



Tempo!

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

OCTOBER 2023

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

October 21 | Adjudication Conference
October 26 | Vocal Jazz Intensive
October 27 | High School Regional Honors Choir State Auditions Registration Deadline
November 3 | All-State Jazz Choir Online Auditions Deadline
November 4 | 6789 Honors Choirs Rehearsal
November 6 | All-State Jazz Choir Audition Results Posted
November 7 | Chamber Choir Festival East
November 11 | Musical Theatre S&E Festival East
November 11 | Board of Directors Meeting
November 15 | Carolyn F. Leep Scholarship Applications Due
November 15 | Chamber Choir Festival West
November 17 | All-State Jazz Choir Registration Deadline
November 17 | Musical Theatre Honors Ensemble Online Auditions Open
November 18 | 6789 Honors Choirs Rehearsal
November 18 | Musical Theatre S&E Festival West

All-State Jazz Choir

I know you don't have much time, so I want to get right to my four points about the All-State Jazz Choir.

Wait, come back! You should be considering All-State Jazz Choir, I promise!

1. All-State Jazz Choir is accessible. Historically, a large percentage of student participants have come from schools where vocal jazz is not a core part of their curricular choirs. Excellence in solo jazz interpretation or scat singing is not required, just the same attention to intonation, tone, and musicality that you would need to audition for any honors choir.

2. All-State Jazz Choir is growing! Every year, we add schools sending students. And every year, those students leave saying "I am so glad we did this!"

3. All-State Jazz Choir is excellent. We are welcoming world-class conductors every year and giving students a truly amazing experience. They will learn and perform five vocal jazz arrangements, led in 2024 by the amazing Dr. Kate Reid, head of the vocal jazz program at the University of Miami - widely regarded as one of the finest jazz and vocal programs in the world. You can listen to her most recent album [here](#).

4. All-State Jazz Choir is auditioning now. The audition process is straightforward and [described here](#). Auditions are due by November 3 at 11:59 PM

If you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to contact me at jedscott@msvma.org



2023 All-State Jazz Choir
April Arabian-Tini, Director (center front row)

For More Information

Submitted by Jed Scott, Coordinator of All-State Jazz Choir

Musical Theatre Intensive Results & Update

October has been busy! On October 7, Livonia Churchill and Ann Fisher hosted MSVMA's Musical Theatre Intensive. 100 students were selected (over 120 auditioned!) to attend this exciting event. The students rotated in groups of 25 and got the chance to work with esteemed clinicians. Of those 100 students, eight students were recognized for their work and earned a spot in the All-State Musical Theatre Honors Ensemble which performs at the All-State Gala Concert in May. In addition, two performers were selected from those eight students to perform at the Specialized Choral Hour at the Michigan Music Conference.



Results:

MMC Selected Soloist 1 & MT Honors Ensemble

Braeden Davis - "I'll Buy You A Star" from *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn*
Loy Norrix High School
Marisa Bergh

MMC Selected Soloist 2 & MT Honors Ensemble

Carly Koch - "Disneyland" from *Smile*
Portage Central High School
Randi Simons-Miller

MMC Alternate 1 & MT Honors Ensemble

Noah Aiello - "How It Ends" from *Big Fish*
Portage Northern High School
Chelsea Whiteoak

MMC Alternate 2 & MT Honors Ensemble

Zoe Burrell - "I'm Here" from *The Color Purple*
Wylie E. Groves High School
Carolyn Carrano

MT Honors Ensemble

Jonathon Ellison - "Johanna" from *Sweeney Todd*



Churchill High School
Ann Fisher

MT Honors Ensemble

Ava Grunder - "Once Upon A Time" from *Brooklyn*
Portage Northern High School
Chelsea Whiteoak

MT Honors Ensemble

Abbey House - "Forever" from *Shrek the Musical*
Rockford High School
Mandy Scott

MT Honors Ensemble

Kaylee Martin - "Get Out and Stay Out" from *9 to 5*
North Muskegon High School
Beth Slimko

Submitted by Megan Sinclair, Director of Specialized Festivals

Festival Scheduling

In case you missed this information in September, here are some items to note about scheduling this year.

- If your membership has not yet been activated, you may log in to the scheduling website, but you won't see any school information nor will you be able to schedule for any of our events. Make sure that you both renew at msvma.org and submit payment to avoid this situation.
- Payment for festivals can be made by credit card on the scheduling website or you can print an invoice to submit a check or PO - this must be mailed by the registration deadline. Late registration will be open for one week following the deadline with an additional fee and must be paid by credit card on the scheduling website.
- If you pay by credit card you can simply scan and email your signed invoice to the person in charge of scheduling the festival.
- Instructions for registering for festivals can be found on the event pages on msvma.org.
- For those of you new to MSVMA, here is a starting point for you: [Welcome Information](#)
- If you would like to submit a transfer request, instructions can be found here: [Event Transfer](#)

As always, if there is anything that I can do to help you, please do not hesitate to ask. I am happy to provide support for anyone who needs it.

