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# ANNUAL REPORT

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2020/2021





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## WHO WE ARE

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### **Mission**

Educate. Empower. Experience. the art of vocal music

### **Vision**

As innovative leaders in vocal music education, we provide experiences to inspire our diverse community. Our vision is to reach the hearts of all people through song.

### **Inclusion**

MSVMA provides musical experiences that embrace diversity, foster connections, empower student musicians, and create community. MSVMA is dedicated to including all people, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, or disability.

MSVMA encourages each member to work with their school administration to ensure a positive and inclusive learning environment, allowing flexibility for all students when placing singers in voice part/gender specific ensembles for which they identify and demonstrate the necessary vocal range, offering varied options for concert attire, and increasing awareness of all aspects of the changing voice.

**Purpose and activities**

Supports and encourages vocal music educators and students through participation in district and state festivals, the Michigan Music Conference and the Michigan Youth Arts Festival. Provides professional development opportunities to its members via clinics, scholarships, its clinician consultant program and its Summer Conference which offers State Continuing Education Clock Hours and to their students through the Student Leadership Conference.

**Type of organization**

MSVMA is a 501(c)3 United States tax-exempt nonprofit organization exempt from federal income tax with activities conducted for educational purposes.

**Governance**

- Executive Committee (5 volunteers)
- Board of Directors (5 additional volunteers)
- Function/Task Committees (28 volunteers)
- Fifteen districts organized by geographical location and led by managers or co-managers.

**Fiscal year**

July 1 – June 30

**Website and E-Newsletter**

msvma.org which operates as part of its membership management software, Wild Apricot

MSVMA publishes Weekly Notes, an e-newsletter, to provide members with organizational information and updates.

**State Office employees**

- executive director: responsible for overall management of the state office, full-time, employment date, July 2019
- director of operations: responsible for financial and organizational operations, full-time, employment date, June 2015
- membership and IT manager: responsible for providing membership services and technology integration including website and social media, full-time, employment date, October 2018

**Independent contractors**

- adjudication scheduling coordinator: recruits and schedules festival adjudicators,
- state events scheduling coordinator: coordinates the scheduling process including interact with the software vendor
- state festival schedulers: four individuals who schedule state choral, state solo and ensemble and specialized festivals.
- adjudicators (61): provide adjudication services for auditions and festivals
- composers (2): compose music for use at festivals.

**Volunteers**

- 155 volunteers
- 2350 hours of time volunteered

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## Board of Directors

**Angel Gippert**

IB Music Instructor/Director of Choirs  
Farmington High School/Power Middle School  
Farmington Public Schools

**President****Gail Worden**

Director 6-12 Choirs  
Birch Run Area Schools

**President Elect****Mark Krempsi**

Co-Director of Choirs  
Northville High School

**Past President****Dennis Ryans**

Choir Director  
University Liggett School

**Secretary****Julia Holt**

Vocal Music Director  
Eisenhower High School  
Utica Community Schools

**Treasurer****Dr. Brandon Ulrich**

Director of Choral Activities  
Stoney Creek High School  
Rochester Community Schools District

**Director of Adjudication****Kathleen Cunningham**

Choral Director  
Gladwin High School and Junior High School  
Gladwin Community Schools

**Director of State Events****Eric Floetke**

Director of Choirs  
Saline Middle School and Heritage School  
Saline Area Schools

**Director of Honors Choirs****Lyn CieChanski**

Director of Vocal Music  
Ann Arbor Skyline High School  
Ann Arbor Public Schools

**Director of Specialized Festivals****Eric Cadena**

6th - 12th Grades Vocal Music  
East Lansing Public Schools

**Director of Summer Conference and Michigan Youth Arts**

**Districts – Management and Activities**

MSVMA's membership is organized into 15 districts with each led by a volunteer manager. Numerous volunteers, members, parents, and students assist with conducting the district activities including solo and ensemble festivals, choral festivals and invitational festivals.

