



Tempo!

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

DECEMBER 2023

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- December 15 | High School State Honors Choir Registration Deadline (Midnight)
- December 22 | Musical Theatre Honors Ensemble Registration Deadline
- January 13, 2024 | 6789 Honors Choirs Rehearsal
- January 13, 2024 | Adjudication Solo & Ensemble In-Service
- January 20, 2024 | Adjudication Solo & Ensemble In-Service
- January 24, 2024 | Board of Directors Meeting
- January 24, 2024 | Musical Theatre Honors Ensemble Rehearsal
- January 25, 2024 | 6789 Honors Choirs Rehearsal and Performance
- January 25, 2024 | All-State Jazz Choir Rehearsal
- January 25, 2024 | High School State Honors Choir Rehearsal
- January 25, 2024 | Adjudication Conference
- January 26, 2024 | State Honors Choir Rehearsal and Performance
- January 27, 2024 | All-State Jazz Choir Rehearsal and Performance
- January 27, 2024 | High School State Honors Choir Performance

2024 Teacher of the Year Elections



Voting for 2024 Teacher of the Year will be open until Friday, January 5.
Click [here](#) to read about the 2024 Teacher of the Year nominees.

[Vote today!](#)

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

Adjudication Conference

January 25, 2024
8 AM – 1 PM
Imperial Ballroom, Amway Grand Plaza
Dr. Brandon Johnson, Eastern Michigan University, Choral Performance
Jessica Nieuwkoop, Choral Sight Reading

[Register for Adjudication Conference at Michigan Music Conference](#)

Solo & Ensemble In-Service

For those who are interested in Solo Adjudication

January 13, 2024

8 AM - 5 PM
Traverse City West High School

January 20, 2024

8 AM - 5 PM
Howell High School

[Registration for January 13 In-Service
Solo Performance](#)

[Registration for January 20 In-Service
Solo Performance](#)

Choral In-Service

For those who are interested in Sight Reading, Choral, or both

March 18, 2024

7:30 AM - 5 PM
Walled Lake Northern High School
6000 Bogie Lake Rd
Commerce Charter Twp, MI 48382

March 21, 2024

7:30 AM - 5 PM
Clarkston High School
6093 Flemings Lake Rd
Clarkston, MI 48346

[Registration for March 18 In-Service
Choral Performance](#)

[Registration for March 21 In-Service
Choral 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

Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble Recap Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble Large Ensemble Announcement for All-State Festival

Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble was a huge success this year! MSVMA had the privilege of having two fantastic locations for this event, Oxford High School and Grand Valley State University, but we are bursting at the seams! Numbers are way up and we couldn't be happier.

This year, two large ensembles have been chosen to represent Musical Theatre at MSVMA All-State Festival in May. These ensembles will be performing at the Gala Concert on May 9. We are so excited for the choral world to experience more Musical Theatre at this level and cannot wait for these performances to be shared. It is a huge honor for these ensembles to be the first representation at the All-State level for Musical Theatre, from our member schools. We look forward to this tradition for years to come.

A special thank you to Leo Humbach for hosting at Oxford High School and Chuck Norris for hosting at Grand Valley State University. These events were run beautifully and MSVMA is so grateful for all of your work.

Congratulations to our All-State Ensembles!



**Large Ensemble
All-State Festival - MT S&E West**
Dewitt High School MT Ensemble
Dewitt High School
Meghan Eldred-Woolsey, Director

**Large Ensemble
All-State Festival - MT S&E East**
Dundee Descants
Dundee High School
Megan Sinclair, Director



Large Ensemble alternate



All-State Festival - MT S&E West
Harmonics
North Muskegon High School
Beth Slimko, Director

Submitted by Megan Sinclair, Director of Specialized Festivals

6789 State Honors Choir Auditions We want your input!

At the last Board meeting, a proposal regarding the 6789 Honors Choir program was voted on.

Below is the specific wording the Board agreed upon for the next steps:

A subcommittee will be formed to begin creating a four-year rotating audition piece literature list for each of the JHMS Honors Choirs (SA, SSA, TTB). The goal is implementation for 2024-25. JHMS teachers are welcome to participate in this process by recommending pieces to the subcommittee.

We would like to hear from you, the membership! Please complete the [Google Form](#) if you have suggestions for audition pieces. We would like to start reviewing repertoire suggestions following MMC.

Submitted by Ryan Dawley, 6-7-8-9 Honors Choir Supervisor

Register today for the 2024 Michigan Music Conference!



Don't Wait - Early Registration Ends December 15!

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

In addition to inspiring interest sessions, we also have inspiring performances.

