



# Tempo!

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

MARCH 2024

## Upcoming Events

- March 26 | State Choral Festivals Registration Deadline
- April 1 | Outstanding Choir Performance Applications Due
- April 2 | State Choral Festivals Late Registration Closes
- April 15 | A Cappella Festival Registration Deadline
- May 1 | College Scholarship Application Closes
- May 2-3 | A Capella Festival
- May 9-11 | All-State Festival

**Call for Presenters: Share Your Expertise at  
Summer Conference**

JULY 31 & AUGUST 1  
**SUMMER**  
CONFERENCE

THE LANSING CENTER

**Dr. Jeffrey Allen Murdock** will be joining us as our headliner at The Lansing Center from July 31 to August 1.

We invite you to share your expertise and insights by leading a session at Summer Conference.

Some suggested topics are:

- Choral Literature/Reading Session
- Vocal/Choral Pedagogy
- Rehearsal Techniques
- Warm-ups
- Music Literacy/Sight Reading
- Choral Program Growth/Recruitment
- Diversity/Equity/Inclusion

If you have additional ideas for sessions related to vocal music instruction, please submit them.

To submit your session topic, please complete the [Summer Conference 2024 Session Submission](#) by March 29.

If you have questions or need additional information about presenting at Summer Conference, please contact the State Office.

## High School All-State Honors Choir Director



**Dr. Joe Miller**  
**Director and Professor of Choral Studies**  
**University of Cincinnati**

Recognized as a visionary conductor and creative artist, Joe Miller maintains an active performance schedule. Miller is a Professor of Conducting and Director of Choral Studies at CCM. In addition to his work at CCM, Miller is artistic director of choral activities for the renowned Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina, and since 2016 he has served as conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra Symphonic Choir.

Miller made his conducting debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 2021, conducting Handel's *Messiah*. Recent collaborations with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and the Philadelphia Orchestra have included premiere performances of Kevin Puts' *The Hours* with Renée Flemming, Kelli O'Hara, and Jennifer Johnson Cano, along with premier performances in Carnegie Hall of Gabriela

Franks' *Pachamama Meets and Ode*. Past seasons' engagements included Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra and Chorus and Poulenc's *Stabat Mater* with the CCM Choirs and Philharmonia.

Featured works of the 2022-23 CCM season include performances for the ACDA National Conference, Joby Talbot's *Path of Miracles*, and a collaboration with the Cincinnati Ballet featuring the CCM Chamber Choir and choreographer Taylor Carrasco. The Philadelphia Orchestra season includes Rachmaninov Kolokolo/The Bells being recorded for Deutsche Gramophone, Handel's *Messiah*, and the Bruckner *Te Deum*.

After viewing a staged performance of Joby Talbot's demanding *Path of Miracles* at the 2019 Spoleto Festival USA, D.C. *Theatre Scene* wrote, "Joe Miller is a fearless artist. His bold leadership and trust in these young singers enabled his choristers to forego the 'stand and deliver,' score-bound habits of their genre and 'walk with him' on this special journey. Not only did the singers need to memorize their parts, no mean feat, but followed his baton's bid from any part of the auditorium and sang in any body position. Miller constantly challenged them in the process and inspired them to work confidently, well outside their comfort zone."

Miller's ensembles have performed throughout the world, giving concert tours in Italy, Germany, Austria, France, England, China, and Spain, as well as participating in the World Symposium on Choral Music in Barcelona. His choirs have toured extensively throughout the US performing for the American Choral Director's Association National and Regional Conferences, and including groundbreaking performances of Julia Wolfe's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Anthracite Fields* at the historic Roebling WireWorks as part of Westminster's Transforming Space project.

Miller has been praised for his recordings. *American Record Guide's* review of *Frank Martin: Mass for Double Choir* stated: "This is gorgeous singing ... with perfect blend, intonation, diction, ensemble and musicality." *The Heart's Reflection: Music of Daniel Elder* was hailed by Minnesota Public Radio's *Classical Notes* as "simply astounding." Miller's debut recording with the Westminster Choir, *Flower of Beauty*, received four stars from *Choir & Organ* magazine and earned critical praise from *American Record Guide*, which described the Westminster Choir as "the gold standard for academic choirs in America."

Miller has collaborated with some of the world's leading orchestras and conductors, earning him critical praise. Read more [here](#).

## All-State Musical Theatre Honors Ensemble Director

**Mr. Michael K. Hancey**  
**Arts Educator, Conductor, and Playwright**

Mr. Michael K. Hancey began his teaching career in 1991, having graduated from the University of Utah with a Bachelor of Music Degree with a choral emphasis. He has taught in Arizona, Wisconsin, Idaho (where he earned his Master's Degree in Administration and



Supervision), and finally teaching in Wyoming. Over the course of his career, he has taught at all levels of education from kindergarten to high school seniors.