## District Managers

<b>Scott Emelander</b> Choral Conductor Shelby Public Schools	<b>District 1</b>
<b>Kevin Wells</b> Choir Director Cheboygan Public Schools	<b>District 2</b>
<b>Steven Holovach</b> Director of Choirs Mt. Morris Consolidated Schools	<b>District 3</b>
<b>Xander Green</b> Choral Director Wayne-Westland Community Schools	<b>District 4</b>
<b>Daniel Farison</b> Choral Director Alma Public Schools	<b>District 5</b>
<b>Rebecca Selvidge</b> Vocal Music Director Coloma Public Schools	<b>District 6</b>
<b>Kathryn Becksvoot</b> Choir Director Western Michigan Christian Schools	<b>District 7</b>
<b>Anthony Funaro</b> Vocal Music Director Eaton Rapids Public Schools	<b>District 8</b>
<b>Natalie Smith</b> Choir Director Standish-Sterling Community Schools	<b>District 9</b>
<b>Rachel Niewiada</b> Middle School Choral Director Grandville Public Schools	<b>District 10</b>

**District Managers (Continued)**

<b>Dustin Morris</b> Choir Teacher Kalamazoo Public Schools	<b>District 11</b>
<b>Todd Schreiber</b> K-12 Vocal Music Instructor and Theater Director Whiteford Agricultural Schools	<b>District 12</b>
<b>John Beck</b> Choral Director Escanaba Area Public Schools	<b>District 13/14</b>
<b>Patrice DeBose</b> Choral Director Detroit Public Schools	<b>District 15</b>
<b>Leo Humbach</b> Choir Director Utica Community Schools	<b>District 16</b>

**District Festivals**

Districts sponsor festival events for choirs, small and large ensembles and soloists. Students have an opportunity to sing for adjudicators and to hear others perform.

The festivals are designed to be non-competitive with a focus on learning. District volunteers organized 25 days of Solo and Ensemble Festivals and 41 days of Choral Festival providing state-wide learning opportunities for students and teachers.



**District 1**

**Counties:**

- Manistee
- Wexford
- Missaukee
- Mason
- Oceana
- Lake
- Osceola
- Mecosta
- Northern two-thirds of Newaygo

**District 2**

**Counties:**

- Emmet
- Cheboygan
- Presque Isle
- Antrim
- Charlevoix
- Otsego
- Leelanau
- Benzie
- Grand Traverse
- Kalkaska
- Crawford

**District 3**

**Counties:**

- Huron
- Tuscola
- Sanilac
- Genesee
- Lapeer

**District 4**

**Counties:**

- Livingston
- Oakland
- excluding the area east of highways I-75 and M-24, this puts Hazel park, Madison Heights, Troy, Lake Orion, Avondale, Rochester, and Oxford in District 16.

**District 5****Counties:**

- Isabella
- Midland
- Gratiot
- Clinton
- Shiawassee
- Saginaw
- Portion of Bay south of a line extending to the southern boundary of Gladwin

**District 6****Counties:**

- VanBuren
- Berrien
- Cass

**District 7****Counties:**

- Muskegon
- Montcalm
- The southern one-third of Newaygo
- Portions of Ottawa, Kent, and Ionia north of the 43rd parallel
- Excluding the corporate limits of Grand Rapids

**District 8****Counties:**

- Eaton
- Ingham
- Jackson
- Hillsdale
- Lenawee

**District 9****Counties:**

- Montmorency
- Alpena
- Oscoda
- Alcona
- Roscommon
- Ogemaw
- Iosco
- Clare
- Gladwin
- Arenac
- Portion of Bay north of a line extending the southern boundary of Gladwin

**District 10****Counties:**

- Allegan
- Barry
- The portions of Ottawa, Kent, and Ionia south of the 43rd parallel
- Including the corporate limits of Grand Rapids

**District 11****Counties:**

- Kalamazoo
- Calhoun
- St. Joseph
- Branch

**District 12****Counties:**

- Washtenaw
- Monroe
- Portion of Wayne west and south of the corporate limits of Detroit

**District 13/14****Counties:**

- Chippewa
- Mackinac, Luce
- Schoolcraft
- Delta, Alger
- Keweenaw
- Houghton
- Ontonagon
- Gogebic
- Baraga
- Iron
- Dickinson
- Marquette
- Menominee

**District 15****Counties:**

- Area within the corporate limits of Detroit

**District 16****Counties:**

- Macomb
- St. Clair
- Portion of Oakland east of highways I-75, M-24, and the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods areas



## YEAR IN REVIEW

A communication from President Angel Gippert served as the basis for planning for what would be a very challenging year for the teachers and students of vocal music. President Gippert set the stage for a successful response to offering learning opportunities to our students and teachers that were meaningful and safe during the pandemic.

### **From the desk of MSVMA President Angel Gippert**

"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results." – Andrew Carnegie

As we continue to hear reports of our ever-changing world in which we live, I find myself and others struggling to accept these changes. But then I'm reminded of the resilience of our MSVMA members, and I find comfort and inspiration from my colleagues. I'm constantly in awe of what you all bring to the world of choral music and education.

