



Tempo!

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

October 2022

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- October 20 | Musical Theatre S&E Festivals - East and West - Registration Deadline
- October 20 | Chamber Festival Registration Deadline
- October 28 | HS Regional Honors Choir State Auditions Registration Deadline (midnight)
- November 4 | All-State Jazz Choir Online Auditions Deadline (midnight)
- November 5 | Adjudication Conference, Hartland High School
- November 5 | 6789 Honors Choir Fees and Forms Deadline
- November 12 | Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
- November 15 | Carolyn Leep Scholarship Applications Due
- November 18 | All-State Jazz Choir Registration Deadline (midnight)
- November 19 | Choral Conductors/Educators Workshop, WMU Dalton Center

SPECIALIZED FESTIVALS

Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble Festival

November 12
East Site
Oxford High School, Oxford

November 19
West Site
Grand Valley State University, Allendale

Chamber Festival

November 8
7 p.m.
East Site
Oakland University West Campus, 115
University Drive, Auburn Hills

November 15
7 p.m.

**October 20
Registration deadline**

MSVMA welcomes middle and high school students to participate in its Musical Theatre Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Participants must be in 7th-12th grade, enrolled and in good standing in their school's vocal music program. Student's school must be a member of MSVMA. Soloists, duets, and ensembles (up to 20 performers) are eligible to participate.

Festival information and guidelines for performers, directors and accompanists may be viewed at msvma.org.

[More Information](#)

**West Site
East Grand Rapids High School, East Grand Rapids**

**October 20
Registration deadline**

Our Chamber Festivals encourage ensemble singing and sharing of ensemble literature. These non-adjudicated events provide a concert arena for performance by middle, junior and high schools. Participating ensembles share and learn together and from each other.

There is no required piece for participation. Select music appropriate for solo and ensemble festival. Participants are encouraged to sing at least one selection a cappella. Performance should be 15 minutes or less.

The number of participants in each group should reflect the character and style of ensemble music. The recommended guideline is between 4 and a maximum of 24 performers.

Ensembles performing in Chamber Choir Festivals must be seated in the concert hall for the duration of the Festival. This is an educational experience for all participants. Ensembles that do not attend the Festivals as listeners are subject to sanctions from Festivals by the MSVMA Board of Directors.

[Registration](#)

For more information, visit msvma.org or contact Director of Specialized Festivals Lyn CieChanski at lynciechanski.msvma.org.

Submitted by Lyn CieChanski, Director of Specialized Festivals



MSVMA Receives Michigan Arts and Culture Council Grant

MSVMA is pleased to announce its selection for an award of a \$22,500 grant from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council formerly known as the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. These funds will supplement programming around the state and for organizational innovation.

Congratulations to Erik Jacobson and Debra Jacks for successfully completing the application process

including the submission of the Cultural Data Profile which collects multiple years of organization financial and operational data. The grant was awarded through the MACC peer review process and was one of 639 applications to compete for MACC fiscal year 2023 funding. MSVMA's application scored 97.66 out of a possible 100 which was the fourth highest score in the state. The quality of their submission earns MSVMA the benefit of submitting a fast-tracked application and receiving funding for the next two grant cycles.

Submitted by Gail Worden, President



**Vocal Jazz Intensive
October 20, 2022
Forest Hills Fine Arts Center
600 Forest Hills Ave SE, Grand Rapids, 49546**

MSVMA will welcome singers in grades 7-12 to our Vocal Jazz Intensive (VJI) on October 20 at Forest Hills Fine Arts Center. We are delighted to have an incredible panel of clinicians from around the state, including Duane Davis and All-State Conductor April Tini, to help students and teachers learn about vocal jazz. Morning sessions will include topics on improvisation, circle singing, jazz warm-ups, and jazz vocal technique.

Students will rehearse with clinicians, perform, and participate in a variety of topic sessions. In addition, students will have the opportunity to sing two pieces on the evening concert as part of a mass choir. Teachers may choose to bring an entire ensemble and can perform as a group on the evening concert as well.

This is looking to be an exciting day full of singing and companionship as MSVMA dives further into the vocal jazz genre!



[Registration](#)

**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 Letovsky, 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.

For more information, please contact Director of Adjudication Pam Pierson at pampierson@msvma.org.