He taught elementary music, junior high choir, senior high choir, Spanish, Musical Theatre, AP Music Theory, Drama 1 & 2, Theatre Tech, Shakespeare through Film, Bach to Rock, and many other courses. He served as Department Chair multiple times, on various curriculum committees, as high school principal, as Theatre Manager, and other roles within education.

As a teacher, his choirs toured the United States, Ireland, and Western Europe winning multiple awards. He has served as Wyoming President of ACDA, Jazz Choir conductor for Wyoming Ambassadors of Music, and has conducted various community and religious-based choirs.

He has directed over twenty Musical Theatre productions including "Something Rotten!", "Bye, Bye Birdie", "Mamma Mia!", "White Christmas", "Pippin", "Beauty and the Beast", "Into the Woods", "The Addams Family", "Peter Pan", "Les Miserables School Edition", "Singin' in the Rain", "Cinderella" and many, many more. He has also directed multiple plays including "Blithe Spirit", "1984", "Romeo and Juliet", "Almost, Maine", "The Laramie Project", "Alice in Wonderland", "You Can't Take It With You", "12 Angry Jurors", and many more.

Mr. Hancey retired from teaching in 2022 and currently resides in western New York with his partner Cyndi, and cat Hamilton, he also works as a playwright and in Human Resources for a major home improvement retailer.

## Volunteer Opportunities

MSVMA offers so many things to its membership; educational opportunities, specialized events, honors choirs, literature recommendations, program enrichment opportunities, networking...the list goes on and on!

**None of this is possible without volunteers.**

From our amazing District Managers, site hosts, festival coordinators, and members helping out in headquarters during festivals, we see volunteerism alive and well within our organization - but we need YOU to ensure our continued success!

There are many upcoming opportunities for you to help out as we wrap up this school year. Perhaps one of these events is close to you either close in location or close to your heart!

- Remainder of our District Festivals
- State S&E Festivals
  - East Site, April 12-13 at Lake Orion High School
  - South Site, April 12-13 at Jackson Northwest High School
  - UP Site, April 12 at St. Paul Episcopal Church
  - Central Site, April 19-20 at Traverse City West High School
  - West Site, April 19-20 at Allendale High School
- State Choral Festivals
  - East Site, April 29-May 1 at Marysville High School
  - South Site, May 1-3 at Leslie High School
  - West Site, May 3, 6, 7 at Hope College
  - Central Site, May 6-7 at Midland Public Schools
- A Capella Festival, May 2-3 at Ann Arbor Skyline High School
- All-State Festival, May 9-11 at Michigan State University
- Choral Student Leadership Conference, June 20 at Central Michigan University
- Summer Conference 2024, July 31 - August 1 at The Lansing Center

Please use this [form](#) to sign up for any of these opportunities.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve. Our festival hosts, supervisors, and coordinators will surely appreciate all the help they can get! When people support each other, incredible things happen.

**Submitted by Brian Leduc, Board of Directors, Member-At-Large**

## Outstanding Choir Application

Applications must be submitted by Friday, April 1, 2024.

This application offers consideration to perform at the All-State Festival Gala Concert at 7 PM on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

Please review the [eligibility guidelines](#) before completing this application.

[Apply Here](#)

## All-State Festival Soloists, Ensembles and Outstanding Choirs Registration

Registrations must be submitted by Friday, May 3, 2024.

Please review the [eligibility guidelines](#) before registering.

[Registration for All-State Festival Soloists, Ensembles and Outstanding Choirs](#)

## 2024 State Choral Festival Adjudicators

MSVMA is pleased to announce the [State Choral Festival Adjudicators](#).

## Choral Music Education College Scholarship Application is Open!

The Michigan School Vocal Music Association is proud to offer one, \$10,000 scholarship to an outstanding high school choral student who is pursuing a degree in choral music education. The scholarship is paid in increments of \$1,250 per semester for the duration of a 4-year college degree.

To be eligible, the following requirements must be met or maintained:

- Applicant must graduate from a High School member school of MSVMA
- Applicant must attend one of the following collegiate music programs for choral music education:

Adrian College  
Albion College  
Alma College  
Andrew's University  
Aquinas College  
Central Michigan University  
Cornerstone University  
Eastern Michigan University  
Grand Valley State University  
Hope College  
Michigan State University  
Northern Michigan University  
Oakland University  
Saginaw Valley State University  
Spring Arbor University  
University of Michigan  
Wayne State University  
Western Michigan University

- Scholarship recipients must maintain a 3.0 GPA and remain in good standing in their respective degree programs as a full-time student.

The application deadline is May 1, 2024, for the 2024-2025 academic school year. The recipient will be contacted by mid-May and will be announced at Summer Conference.

NOTE: Students must be accepted to a collegiate music program before applying.