I hope you are having a great start to your year and I look forward to seeing you and your students at a festival this year!

Submitted by Julia Holt, State Scheduling Coordinator and MSVMA Treasurer

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

Adjudication Conference

October 21, 2023
Charlotte High School
8 AM – 1 PM

Dr. Derrick Fox, Michigan State University, Choral Performance
Jessica Nieuwkoop, Okemos High School, Choral Sight Reading

[Register for Adjudication Conference at Charlotte High School](#)

Adjudication Conference

January 25, 2024

Imperial Ballroom, Amway Grand Plaza
8 AM – 1 PM
Dr. Brandon Johnson, Eastern Michigan University, Choral Performance
TBD, Choral Sight Reading

Register for Adjudication Conference at Michigan Music Conference

Adjudication In-Services Solo Performance

January 13, 2024
Traverse City West High School
7:30 AM - 4 PM

January 20, 2024
Howell High School
7:30 AM - 4 PM

Registration for January 13 In-Service
Solo Performance

Registration for January 20 In-Service
Solo Performance

Have you thought about becoming an adjudicator but are unsure of the process? MSVMA 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



MSVMA's Vision Statement:

As innovative leaders in vocal music education, we provide experiences to inspire our diverse community. Our vision is to reach the hearts of all people through song.

We ambitiously claim the title of innovative leaders. With this action, we accept the challenge of constantly seeking ways to enhance and improve our existing programming. We develop new learning opportunities to ensure that students and teachers continue to grow their knowledge of vocal music in meaningful ways. We do these things because we steadfastly believe in the valuable contributions that vocal music education provides to our students and their futures.

How can you help ensure that we continue to be innovative leaders?

Make a charitable gift to MSVMA.

Gift designation options include:

- General Fund which can be designated to the honors choir program, specialized festivals, state festivals, or other specific programs and activities
- Education Endowment (Grant & Scholarship Programs)
- Professional development including the Clinician/Consultant Program
- Carolyn F. Leep Scholarship
- Carolyn F. Leep Endowment

Consider making a monthly gift of \$10.

Your generosity will provide ongoing support to help meet the increasing costs of our programming. We do our best to keep membership fees and event registration costs as low as possible. You can be part of achieving this goal.

These giving opportunities are available to you at MSVMA.org by clicking the **Donate** button.

Create a lasting legacy by including MSVMA in your will.

There are a number of ways to make a planned gift through your will which can include tax advantages to you and your family.

- Designate MSVMA as a beneficiary in your estate plan by a bequest.
- Name MSVMA as a beneficiary of an IRA.
- Name MSVMA as a beneficiary of a retirement plan.
- Name MSVMA as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- Transfer ownership of a life insurance policy to MSVMA.

If you would like assistance or information about making a gift to MSVMA, please contact Executive Director Erik Jacobson (erikjacobson@msvma.org), or Director of Operations Debra Jacks (debrajacks@msvma.org) or by phone at 231.592.9344.



Have you wanted to work toward an advanced degree or participate in a non-degree choral music institute or workshop? Does study in the areas of choral conducting, composition with emphasis on choral/vocal music, vocal music education, and church music with choral/vocal emphasis sound interesting?

For more information, visit msvma.org/CarolynLeepScholarship.

The Carolyn F. Leep Scholarship was established in 1988 in honor of Carolyn's service to Michigan School Vocal Music Association.

Scholarships are awarded to MSVMA members in January and must be used by the end of the next calendar year. Applicants must have at least three years of teaching experience in Michigan and be able to return to MSVMA activities after using the scholarship.

Applications will be reviewed by the Carolyn F. Leep Scholarship Committee which is chaired by the Past President Gail Worden. Applicants must be available for an interview via video conference prior to the Michigan Music Conference.

The application deadline is November 15.



Registration is open for 2024 Michigan Music Conference

Attending the Michigan Music Conference is a time to learn and be inspired, not only by our headliner, [Dr. Pearl Shangkuan](#), but also by the many wonderful educators from around our amazing state. Here is a preview of the presenters and their interest sessions being offered at the 2024 Michigan Music Conference.