While many of us are feeling uncomfortable, uneasy and sometimes even frightened about what the future may hold for vocal music, I know we are fortunate enough to have the support, creativity and insight of many people within our MSVMA family: Erik Jacobson - our visionary Executive Director, Debra Jacks and Hannah Miller - our tireless, supportive MSVMA office staff, and SO many other MSVMA members who are doing all they can to inspire, encourage, guide and connect us through this challenging time. If I tried to compile a list of everyone in our organization that is creating new and innovative ways to manage our current situation, I would utterly fail. But I would still like to acknowledge a few of these individuals or groups of people that have impacted me and provided us with stability, courage, and faith through this unprecedented time:

- Theater Thursdays Series - I encourage you to watch this...thank you to Matt Snell for coordinating this, to all those who have offered to interview and to the wonderful actors who share with us their time, education and entertainment
- Stay Home, Stay Safe, Stay Singing virtual concerts celebrating our directors and their students (it was a first for MSVMA and the concerts were wonderful!)
- Ron Weiler for leading and guiding us through the MSVMA Virtual Choir
- Kathy Cunningham's zoom meeting "check-ins" that keep us chatting, connecting and maintaining MSVMA's sense of community
- Sarah Stockton's innovative ideas that keep us inspired, encouraged and enlightened as we struggle to teach in our new norm...a virtual world

- Adam Wurst for creating “A Community Well” to draw ideas, thoughts and resources from all of us as we look ahead to the coming year
- Todd Schreiber’s Musical Theater living room performances that keep us smiling
- Emerick Dee’s family and students who share their gifts of music
- Mandy Scott’s entertaining “Jazzercise Fridays” COVID-19 Editions that lighten our spirits
- Jolene Plotzke who reminded us of Albus Dumbledore’s words, “Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.”
- Bruce Snyder for simply reaching out to say thank you and that he’s around to help
- and SO MANY MORE that I did not mention.

I have always believed that MSVMA is my family...this shows us how deep our support and connection is to one another as we figure out together what the near future holds for vocal music. Words alone cannot adequately convey the critical role that we play in each other’s lives. Our actions show that we are naturally and instinctively providing each other with support and stability that we crave. We will get this figured out somehow, some way...together we will be a beacon of hope and light to each other in this dark time!

Even if we are required to keep physical distance, that does not mean that we also have to keep emotional distance. We are providing our students and each other with comfort and consistency during a time of disruptions and worry. Although it is hard not to think of all the seniors who will never sing with us again, or the festivals we missed out on, or the concerts/performances we were planning, we must remember our true purpose in our profession...so I would like to close with something that I share with my students and their families each year at our Fall Concert.

### **Why Do We Teach Music?**

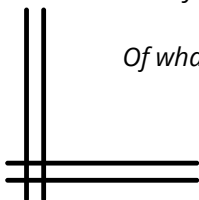
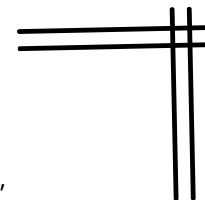
Not because we expect you to major in music,  
Not because we expect you to play or sing all your life,  
Not so you can relax, not so that you can have fun...

*But rather---*

So you will be human. So you will learn to recognize beauty.  
So you will be sensitive. So you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world.  
So you will have something to cling to.  
So you will have more compassion, more gentleness, more good,

**In short --- more life.**

*Of what value will it be to make a more prosperous living unless you know  
how and why to live?*



### **Adapting for the FY21 School Year**

The Board of Directors recognized from an insider's perspective that the 2020-21 school year was a time of uncertainty for schools, students and teachers and wanted to ensure that MSVMA continued to be a valuable resource. The organization's goal was to help every member stay connected to our MSVMA community. The decision was made that whenever feasible, programs and activities traditionally offered would be adapted for students and teachers to continue to participate safely. The following actions were taken to support these goals:

- Due to program and budgetary concerns, school memberships were discounted by 50%. No fee changes were offered for other memberships.
- An assistance program was developed for schools that needed help to participate due to budgetary restrictions that provided \$100 reduction of the discounted school membership fee.

