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An In-Service for Music Educators
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Alice M. Hammel
James Madison and Virginia Commonwealth Universities

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Musical Engagement Focus
Therees Tkach Hibbard
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American Choral Directors
Association-Michigan
www.acdami.org

Michigan Music
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www.mmeamichigan.org

Michigan Music Conference
www.michiganmusicconference.org

Michigan School
Band & Orchestra Association
www.msboa.org

Michigan Youth Arts Festival
www.michiganyoutharts.org

MSVMA MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to educate and inspire all people to understand and value the art of vocal music and its lifelong impact on the human spirit.

Fall 2013
Volume 48, Number 1

The MSVMA Journal is published three times a year, in October, March, and June. Articles are welcome and may be submitted to the MSVMA office msvma@msvma.org.

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Revel in the experience.
Let us handle the details!

“Nice job! Everything was planned well with quality destinations and activities. Anytime I had a question, it was answered promptly. The activities were super! I couldn’t ask for more. Keep up the great job!”

Curt Isakson • Shelby High School Band Director • Shelby, MI
Each day, we learn and we grow and we live. If not, we soon become complacent, stuck in a routine and eventually become obsolete or no longer exist.

I am humbled and honored to be your President for the next two years. Being able to work with an awesome executive and full board became very clear after our first meetings. MSVMA has continued to be a leader in music education not only in Michigan, but across the country. This does not happen without an Executive Director, Executive Board and Full Board willing to try new ideas and change the way we have done things in the past to keep current with the every changing educational demands that are placed on our students and on teachers, staff and administrators.

The focus of the fall meeting was on the membership survey that many of you took last May. I was encouraged to hear the board working through the responses with new ideas on how to meet the challenges that so many of our members are facing right now. Reduced budgets, classes consolidated or cut all together, expecting to teach more classes and more students each hour, the new choral rubric scoring and the new teacher evaluation has been a concern for many of you. Your board really does listen to each of you and values your input. Please know, they are working on new policies and even a few changes to our constitution. You will see several By-Law proposals this year that are aimed at addressing your concerns. By working together, we can help to ensure that music education continues to be strong in our state for years to come.

In closing, MSVMA can only grow and continue to reach more students if we all work together. There are many ways our members can ensure music education continues for generations to come. We need to be active in our communities supporting all of the Fine Arts programs, attend the Michigan Music Conference and the Summer Workshop to learn about the latest teaching techniques in music education, to be inspired by the wonderful performances and to volunteer at our district festivals. I encourage each of you to post our MSVMA mission statement in your office or on your desk. Don’t just read it, but live it each day in your classroom and communities. Continue to inspire and educate someone every day so they may continue to learn, grow and live.

Our mission is to educate and inspire all people to understand the value and the art of vocal music and its lifelong impact on the human spirit.

President’s Message
Doug Armstead, President

Grammy® Award-winning conductor Jerry Blackstone is director of choirs and chair of the conducting department at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance where he conducts the Chamber Choir, teaches conducting at the graduate level, and administers a choral program of 11 choirs.

Prior to coming to the University of Michigan in 1988, Blackstone served on the music faculties of Phillips University in Oklahoma, Westmont College in California, and Huntington College in Indiana. He holds degrees from the University of Southern California, Indiana University, and Wheaton College.
Welcome back! And another school year – 2013-2014 – is off and running!!!! Repertoire has been chosen, honors choir auditions are underway, registration has begun for the Michigan Music Conference, judges have been hired for State Choral Festival, a very successful adjudication clinic was held at Chelsea High School, fall concerts are in the making, and Pop and Chamber Festivals are drawing upon us. MSVMA members actively and innovatively respond to the evolving facets of vocal music education through collaboration, advocacy, technology, and lifelong learning opportunities that meet the needs of a diverse population.

