



Tempo!

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

FEBRUARY 2023

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

February 24 | State S&E Festival Application Deadline

March 6 | All-State Honors Choir Registration Deadline (midnight)

March 11 | 9AM Board of Directors Meeting, East Lansing High School Choir Room

2024 - 2025 Honors Choir Directors

Julie Rogers Davis, 6-7-8 SA
Kent Wattleworth, 6-7-8-9 TTBB
Jessica Nieuwkoop, 6-7-8-9 SSA
Erin Colwitz, HS SATB
Steven Lorenz, HS TTBB
Eric Reyes, HS SSAA

MSVMA Board of Directors Meeting

March 11 - 9AM
East Lansing High School Choir Room
509 Burcham Dr., East Lansing, MI 48823

A reminder that all MSVMA members are welcome to attend. If members would like to speak at the meeting, there will be a time for sharing thoughts or ideas with the Board at the beginning of the meeting.

Erik Jacobson Executive Director



Although he's been here for nearly four years, the COVID shutdown and gradual return to activities means that many of our members have only had the pleasure of a few in-person interactions with Executive Director Erik Jacobson. We thought it was time to reintroduce you and encourage members to reach out to say hello if you haven't had the chance to interact with Erik over the past few years!

Erik is an active and dynamic educator, clinician, arranger, performer, and administrator who is passionate about engaging people in the deep and transformative experience of all types of musical genres. Along with his work with MSVMA, he is the Managing Director of The VOCES8 Foundation and leads their VOCES8 Scholars program, teaches jazz voice at Kalamazoo College, and directs the Kalamazoo Male Chorus. He spent five years as a classroom teacher at Kalamazoo Christian High School and a year as the Interim Executive Artistic Director of the Milwaukee Children's Choir before joining MSVMA. We sat down with Erik to get to know a bit more of his musical and personal life.



Q: What are some of your favorite musical moments as a performer?

Erik: There are definitely a few that stick out in my mind as a singer. First would be the opportunity to sing, record, and tour the Monteverdi Vespers with Seraphic Fire during my undergrad. Dr. James Bass afforded us some amazing opportunities that will stick with me forever, like singing the ridiculously difficult Cantos Sagrados followed by Dominus Vobiscum at NCCO conference. Away from the classical realm, I'd say some of my favorite moments were being able to sing background on The Oprah Winfrey Show, singing for Jazz at Lincoln Center, and more recently, singing regularly with the Brass Band of Battle Creek. If anyone doesn't know of the BBBC, go look them up...they might be the best musical thing happening in Michigan!

Q: What do you enjoy doing outside of music?

Erik: Hanging out or traveling with my wonderful wife, Merrin, and the best dog in the world, Ares, are probably top of the list. I love sports and regularly play competitive golf and softball. Did I mention golf? I played college baseball and coached for six seasons, so I still stay involved and have done some coaching for my alma mater, Caledonia High School. Other than that, reading, movies, games (board and video), all sports. Oh, and golf.

Q: What are you proud of from your first four years with MSVMA?

Erik: It has been such a whirlwind with COVID happening towards the end of my first year that sometimes it's hard to remember things from "the before times". I think I'm most proud of a few different things. First would be the new offerings and initiatives. The mini-grant program, college scholarship, choral residency program, vocal jazz intensive, volunteer appreciation and retreat, and increased advocacy efforts, specifically. I'm so pleased to see the organization grow and continue to identify where the needs are in the landscape of choral music and see how we can fill those needs. If we can step back from the weeds sometimes and dream big, it allows us to truly fulfill our mission and be the best organization for Michigan and our members.

The second thing I am proud of is how we came through and out of the pandemic. The heart of this organization really showed, and we did some truly amazing things in some of the most difficult circumstances. We did not give up at any point and continued to band together and push forward to support our members and offer as much as we could to students. It was an amazing time when you reflect on what was accomplished.

Q: What is something that you'd like to leave our members with to know?

Erik: Just to please reach out to me. I love the friendships I have made over the past four years and hope to make many more each year. It is my job to be a support system for all of you and that is best done when I know you and your needs. I'm on your team, so never be afraid to reach out with something you think I might be able to help with!

Michigan Arts & Culture Advocacy Day

March 17, 2023

Come add your voice and advocate for arts and culture organizations in Michigan!

When you join us for Advocacy Day on March 17, 2023, you will have the opportunity to meet with your state legislators and promote the value of arts and culture where you live and where you work. In addition to meetings with individual state legislators, registrants will have the opportunity to attend a walking reception with legislators on March 7 and participate in an informational session on arts and culture advocacy on March 14.

Registration is only \$25 when you use code **A8PQP94J**.

Last year we held more than 100 meetings with legislators and successfully advocated for an additional \$2 million in funding for Michigan arts and culture organizations. This year we plan for even more!

We hope to see you there!

Register Now

2023 State Choral Festival Adjudicators

MSVMA is pleased to announce the 2023 State Choral Festival Adjudicators. We have so much great talent, and can't wait to have them at the State Choral Festivals throughout Michigan.

View their bios at msvma.wildapricot.org/State-Choral-Festival-Adjudicators/

2023 MMC Session Survey

Click [here](#) to submit questions from the topics covered at the Thursday MMC Sessions.

Meet your District Managers



Kevin Wells
DISTRICT 2 MANAGER

About Me

Favorite Food: prime rib

Fun Fact: I marched with the Northern Aurora Drum and Bugle Corps for three seasons in the 1980's and 90's.