Communications throughout the year reinforced the importance of MSVMA membership to the Michigan's vocal music educators and the benefits that it provides including:

- Access to educational resources including curriculum, an extensive sight-reading library, standard repertoire lists and adjudication rubrics
- Support of a learning community that offers ideas and support regardless of your teaching situation
- Advocacy for members, their programs and music education at the local, state and national levels
- Educational opportunities for members and their students such as The Michigan Music Conference, Student Leadership Conference, Opportunities for members to become an MSVMA adjudicator, the Carolyn Leep Scholarship for professional development and the opportunity for outstanding high school seniors to apply for a \$10,000 scholarship to pursue a career in music education

A Community Well, a collaborative on-line group formed at the beginning of the pandemic, continued to encourage members to share information and experiences, request assistance, ask questions and network for the development of solutions and resources. Topics were organized for ease of use and submissions were accepted throughout the year.

An additional resource was developed by members to support teachers as they adapted to virtual, hybrid or continued with in-person learning. Exploring the MSVMA Rubric Through Remote Collaboration and Distance Learning included a 68-lesson curriculum centered around the performance rubric and featured a curriculum slide show. Each member-developed lesson offered teachers and students anticipated lesson outcomes, instructional tools and assessment options.

## **Summer Conference**

July 29, 30 and 31

The Summer Conference Committee led by Director of Summer Conference Eric Cadena staffed by coordinators Helen Hansons and Amy Blevins responded effectively to the challenge of re-envisioning the 48th edition of this professional development activity to a virtual format. An online content delivery partner who offered the additional benefits of social and networking features was contracted, and presenters were identified. A team was organized to facilitate the live, real-time delivery of sessions. Tutorial videos and a mobile app were developed to assist members in accessing the Conference. These efforts proved to be effective as Conference attendance increased by 68%.

In keeping with the Conference's tradition, attendees accessed professional development sessions designed for vocal music educators of all levels. Participants were able to earn 25 hours of State Board Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECH) certified programming which was an increase of 47%. By recording the sessions, the Conference content was accessible for a year and participants could complete them for credit at their convenience during this time period. Participation in this Conference option tripled with 64 teachers completing 270 SCECHs.

Headliner Dr. Amanda Quist, Director of Choral Activities of the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami delivered sessions live – Building Sound, Building Spirit, Seating the Choir and Authentic Leadership – Becoming Your Best Self on the Podium. VOCES8, a British vocal ensemble that tours globally performing an extensive repertory in its a cappella concerts and in collaborations with leading orchestras, conductors and soloists presented sessions – The VOCES8 Method and New Learning ideas in the Digital Age and Choral Questions with VOCES8. These session highlights were well received by Conference participants.

Recognizing the importance of technology in the pandemic teaching and learning environment, a core learning component of five sessions focusing on ways to use technology in the classroom was offered to Conference participants including:

- Exploring the MSVMA Rubric Through Remote Collaboration and Distance Learning
- Creating Virtual Choirs: An Introduction to Final Cut Pro
- Technology and Vocal Music
- ForScore & 7 years ago . . . iPad, Apple TV, and more in the Choral Rehearsal
- Voce Vista Resonance Imaging Software: Practical Applications for Teachers and Singers

## **Choral Student Leadership Conference**

Plans are in place to offer this program when students may attend safely.

**Carolyn E. Leep Scholarship**

The Carolyn F. Leep Scholarship was established in 1988 in honor of Carolyn's service to the Michigan School Vocal Music Association. Scholarships are awarded to members who have at least three years teaching experience in Michigan and will be able to return to MSVMA activities after using the scholarship. Scholarship funding may be used to pursue an advanced degree or a non-degree choral music institute or workshop. Potential areas of study include choral conducting, composition, with emphasis on choral/vocal music, vocal music education and church music with vocal/choral emphasis. Applications, which may include an interview, are reviewed by the Carolyn F. Leep Scholarship Committee which is chaired by the past president.

The Committee selected two recipients. Anna Doering, the director of choirs at Bangor Township Schools, used her scholarship for tuition at Michigan State University as she pursues a master's degree in choral conducting. Caleb Sinclair used his scholarship for tuition at Oakland University where he also is pursuing a master's degree in choral conducting. He is the choir director and general music teacher at junior and senior high schools of Capac Community Schools.

**Choral Music Education Scholarship**

The Choral Music Education Scholarship was established this year and will annually be awarded to an outstanding high school senior from an MSVMA member school who will be pursuing a degree in choral music education at a Michigan college or university. The \$10,000 scholarship is divided over four years and the recipient must maintain a 3.0 GPA and remain in good standing in their program as a full-time student. The recipient was Fiona Breen who is studying at Michigan State University.

