



Tempo!

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

SEPTEMBER 2023

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- September 15 | Chamber Choir Festival Application Opened
- September 19 | Musical Theatre Festival East Registration Opened
- September 19 | Musical Theatre Festival West Registration Opened
- October 7 | 6789 Honors Choirs Audition Deadline
- October 7 | Musical Theatre Intensive
- October 12 | High School Regional Honors Choir Online Auditions Deadline
- October 14 | All-State Jazz Choir Online Auditions Opens
- October 15 | Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble Festival Application Deadline
- October 15 | Chamber Choir Festival Application Deadline
- October 21 | Adjudication Conference

If you are not a member of MSVMA, this is your last issue of Tempo!

CHAMBER CHOIR FESTIVAL

Deadline for registration and
payment is October 15.

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

[Chamber Choir Festival Information](#)

[East Site Festival Registration](#)

[West Site Festival Registration](#)



MUSICAL THEATRE SOLO & ENSEMBLE

Deadline for registration and
payment is **October 15.**

Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble - You should try it!

Registration opens September 19.

Fees are \$35 for soloists, \$50 for duets, and \$80 for large ensembles (3-20 participants)

Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble is an amazing opportunity for your students to step outside their comfort zone and try something new. Students can participate as a soloist, in a small ensemble, or in a large ensemble. Musical Theatre lends itself well to addressing the unique qualities of individual voices and many students who may not have that traditional classical sound may flourish at Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble.

I've found that my students want to participate in this event more than any other throughout the year. This year alone I have more than thirty events going from my small school and that doesn't even include my large ensembles.

Here are a few words from Dundee High School students about Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble:

"It's a great experience to go through with your choir - it's almost like a bonding experience. It's one big group effort and it pays off when you show people how hard you've worked. The judges can make it even better by giving tips and tricks that they have learned from their experience." - Megan P., Senior

"Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble is a unique experience to express your love for musical theatre and singing. Showing your skills and allowing yourself to truly feel the character in every piece is such a memorable learning experience." - Livi S., Junior

"Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble is a memorable experience to show and express your love for music, especially musical theatre. After you perform you feel complete even if you mess up. It's a good learning experience for new people who have never been to MT Solo & Ensemble and I applaud anyone willing to try. It's awesome for feedback and growth." - Alexis P., Junior

Submitted by Megan Sinclair, Director of Specialized Festivals

[Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble Information](#)

Festival Scheduling

The leaves are just thinking about starting to change which means we are about to move into our first scheduling season of the year. For new and returning members alike, I wanted to share a few reminders about using our scheduling system.

- 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 for 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, the 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

Headliners: Dr. Derrick Fox, Michigan State University, Choral Performance
Jessica Nieuwkoop, Okemos HS, 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

Headliners: 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 MSMA 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.

For more information, please contact:

Pam Pierson, Director of Adjudication at pampierson@msvma.org

Kelli Falls, Adjudication Scheduling Coordinator at kellifalls@msvma.org

High School Choral Festival Repertoire Update

Literature choices are the key to unlocking student success in vocal music. Student development in musicianship and vocal skills as well as the thoughtful provision of a robust music education has as its foundation the intentional exposure to quality choral works.

Review of the repertoire list began with the examination of nearly 1,500 titles. Removal of out of print works, duplicate titles, arrangements of original works, specialized festival-appropriate works, and several works with many movements reduced the list to 981. The remaining titles are categorized by periods - Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20th to 21st centuries - and can be sorted by genre - such as anthem, cantata, folk song, madrigal, motet, oratorio, part song, and spiritual - supporting exploration of additional musical styles.

The updated choral festival repertoire list may be accessed at [High School Repertoire List](#).

For questions regarding the repertoire list, please contact Director of Adjudication Pam Pierson at pampierson@msvma.org.

Submitted by Jim Watson, Director, Lake Orion Baptist School

Save the Date for 2024 Michigan Music Conference



January 25 - 27, 2024

The 2024 Michigan Music Conference will feature [Dr. Pearl Shangkuan](#) from Calvin University as the MSVMA headliner. Dr. Shangkuan is busy as a conductor and clinician in the United States as well as internationally. She is the newly elected national President-Elect of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). We are excited to finally have Dr. Shangkuan as our headliner next January.

