



Tempo!

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

November 2022

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- November 18 | All-State Jazz Choir Registration Deadline (midnight)
- November 18 | Musical Theatre Honors Ensemble Online Auditions Open
- November 19 | Choral Conductors/Educators Workshop, WMU Dalton Center
- November 19 | 6789 Honors Choir Rehearsal
- December 3 | Regional Honors Choir - State Auditions
- December 3 | Rehearsal, Notes and Rhythms
- December 7 | Musical Theatre Honors Ensemble Online Auditions Deadline (midnight)
- December 9 | State Honors Choir Registration Deadline (midnight)
- December 31 | All-State Music Theatre Honors Ensemble Application Deadline (midnight)



Early Bird Rate for Friday/Saturday - \$110 and after December 16 - \$140
If you can only attend ONE DAY of the conference - \$80 Early Rate; \$105 after December 16.

Registration is now open for the 2023 Michigan Music - January 19 - 21. The Conference is in Grand Rapids with sessions and performances being held at DeVos Place, Amway Grand Hotel and the J.W. Marriott.

MSVMA will be featuring Dr. Derrick Fox as our 2023 MMC Headliner. Dr. Fox is not a stranger to Michigan as during his time attending Michigan State University he served as a highly sought clinician and festival adjudicator.

Dr. Fox will be presenting three different sessions with the focus on Diversity and Inclusion in Action as well as participate in the “Meeting of the Minds” panel discussion.

Friday, January 20, 10:00 AM - Diversity and Inclusion in Action

Friday, January 20, 2:00 PM - Diversity and Inclusion in Action: Exploring Repertoire

Saturday, January 21, - The P.A.S.S.I.O.N.A.T.E. Choral Director's Guide to Longevity in the Classroom

Saturday, January 21 - “Meeting of the Minds” Panel Discussion



Dr. Derrick Fox is the Director of Choral Activities and Distinguished Associate Professor of Music at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He earned a BME from Arkansas State University, a MM in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri – Columbia and a DMA in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University, where he was awarded the prestigious University Enrichment Graduate Fellowship. Dr. Fox has taught at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels. His conducting experiences have included singers from upper elementary choirs through collegiate and community choirs. Recently, he was awarded the 2021 Bryan R. Johnson Service Award by the Nebraska Music Educators Association and the 2022 University of Nebraska Omaha Award for Distinguished Research/Creative Activity.

Dr. Fox has conducted all state choirs, led international, national and regional choral concerts/residencies and presented professional development workshops across the United States and internationally. His professional workshops focus on assessment in the choral classroom, building classroom community, rehearsal strategies, choral conducting techniques and shape note singing in the African American community. Dr. Fox has held teaching residencies and workshops at the Latvian Academy of Music, Syracuse

University, Michigan State University and the University of Missouri - Columbia. He has also led performance tours through Lithuania and Estonia. In 2019, he conducted National ACDA Middle School/Junior High Mixed Honor Choir and traveled to South Africa as a 2019 ACDA International Conductor Exchange Fellow where he led choral workshops and rehearsals in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Potchefstroom. His recent engagements include presentations at Choral Canada's Podium Conference, the National Federation of Ghanaian Choirs Inaugural Choral Conference and the Public Administration Theory International Conference in Mexico ; as well as conducting all state choirs in Oregon, Wyoming, Georgia, Kansas, South Carolina and Virginia.

As a baritone soloist, Dr. Fox has collaborated with various organizations; among them are the Arkansas Symphony, Lansing Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Columbia Chorale, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha Symphonic Chorus, University of Missouri, Michigan State University, Webster University and the Espaço Cultural (Brasilia, Brazil). He can be heard singing selections from Gershwin's Porgy and Bess on the compact disc In This Hid Clearing, available on the Naxos Classical Music label.

