



## ***Tempo!***

SPECIAL EDITION: MICHIGAN MUSIC CONFERENCE

### **Congratulations to Sheri Peterson 2023 Teacher of the Year!**



Sheri Petersen is enjoying her twenty-seventh year of teaching choral music, currently at Grand Ledge High School. She has taught previously at Grand Ledge Hayes Middle School, Williamston High School and Middle School, Swartz Creek High School and Middle School, and Berkley Norup Middle School. Sheri earned her Bachelor of Music Education from Alma College and holds a Master of Music in Choral Conducting degree from Michigan State University.

Sheri's students consistently excel at MSVMA events such as Solo & Ensemble and Choral Festivals, both at the district and state levels; State Honors Choirs; All-State Choir; and Michigan Youth Arts Festival/All-State Festival. The Grand Ledge Choirs perform yearly Masterwork concerts under her direction. The Grand Ledge High School Madrigals and Bel Canto performed at the 2020 Michigan Music Conference Choral Hours. The GLHS Madrigals performed at the 2022 and 2011 ACDA-Michigan State Conference. Sheri's high school ensembles have been honored with invitations to sing in the Outstanding Ensemble recital at Michigan Youth Arts Festival/MSVMA All-State Festival in 2000, 2003, 2004, 2010, 2017 and most recently in 2022 with the Grand Ledge Madrigal Women. Sheri has had the privilege of directing the 2009 SSA Middle School State Honors Choir and the 2013 SSAA High School State Honors Choir.

Sheri directed the SSA Middle School Choir Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp from 2010-2014. She also spent two summers teaching at Interlochen Arts Camp at the All-State Choir program. Sheri was the recipient of the Carolyn Leep Scholarship in 1999 and is an active member of MSVMA and ACDA. She served as the Chancel Choir director at Holt United Methodist Church, 2005-2016.

Sheri resides in Lansing with her handsome husband, Cory, and sweet little dog, Lola.

Thank you to all who spend countless hours making the Michigan Music Conference into a meaningful and informative week for friends and colleagues to reconnect and recharge

**- Erik Jacobson, Executive Director**

## **That's a wrap... 2023 Michigan Music Conference MSVMA Members Shine, Inform and Inspire**

The excitement of friends and colleagues getting together at the 2023 Michigan Music Conference rang throughout the hallways of the Amway Grand Plaza and DeVos Place last week. Led by Dr. Derrick Fox, the MSVMA focus of Diversity and Inclusion in Action provided opportunities to connect through informative interest sessions as well as inspirational performances.

The conference began on Thursday with attendees refining skills as conductors at the Choral Conducting Symposium with Dr. Erin Colwitz. The 6-7-8-9 Honors Choirs, under the direction of Jeff Danner, Kevin Cornwell and Kimberly Dunn Adams, did not disappoint with their delightful performances bringing students together from around the state of Michigan. It was very exciting to have so many MSVMA members come together during the networking sessions Thursday afternoon. The first session presented ideas on how to have a successful student teacher experience, led by a panel featuring Claire Kaiser, Kara Treadway, Kelli Falls and Matthew Snell. The second session provided an opportunity for choral music education students and practicing educators to have conversations about the world of choral music education and MSVMA. Many thanks to the MSVMA Board, District Managers and members at large who participated in these small group discussions. The final session focused on "Finding a Song Worth Singing" presented by Ginny Kerwin and Wendee Wolf-Schlarf. If anyone has questions regarding the materials covered on Thursday, feel free to use this link to share your questions as well as get the handout from the repertoire session - MSVMA Thursday "Networking" Sessions.

Friday and Saturday were also filled with inspiring performances in the MSVMA Choral Hours and the High School Honors Choirs. Congratulations to Steven Lorenze and the Ann Arbor Pioneer A Cappella Choir, Kara Stevens and the Caledonia Choralaires and Brandon Ulrich and the Stoney Creek Chamber Singers who performed in the Friday MSVMA Choral Hour. High School singing musicians were taken on a musical journey under the conductors of our Honors Choirs and All State Jazz Ensemble. Saturday's concerts featured April Tini and the All-State Jazz Ensemble, the SSAA Honors Choir under the direction of Lyn CieChanski, Erich Wangeman conducted the TTBB Honors Choir, and the SATB Honors Choir under the direction of Amon Eady. Thank you to all who attended MMC 2023. We hope you found new techniques to use in your classrooms. We also hope you experienced beautiful music that spoke to you so you can continue to inspire your students in the wonderful world of choral music.

**Submitted by Wendee Wolf-Schlarf**

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### **Michigan Music Conference Board of Directors MSVMA Representatives**

Matthew Callaghan & Erik Jacobson

### **Michigan Music Conference Planning Committee MSVMA Representatives**

Sarah Stockton, Gail Worden & Wendee Wolf-Schlarf

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**2023 Emeriti**

Cindy Hunter  
Robin Kieft  
Vickie Kopistiansky



Emeriti Vickie Kopistiansky was unable to attend the reception.