I appreciate the concern expressed in the MSVMA survey this past summer with regard to festival final determinations and the perceptions held by administrators when reviewing them. In this journal Julia Holt has given you a great tool to share with your principals explaining the philosophy behind the new rubric we are using and our efforts to equate the Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor with the more traditional rubric used in the past. MSVMA member Dr. Chuck Norris and students from Grand Valley State University will be conducting a thorough analysis of festival data from all 5 choral festival sites of District #4 in March of 2014. This information will provide the MSVMA Adjudication Committee with a broader understanding of the functionality of our adjudication rubric, and will facilitate more informed decisions regarding its use in the future.

Every time I adjudicate a district event, on that long drive home, I reflect upon what I heard and experienced during the festival. I am overwhelmed with pride of the extraordinary teaching that occurs throughout Michigan in choral classrooms. There are very few states in the United States that can boast of such consistency in the attainment of artistry and high performance standards. My thoughts almost always ponder over the performances that were on the bubble and were just under the radar of the next higher determination. What could I offer as suggestions for making festival an opportunity to celebrate a preparation process that engaged every student, to share a product that speaks to the heart and mind?

For your consideration:

1. Sight read every day. No matter what level your choir is. Whether it is the only choir in your school, if it is a very beginning choir, or the most advanced choir. If there is one responsibility we have as music educators that stands out above all of the rest, it is the mandate to teach our students to read. And if at all possible DON’T use past sight reading books. Save those until the last few weeks before festival. Think creatively.
   - Warm-up using solfege exercises that teach the tonal memory of intervals - stepwise, in thirds, in fourths, etc. Sing them in rounds.
   - Have your students compose their own sight reading exercises within predetermined boundaries: For example: 4/4 meter, quarter notes, quarter rests, 4 measures long – for starters. Publish them. Use them once per week as your sight reading for the day.
   - Choose one song for each concert that you can completely learn on solfege. Allow your students to mark the syllables in their music. Perhaps it will be a stunning unison piece, but learn it on solfege. Require your students to sing on pure syllables, with beautiful tone and shaped vowels. Observe dynamics and phrasing. After year one, have them learn two songs for each concert on solfege. Eventually learn all of their music on solfege and your more advanced singers won’t need to mark in the syllables anymore because they can READ! This is NOT “pie in the sky” thinking. ANY and EVERY choir can do this.
   - Use some of the sight reading software available for independent learning. When your students become better readers, they will learn the music quicker, and be able to create beauty quicker!
2. Choose repertoire that meets your students where they are and provides opportunities for growth. Choose repertoire for which you are passionate. Choose texts that are worthy of study and age appropriate (avoid the Hallmark greeting card sentiments). Make sure that ranges are realistic for where your students are developmentally. Consider what you can teach with the repertoire you choose. Can you teach tonal development, intonation, rhythmic energy, word and syllabic stress, phrasing, style, etc.? Remember, you have to live with the music you choose for 1-2 months sometimes. Make sure the teaching opportunities are numerous and versatile.

3. Invite a clinician into your classroom so that you and your students can grow from another set of ears and a different perspective by using the MSVMA Clinician Consultant Program. There is a misperception out there that clinicians expect your choir to be concert ready when they come to your classroom. While inviting a clinician in 3 weeks before festival is always a great idea for last minute refinement and providing ideas for taking the performance to the “next level,” clinicians are happy to come at any time of the year for whatever reason. They are there to support you and your students! And oh my goodness, you are reimbursed up to $185 of the costs related to hiring the clinician. That makes your membership fee really only $165 – a great selling point to any administrator.

4. If you wish you could go and observe a master teacher in action in his/her own classroom, use the MSVMA Clinician Consultant Program. Go and visit one of the clinicians on the MSVMA list in their classroom and MSVMA will reimburse your school district up to $185 of the cost to bring in a substitute teacher while you are gone. Watch a master teacher “in action.” Sit down and share a meal together. Talk about what it takes to achieve in today’s classroom. You will develop life-long relationships!