**Clinician Consultant Program**

This program offered member schools the option to bring a clinician/consultant into their classrooms to work with students and directors. Clinician/Consultants must be selected from a list maintained by MSVMA. Due to the nature of the delivery of this program, it was suspended for this school year.

**Education Mini-Grant Program**

Ten \$500 mini-grant annually are awarded to MSVMA member schools to support their annual music budget. Funds can be used for classroom items, music purchases, transportation, technology, uniforms, professional development, or innovative projects. The program suspended for the 2020-21 school year.



# Honors Choirs

## Honors Choirs

Honors Choirs which traditionally included 6-7-8-9, High School, All-State and All-State Vocal Jazz were adapted to the form of virtual choir performances. Virtual honors choirs for High School (SATB), Middle School (SATB), and Vocal Jazz were offered to students. A professional production company, Overneath Creative Collective, collected, edited, and produced each virtual choir. There was no audition process and all students 6-12th grade were encouraged to participate in their respective choirs. Students were urged to prepare by individual rehearsal and by attending Zoom rehearsals. All student submissions were included in the final virtual choir production.

Marques L. A. Garrett was selected to serve as the virtual High School Honors Choir Conductor. Dr. Garrett led the virtual rehearsals and helped students to navigate this performance option. A Virginia native, Dr. Garrett is an Assistant Professor of Music in Choral Activities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the Glenn Korff School of Music. Before earning his Ph.D. in Music Education (Choral Conducting) at Florida State university, he was the Director of Choral Activities at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, he holds an MM from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a BA from Hampton University. An active conductor, Dr. Garrett serves as a guest conductor or clinician with school, church, community and festival/honors choirs throughout the country. In addition to his conducting classes at UNL, he leads conducting workshops at other universities and conferences. A versatile voice that performs both as a baritone and countertenor, Dr. Garrett has sung with several community, church and university groups as a chorister and soloist. He is an avid composer of choral and solo-vocal music whose compositions have been performed to acclaim by high school all-state, collegiate and professional choirs. GIA Publications, Walton Music, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Hinshaw Music, G. Schirmer, Beckenhorst Press and Carus-Verlag have published several of his compositions. As a researcher, his most advantageous topic is the non-idiomatic choral music of black composers. Dr. Garrett lectures at state and regional conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and at other local and national venues affording him the opportunity to showcase this underrepresented area of music. He holds membership in the American Choral Directors Association, American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, National Collegiate Choral Organization and Pi Kappa Lambda. With the National Association of Negro Musicians, he currently serves as the national scholarship chair.



MSVMA members Greg Cleveland and April Tini conducted the Middle School Honors Choir and the Vocal Jazz Honors Choir respectively. Mr. Cleveland retired from Walled Lake Consolidated Schools as its Director of Vocal Music and Musical Theater. He has been honored by MSVMA with member emeritus status and continues to serve the organization in a variety of roles including as a member of its Adjudication Committee. April Arabian-Tini retired from Orchard Lake Middle School/West Bloomfield Middle School as a vocal music teacher. Ms. Arabian-Tini is a vocal music educator, solo artist, composer/arranger, adjudicator and clinician who has conducted all-state and regional choirs.

The 2021 Honors Choirs performances were previewed by MSVMA membership at its Virtual Annual Meeting on January 29, 2021. The public premiere on YouTube and social media followed the meeting. The debut of these innovative projects celebrated the hard work of hundreds of young Michigan singers.



Middle School Honors Choir: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXIM07We06E>

Vocal Jazz Honors Choir: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JX9GLjt\\_4Yo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JX9GLjt_4Yo)

High School Honors Choir: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nb54kuXGw0g>

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# Specialized Festivals

## **Musical Theatre Intensive**

MSVMA welcomed 100 singers in grades 9-12 to our Musical Theatre Intensive on Saturday, October 24 via a virtual event. A panel of respected clinicians led by Catherine A. Walker from the University of Michigan conducted the Intensive. Students had the opportunity to sing for clinicians in a Master Class format and participate in a variety of topic sessions. Festival Supervisor Lyn CieChanski, Director of Vocal Music at Skyline High School and Festival Coordinator Kathryn Witkoski, vocal music student at Central Michigan University served as event facilitators.

## **Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble Festival**

Traditionally two Festivals – East and West – this event was offered as a virtual event to all students 7-12th grades to participate as soloists or in ensembles to receive a Final Determination or comments only. Following the completion of the online registration by their director, students submitted a video of their performance for adjudication. Adjudicators completed the rubric which was then provided to the participant’s director for review and discussion with student(s).