[Apply Here](#)

**Join us for the first annual MSVMA Eagles for Education!**



**EAGLES FOR EDUCATION  
GOLF OUTING**

**Wednesday, June 26**  
8:30 AM Registration  
9:30 AM Shotgun Start  
\$400 per team (\$100 per player)

**Registration includes:**  
18 holes of golf with a cart  
Coffee at registration  
Lunch at the turn (hot dog and chips)  
Taco Bar

First Aid Kits and Raffle Tickets available for purchase.  
Prizes for winners, longest drive, and closest to the pin  
Hole-in-One Contest



**Brookshire Golf Club**  
205 W. Church Street  
Williamston, MI 48895

All proceeds from Eagles for Education Golf Outing will support The Michigan School Vocal Music Association and help to reach over 60,000 students each year through vocal music programming.

Brookshire offers a beautifully maintained course that lends itself to golfers of all abilities to enjoy. The golf course is 6,300 yards of beautiful greens, grass swales, mounded bunkers, and plenty of water.

[Click Here to Register Your Team](#)

Contact Debra Jacks at [debrajacks@msvma.org](mailto:debrajacks@msvma.org) to become a Sponsor!

[Click to download Sponsorship One-Sheet](#)

**Register today for Choral Student Leadership Conference!**



Central Michigan University  
Thursday, June 20, 2024  
9 AM - 4 PM

Registration Fee: \$50



**Dr. Derrick Fox, Headliner**

Professor of Choral Music  
Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and  
Creative Endeavors at Michigan State University

Leaders come in all shapes and sizes - musical, motivational, and those who have great potential but just aren't sure how to be a "leader". These wonderful qualities describe the types of students we hope you will send to the 2024 Choral Student Leadership Conference.

We are confident they will be inspired by the amazing **Dr. Derrick Fox** from Michigan State University.

**Submitted by Wendee Wolf-Schlarf, Choral Student Leadership Conference Coordinator**

Choral Student Leadership Conference Information

## Volunteer Spotlight



### Jillian Burgam (Newton)

SUPERVISOR OF STATE CHORAL FESTIVALS

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

Three years

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

Last year, I brought along several student volunteers as the coordinator for State Choral Festival South. I loved getting to see them witness the amazing talent of the choirs at the festival. They were so excited and appreciative of those singers' hard work and they brought that enthusiasm back to our own classroom.

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

My professional inspiration is the myriad of students and adults that I've had the opportunity to work with over the years. It is a joy to see their progress, their delight in that progress, and the bond they form through music. It is the inspiration I use every day and was the reason that I joined this profession.

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

In my free time, I enjoy singing in community choirs. I am always trying to find opportunities to get on the other side of the podium. I also enjoy hiking and traveling, especially with my dogs, and I am excited to spend most of my time getting to know my new daughter who arrived a few weeks ago!

## Meet your District Managers



### Abbey Herrman DISTRICT 6 CO-MANAGER

**Favorite Food:** Popcorn

**Hobbies:** Gardening

**Fun Fact:** I'm left-handed.

**Favorite TV Show/Movie:** Futurama

**Favorite Book:** The Lady Darby Mysteries by Anna Lee Huber

**Your #1 song that gets replayed (or song that you'll sing your heart out to):** "My Shot" from Hamilton

**How long have you volunteered for MSVMA?**  
This is my first year!

## Scholarship Competition



### Madrigal Chorale Vocal Scholarship Competition

Madrigal Chorale is pleased to announce its 29th Annual Vocal Scholarship Competition. This unique opportunity allows aspiring and talented young vocalists to earn scholarships for their educational studies.

Eligible students must submit a vocal recording of their selected pieces for judging. Finalists chosen will be invited to participate in Madrigal Chorale's Spring Concert which will take place May 18, 2024 at Orchard Lake Community Church located at 5171 Commerce Rd., Orchard Lake, MI.

There will be one:

- \$600 Grand Prize award
- one \$300 award
- one \$200 award presented at this competition.

Interested students should submit a video recording by the deadline listed below.

Submissions must include:

- A video recording of two solo selections
- Scanned copies of the music for adjudication purposes
- A completed registration form

Please also note:

- Selections should be from the classical art song/aria repertoire
- Musical Theatre or Popular songs are discouraged
- Selections may be recorded using either live accompaniment or a pre-recorded piano track

Submissions must be uploaded by April 28, 2024, to the following [link](#).

Finalists will be notified by May 5, 2024. Please note that the concert will be recorded and Madrigal Chorale may use portions.

Enclosed are the qualifications, rules, and application form. We invite and request your help in promoting this competition to qualified high school vocalists. Qualified vocalists include all high school students in good academic standing who attend a high school in Michigan. Please make copies of, or forward, the enclosed materials and distribute them to any interested student.

**Submitted by John Niesen President, Madrigal Chorale** [madrigalchoralescholarship@gmail.com](mailto:madrigalchoralescholarship@gmail.com)

**Want to submit a story for Tempo!**

 [feedback@msvma.org](mailto: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](mailto:erikjacobson@msvma.org).



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

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