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>

Education Grant Recipients Announced!

The Michigan School Vocal Music Association recognizes that financial support for music and the arts is important to program development. We are pleased to offer assistance to choral music programs in

need. Successful completion of the application process which includes a review by a peer committee provides member school applicants with \$500 grants. Potential expenditures include, but are not limited to classroom items, music purchases, transportation, technology, uniforms, professional development and innovations/projects. Funds can be used for general operating support of the music program.

Congratulations to the 2022 grant recipients!

Carl T. Renton Junior High School | Brenda Bressler | music purchases
Charlotte High School | Zach Everly | uniforms
Dundee Community Schools | Megan Sinclair | music purchases
E. A. Johnson High School | Steven Holovach | orchestra fees supplement and transportation
Flushing High School | Nathan Degner | master choral work concert
Grand Blanc High School | Thomas Kaiser | orchestra fees supplement
Ludington Public Schools | Elliot Plummer | uniforms
Mt. Morris Middle School | Steven Holovach | registration, transportation, music
Oakview Middle School | Ryan Dawley | percussion instruments
Portage Central Middle School | Randi Simons-Miller | rhythm sticks
Swartz Creek High School | Jared Leuck | orchestra fees supplement
Three Rivers High School | Alex Williams | uniforms
Traverse City West Middle School | Emerick Dee | participation scholarships
Walled Lake Northern High School | Ashley Ward | music purchases
Wayne Memorial High School | Xander Greene | imprinted music folders
West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts | Lori Beason | rolling white boards

District Event Spotlight



District 3 Middle School Vocal Arts Day

The halls of the Swartz Creek Performing Arts Center were filled with the joyous sounds of enthusiastic middle school singers on Friday, September 23 at the first District 3 Middle School Vocal Arts Day. Bringing together eight schools, the vision of the event was to engage middle school students in the choir community early on in the year, teaching them about singing in harmony, and that other schools around them have middle school choirs who are doing the same things.

District 3 Co-Managers Michelle Wilson (choir director, Davison Middle School) and Steve Holovach (choir director, E. A. Johnson High School and Mt. Morris Middle School) organized the day with the assistance of Jared Leuck (choir director, Swartz Creek High School) who served as event host and

recorded the performances. Students and their teachers benefited from the knowledge and guidance of Shayla Powell (choir director of Milan Middle School and High School) in developing their vocal skills and abilities.

Event organizer Michelle Wilson commented, "This event has been a dream of mine for years. I remember attending a Vocal Arts Day at the University of Michigan when I was in high school, and the impact it had on me." She continued, "I knew something like this was needed for our middle school students, I just didn't want to be the one to organize it! I had lots of support in planning the event and I'm very happy with how it went!"

Participating singers received a logoed t-shirt with a unique color for each school. A total of 307 students attended including middle schools Davison (73 students, Michelle Wilson, director), Durand (34 students, Jessica Delay, director), Milan (44 students, Shayla Powell, director), Flushing (55 students, Nate Degner, director), Grand Blanc East (7 students, Nathan Cort, director), Grand Blanc West (19 students, Tom Kaiser, director), Swartz Creek (30 students, Jared Leuck, director), and Mt. Morris (45 students, Steve Holovach, director).

Are you the next Leep Scholar?

MSVMA awards scholarships to members pursuing an advanced degree or who wish to enroll in a non-degree choral music institute or workshop. Potential areas of study include choral conducting, composition with emphasis on choral/vocal music, vocal music education and church music with vocal/choral emphasis.

Applicants must have at least three years teaching experience in Michigan and be able to return to MSVMA activities after using the scholarship.

Applications are reviewed by the Carolyn F. Leep Scholarship Committee which is chaired by the past president. Have questions, contact angelgippert@msvma.org.

Application Deadline: November 15, 2022

[Scholarship Application](#)

Scholarship must be used by December 31, 2025.

The Carolyn F. Leep Scholarship was established in 1988 in honor of Carolyn and her service to the Michigan School Vocal Music Association. As head of the Malecki Music Inc. Choral/Vocal Department, Carolyn worked tirelessly for 20 years to provide MSVMA members with materials to support their efforts as music educators.

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.



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