## **Virtual Solo and Ensemble Festival**

Traditionally conducted at the District and State level, these Festivals were combined. Students 6-12th grades were encouraged to participate as soloists or in ensembles to receive a Final Determination or comments only. Following director registration of students at reduced fees, participants uploaded a video performance for adjudication. An adaption of adjudication process provided folders of videos for adjudicators to review and complete a rubric for each performance. Completed rubrics were provided to teachers for distribution to the participants. This adapted festival format enabled 764 students and their teachers to continue to develop their knowledge of vocal music.

## **Virtual Choral Festival**

MSVMA traditionally provides a tiered Choral Festival opportunity to its members through participation in District Festivals with those earning a Final Determination of Excellent able to move forward to the regionally organized State Choral Festivals. Offering a Choral Festival experience required adaptation of this model including modifying the requirement of a choir requiring 17 or more students as well as changing the adjudication outcome to Comments Only with adjudicators naming the best choirs to participate in the Virtual Michigan Youth Arts Festival.

Large ensembles comprised of 6 to 20 singers were encouraged to participate in the virtual Choral Festival. As for the Solo and Ensemble Festival, fees were reduced, and participation was via video submission. Adjudicators were provided with folders of choral performance videos and offered their feedback via the organization’s rubric. Despite the challenges of gathering for choir rehearsals and the changing status of school attendance in response to pandemic, 228 choirs participated in the Choral Festival.





### **16th Annual Michigan Music Conference**

Conducted as a virtual event, MSVMA members enjoyed presentations from colleagues and national headliner, Dr. Joe Miller, Director of Choral Studies at the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music. The Conference included live Q&A sessions, on-demand offerings to maximize State Board Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECH) options, virtual exhibit showcasing partnering vendors, celebrations of MSVMA members and our colleagues during social times, the first music college fair and the opportunity to view any of the MMC interest sessions following the Conference at participant's convenience.

The headliner sessions included:

#### *Introduction to Why*

When we conduct, we teach, we listen, we change. The process of questioning builds our imagination, and this world of images, sounds, and ideas is the stuff that great teaching is made of.

#### *Transforming Space*

Examine your own experience with sound and space and take a virtual site-visit to explore some creative ideas. Can we find new ways to connect with new audiences? Finding a way to join mission, space, and sound can be an exciting new chapter in the musical development of you and your students.

#### *Building Voice Through Community*

If the choral art is to continue being a vital part of our culture, we must focus on ways to respond to current society. What does it take to reach a modern audience? We must find ways to resonate with our changing community that promote and celebrate our deep musical heritage, advancing new voices and connecting to the human experience. We will explore new ideas in programming and audience engagement.

MSVMA session presenters included Heather Albrecht, Cera Babb, Thomas Blue, James Borst, Cathy Brodie, Greg Cleveland, Kimberly Dunn Adams, Amon Eady, Norma Freeman, Courtney Gilson – Piercey, Sean Grier, Jennifer Hansen Heder, Juliet Hess, Ginny Kerwin, Connor Koppin and Jessica McKierman.

### **MSVMA Student Membership Breakfast**

Student members were invited to join organizational leadership with their morning cup of coffee for a virtual breakfast from home as part of The Michigan Music Conference activities.

### **2021 Honors Choir Directors**

The following individuals will conduct the Honors Choirs in 2022.

Grades 6-7-8 SA State Honors Choir

Katie McInnis, choral director, Big Rapids Public Schools

Grades 7-8-9 SSA Honors Choir

Andrew Hathikhanavala, choral director, South Lyon Community Schools

Grades 7-8-9 TTBB Honors Choir

James Cumings, choral director, Northwest Community Schools

High School SSAA Honors Choir

Sarah Price, vocal music teacher, Saline Area Schools

High School TTBB Honors Choir

Phil Johnson, vocal music teacher, Brighton Area Schools

High School SATB Honors Choir

Erich Wangeman, choir director, Traverse City Area Public Schools

### **Michigan Music Conference Executive Board of Directors**

Erik Jacobson, MSVMA Executive Director, Mark Krempsi, MSVMA Past President

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

Matthew Callaghan, Eric Floetke, Angel Gippert, Wendee Wolf-Schlarf, Gail Worden

# Teacher of The Year



**Sarah Stockton**  
**2021 Teacher of the Year**

Sarah Stockton is the Vocal Music Director at Walled Lake Western High School. She directs 4 curricular choirs and 2 extra-curricular ensembles, as well as the all-school musical. Before joining WLW in 2018, Mrs. Stockton was the Vocal Music Director at Grand Blanc High School since 2006 and choir teacher at Grand Blanc West Middle School since 2009. She holds a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University, studying under Dr. David Rayl and Dr. Jonathan Reed, and a Bachelor of Music Education from Central Michigan University. Her mentor, Dr. Nina Nash-Robertson (CMU) passed away in 2018 but has made a lasting impact on her teaching.