Choir Basics for Band and Orchestra Directors
Joel Moore

Context and Cultural Appropriation in the Performance of African-American Spirituals
Dr. Erin Colwitz and Dr. Gabriela Hristova

Elementary Techniques in Secondary Choral Ensembles
Saleel Menon

From Unison to Uni-SING! Celebrating One Voice in the Jr. High Choir Room
Xander Greene

Function-Based Pedagogy for Singing Pop Music in Choir
Catherine Bennett

How Can You Apply IEPs, ILPs and 504s in Your Choral Music Classroom?
Jeremy Nichols

Making More Sense of Teaching How to Sing
Alan Gumm

Moving Past "Breathing from the Diaphragm" Vocal Technique Myth Busting
Kristin Clark

My Bag of Tricks: Rehearsal Techniques for Choirs
Christopher Mason

Practice Tips and Tricks for Tenors and Basses
Matthew Callaghan

Seeing, Hearing, and READING: Sight-Singing Excellence in Choir
Jacob Berglin

The Ensembles Project: Student-Led Learning through Small Group Singing
John Hummel

Tips and Tricks for the Practical Choral Classroom
Sarah Stockton

To Proficiency and Beyond: Renewing Functional Piano Skills for Classroom Teachers
Jenna Braaksma

Vocal Vitality - Maintaining Vocal Health throughout your Teaching Career
Karen Ambs

Thank you presenters for sharing your experiences and expertise with the attendees at the 2024 conference. We appreciate your willingness to share with all of us.

Register Now!

Join us for the 1st 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. Our 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 to become a sponsor!

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

Volunteer Spotlight



Wendee Wolf-Schlarf
CHS AND WSH CHORAL MUSIC EDUCATOR

How long have you volunteered for MSVMA?

I have volunteered for 36+ years.

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

Very difficult to choose - "Cherish your Doubt" by Elizabeth Alexander for its message and "Ave Maria" by Franz Biebl for its beauty.

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

I love to spend time with my family and friends, discover new music to share with my choirs, read, knit, cross stitch, and quilt.

What advice would you give to a young teacher?

Creating and teaching are very much alike in that we grow because of the journey we take, on the way to a specific destination point. Enjoy the journey and celebrate the bumps and joys along the way.

Meet your District Managers



Sheila Grazulis DISTRICT 13/14 MANAGER

Favorite Food: Chocolate

Fun Fact: I'm a competitive golfer and have won our club championship

Hobbies: Watching two of my kids play college basketball and golf

Favorite TV Show/Movie: Anything Julia Roberts or Robin Williams

Favorite Book: My current favorite is "The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett

Your #1 song that gets replayed (or song that you'll sing your heart out to): "You Raise Me Up" by Josh Groban

Announcements

Musical Events of Interest

ACDA - Michigan Conference | October 21

Albion College ChoralFest | November 10

Eastern Michigan University Rising Stars Vocal Competition | November 18

Rackham Choir - Too Hot To Handel | January 12

Looking to join ACDA? Here's your chance at a

FREE membership!

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Looking to join ACDA?

ACDA Michigan will "comp" your membership for one year if you attend our conference on October 21 at Central Michigan University. It is going to be an exciting day of concerts, interest and reading sessions, and conducting masterclasses with our headliners Dr. Gregory Fuller, Dr. Huw Lewis, and Dr. Pearl Shangkuan, conductor of the Fall Treble Choir.

[Register Here](#) | [Conference Schedule](#)

Questions? Contact Ginny Kerwin at bgkerwin@gmail.com or Amy Schroeder at amyschroeder@msvma.org

Submitted by Amy Schroeder, Marketing/Advertising Chair, ACDA Michigan

ALBION COLLEGE

ChoralFest

Friday, Nov. 10, 2023
8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Guest composer and conductor
Dr. Keith Hampton

The Annual Albion College Choralfest brings together a number of high school choirs to meet and sing for a selected distinguished guest clinician. Choirs will perform for each other and receive feedback from the clinician and Dr. Clayton Parr, Director of Choral Activities at Albion College. Throughout the day, you will also hear performances from Albion's Concert Choir and Briton Singers. To end the day, all the choirs will combine onstage for the closing piece, which is rehearsed during the day. This is the exciting climax to the festival with over 200 choral members on stage!

The event will take place on Friday, November 10 from 8:30 AM - 2 PM at Albion College.

Previous Clinicians include composers Stacey V. Gibbs and Keith Hampton, and conductors Karyl Carlson, Lynda Hasseler, and Les Rowsey.

For more information about Choralfest, or to have your High School choirs participate in this experience every October, contact Clayton Parr, Director of Choral Activities, at cparr@albion.edu or 517.629.0251



Last year Eastern Michigan University held our first ever "Rising Stars Voice Competition" and was able to award three cash prizes to wonderful high school singers, as well as free Solo & Ensemble coaching sessions to two deserving High Schools who participated.

We will be hosting this year's competition on Saturday, November 18 at 11 AM at Eastern Michigan University Honors College.

We are limited to 36 students so we urge everyone to sign up as early as possible. This competition is open to the public. Last year's students loved being able to sit in and listen to the other singers.

