



# *Tempo!*

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

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July 2022

## Upcoming Events and Deadlines

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[Summer Conference](#) | August 3 - 4

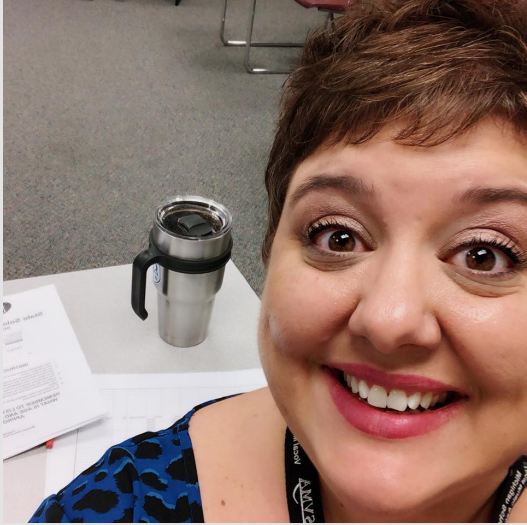
[Non-Profit of the Night Game](#) | August 4

Welcome to the first issue of *Tempo!*, MSVMA's new member services publication. We are looking forward to delivering current programming and activity information to help ensure that you and your students have the best learning and participation experiences. *Tempo!* also will help you to access the benefits of your MSVMA membership and provide in-depth information on topics of interest.

We invite you to participate in the development of this outreach newsletter. If you have programming, activity, or topical information that you would like to share with members, please complete **this form**.

Watch your inbox for the latest edition of *Tempo!* the third Thursday of every month!

# Volunteer Spotlight



**Amy Blevins**  
**District 4 Co-Manager**

**How long have you volunteered for MSVMA?**

I've been an adjudicator since 2014 and have been volunteering for 7 years.

**What is your favorite memory surrounding an MSVMA event?**

I was an MSVMA "kid". I did Honors Choir/S&E/etc... So, my best "full circle" moment came when I adjudicated for the first time in my hometown district. :) (Shoutout to the Davison Crew!!! #gocards!)

**Who has been your musical or professional inspiration?**

When I was younger, it was June Anderson... I heard a recording of her singing "Glitter and Be Gay" and I was HOOKED! Currently, I draw so much inspiration from my fellow music colleagues! Whether in conversation, watching them create, or lead sessions, I am always in awe of the talent and knowledge that we have both in MSVMA and around the state!

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

Free time? Honestly though, this is my year of working on that "work/life" balance a bit more! (I do also enjoy traveling with my super supportive husband!)

## VOCAL JAZZ INTENSIVE





Mark your calendars for this exciting new event introducing and diving deeply into the vocal jazz genre. You can bring your entire ensemble or simply send a few interested students. We will be working on topical sessions such as improvisation and rehearsing for a mass choir performance at the evening concert as part of the Forest Hills Vocal Jazz Festival. Individual ensembles will have the opportunity and option to sing at the evening concert themselves as well as in the mass choir. Additional sessions during the day will be offered for teachers to better their knowledge of the genre to be more comfortable teaching and leading vocal jazz repertoire. Don't miss this exciting inaugural event!

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# Summer Conference

AUGUST 3-4, 2022

Join us for the 50th Summer Conference!



Choose from breakout sessions that enhance your knowledge and your students' learning environment. Enjoy sampling repertoire in high school and middle school reading sessions, including recently added titles to the required lists and honors choir repertoire. Connect with new friends and catch up with old friends!  
800 Harker St, Port Huron, MI 48060  
(810) 201-5513

[bluewaterconventioncenter.com](http://bluewaterconventioncenter.com)

[More Information](#)

## Session Highlights



### **Viable and Versatile Alternatives to 3-Part Mixed, SAB, and SATB Music**

**Thomas Blue**

Retired Choral Music Educator  
Oakland Christian School

Viable and versatile alternatives to the standard choral voicings of 3-part mixed, SAB and SATB provide choral directors with a more expanded harmonic palate. These alternative voicings also provide choral singers with opportunities to sing music that will challenge and expand their listening and vocal palates beyond what they might expect. Rehearsal strategies and music examples of alternative voicings specific for MS/HS adolescent voices will be shared with participants while also discussing the versatility of these voicings as opportunities to expand our choir's repertoire.