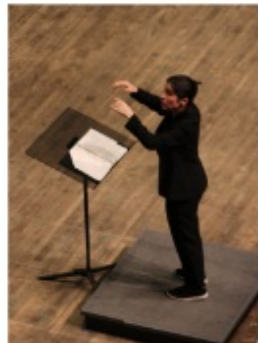
**2023 Honors Choir & All-State Jazz Conductors**



**6-7-8-9 SA Honors Choir**  
Conductor: Jeff Danner  
6-7-8-9 Supervisor: Ryan Dawley  
SA State Coordinator: Anne Lawrence



**6-7-8-9 TTB Honors Choir**  
Conductor: Kevin Cornwell  
6-7-8-9 Supervisor: Ryan Dawley  
TTB State Coordinator: Tim Peterson



**6-7-8-9 SSA Honors Choir**  
Conductor: Kimberly Dunn Adams  
6-7-8-9 Supervisor: Ryan Dawley  
SSA State Coordinator: Zach Everly



**6-7-8-9 High School Honors Choir**  
Conductor: Dr. Amon Eady  
State Honors Choir HS Supervisor: Anna Bolton  
SATB Coordinator: Maxwell Wagner



**High School TTBB Honors Choir**

Conductor: Erich Wangeman

State Honors Choir HS Supervisor: Anna Bolton

TTBB Coordinator: Maxwell Trombley



**High School SSAA Honors Choir**

Conductor: Lyn CieChanski

State Honors Choir HS Supervisor: Anna Bolton

SSAA Coordinator: Candice Sytsma



**All-State Jazz Honors Choir**

Conductor: April Tini

Coordinator: Jed Scott

**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

**Board of Directors Election Results**

- Eric Cadena: President-Elect
- Julia Holt: Treasurer
- Zach Everly: Secretary
- Megan Sinclair: Director of Specialized Festivals
- Matt Snell: Director of State Events

## Congratulations to 2023 Leep Scholars

The 2023 Carolyn F. Leep Scholarship has been awarded and each of the scholars will receive \$1,000.00 to support their pursuit of advanced degrees.

*"On behalf of the MSVMA Board of Directors, congratulations to our recipients of the Carolyn Leep Scholarship, Ryan Dawley and Jamie Steinman! We hope this support helps each of you achieve your educational goals and enhances your effectiveness in your vocal music classrooms."* Angel Gippert, Past President and Leep Scholarship Committee Chair

**Ryan Dawley**  
**Oakview Middle School**  
**Lake Orion Community Schools**

In his 10th year of teaching, Ryan has taught K-12 and really loves 6-12 choir. He is always looking to grow as a teacher and conductor. He has seen how his coursework has impacted his effectiveness in the classroom. Ryan is pursuing a M.M. in Choral Conducting from Oakland University. He doesn't know where this degree may lead but does know that he loves being in the classroom. He could see himself eventually teaching part-time at a university, however, 6-12 is where he wants to be for the time being. Ryan loves the idea of starting a local community choir in the Lake Orion area.

*"I am excited to finish the degree and see my teaching and conducting improve even further. While my degree will be focused on conducting, I have taken a few music education courses and plan to enroll in more to complete my elective credits. The nuance that I've already learned in some of my conducting lessons has allowed for my connection with students to improve. I never thought that I needed the masters to teach middle school choir, however, I needed it more than I knew. They respond to everything! I am learning just how smart/musical my students really are."* Ryan Dawley

**Jamie Steinman**  
**Harbor Lights Middle School**  
**West Ottawa Public Schools**

Jamie is in her second year of teaching at Harbor Lights Middle School and is enjoying the new responsibilities that her position is providing. She spent five years at Holland Public Schools where she really grew in her love and understanding for the middle school voice. Jamie graduated from Hope College with a bachelor's degree in Music Education and spent five rewarding years at Holland Public Schools where she grew in her love for and understanding of the middle school voice. Jamie will use her scholarship to support her pursuit of a Master of Music Education from Kent State University.

*"This scholarship would help to fund my last classes before I begin my capstone project. If I were to be awarded this scholarship, I would be able to continue with my classes without taking a significant break to save up more funds before finishing. I am confident that the graduate degree I am working to earn from Kent State University is helping to make me a more informed, passionate and dedicated choral teacher. I see myself growing as an educator after each graduate level course, and the Leep Scholarship would benefit me greatly."* Jamie Steinman

The Carolyn F. Leep Scholarship is made possible through generous donations of individuals and MSVMA Districts. If you are interested in making a gift to the Leep Scholarship or to the Leep Scholarship Endowment, please contact Debra Jacks at [debrajacks@msvma.org](mailto:debrajacks@msvma.org) or visit [MSVMA.org](http://MSVMA.org) and click on the Donate tab.

## And the Winners Are . . .

Visitors to MSVMA's booth at the MMC Exhibit Hall could register to win a free attendance at the MSVMA Choral Student Leadership Conference to be held June 21 at Eastern Michigan University featuring Headliner Coty Raven Morris, Portland State University. CSLC Coordinator Wendee Wolf-Schlarf is pleased to announce that the winner is Halie Watt, Lake Orion High School/Everest Academy who will select one of her students to attend.

The opportunity to win a free registration to Summer Conference to be held at the Blue Water Resort and Conference Center in Port Huron on July 26 and 27 also was part of activities at the MSVMA booth. Director of Summer Conference Eric Cadena is pleased to congratulate Jeff Zurkan, Rochester Middle School, for the win on this drawing.

## Save the Date for 2024 Michigan Music Conference



**January 25 - 27, 2024**

**MSVMA Headliner  
Pearl Shangkuan  
Director of Choral Activities  
Calvin University**

### 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](mailto:erikjacobson@msvma.org).

