



Tempo!

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

JANUARY 2024

Upcoming Events

- January 20 | Adjudication Solo & Ensemble In-Service
- January 24 | Board of Directors Meeting
- January 24 | Musical Theatre Honors Ensemble Rehearsal
- January 25 | 6789 Honors Choirs Rehearsal and Performance
- January 25 | All-State Jazz Choir Rehearsal
- January 25 | High School State Honors Choir Rehearsal
- January 25 | Adjudication Conference
- January 26 | State Honors Choir Rehearsal and Performance
- January 27 | All-State Jazz Choir Rehearsal and Performance
- January 27 | High School State Honors Choir Performance
- February 6 | All-State Selection Announced
- February 15 | A Cappella Festival Registration Open

Adjudication Conference
Choral Festival Performance and Sight Reading
Adjudication In-Services Solo and Choral Performance

Adjudication Conference

January 25, 2024
8 AM – 1 PM

Imperial Ballroom, Amway Grand Plaza
Dr. Brandon Johnson, Eastern Michigan University, Choral Performance
Jessica Nieuwkoop, Okemos High School, Choral Sight Reading

[Register for Adjudication Conference at Michigan Music Conference](#)

Solo & Ensemble In-Service

For those who are interested in Solo Adjudication

January 20, 2024
8 AM - 5 PM
Howell High School

[Registration for January 20 In-Service Solo Performance](#)

Choral In-Service

For those who are interested in Sight Reading, Choral, or both

March 18, 2024
7:30 AM - 5 PM
Walled Lake Northern High School
6000 Bogie Lake Rd
Commerce Charter Twp, MI 48382

March 21, 2024
7:30 AM - 5 PM
Clarkston High School
6093 Flemings Lake Rd
Clarkston, MI 48346

[Registration for March 18 In-Service
Choral Performance](#)

[Registration for March 21 In-Service
Choral Performance](#)

offers professional development opportunities to assist our students and teachers to understand the role of meaningful, supportive adjudication including rubric use to increase their knowledge and enhance their performance of vocal music. All MSVMA members are encouraged to attend to learn more about adjudication and ask questions about the process.

Make plans to join us! To ensure that we have an adequate supply of Conference materials, please register for these no-cost events at the links above. If you wish to receive SCECHS (State Continuing Education Credit Hours) for your attendance, the fee is \$30 and may be paid on the website when you register or at the Conference in person.

For more information, please contact:

Pam Pierson, Director of Adjudication at pampierson@msvma.org

Kelli Falls, Adjudication Scheduling Coordinator at kellifalls@msvma.org

Register today for the 2024 Michigan Music Conference!



Making Connections at MMC 2024

It's not too late to [register](#) to attend.

The MMC program app will be available shortly. Use it to find interest sessions and concerts you wish to attend. Registrants will receive a notification when the app is available to use.

In addition to the informative sessions and inspiring performances, MMC is an amazing opportunity to network. Here are planned activities that will allow MSVMA members to connect with colleagues and old friends and make new friends through the world of choral music education.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

All Conference Exhibit Hall Welcome Celebration
7 - 9 PM
Exhibit Hall

There is no additional fee for this reception



BEER & CHOIR
Sing Responsibly

JANUARY 25
8-10 PM



VoxGR and MSVMA Beer Choir
Creston Brewing
1504 Plainfield Ave NE
8 - 10 PM

Beer Choir Hymnal will be provided; attendees will be responsible for their beverages and food.

Don't miss the second MSVMA Beer Choir. MSVMA members never pass up an opportunity to join together in song and our MMC Beer Choir provides just that opportunity.

Note: This was a recent addition not included in the MMC Program.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

MSVMA Celebration Reception
Pantlind Ballroom
5 PM

The annual MSVMA Celebration Reception will be held on Friday, January 26 at 5 PM in the Pantlind Ballroom. Along with an organizational update, we will celebrate

our new Emeriti members, honors choir conductors, and choral hour conductors. The 2024 Teacher of the Year will be the 61st member recognized with MSVMA's highest honor.

See you in Grand Rapids!



YOU ARE INVITED!

MSVMA
Celebration Reception

January 26, 2024
5 PM
Pantlind Ballroom
Amway Grand Plaza

Submitted by Wendee Wolf-Schlarf, Choral Music Educator, Traverse City Central High School and Traverse City West Senior High School

Register Today!

Volunteer Spotlight



Leo Humbach

MUSICAL THEATRE S&E FESTIVAL EAST
COORDINATOR & HOST

How long have you volunteered for MSVMA?

12 years

What is your favorite choral piece that you've directed or sung?

In Remembrance by Jeffrey Ames and Cradle Hymn by Kim Andre Arnesen

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

I love spending time with my kids. My middle son is very active in school athletics and my daughter is very involved in dance. For myself, I love spending time in the outdoors during the summer. Nothing better than a bike ride or camping trip. I also love DIY projects. There is nothing more gratifying than building something with your own two hands.