5. Use the MSVMA Adjudication Rubric in your classroom. What an amazing teaching and learning tool it is! Once a week have your students reflect upon their progress. Require them to develop a working understanding of the vocabulary used in the elements and descriptors. Does your choir listen to recordings of choirs singing the same repertoire they are learning? Does your choir listen to choirs with beautiful choral tone? Guide the development of your students’ personal aesthetic for “sounding good.” What words are important in each phrase? You and your students can explore all kinds of ideas related to this performance rubric.

6. Meet regularly with a teacher in your school district or a neighboring one and collaborate ideas and experiences. Share concerts together, do a teacher exchange for a day, share repertoire ideas, learn one piece per concert the same and connect the two rehearsal classrooms via Skype during the learning process.

7. Attend the Michigan Music Conference and the MSVMA Summer Workshop. These professional development events are packed full of extraordinary sessions and concerts; they are packed full of amazing opportunities for sharing ideas and developing lifelong friendships (so important for survival in your world as teacher/conductor); they are jam packed full of answers to so many of the questions you ponder throughout the academic year.

8. Ask questions. MSVMA wants you to succeed and wants to provide whatever you need to support you in your artistic journey.

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**Our mission is to educate and inspire all people to understand and value the art of vocal music and its lifelong impact on the human spirit.**

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Look for more information at the 2014 MMC regarding the application and selection process!

10 YEARS

Congratulations to the MMC on its 10th Anniversary in 2015!

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There are lots of things that I’ve learned from my husband, Jed Scott, but I think the most important lesson I’ve learned from him is that you have to **DREAM BIG**. His big dreams have led to lots of wonderful things, but most recently it resulted in the two of us running our first 5K ever and raising $1000 along the way.

First of all, let me give you the athletic history of our family…

Well, there you have it. Nothing. Nada. Zilch. Before this spring, the last time Jed and I had run a mile was in high school gym class. When our family found out we were running regularly, they were concerned that someone must be chasing us.

This past April we decided it was time to change our sedentary lifestyle and at least get outside and move a little bit. We’re in good health, and we’d certainly like to stay that way for ourselves and our children. We embarked on a fitness plan led by blogger and habit coach, Leo Babauta, of Zenhabits ([www.zenhabits.net](http://www.zenhabits.net)). The plan was pretty simple: walking 5 minutes a day for the first week and no more. If you don’t miss a day, then make it 7 minutes a day the next week. By the end of April we were walking 15 minutes a day.

By May we had started to run a little bit (mostly to get home faster, I think), and pretty soon we were impressing ourselves with our accomplishments. “Hey Honey, I ran a half a mile without stopping!” Whew!

My big dreamer of a husband thought it would be a great idea to register for a 5K to get ourselves motivated to really start running and challenge ourselves. It seemed perfect to sign up for the Michigan Youth Arts 5K in Royal Oak. Let’s make our first race dedicated to an organization that we love and support!

Fast forward to our summer of training, and Jed sets up our Crowdrise ([www.crowdrise.com](http://www.crowdrise.com)) account to raise money for Michigan Youth Arts. He’s got a goal for $500. Jed discovered during a Kickstarter ([www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com)) campaign (raising money for a CD project for his ensemble, the Rockford Aces) that every time he posted on Facebook, he got another donation. So began our daily Facebook post to support the arts in Michigan.

Little by little, $10 and $20 at a time, we started to reach our goal. We hit $500 in a short time, and then it seemed logical to raise our goal to $750, and eventually $1000.

When race day came, we ran in record time and crossed the finish line hand in hand. I even placed first in my age group!

All this is to say that we have to take risks and **DREAM BIG** in this life. We will keep you updated on our next adventure where Jed has organized a two-week trip for our choirs to Europe to tour and compete in the World Choir Games in Riga, Latvia. At the moment, we are convincing our community to dream big with us and raise $100,000 to send these students on a trip of a lifetime.