Hobbies: Traveling and spending time with family

Favorite TV Show: Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Favorite Book: The Harry Potter Series

Your #1 song that gets replayed (or song that you'll sing your heart out too): All types of music

Adjudicator Evaluation Form

Please complete the Adjudicator Evaluation Form (<https://forms.gle/dWF9YQXMTWrkfPYR9>) if you have participated in Festival(s). Evaluations will be accepted only from an MSVMA member who was present in the room during the adjudication.

Pam Pierson
Director of Adjudication

Choral Student Leadership Conference

CSL Choral Student Leadership Conference
Michigan School Vocal Music Association

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21
9 AM - 4:30 PM

Headliner -
COTY RAVEN MORRIS
Portland State University

MSVMA Beanies Available



There is still lots of Michigan winter left to make a fashion statement with your MSVMA beanie! Contact Emileigh at emileigh@msvma.org to order yours today!

Announcements

THE DAVID L. STRICKLER ENDOWED CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS

Cantus Vocal Ensemble

PART OF THE IMC NATIONAL SEMINAR

Friday, March 17, 2023 | 7:30 p.m. | Goodrich Chapel



Scheduled to appear:

Western Michigan University Amphion

Grand Valley State Varsity Men

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Singing Statesmen

Amabile Primus Men's Choir, London, Ontario

Langford Men's Chorus, Westland, Michigan

Chiaroscuro, Adrian, Michigan

Michigan Educators Male Ensemble (MEME)

Case Western Reserve University Glee Club, Cleveland, Ohio

Baldwin-Wallace University Men's Chorus, Berea, Ohio

Measure for Measure, Ann Arbor, MI

University of Illinois Varsity Men's Glee Club

Bowling Green University Men's Chorus (OH)

Miami University Men's Glee Club (OH)

Scholarship Competitions

Madrigal Chorale High School Scholarship Competition

The Madrigal Chorale is pleased to announce its 28th Annual Vocal Scholarship Competition. This unique opportunity allows for aspiring and talented young vocalists to earn scholarship money toward their educational studies.

Eligible students must submit a vocal recording of their selected pieces for judging. Finalists chosen will be invited to participate in Madrigal Chorale's Spring Concert which will take place May 20, 2023 at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church in Rochester, Michigan. There will be one (1) \$1,000 Grand Prize Award, one (1) \$750 Award and one (1) \$500 Award presented at this competition.

Interested students should submit a video recording by the deadline listed below.

Submissions must include:

- A video submission of two solo selections
- Scanned copies of the music for adjudication purposes
- A completed registration form

Please also note:

- Selections should be from the classical art song/aria repertoire.
- Musical Theatre or Popular songs are discouraged.
- Selections may be recorded using either live accompaniment or a pre-recorded piano track.

Submissions must be uploaded by April 7, 2023 to the following link

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/SCwPEDhLMxL8uDIba38i>

Finalists will be notified by April 14, 2023 and will be invited to perform a selection of their choosing during our Spring Concert on May 20, 2023. Please note that the concert will be recorded and portions may be used by Madrigal Chorale.

Questions may be directed to John Niesen at madrigalchoralescholarship@gmail.com

Scholarship Application Form

KALAMAZOO BACH FESTIVAL
1946 **76** 2022
& Growing

**2023 VIRTUAL
HIGH SCHOOL
VOCAL
COMPETITION**

Application deadline: March 17, 2023
Registration \$10 | Apply ONLINE
KalamazooBachFestival.org

Open to ALL Michigan High School & Home School students grades 9-12

Classical | Opera | Art Song
Musical Theater | Jazz | American Songbook
Contemporary | Pop | Folk | Hip Hop

THREE Categories
THREE \$500 Awards!

Application/Song Submission
Deadline is MARCH 17!



The deadline for entering the competition is February 18th!
For more information, go to www.verdioperatheatre.com



Reminder!

The Deadline for Entering the 29th Annual Italian Songs & Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan High School Students is February 18, 2023.

Have you reviewed the information printed in the November 2022 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 \$2500 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 18th 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



Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan

29th Annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition

The Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan is pleased to announce its 2023 Annual Italian Songs and Arias Vocal Competition for Michigan high school students is open and accepting entries. Information for students to participate in this exciting event can be accessed through the Verdi Opera's website at Verdi Opera Theatre

Advance information is being sent to Michigan high school vocal music teachers, as well as to private music teachers and other related entities to encourage participation in this prestigious competition which has earned a reputation as the oldest and one of the top vocal competitions for young student vocalists in our state.

The deadline to submit student entries is February 18, 2023. Ten finalists will be selected, and will perform live at the Concert of the Finalists, to be held at the Italian American Club of Livonia, on Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 4 p.m.

The winner of the Competition will receive \$1,000, and all the finalists will receive a monetary prize and other valued support. Most importantly, every participant in the competition will be able to explore the wonderful world of classical Italian songs and opera arias to test their talent in this challenging art form.

The Verdi Opera's commitment is to encourage and assist the development of young vocal music students through our annual vocal competition, by awarding scholarship prizes, and by providing opportunities for these emerging young talents to perform at our concerts. This has resulted in the rewarding experience of several of these young singers being engaged to perform with major opera companies, including New York's Metropolitan Opera and Milan's La Scala, as well as with the Detroit Opera and other prominent opera companies.

Bravissimi!

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

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.

