



Tempo!

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

FEBRUARY 2024

Upcoming Events

- March 1 | College Scholarship Application Opens
- March 1 | State S&E Festivals Registration Deadline
- March 6 | High School State Honors Choir Registration Deadline
- March 8 | State S&E Festival Late Registration Closes
- March 9 | Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
- March 15 | A Cappella Festival Registration Opens
- March 18 | Choral In-Service Training
- March 21 | Choral In-Service Training
- March 26 | State Choral Festivals Registration Deadline
- April 1 | Outstanding Choir Performance Applications Due

All-State Honors Choir Participants Announced

Congratulations to the students selected for participation in the 2024 All-State Honors Choir. Thank you to their directors and their schools for supporting them in this endeavor.

Allen Park High School	Kalamazoo Central High School
Allendale High School	Kentwood East Kentwood High School
Ann Arbor Pioneer High School	Lansing Christian High School
Ann Arbor Skyline High School	Lutheran High School Northwest
Byron Center High School	Marquette High School
Caledonia High School	Milan High School
Chelsea High School	Muskegon Reeths-Puffer High School
Clinton High School	Northview High School
Davison High School	Okemos High School
DeWitt High School	Rochester High School
East Lansing High School	Shrine High School & Academy
Fennville High School	Saline High School
Grand Haven High School	South Lyon East High School
Grand Rapids Christian High School	Spring Lake High School
Grandville Calvin Christian	St. Johns Public Schools
Hartland High School	Standish-Sterling Central High School
Holland Public School	Stevensville Lakeshore High School
Holt High School	Western Michigan Christian High School
Jackson Northwest High School	Whiteford High School
Jenison High School	Zeeland High Schools

Submitted by Anna Bolton, All-State Honors Choir Supervisor

Adjudication In-Services - Choral Performance

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

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.

For more information, please contact: Pam Pierson, Director of Adjudication at pampierson@msvma.org Kelli Falls, Adjudication Scheduling Coordinator at kellifalls@msvma.org

A Cappella Festival

We are excited to offer a reimagined A Cappella Festival, with world-class A Cappella clinician, **Rob Dietz** who will provide students with a full day of learning, a mass choir experience, and an evening concert. A Cappella groups of various levels are encouraged to participate. Intermediate/Advanced ensembles can opt into a featured performance spot in the evening concert and a one-on-one Master Class with our clinician. Beginning ensembles and individual A Cappella singers are encouraged to join by performing with the mass choir and observing clinics and performances throughout the day.

High school and junior high/middle school contemporary and pop A Cappella ensembles are welcome to attend! This is a non-adjudicated festival that features performances of genres such as jazz, barbershop, novelty, pop, contemporary A Cappella, and more.

We know that your students are doing beautiful work at Solo Ensemble and Choral Festival, but here is a way to showcase the great work that your students are doing in these alternative genres.

Be the Audience! We strongly encourage groups to participate as audience members as well as performers for as much of the festival as possible.

Submitted by Megan Sinclair, Director of Specialized Festivals

[A Cappella Festival Information](#)

[A Cappella Festival Registration](#)

Choral Music Education College Scholarship Application Opens March 1

The Michigan School Vocal Music Association is proud to offer one, \$10,000 scholarship to an outstanding high school choral student who is pursuing a degree in choral music education. The scholarship is paid in increments of \$1,250 per semester for the duration of a 4-year college degree. To be eligible, the following requirements must be met or maintained:

- Applicant must graduate from a High School member school of MSVMA
- Applicant must attend one of the following collegiate music programs for choral music education:

Adrian College
Albion College
Alma College
Andrew's University
Aquinas College
Central Michigan University
Cornerstone University
Eastern Michigan University
Grand Valley State University
Hope College
Michigan State University
Northern Michigan University
Oakland University
Saginaw Valley State University
Spring Arbor University
University of Michigan
Wayne State University
Western Michigan University

- Scholarship recipients must maintain a 3.0 GPA and remain in good standing in their respective degree programs as a full-time student.

The application deadline is May 1, 2024 for the 2024-2025 academic school year. The recipient will be contacted by mid-May and will be announced at the Summer Conference.

NOTE: Students must be accepted to a collegiate music program before applying.

Call for Presenters: Share Your Expertise at Summer Conference

JULY 31 & AUGUST 1 SUMMER CONFERENCE

THE LANSING CENTER

We are back! We will be welcoming **Dr. Jeffrey Allen Murdock** as our headliner at The Lansing Center, July 31 - August 1.

Please consider sharing your knowledge and experience by presenting a session at Summer Conference. Some suggested topics are:

Some suggested topics are:

- Choral Literature/Reading Session
- Vocal/Choral Pedagogy
- Rehearsal Techniques
- Warm-ups
- Music Literacy/Sight Reading
- Choral Program Growth/Recruitment
- Diversity/Equity/Inclusion

If you have additional ideas for sessions related to vocal music instruction, please submit them.

To submit your session topic, please complete the [Summer Conference 2024 Session Submission](#) by March 29.

If you have questions or need additional information about presenting at Summer Conference, please contact the State Office.

Join us for the first 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. The golf course is 6,300 yards of beautiful greens, grass swales, mounded bunkers, and plenty of water.