Dr. Shangkuan will present three interest sessions at MMC. Check out the offerings of Dr. Shangkuan below.

Friday, January 26, 10 AM, JW Marriott Ballroom

Effective, Efficient, and Enjoyable Choral Rehearsal Techniques for Quick Comprehension and Maximum Retention

Leading a well-paced, interesting, enjoyable rehearsal that engages the singers and gets the work done, while nurturing both short and long-term artistic growth.

Friday, January 26, 2 PM, JW Marriott Ballroom

MSVMA Immersion Choir

Practical application and hands-on experience of rehearsal pacing and techniques discussed in Headliner during the Friday morning session.

Saturday, January 27, 10 AM, President Ford Room

Instilling and Practicing Smart Singing

Effective techniques are used in conducting environments with limited rehearsal time. This approach develops musical intelligence independence and personal responsibility in learning and execution/performance.

Stay tuned for 2024 MMC Registration Information coming in October.

Welcome New Members

A new school year means welcoming some new members into our organization! Our vision is to reach the hearts of all people through song; membership benefits include networking, educational opportunities, program enrichment, literature, festivals, and so much more!

New members: we're so excited to welcome you into our community and begin collaborating with you and your students!

Please take some time to familiarize yourselves with the [MSVMA website](#) and join the "[MSVMA Discussion Group](#)" on Facebook...a lot of great ideas get tossed around in there!

If we can help you in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out!

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

East Jordan Middle/High School
District 2

Sampson-Webber Academy
District 15

Homeschool Connection
District 12

Stevenson Middle School
District 12

Mattawan High School
District 11

Sparta Middle School & High School
District 7

Rogers City Middle School & High School
District 2

Tri County Middle School & High School
District 7

Romeo Middle School
District 16

Oak Valley Middle School
District 4

Volunteer Spotlight



Christopher Knapp COORDINATOR, STATE S&E EAST SITE

How long have you volunteered for MSVMA?

I have volunteered for six years!

What is your favorite memory surrounding an MSVMA event?

My favorite memory involving MSVMA would be participating in the Honors Choir when I was in high school. It was the first opportunity that I had the chance to work with high-level musicians, and create friendships that are still very much alive today! Having the opportunity to perform with the All-State Honors Choir led me to my decision to become a Choir Director. I cannot speak more highly of the Honors Choir experience.

Who has been your musical or professional inspiration?

James Cumings and Megan Sinclair! Both offer such unwavering support and will always push myself to be a better educator.

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

I enjoy going on adventures with my puppy Felix, which often includes hiking, kayaking, and going for runs!

Meet your District Managers



David Gailey DISTRICT 6 MANAGER

Favorite Food: Empanadas

Fun Fact: I can lick my elbow.

Hobbies: Video games, pickleball, and reading

Favorite TV Show/Movie: Garden State and The Wire

Favorite Book: "The Name of the Wind" by Patrick Rothfuss

Your #1 song that gets replayed (or song that you'll sing your heart out to): "Everlong" by The Foo Fighters

Announcements

Events of Interest

October 2 | Michigan State University Choral Leadership Workshop

October 14 | Choral and Hand Bell Music Workshop

October 21 | ACDA - Michigan Conference

November 10 | ChoralFest at Albion College

November 18 | Rising Stars Voice Competition

January 12 | Too Hot To Handel



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Greetings from the Michigan State University choral area! It is our pleasure to invite you and your high school students (one, two, or three SATB quartets) to the Michigan State University Choral Leadership Workshop, to be held in the beautiful Fairchild Theatre on our campus Monday, October 2, 2023. The MSU choral faculty—newly appointed Director of Choral Activities Dr. Sandra Snow, Dr. Jonathan Reed, and Professor of Choral Music and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Creative Endeavors Dr. Derrick Fox—will provide high-quality, positive experiences in sight-reading, vocalism, and musicianship to gifted high school singers, which they can take back to strengthen their own choral ensembles. Additionally, we try to present a new and diverse repertoire that will be of interest to you as a conductor.

At this time, all we ask is that you reserve a spot for your quartet(s) by emailing Mike Carter, at mcarter@msu.edu. We will send you a payment reminder after September 20. If you need to cancel or alter your reservation, please let us know.