As an author, Dr. Fox has written articles for many organizations and was a contributing author in the Hal Leonard/McGraw Hill choral textbook Voices in Concert. His compositions and arrangements are published by Hal Leonard and Brilee Music. His book, Yes You Can: A Band Director's Guide to Teaching Choirs is published by Carl Fischer. He launched The Derrick Fox Choral Series with Music Spoke to publish works by and about marginalized and minoritized people. He created the Professional Choral Collective (PCC) to collect and create learning activities and teaching strategies for choral music educators around the world to use during the 2020 Coronavirus virus pandemic and beyond. He also partnered with the Country Music Association Foundation to create the Unified Voices for Music Education Initiative which provides learning activities for instrumental and elementary music educators.

Dr. Fox serves on the advisory board for the Sound Spirit, a research lab and publishing initiative promoting collaborative engagement with the songbooks that sound America's musical landscape. He is also a member of the advisory board for the Choral Singing in America documentary series.

Pre Conference Opportunities - Thursday, January 19

MSVMA Choral Conducting Symposium

Dr. Erin Colwitz, Headliner

Director of Choral Activities, Northern Michigan University

9 am – 11 am

Additional fee for this session; fee does not include lunch

\$40 - Conducting Member; \$20 - Observer Member

20-minute sessions with six participant conductors, focusing on conducting and rehearsal technique. This event will allow participants to conduct traditional choral repertoire with Northern Michigan University Chorale, and receive live feedback and instruction from headliner Dr. Erin Colwitz. Teachers have the opportunity to apply as either a Conductor or as an Observer. College students may apply as an Observer. Both new and experienced choral conductors can benefit from observing or conducting.

Repertoire for the Conducting Symposium will include “Earth Song”, Frank Ticheli; “Ukrainian Alleluia”, Craig Courtney and “Day of Fire and Sun”, Dom DiOrio. Registration for this can be found in the conference registration. Communication will be sent to those who have signed up to participate at conductors with details regarding music selection.

MSVMA Collegiate Networking Sessions

The MSVMA Student Advisory Board is planning to offer three interest sessions on Thursday from 4 - 7 p.m. These sessions will provide an opportunity to connect with collegiate MSVMA members as well as learn about life as a music educator. Strategies on how to interview for that first job and thrive as a music educator will also be shared. There are no additional fees for these sessions.

General Conference Sessions & Performances

In addition to educational sessions, we will have musical performances from our 6-7-8-9, high school traditional and Vocal Jazz Honors Choirs and Choral Hour is back on Friday. Time to gather as we celebrate the members of MSVMA with election results, 2023 Teacher of the Year, emeriti recognition and see friends and colleagues at the Friday evening Annual Meeting and Reception.

More details will follow, but be sure to place these dates on your calendar and plan to join us at MMC 2023.

Submitted by Wendee Wolf-Schlarf

SPECIALIZED FESTIVALS

All-State Music Theatre Honors Ensemble

MSVMA is proud to announce the return of the MSVMA All-State Music Theatre Honors Ensemble, which will be directed by Catherine A. Walker from the University of Michigan!

Twenty students will be selected to perform in the MSVMA All-State Music Theatre Honors Ensemble with rehearsals on January 18 (Grand Rapids, MI) and May 11 (East Lansing, MI) and an evening performance on May 11 at the MSVMA All-State Festival. Students who have received a First Division (I) Rating at the MSVMA Music Theatre Solo and Ensemble Festival are eligible to audition for this special opportunity!

The audition form and the audition video must be submitted by midnight on December 31st. In order to audition, students will need to pay a \$25, non-refundable audition fee. See the directions and link below.

Students must complete all requirements listed on the application ([CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION](#)) and submit (within the form) a 32 bar cut of your musical theatre solo in an unlisted youtube video by December 31, 2022 to be considered. If selected, you will be working with skilled clinicians to create a powerful musical theatre performance representing the best MT students in the state of Michigan. Students will be screened by a panel of judges.

If selected, you will be attending an all-day rehearsal workshop on January 18, 2023 at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids and an all-day rehearsal on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at the MSVMA All-State Festival followed by a performance at the Thursday night All-State Festival Gala concert.

Remember, the deadline to complete the application for this amazing opportunity is 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2022.