Online Application Deadline
Friday, October 20 by 5 PM
[Apply Here](#)

To Learn More about the Rising Stars Vocal Competition

Submitted by Dr. Robert Peavler, Professor of Voice, Eastern Michigan University



After a four-year absence, Detroit favorite Too Hot To Handel will return with a special 90-minute performance for students on January 12, 2024, at 11 AM at the Detroit Opera House. The Rackham Choir's 20th production of this exuberant, uplifting jazz-gospel take on George Frideric Handel's Messiah takes place the Friday before the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, making it ideal for celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. King. Too Hot to Handel incorporates several musical styles and scriptural messages of hope and inclusion that echo Dr. King's words of hope for peace and justice.

In addition to the Rackham Choir, the performance will feature the Detroit Opera Orchestra; tenor Rodrick Dixon, soprano Alfreda Burke, and alto Karen Marie Richardson; and the Too Hot to Handel Trio, featuring Detroit classical, gospel, and jazz musicians Marion Hayden (acoustic bass), Alvin Waddles (piano), and Dave Taylor (drums). Student tickets are available for \$10/piece, and scholarships are available.

Performance details:

When: Friday, January 12, 11 AM
Where: Detroit Opera House
Duration: 90 minutes

Performers:

Rackham Choir
Detroit Opera Orchestra
Too Hot to Handel Trio: Marion Hayden (acoustic bass), Alvin Waddles (piano), Dave Taylor (drums)
Alfreda Burke, Soprano
Karen Marie Richardson, Alto

Rodrick Dixon, Tenor
Suzanne Mallare Acton, Conductor

Tickets:

Student tickets are \$10; every reservation for 10 students comes with a free chaperone reservation. Contact Detroit Opera House Group groupsales@detroitopera.org and 313.309.8251.

Buy your tickets [here](#).

To inquire about scholarships, contact Rackham Choir directly at administration@rackhamchoir.org.

Study guide: Before the performance, an updated curriculum guide, “Affirming Our Identities Through Music,” will be provided to students. The guide explores the Black experience through the lens of the various genres included in *Too Hot To Handel* and the perspective of some of the principal performers as people of color (POC) in the classical music world. “Affirming Our Identities Through Music” is also a great springboard for further discussions during Black History Month in February.

Submitted by Melissa Bunker, Rackham Choir



Help Accelerate Climate Action!

We are recruiting volunteers to help us reach out to youth choirs from throughout the country to be part of a fun, cost-free campaign to inspire and engage young people, their families, schools, and communities to take climate action. Can you help?

Background

Through the voices of 1000's of young people from across the country joining in the chorus of the song, *I Wanna Be Cool* and the associated pledges to take action, together we can make a BIG difference in addressing the climate crisis.

The Campaign is a non-profit, non-partisan initiative focused on bringing attention to the fact that climate change is an urgent issue and that there are easy things we all can do to help.

The Campaign vehicle is a song, *I Wanna Be Cool!*, by Will Kimbrough and Brant Miller. It's an upbeat call to action that contains the line: "Can't you hear your kids starting to shout!" The Campaign takes this line literally, recruiting young people everywhere to record themselves singing/shouting that message in unison on a master recording and video. At the same time, they will be learning about climate change and mobilizing action among their peers, their families, their communities, and the song's audiences. Optional action pledges will be shared, with easy pathways provided by our action partners, in three areas: electrifying and greening homes, schools, and other buildings; voter registration; and improving schools' climate curriculum.

More information about the Campaign can be found on our [webpage](#). You can also listen to the song [here](#).

Fill out the form [here](#) to start the process. We will then send you the information you need to create and submit an audio and/or video recording.

How you can help

We will be reaching out to engage youth choirs from around the country, from schools, congregations, community groups, and wherever young people – from elementary through college level – gather to sing. We are assembling a group of individuals who can spend some time:

- Identifying choirs that might be interested in participating - through schools, congregations, or associations that have connections with choirs.
- Reaching out to key individuals responsible for choir choices. This could be, for example, choir directors, community arts leaders, or school district program officers responsible for theater and arts programs.

- Directing them to the BeCool webpage where there is additional information, a recording of the song, and a link for receiving all the necessary materials (such as Consent and Release Forms, instructions for audio and video recording, pathways for action with optional pledges, and music/lyrics).

And, importantly, each volunteer's outreach efforts will be recorded on a master spreadsheet to facilitate collaboration and ensure coordination and ability to follow-up.

For more information, you can contact becoolsong@gmail.com

Submitted by Diane L. Winder, Eastern Michigan University School Director and Professor of Music, Emerita



Want to submit a story for Tempo!

✉ feedback@msvma.org

MSVMA welcomes listings for position openings, employment opportunities, and performance and audition postings.

✉ emileigh@msvma.org

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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