks@msvma.org](mailto:debrajacks@msvma.org) or visit [MSVMA.org](http://MSVMA.org) and click on the Donate tab.

## ADJUDICATION CONFERENCE

### **Adjudication Conference November 5, 2022 Hartland High School**

8 a.m. Registration  
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Conference

Dr. Brandon Johnson, Performance  
Clinician

Jessica Nieuwkoop, Sight Reading  
Clinician

Kathi Letovski, Choir Director  
Hartland Middle School

Bailey Tallman, Choir Director  
Hartland High School

Pam Pierson & Kelli Falls, Hosts

Four (4) SCECH credits will be available  
for completion of the Adjudication  
Conference.

[Register](#)

## MINI GRANTS

The Michigan School Vocal Music Association recognizes that financial support for music and the arts has steadily declined in recent years. We are very excited and proud to offer assistance to choral music programs in need in the form of \$500 grants. These grants can be used for general operating support of the music program.

Potential expenditures include, but are not limited to:

- Classroom items
- Music Purchases
- Transportation
- Technology
- Uniforms
- Professional development
- Innovations/projects

We love supporting our members and encourage you to create an exciting and impactful proposal for consideration.

**The application deadline is September 15, 2022.**

Successful applicants will be notified by October 1.

[Apply](#)

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## Welcome New MSVMA Members!

Vickie Crouse  
Holland Christian Schools  
District 10

Michael Wheaton  
Forest Hills North Schools  
District 10

Amanda Kuenzl  
Holy Name Catholic School  
District 13/14

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### MSU Vocal Arts Outreach Cabaret!

Since 2016, our MSU Vocal Arts Outreach Cabaret has performed for a number of schools throughout Michigan.( we performed virtually during COVID)

Our "Bizet to Berstein" Cabaret presents four MSU Graduate students performing Opera Arias, Duets and Quartets as well as Music Theater, Spirituals and the Music of their own diverse backgrounds. Our Finale,"Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat" from Guys and Dolls, includes your students singing with the MSU singers( it's a very truncated version of this) No rehearsal is necessary on the part of the students -we go through it quickly during the show. The Cabaret is approximately 40 min of music with a Q & A after. Time can be adjusted based on the needs of your schedule and there is no fee for this. The Cabaret is primarily for High School Vocal Music

Students but we also can include Middle School Students. Our singers introduce their selections to give a bit of background before performing. We also have images which can be projected on a screen, a program with singers' bios and translations and a teacher's study guide. I also request feedback from both you and your students so we know how the students are responding to our show.

We offer the Cabaret for both the Fall and Spring semesters and can begin in October in the Fall and January in the Spring

January in the Spring.

We'd love to sing for you and your students so please contact me, Sadie Rucker at [sadieruk@msu.edu](mailto:sadieruk@msu.edu) or [sadieruk@yahoo.com](mailto:sadieruk@yahoo.com) and "COME TO THE CABARET!" We can also offer the Cabaret virtually.

Submitted by Sadie Rucker, MSU Vocal Arts Outreach Program Coordinator

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## Opportunities for Students and Choral Directors

Those of you who know me well know that I find no greater joy than *collaborative* music making. I would really LOVE the opportunity to work together as we all strengthen our programs and expose our students to new opportunities. Below is a list of possible collaborative opportunities. Here is a link to our [Outreach Opportunities webpage](#).

### *For your students:*

#### **EMU High School Honor Choir- New Event!**

**November 4-5, 2022**

Send a select group of your high school singers to the campus of EMU for a unique experience of high-level choral artistry. High schools may only send balanced quartets at the recommendation of the choir teacher.

#### **EMU Invitational Choral Festival**

**November 22, 2022**

Would you like your students to have the opportunity to work with me, the EMU Choir, and a Guest Composer? I am still in discussion with the composer so I can't announce at this time who will be joining us.

This event is open to all SATB across Michigan and Ohio. You do not need to be selected as a solo-performing ensemble to join us for this outstanding day of choral music. All attending choruses will combine to make a large Festival Chorus and will spend the day learning from our outstanding guest clinician. Individuals and quartets from schools are also encouraged to participate.

In addition, we will invite several of the most accomplished high school choral ensembles to give a solo performance on the Pease Auditorium Stage. Each participating ensemble will receive a private master class with Dr. Brandon Johnson and will join the EMU Festival Honor Choir for a day of music-making with our festival composer.

#### **Choral Workshop**

**You choose the day!**

Would you like to inspire your choir? Bring your singers to EMU for an afternoon of choral and voice activities. Your students will learn from world-class music faculty and sing next to mature college musicians. You choose the date. Your choir can receive individual attention and grow tremendously in this one-day event—all within the context of a school day.

Each day is tailored to meet your needs. We hope to help your singers grow from where they are into the next step. Specific requests can be addressed as the details for your visit are solidified.

#### Sample Schedule

9 a.m. Master class with voice faculty

10 a.m. Choral clinic with Dr. Johnson

11:30 a.m. Lunch

1 p.m. Sing with the EMU Choir

2 p.m. Depart for home

**For choral directors:**

## **EMU Conducting Symposium**

**April 15, 2023**

Want to brush up on your gesture, score study, and rehearsal technique? Join me for a day of sessions to help improve your confidence in each area.

Please let me know if there are ways I can be helpful to you in enriching your student's choral experiences. For more details, contact us at [emu\\_choirs@emich.edu](mailto:emu_choirs@emich.edu).

Submitted by Dr. Brandon Johnson, Director of Choral Activities, Eastern Michigan University ([www.emuchoir.com](http://www.emuchoir.com) or 734.487.0280)

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### **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](mailto:erikjacobson@msvma.org).

[msmva.org](http://msmva.org)