Thursday, January 25

2 PM - 6789 State Honors Choir Performance

DeVos Performance Hall

Kristina Vidal, Director, SA Choir
Samara Valla, Director, TTB Choir
Jeffrey Cobb, Director, SSA Choir

Friday, January 26

3 PM - Choral Hour

JW Marriott International Ballroom

Jackson Northwest Kidder Middle School Honors Choir, James Cummings, Director
Haslett High School Chorale, Matthew Callaghan, Director
West Ottawa High School Women's Select Ensemble, Erin Stier, Director
DeWitt High School Chamber Choir, Meghan Eldred-Woolsey, Director

Saturday, January 27

1 PM - Specialized and Jazz Choral Hour

JW Marriott International Ballroom

Loy Norrix High School, Braeden Davis, Musical Theatre Intensive Soloist
Portage Central High School, Carly Koch, Musical Theatre Intensive Soloist
Forest Hills Northern Singers, Michael Wheaton, Director
Ann Arbor Skyline Blues, Lindsay CieChanski, Director
All State Jazz Choir, Dr. Kate Reid, Director

3 PM - High School State Honors Choir Performance

DeVos Performance Hall

Katherine Rohwer, Director, SSAA Choir
Matthew Snell, Director, TTBB Choir
Dr. Jim Watson, Director, SATB Choir

Submitted by Wendee Wolf-Schlarf, Choral Music Educator, Traverse City Central High School and Traverse City West Senior High School

Register Today!



You Can Help!

Please include MSVMA in your year-end charitable giving plans. Your gift can help ensure the success of an organization that plays a significant role in your professional life and provides innovative learning opportunities for our students.

Visit MSVMA.org and click on [Donate](#). You can use your credit card to make your gift or if you prefer, print a form from the website and make your gift via check. Together, we can help continue the outstanding programming and activities of MSVMA.

Thank you!

Make a charitable gift to MSVMA.

Gift designation options include:

- General Fund which can be designated to the honors choir program, specialized festivals, state level 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 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.

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.

Volunteer Spotlight



Anne Lawrence SA STATE COORDINATOR

How long have you volunteered for MSVMA?

5 years

What is your favorite memory surrounding an MSVMA event?

Working with Bobby McFerrin at MMC. It was so wonderful to meet him and the others with him. Making music with fellow educators throughout the afternoon and being in an ensemble again was inspiring.

Who has been your musical or professional inspiration?

There are so many throughout my life but it stems back to my middle school music teacher, Mr. T, and my church choir director. Without their encouragement, I might not have stayed in music. Mr. T specifically inspired me to become a middle school teacher and I love it every day!

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

I love to cook! When I'm not in the kitchen you can find me at Studio 8 taking classes: Barre, Cardio Drum, Yoga, and more. I love traveling with my husband and am looking forward to our next trip to Alaska this summer!

Meet your District Managers



Andrew Hathikhanavala
DISTRICT 12 CO-MANAGER

Favorite Food: Cinnamon Toast Crunch with a handful of chocolate chips thrown in

Fun Fact: I was voted "Most Improved" among our staff Ping Pong Club!

Hobbies: Reading, listening to podcasts about music and culture, and record collecting

Favorite TV Show/Movie: Back to the Future and Seinfeld

Favorite Book: "Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow" by Gabrielle Zevin.

Your #1 song that gets replayed (or song that you'll sing your heart out to): "Solsbury Hill" by *Peter Gabriel*

Announcements

Musical Events of Interest

Rackham Choir - Too Hot To Handel | January 12 & 13

Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan Deadline for Entries | February 17

A promotional poster for the Rackham Choir's performance of 'Too Hot To Handel: The Jazz Gospel Messiah'. The poster features a large, stylized image of a person singing, with a yellow circular seal that reads 'DETROIT 20th ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION'. The text 'TOO HOT TO HANDEL' is written in large, bold, yellow and orange letters, and 'THE JAZZ GOSPEL MESSIAH' is written in smaller, white letters below it. The Rackham Choir logo is in the top right corner. The background shows a choir member performing on stage.

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 or 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

Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan

Announcing the 30th Annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition

The Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan is pleased to announce its 2024 Annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students is now open and accepting entries. Information for students to participate in this exciting event can be accessed through the Verdi Opera's website at verdioperatheatre.com



Those are the required ingredients in every recipe for musical success.

Mix them together under the proper conditions and a star is born. Or two, or three.

The Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan in cooperation with The Italian American Cultural Society, The Italian American Club of Livonia Charitable Foundation, The Dante Alighieri Society of Michigan, Detroit Opera and Under the Auspices of the Consulate of Italy in Detroit are pleased to announce

The 30th Annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students

See website: www.verdioperatheatre.com

Ten finalists will be selected from the entries received and will perform at the Concert of the Finalists. Each finalist will receive a monetary prize. Entry forms for the competition and all other pertaining information, are available to teachers and students at our website, www.verdioperatheatre.com

\$1000 First Prize



Concert of the Finalists

Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 5:00 pm

at the Italian American Cultural Center

43843 Romeo Plank Rd., Clinton TWP., MI 48038

Phone: (586) 228-3030

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE CONSULATE OF ITALY
IN DETROIT



CONSOLATO D'ITALIA
DII^ CLASSE
DETROIT

*Join us by encouraging
your students to participate
in this exciting event!*

*Deadline for Entries:
February 17, 2024*

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



State Office will be closed from
December 21 - January 2

Want to submit a story for Tempo!

 feedback@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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