Sarah's choirs regularly perform and excel in Michigan Schools Vocal Music Association's Solo and Ensemble and Choral Festivals, and she currently serves as an adjudicator and curriculum coordinator. She has been a Summer Conference presenter and has served as the District 4 Manager. Additionally, Mrs. Stockton was selected as the 2020 6-7-8 SA Honors Choir director. Mrs. Stockton was previously the Artistic Director for the New Century Chorale, an adult community choir in the Grand Blanc area from 2009-2018. She served as a frequent soprano soloist and guest conductor in the Flint community, as well taught private voice and piano lessons.

In 2018, Sarah was honored to become a choral staff member for the Michigan Ambassadors of Music. She traveled to England, France, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Liechtenstein and Germany during the summer of 2019. Mrs. Stockton was a 2016 and 2017 Chairman's Award Nominee for Educator of the Year by the Grand Blanc Chamber of Commerce. She resides in Farmington Hills with her husband, Josh and their son Everett. They have two dogs, Kofax and Peanut. In her free time, she enjoys creating resources for her Teachers Pay Teachers store, gardening, and crafting.



### **Virtual Michigan Youth Arts Festival**

The MSVMA Vocal Solo and Ensemble Recital is an annual event at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival featuring soloists and large and small ensembles adjudicated to be the very best in the State. In the past, soloists and ensembles were considered for participation based on their adjudicated event score at one of five geographically located State Solo & Ensemble Festivals for the honor to sing in this recital. Our adjusted format was different in two ways: one festival was held state-wide and video recordings were submitted for consideration. The following ensembles and soloists were selected to perform in the virtual Welcoming Celebration and Gala Concerts which were available for free to the public:

#### **Ensembles**

Advanced Women's Ensemble, Grand Haven High School, Juli Dick, Director  
 Chamber Choir, Allendale High School, Emily Verdonk, Director  
 Chamber Choir, Dewitt High School, Meghan Eldred-Woolsey, Director  
 Sweet-Her Harmony, Grand Haven High School, Juli Dick, Director

#### **Soloists**

Jillian Armstrong, Milford High School  
 Rachel Braun, South Lyon East High School  
 Kathleen Donahue, St. Francis High School  
 Maren Doughty, Marquette Senior High School  
 Micah Huisman, Unity Christian High School  
 Olivia Kane, Traverse City West High School  
 Maggi Kernan, Traverse City Central High School  
 R.J. Kilcher, Chippewa Valley High School  
 Aaron King, Jackson Northwest High School  
 Mariah Latoszewski, Jackson Northwest High School  
 Matthew Neal, Ann Arbor Pioneer High School  
 Marisa Redding - Ann Arbor Huron High School  
 Julia Salvati, Milford High School  
 Campbelle Stencil, Grosse Pointe South High School  
 Sophia Stiles, St. Francis High School

**Honors Choir Intensive**

Honors Choir Intensive at the Michigan Youth Arts Virtual Festival was a new initiative which took place from May 13-15 and was available by invitation to students who participated in the Virtual High School Honors Choir and soloists/ensembles who earned excellent ratings at this year's virtual festivals. Invited performers who wished to participate submitted videos to be featured in a virtual concert and could choose to participate in the Honors Choir Intensive on Saturday, May 13. Saturday events include:

"Multisensory Intonation: The Magic of Harmony"  
Blake Morgan of VOCES8

"Alto and Soprano Sectional and Vocal Tech"  
Arianne Abela of Audivi and Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble

"Bass and Tenor Sectional and Vocal Tech"  
Andy Van Allsburg of Chanticleer

"Full Group Rehearsal with Dr. Jason Max Ferdinand"  
The Aeolians of Oakwood University  
The Jason Max Ferdinand Singers

**MSVMA Receives Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant**

MSVMA was pleased to recognize the support of Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) and the National Endowment for the Arts by adding organizational logos to its website home page and other promotional materials. The \$15,000 grant will support programming around the state as well as key initiatives including the Student Leadership Conference, Summer Conference and the creation of a new Volunteer Retreat to provide in-person training, planning and communications. MCACA used a peer review process over a 30-day period of panel reviews to evaluate the grant applications and made recommendations to its Governor's Council. The applications were evaluated by 153 peer reviewers during the open panel process with nearly 500 interested members of the public attending the panels on-line.