Specifics of the day remain the same as in past years:

- \$85 per quartet; \$170 for two quartets, or \$255 for three quartets.
- Arrive at Fairchild Theatre at 8:15 AM. The day begins at 9 AM and concludes at 3:30 PM
- Appearances by various MSU choral ensembles, faculty, and student soloists.
- Musical Resources will provide reading packets for teachers and students instead of individual octavos.
- Please reserve a spot for your quartet(s) ASAP by emailing our graduate assistant, Michael Carter, at mcarter@msu.edu

We hope you and your students will enjoy the varied activities of this day and that you and they will take away helpful approaches, techniques, and literature. We look forward to seeing you in October!

Submitted by Ryan Fellman, Doctoral Candidate at Michigan State University

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MIDLAND Founders' Series Events

Choral and Hand Bell Music Workshop

Organist, Choral Director and Composer

Jantz Black



Read through and rehearse a variety of his compositions for worship, including some to be presented during Saturday evening's Founders' Series Concert

Saturday, October 14, 1:30—3:30 PM

Rehearsal for singers participating in evening concert, 3:30—4:30 PM

Visit : <https://forms.gle/zTX64CK96Sck74bD9> to register, as space is limited

Founders' Series Concert

Jantz Black will perform and direct a variety of his compositions for organ, piano and choirs

Saturday evening, October 14, 7:00 PM

The UCC Founders' Series is free and open to the public. Free-will donations in support of the Founders' Series are welcome.

United Church of Christ Midland, 4100 Chestnut Hill Drive, Midland, MI 48642

On October 14, the United Church of Christ in Midland will be hosting composer Jantz Black in a Saturday afternoon workshop from 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM. Jantz will review some of his recent music published by Hope and Beckenhorst publishers.

On Saturday evening, Jantz will present a concert featuring his music for Organ, Choir, and Handbells in the Sanctuary of the church.

The October 15, Sunday morning worship service will feature Jantz's music.

Use this opportunity to peruse music written for church choirs and handbells.

[Register Here.](#)

Submitted by Jim Hohmeyer, Music Director, United Church of Christ, Midland



SING ON!

ACDA-MICHIGAN
FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 21, 2023
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

FEATURING

THE SOUTHERN
CHORALE
DR. GREGORY FULLER,
UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

AND

ACDA-MI
FALL TREBLE CHOIR
DR. PEARL SHANGKUAN,
CONDUCTOR

Now is a great time to join ACDA!

The ACDA-Michigan Fall Conference is coming up on October 21, and ACDA is offering a special rate for those who have never been members or have a membership that has lapsed for over a year.

Early bird rates are going through September 22 and are as follows:

New member/recent renewal of membership after an absence of one year or more: \$75

Member: \$95

Non-Member/Guest: \$125


Student Member: \$25

Student Non-Member/Guest: \$50

Join ACDA here: <https://acda.org/membership>

Register for the ACDA-MI Conference and find other information [here](#).

Submitted by Amy Schroeder, Marketing/Advertising Chair for 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
Monday, October 20 by 5 PM

[Apply Here](#)

To learn more about the Rising Stars Voice Competition

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



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Department of Music

VOICE DAY

Preparing for the
Journey

**NOVEMBER 18,
2023**

* Music Teachers must nominate choral groups
and individual students for participation
Nomination Deadline: October 1, 2023.

Singing Health • Solo Preparation
Tenor/Bass Clinic • Careers in Music
Choral and Vocal Clinics • Jazz and Pop
Black Composer Reading Session



LOCATION

Old Main Building
4841 Cass Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201

NOVEMBER 18, 2023
9:00am-5:30pm

Music teachers can nominate students at:
<https://music.wayne.edu/outreach/vocal.php>



Frances Brockington



Jonathan Lasch



Shannan Hibbard



April Tini



Brandon Waddles

Submitted by April Tini, Applied Faculty, Jazz Voice at Wayne State University



DETROIT
20th
ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION

RACKHAM CHOIR

TOO HOT TO HANDEL

THE JAZZ GOSPEL MESSIAH

Saturday, January 13, 2024 @ 7:30 pm
Detroit Opera House - Tickets at detroitopera.org

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, EMU 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.



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

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