What advice would you give to a young teacher?

Don't be afraid to reach out to other members in the organization. There are so many people (too many to list by name) who have heavily influenced me as a teacher. Also, give yourself some grace because no one is perfect! You are going to have a lot of highs and lows. Just be yourself and your students will see your heart. You are a difference-maker!

Meet your District Managers



Ryan Dawley

DISTRICT 16 CO-MANAGER

Favorite Food: Tacos

Fun Fact: I have been to 26 countries and have trips booked for 6 more. After next summer I will have been to all 7 continents.

Hobbies: Traveling!

Favorite TV Show/Movie: I don't really have a favorite but I like action/dramas (lawyers, police, medical, etc.).

Favorite Book: The Harry Potter series

Your #1 song that gets replayed (or song that you'll sing your heart out to): anything by The Beatles

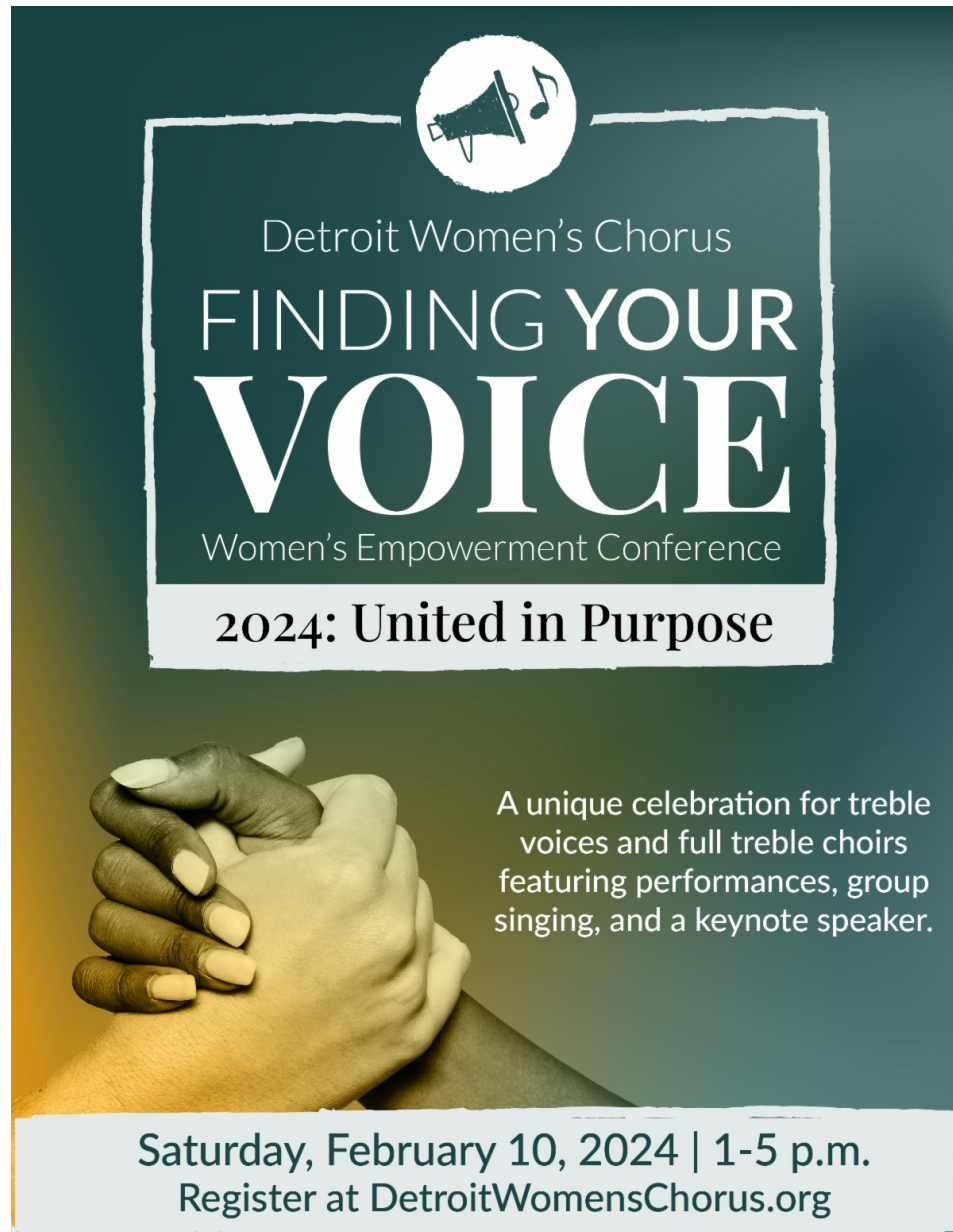
How long have you volunteered for MSVMA?
about 10 years in different capacities (helping at events, TTB
Honors Choir Coordinator, 6789 Honors Choir Supervisor)

Announcements

Musical Events of Interest

Detroit Women's Chorus Finding Your Voice | February 10

Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan Deadline for Entries | February 17



Detroit Women's Chorus
FINDING YOUR VOICE
Women's Empowerment Conference
2024: United in Purpose

A unique celebration for treble voices and full treble choirs featuring performances, group singing, and a keynote speaker.