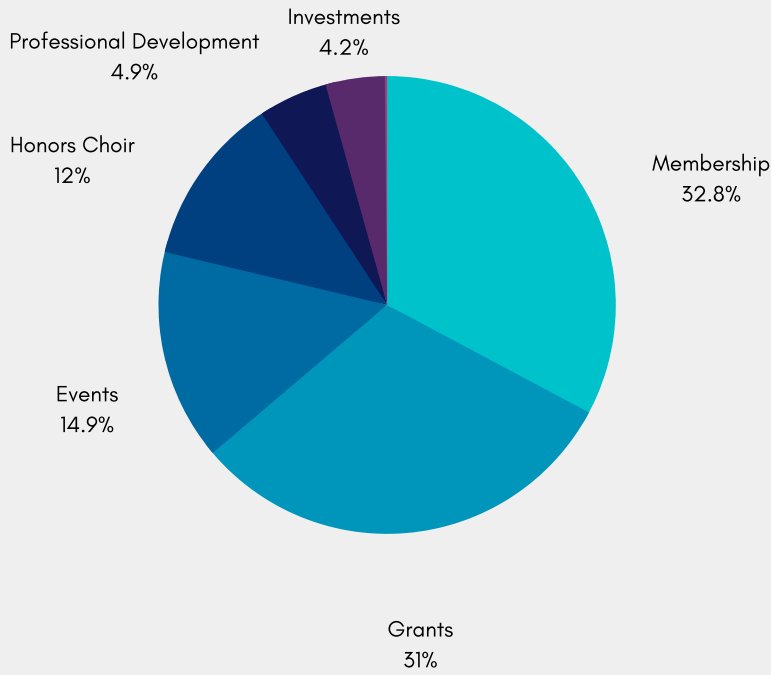
## Volunteer Honor Roll

Thank you to the kind and generous MSVMA members – active and retired, parents, students, community members and friends of choral music who have volunteered their time and talents to help make our events and activities a success.

Thank you to the following members who served MSVMA in defined volunteer roles.

John Beck	Aaron Goodyke	Pam Pierson
Kathryn Becksvoort	Sheila Grazulis	Sarah Price
Claire Bellamy	Xander Green	Angie Robbins-Badish
Jack Bertrand	Helen Hansens	Sadie Rucker
Amy Blevins	Andrew Hathikhanavala	Dennis Ryans
Olivia Bloomer	Steven Holovach	Jacob Salisbury
Jim Borst	Julia Holt	Andrew Schafer
Dr. Lori Bowles Hogle	Leo Humbach	Todd Schreiber
Jan Broderson	Cindy Hunter	Jed Scott
Seth Burk	Holly Israels	Mandy Scott
Eric Cadena	Sean Ivory	Rebecca Selvidge
Matthew Callaghan	Brandon Johnson	Jennifer Sengin
Tammy Chmielewski	Meagan Johnson	Julee Shelton
Lyn CieChanski	Phil Johnson	Randi Simons-Miller
Brendan Cloz	Robert Jordan	Megan Sinclair
Kevin Cornwall	Christopher Knapp	Natalie Smith
James Cumings	Mark Krempski	Evan Stoor
Kathleen Cunningham	Matthew Laura	Elizabeth Townsend
Jeff Danner	Carrie Ledet	Dr. Brandon Ulrich
Ryan Dawley	Brian Leduc	Emily Verdonk
James DeBoer	Amanda Lenze	Amy K. Voorhees
Patrice DeBose	Cathrine Lykins	Amy Walling
Robert Doyle	Nathan Masterson	Ashley Ward
Amon Eady	Katie McInnis	Halie Watt
Scott Emelander	Saleel Menon	Christiana Welling
Sara Emerson	Brennan Michaels	Kevin Wells
Daniel Farison	Dustin Morris	Kevin West
Eric Floetke	Jessica Nieuwkoop	Margaret Winchell
Anthony Funaro	Rachel Niewiada	Wendee Wolf-Schlarf
Angel Gippert	Tim Peterson	Gail Worden
		Adam Wurst
		Kyle Zeuch

# ORGANIZATION INCOME



## YEAR END

Total Gross Revenue	\$410,238
Total Expenses	\$359,518
Total Net Revenue	\$50,719

# ORGANIZATION EXPENSES