### **Rehearsing Vocal Jazz - Idiosyncrasies of the Genre**

**Erik Jacobson**

Executive Director  
MSVMA

Teaming up with Michael Wheaton and members of his Northern Singers from Forest Hills Northern High School, this session will bridge the gap between a practicum and a lecture session. We will rehearse a piece or two of actual jazz repertoire with the sextet and break down some of the harmony, rhythm, and articulations that make vocal jazz music unique. Similarly, we will explore ways in which teaching vocal jazz is exactly the same as the choral classroom. The goal is to have each participant, regardless of their comfortability with teaching vocal jazz, ready to dip their toes in the genre with their ensembles this upcoming year.



### **A Shorthand for Success: Using IPA Hand Signs to Build Choral Blend**

**Dr. Christopher Mason**

Director of Choral Activities Aquinas  
College

American Sign Language is quickly becoming one of the most prevalent foreign languages in schools across the nation. The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is one of the most practical tools singers can use to identify the sounds of languages. Combining these facts with James Asher's language teaching method (TPR), this session will give you a "hands on" introduction to using IPA Hand Signs in the choral classroom. Covering warmups, repertoire, and assessment, you'll leave with practical ideas on how to tap into the kinesthetic intelligence of IPA Hand Signs and help foster a unified sound in your choir. It's a shorthand for success because these skills can be applied to every language you teach!

\*This option is for early bird registrants that have not selected sessions.



## Roger Emerson

Conference Headliner

### Registration Pricing

1 Day Conference Pass | \$110

2 Day Conference Pass | \$220

1 Day Non-Member Conference Pass | \$205

2 Day Non-Member Conference Pass | \$290

First Year Teacher | \$100

Full-Time Student | \$100

Emeriti/Retiree | \$100

[Register Now](#)



Choral Student  
Leadership Conference

Upbeat!

132 students from 21 MSVMA high schools attended the 2022 MSVMA Choral Student Leadership Conference at Michigan Student University on June 22. Students and their choral directors were led through a day of thoughtful discussion and engaging conversation by Dr. Matthew Arau, author of *Upbeat! Mindset, Mindfulness, and Leadership in Music Education and Beyond* and founder of Upbeat Global, is an Associate Professor of Music and the Chair of the Music Education Department and Symphonic Band Conductor at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Key elements of Dr. Arau's "Upbeat" Leadership Conference were:

The POWER of the UPBEAT...The upbeat is the preparation for any event with your thoughts being the upbeat to your actions.

The POWER of G.E.T.. Gratitude, Enthusiasm and Treasure

The POWER of HABIT...We create habits from repeated actions and behavior

4 C;s of "Upbeat" Leadership...Character, Competence, Connection and Clarity

Students spent time in large and small groups where they were able to make connections with students from around the state who share the same love and passion for being a part of a choral ensemble/family. Conversations about key topics of "Upbeat" leadership were discussed as well as strategies for how each student leader can have a positive impact on those around them.

We sincerely appreciate the Michigan State University Choral Department and Dr. David Rayl, Director of Choral Activities, for hosting us in the beautiful Billman Music Pavilion.

Plan now to attend the 2023 CSLC...

**2023 MSVMA Choral Student Leadership Conference**  
**Wednesday, June 21, 2023 - Eastern Michigan University**  
**Coty Raven Morris, Inspiring Clinician**





Submitted by Wendee Wolf-Schlarf, Choral Student Leadership Coordinator

**MSVMA  
NON-PROFIT OF THE NIGHT**

Comerica Park Stadium  
August 4, 2022  
Gates open at 5:30 PM • Game starts at 7:10 PM

**DETROIT TIGERS VS. TAMPA BAY RAYS**

Join us at the Tigers Game to celebrate our volunteers as the non-profit of the night!



## Membership

MSVMA memberships expired on July 1. Renew by September 15 to avoid paying a late fee. If you have questions about renewing your membership, check out our [FAQ page](#) or [click here](#) to contact the State Office.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased through the link below.

[Get Tickets](#)

### 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)