Questions can be directed to lynciechanski@msvma.org

Submitted by Lyn CieChanski, Director of Specialized Festivals

Hello there! I am
Emileigh Hartung
MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICE COORDINATOR



Hello! 

I want to say first, that I am so happy to be working for MSVMA as the Membership and Office Coordinator. I am looking forward to meeting you all soon!

Here is a little more about me:
I earned my bachelors in Advertising Integrated Marketing Communications from Ferris State. I met my my husband 8 years ago in the Athletic Pep Band at FSU. Music has always been a passion for both of us and we are so grateful it brought us together. I have two pets -a dog named Mosley, & a cat named Oscar. I am a first time mom. I love to get out and walk, and travel to new places/experiences as a family.

Contact: emileigh@msvma.org
PO Box 1131 Big Rapids, MI 49307

My favorite things

Food: Pizza, Tacos, & Donuts

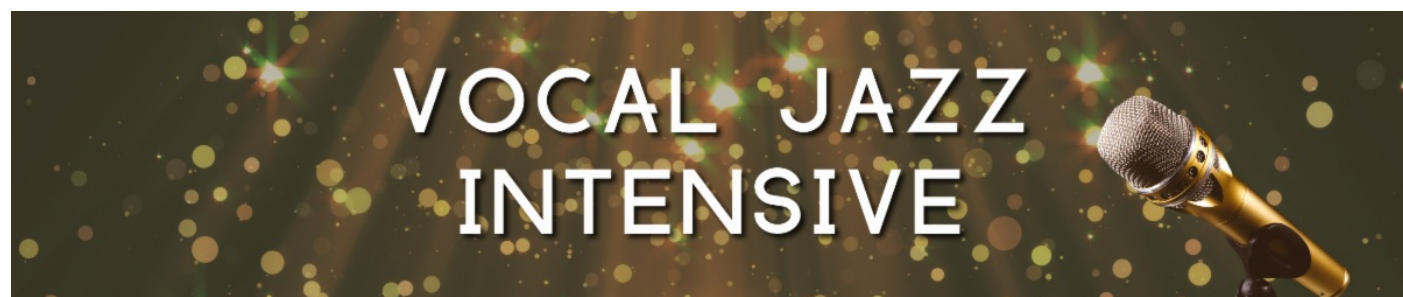
Color: Purple

Hobby: Graphic Design, Photography & Crafts

Movie: Anything Disney and How the Grinch Stole Christmas (Jim Carrey's Version)

TV Show: Gilmore Girls

Favorite Artist: Taylor Swift and Sam Smith



1st Annual Vocal Jazz Intensive Update

The first annual Vocal Jazz Intensive was a resounding success, featuring clinicians Duane Davis, April Tini, Erik Jacobson and over 200 students from across the state.

Some of the students' comments in the post-event evaluation included:

- "10/10 would recommend!"
- "I had a great time and think that the Intensive was truly inspiring!!"
- "This was such a cool experience and everyone was so touched by it, I think everything was perfect and very excited for next year!!"
- "It was awesome!!"
- "I haven't had this much fun in a while!"
- "This was genuinely such a fun event and I feel like I learned so much. I'm so glad that we were able to do this year."

Keep your eyes open for next year's event!

Submitted by **Michael Wheaton, Vocal Jazz Intensive Coordinator**



Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand and the Jason Max Ferdinand Singers

Choral Conductors/Educators Workshop

November 19, 2022, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Western Michigan University Dalton Center, Rehearsal Z (1116)

Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand will present a complimentary session for choral conductors/educators on Saturday, November 19, 2022, from 1 - 2:30 pm at Western Michigan University Dalton Center, Rehearsal Z (1116). Sponsored by MSVMA, Dr. Ferdinand will discuss the choral music experience in the 21st century, the healing, transformational power of music, and his book, "Teaching With Heart", which addresses societal issues in our choral rehearsals.

Whether you teach in a middle or high school, college or university, church, community choir, or are a university student, this session is for you! Register at [Jason Max Ferdinand Choral Conductor/Educator Workshop Registration](#).