Saturday, February 10, 2024 | 1-5 p.m.
Register at DetroitWomensChorus.org

Finding Your Voice

Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 1 PM - 5 PM

Metropolitan Church of God, 13400 Schaefer Hwy, Detroit, MI 48227

- **Theme:** United in Purpose
- **Featuring:**
 - Large group singing
 - Keynote speaker: **Nandi Comer**
 - Writing workshop led by Nandi Comer
 - An opportunity for each attending ensemble to perform 1-3 songs
- **Cost per ensemble:** \$150
- **Individual singer Cost:** Free-will donation
 - The event is also open to the public, as it has been in the past.
 - You do not have to be a choir member or performer to participate.

Registration can be found [here](#) and on our website: detroitwomenschorus.org

Submitted by Jillian Burgam, State Choral Festival Supervisor

Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan

Announcing the 30th Annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition

The Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan is pleased to announce its 2024 Annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students is now open and accepting entries. Information for students to participate in this exciting event can be accessed through the Verdi Opera's website at verdioperatheatre.com



Reminder!

The Deadline for Entering the 30th Annual Italian Songs & Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students is February 17, 2024.
Have you reviewed the information printed in the November & December 2023 MSVMA Tempo, announcing the competition and our website access information at www.verdioperatheatre.com?

Are you preparing and encouraging your students to participate in the competition?

**PRIZES TOTALING \$3200 WILL BE AWARDED TO THE TEN FINALISTS.
FIRST PRIZE IS \$1000!**

Please ensure that your student's entry MP3 recording is of GOOD QUALITY and is mailed to us by the February 17th DEADLINE.

For More Information Please Contact: John Zaretti • Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan
P.O. Box 871592 • Canton, MI 48187 • Phone: (734) 552-4236 • E-mail: verdiopera@comcast.net

\$1000 First Prize





REMINDER!!
High School
Vocal Competition
First Place Prize
\$1000

The deadline for entering the competition is February 17th!
For more information, go to www.verdioperatheatre.com





Those are the required ingredients in every recipe for musical success.

Mix them together under the proper conditions and a star is born. Or two, or three.

The Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan in cooperation with The Italian American Cultural Society, The Italian American Club of Livonia Charitable Foundation, The Dante Alighieri Society of Michigan, Detroit Opera and Under the Auspices of the Consulate of Italy in Detroit are pleased to announce

The 30th Annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students

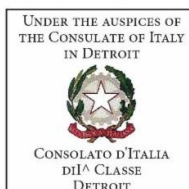
See website: www.verdioperatheatre.com

Ten finalists will be selected from the entries received and will perform at the Concert of the Finalists. Each finalist will receive a monetary prize. Entry forms for the competition and all other pertaining information, are available to teachers and students at our website, www.verdioperatheatre.com



Concert of the Finalists

Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 5:00 pm
at the Italian American Cultural Center
43843 Romeo Plank Rd., Clinton TWP, MI 48038
Phone: (586) 228-3030



*Join us by encouraging
your students to participate
in this exciting event!*

**Deadline for Entries:
February 17, 2024**

THIS JUST IN! – Latest inspiring testimonial, received from 2010 finalist bass- baritone Jesus Murillo who has recently made his debut at New York’s Metropolitan Opera in Verdi’s “Don Carlo”. Bravissimo!



“The Italian Sons and Arias Vocal Competition was absolutely transformational in my development as a young singer. At a point in my life where I did not know how I wanted to pursue my musical studies, this competition truly helped me clarify that the operatic art form was my calling in life. It was one of my first times performing classical music to an audience that truly understood and appreciated operatic excellence, and it left me with a burning desire to continue to hone my craft.

I cannot thank Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan enough for the incredible inspiration that this competition provided me. A year after the competition, when I was pursuing my bachelor’s degree at the University of Michigan, Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan was the first professional company to hire me as an adult. John Zaretti has always been, a supporter and believer of me, and his words of support were absolutely foundational in my belief that I had something to take out into the world.

If I had not taken part in this competition, I can honestly say I do not know where I would be today. As a young kid from a disadvantaged community, with a song in my heart, this competition gave me the encouragement to pursue a life in the arts, and to lead a life of creative expression. Although a life in the arts naturally has its ups and downs, the knowledge and experience I gained from this competition, that my artistry had real-world merit, comforted me through many of my career’s toughest moments. Thank you Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan from the bottom of my heart.”

Submitted by John Zaretti, President and Co-founder of Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan

Want to submit a story for Tempo!

 feedback@msvma.org

Thank you to our MSVMA Sponsors

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



Thank you to the corporate and organizational sponsors who help ensure our continued success in delivering the highest quality vocal music programming to our students and their teachers.



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



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

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