[Click Here to Register Your Team](#)


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


Save the Date! Choral Student Leadership Conference



Choral Student Leadership Conference

Central Michigan University
Thursday, June 20, 2024
9 AM - 4 PM
Registration opens March 1, 2024
Registration Fee: \$50





Dr. Derrick Fox, Headliner
Professor of Choral Music
Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and
Creative Endeavors at Michigan State University

Leaders come in all shapes and sizes - musical, motivational, and those who have great potential but just aren't sure how to be a "leader". All these wonderful qualities describe the types of students we hope you will send to the 2024 Choral Student Leadership Conference.

We are confident they will be inspired by the amazing [Dr. Derrick Fox](#) from Michigan State University. Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming Tempo!

Submitted by Wendee Wolf-Schlarf, Choral Student Leadership Conference Coordinator

[Choral Student Leadership Conference Information](#)

Adjudicator Evaluation Form

Please complete the [Adjudicator Evaluation Form](#) if you have participated in festival(s). Evaluations will be accepted only from an MSVMA member who was present in the room during Adjudication.

Submitted by Pam Pierson, Director of Adjudication

Volunteer Spotlight



Emily Verdonk DIRECTOR OF HONORS CHOIRS

How long have you volunteered for MSVMA?

Nine years (six as SSAA Honors Choir Coordinator and three as Director of Honors Choirs)

What is your favorite memory surrounding an MSVMA event?

I can't pick a single favorite memory, but any time I've had students participating in any of the State Honors Choirs, it's been very special to witness their passion and joy through singing.

Who has been your musical or professional inspiration?

Pam Pierson is both my musical and professional inspiration. She's the mentor who taught me how to teach and is still a colleague and dear friend. I have immense respect for her work.

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

I love spending time in nature, hiking, and camping - bonus points if

there's water nearby! Favorite places are Devil's Lake State Park in Baraboo, WI, Grand Marais, MI along the shores of Lake Superior, and the Manistee River Loop Trail.

Meet your District Managers



Marisa Plouhar DISTRICT 10 CO-MANAGER

Favorite Food: Pizza and ice cream

Fun Fact: I can make a noise that sounds like the velociraptors in Jurassic Park.

Hobbies: Reading, acting, puzzles, board games, and hiking

Favorite TV Show/Movie: Anything Star Wars!

Favorite Book: Pride and Prejudice

Your #1 song that gets replayed (or song that you'll sing your heart out to): "You Make My Dreams Come True" by Hall and Oates

How long have you volunteered for MSVMA?

This is my first year but as a college student, I used to organize Grand Valley for Solo and Ensemble.

Announcements

Musical Events of Interest

Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan Deadline for Entries | February 17

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

REMINDER!!
High School
Vocal Competition
First Place Prize
\$1000

The deadline for entering
the competition is
February 17th!
For more information, go to
www.verdioperatheatre.com



Reminder!

The Deadline for Entering the 30th Annual Italian Songs & Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students is February 17, 2024.

Have you reviewed the information printed in the November & December 2023 MSVMA Tempo, announcing the competition and our website access information at www.verdioperatheatre.com?

Are you preparing and encouraging your students to participate in the competition?

**PRIZES TOTALING \$3200 WILL BE AWARDED TO THE TEN FINALISTS.
FIRST PRIZE IS \$1000!**

Please ensure that your student's entry MP3 recording is of GOOD QUALITY and is mailed to us by the February 17th DEADLINE.

For More Information Please Contact: John Zaretti • Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan
P.O. Box 871592 • Canton, MI 48187 • Phone: (734) 552-4236 • E-mail: verdiopera@comcast.net





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
DI 1^ CLASSE
DETROIT

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

**Deadline for Entries:
February 17, 2024**

THIS JUST IN! – Latest inspiring testimonial, received from 2010 finalist bass- baritone Jesus Murillo who has recently made his debut at New York's Metropolitan Opera in Verdi's "Don Carlo". Bravissimo!



"The Italian Sons and Arias Vocal Competition was absolutely transformational in my development as a young singer. At a point in my life where I did not know how I wanted to pursue my musical studies, this competition truly helped me clarify that the operatic art form was my calling in life. It was one of my first times performing classical music to an audience that truly understood and appreciated operatic excellence, and it left me with a burning desire to continue to hone my craft.

I cannot thank Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan enough for the incredible inspiration that this competition provided me. A year after the competition, when I was pursuing my bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan, Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan was the first professional company to hire me as an adult. John Zaretti has always been, a supporter and believer of me, and his words of support were absolutely foundational in my belief that I had something to take out into the world.

If I had not taken part in this competition, I can honestly say I do not know where I would be today. As a young kid from a disadvantaged community, with a song in my heart, this competition gave me the encouragement to pursue a life in the arts, and to lead a life of creative expression. Although a life in the arts naturally has its ups and downs, the knowledge and experience I gained from this competition, that my artistry had real-world merit, comforted me through many of my career's toughest moments. Thank you Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan from the bottom of my heart."

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


The Cultural Advocacy Network is holding their advocacy day virtually on March 5. Help make your voice heard in the state as



we advocate for additional funding for the arts and other initiatives to codify arts in our state's legislative priorities!

MSVMA members can register using code: **CAN Advocacy 10** for a member discount. Visit their [website](#) for more information and to sign up.

Want to submit a story for Tempo!

 feedback@msvma.org

Thank you to our MSVMA Sponsors

The Michigan School Vocal Music Association is proud to be supported by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).



Thank you to the corporate and organizational sponsors who help ensure our continued success in delivering the highest quality vocal music programing to our students and their teachers.



To become an MSVMA sponsor, please contact Executive Director Erik Jacobson at erikjacobson@msvma.org.



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

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