The Jason Max Ferdinand Singers will be in residency at Western Michigan University School of Music and First Congregational Church November 16-20, 2022. Join us for their

public performance on Saturday, November 19 at 7:30 pm at First Congregational Church, 345 W. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo. Tickets are available at <https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/W>

Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan

29th Annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition

The Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan is pleased to announce its 2023 Annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan high school students is open and accepting entries. Information for students to participate in this exciting event can be accessed through the Verdi Opera's website at **Verdi Opera Theatre**

Advance information is being sent to Michigan high school vocal music teachers, as well as to private music teachers and other related entities to encourage participation in this prestigious competition which has earned a reputation as the oldest and one of the top vocal competitions for young student vocalists in our state.

The deadline to submit student entries is February 18, 2023. Ten finalists will be selected, and will perform live at the Concert of the Finalists, to be held at the Italian American Club of Livonia, on Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 4 p.m.

The winner of the Competition will receive \$1,000, and all the finalists will receive a monetary prize and other valued support. Most importantly, every participant in the competition will be able to explore the wonderful world of classical Italian songs and opera arias to test their talent in this challenging art form.

The Verdi Opera's commitment is to encourage and assist the development of young vocal music students through our annual vocal competition, by awarding scholarship prizes, and by providing opportunities for these emerging young talents to perform at our concerts. This has resulted in the rewarding experience of several of these young singers being engaged to perform with major opera companies, including New York's Metropolitan Opera and Milan's La Scala, as well as with the Detroit Opera and other prominent opera companies.

Bravissimi!

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

District Event Spotlight



District 1 Mass Choral Festival Garners 100% Participation

District 1 Mass Choral Festival was well received including students from every school member of District 1: Big Rapids Public Schools - Amy Schroeder, Director; Cadillac Area Public Schools - Amy Swanson, Director; Ludington Public Schools - Elliot Plummer, Director; Manistee Area Public Schools - Amanda Feyen, Director; Manton Public Schools - Michelle Nuffer, Director; Mason County Central Public Schools - Caleb Schultz, Director; Pine River Area Public Schools - Jessica Gardner, Director; and Shelby Public Schools - Gustavo Morales, Director. Participation included 315 students who sang with the purpose of having fun and experiencing unity among District 1 schools. Students were assured that the festival was to gather together to support one another and enjoy singing together with no pressure or stress. Parents were invited for the day or to enjoy the mini concert at the conclusion of the day.

Clinician Dr. Amon Eady, Assistant Professor, Director of Choral Activities, Central Michigan University commented, "Thank you all for having me! It was a wonderful time! I mentioned to someone that it was more like an honor choir because of the level of preparation and participation. Congrats to you all for such wonderful work!"

The Festival was held on October 26 at Big Rapids High School. Students sang
SATB: There has to be a song, Ramsey
SSA: Never one thing, Erlewine/Ramsey
TTB: Bonse Aba, Johnson

“It was a great day! My students really enjoyed it! It was so nice to be back together again and making music! Thank you to all who helped coordinate! It's so nice for my small group to be able to be a part of something like this!” remarked Amanda Feyen, Choir Director, Manistee Area Public Schools.

Submitted by Katie McInnis, District 1 Manager

Choral Masterwork Performance Mozart's Coronation Mass in C

On Tuesday, November 15, 115 high school singers from 5 Flint area high schools joined forces with a professional chamber orchestra and soloists to perform Mozart's Coronation Mass. With the help of 4 mini grants from MSVMA, Flushing, Davison, Grand Blanc and Swartz Creek high school choirs were able to pool the money to hire the professional orchestra to make this event a memorable one for all the singers.

Performing a Choral Masterwork allows students a completely different singing experience that involves collaboration, proximity to professionals and a different genre than what usually is performed at their regular concerts. The high light of this concert was seeing the satisfaction on their faces as they successfully nailed the Credo of this mass which is the most challenging.

If you have questions on how to organize a concert like this, I'd be happy to answer them.

Submitted by Nate Degner, Choir Teacher, Flushing High School and Middle School



Happy Thanksgiving!

MSVMA's State Office will be closed November 24 and 25.

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!