Author, Seth Godin, spends his time blogging and writing about dreaming bigger and creating art. In his book, “The Icarus Deception,” he writes:

*The path that’s available to each of us is neither reckless stupidity nor mindless compliance. No, the path that’s available to*
us is to be human, to do art, and to fly far higher than we’ve been taught is possible. [emphasis added] We’ve built a world where it’s possible to fly higher than ever, and the tragedy is that we’ve been seduced into believing that we ought to fly lower instead. (page 2)

In the coming months, the leadership of MSVMA is going to DREAM BIG about how our organization can serve vocal music in the state of Michigan. We are eager to present ideas and proposals that strengthen our organization and allows us to reach more members than we may have thought possible.

Sometimes an idea starts with something small, like 5 minutes a day of walking. It’s a good idea, and it can lead to places you never dreamed. If we can all trust in the process, we can make decisions together that will create a new vision and help our organization to flourish!
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Join us by encouraging your students to participate in this exciting event!
I’m excited to help maintain the vocal jazz preference at Michigan Youth Arts Festival, with our guest conductor Greg Jasperse at the helm for 2014. Here’s an overview of how the process will work this year.

On February 1: we will release Mr. Jasperse’s program and application for submission. Applications will be due by March 1, including a written application and three recordings from within the past three years. These recordings will be reviewed by a listening panel composed by Ginny Kerwin.

VERY IMPORTANT: While we will suggest at least one of the recordings be jazz or pop, the listening panel will be much more interested in blend and flexibility of the choir than in experience in the jazz vernacular. One of the missions of this program is to increase the exposure of Michigan students to vocal jazz, so even if YOU’VE never done it, your choir could very well be selected!

March 15 a choir will be announced comprising a TBD number of intact choirs from across the state. Together they will form the 2014 MYAF Vocal Jazz Choir. It will be the director’s responsibility to then acquire the pieces for the program and teach to their choir. Students should arrive at MYAF with the music memorized.

On Thursday, May 8 the choirs will spend the day in rehearsal/masterclass with Greg Jasperse to become a cohesive ensemble and learn the finer points of vocal jazz. That night, the ensemble will perform as part of the Opening Night MYAF Gala.

The four choirs selected last year had a WONDERFUL experience and I’m so pleased MSVMA will be supporting it again this year. Greg will be a fabulous conductor (he’s conducted more than 10 All-State Jazz Choirs) and the students will leave inspired and energized by his leadership!

ABOUT GREG JASPERSE

Following eight years as a professional musician in Los Angeles, Greg Jasperse is returning to Kalamazoo as an assistant professor of vocal jazz and the new director of Gold Company and GC II at Western Michigan University. A world-renowned composer and arranger, he is sought after internationally as a clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor. His conducting credits include all-state jazz choirs in New York, California, Oklahoma, Indiana, Arizona, Missouri, Colorado, New Hampshire, Illinois, and Iowa, as well as the British Columbia Honors Jazz Choir.

Jasperse’s voice can be heard on numerous movie soundtracks including Epic; Oz, The Great and Powerful; The Campaign; Star Trek and Star Trek 2; National Treasure 2; SALT; The Last Airbender; and Real Steel, as well as the Red Hot Chili Pepper’s song “Monarchy of Roses” and Muse’s album The 2nd Law. Most recently he had the pleasure of singing at the 85th Annual Oscars with Adele on her song “Skyfall.” Jasperse also recently arranged, produced and music-directed “A Gallagher Family Christmas” for William H. Macy and the cast of Showtime’s “Shameless.”

Jasperse is a member of two professional vocal groups – Sixth Wave and Vertical Voices. He has also performed with a variety of artists, including Rosemary Clooney, Joe Williams, Dianne Reeves, Kirk Whalum, Jennifer Holiday, Jon Secada, and Gloria Estefan. He spends his summers teaching at several music camps including the New York Voices Vocal Jazz Camp, the University of North Texas Vocal Jazz Camp, and Showchoir Camps of America.
CAN'T TAKE YOUR STUDENTS TO THE OPERA?
LET US BRING THE OPERA TO YOUR STUDENTS!

MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE TOURING PROGRAM

Touring grants available!
michiganopera.org/learning
This summer, MSVMA conducted surveys of our membership via Internet and phone. Many members expressed concerns about school administrators using Choral Festival results as an evaluation tool, and these administrators interpreting the final determinations in a myriad of ways. Administrators often associate Highly Effective with Superior festival ratings, Effective with Excellent, and Minimally Effective with Good ratings, and this correlation creates inaccuracies and issues. While MSVMA is not advocating the use of Choral Festival ratings as an evaluation tool for teachers, it is important to explain the breakdown of the festival final determinations so that administrators can understand how it should compare to the evaluation labels.

When some administrators see a Good rating, they see that it is the third item down the list and equate that to the third item down on the evaluation list – Minimally Effective. This is not really the case. Our rating system was created with four main areas: Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor. Each area contains roughly the same number of scores. The fifth category was created to give Superior distinction to the highest scores in the Excellent category. Only when added together do the Excellent and Superior scores equal the same size of the other areas.
Therefore, if administrators are using final determinations from Choral Festival as part of the teacher evaluation process the following scale is a more accurate representation of our system:

Superior/Excellent = Highly Effective  
Good = Effective  
Fair = Minimally Effective  
Poor = Ineffective

MSVMA believes that our members should be involved in evaluation decisions, and that festival scores should not be used as an evaluation tool. When this is unavoidable, the following should be taken into consideration:

Festival is only ONE piece of a very large curriculum.

Festival is a snapshot of the learning process. It is a reflection of one 10-minute performance and cannot measure the growth of individual students.

Festival Ratings do not necessarily take into account important factors regarding the genetic make up of the ensemble. These factors include:  
- Size of school  
- Level and/or ability of singers (It’s supposed to but can be variable depending on the judge)  
- Rehearsal hours (trimester or ten week classes in which the ensemble has lost or added ten new members two weeks earlier)  
- Individual student factors (sick/missing members, special needs students, etc.)

The hope of MSVMA is that members can share this article with their administrators as a way to clarify how, when necessary, final determinations for Choral Festival might be most accurately used as a piece of the teacher evaluation process.
MSVMA Technology Team

Andrea Gay
Crestwood Middle School

Andrea will serve as the primary festival scheduling coordinator for district events as well as helping district managers with district page editing and questions. She is excited about starting her 12th year of teaching vocal music. She currently teaches at Crestwood Middle School in the Kentwood Public School District where she conducts the 6th, 7th, 8th, and Madrigal Singers choirs along with the school musical. In her spare time Andrea enjoys reading, creating play lists with her Itunes music library, and spending time with her two children, husband of 10 years, nieces, nephews, and other family members.

Matthew Snell
Jackson Northwest High School

Matt will serve as a website manager for the MSVMA website, helping with updates and content as needed. He is currently in his sixth year of teaching at Northwest High School. Under his direction his choirs have consistently received top ratings at both district and state choir festival. In 2012 his choir was selected to perform at ACDA-MI Fall Conference. He loves teaching and is thankful for all the wonderful support he has and continues to receive.

Marge Payne
MSVMA Emeritus

Marge will serve as the primary festival scheduling coordinator for state events, but also district events as needed. She is a scheduling and tech addict.

“One of the things I love most about MSVMA is friendliness and willingness of all the members to help everyone in any way they can. I have been scheduling festivals for over 20 years (both District and State). If there is anything I can do to make your scheduling or Festival duties easier, please let me know. I am now retired and am available for your questions...no question is too silly and no...you are not bothering me!”

Adam Wurst
Allendale Middle School

Adam, as MSVMA Communication & Technology Coordinator, will work with the team as questions come in from members, the Full Board, and Executive Board, as well as provide training and development of present and future technology initiatives. He also is working to promote the benefits and effectiveness of technology while improving communication through technology. He teaches at Allendale Middle School, working with students in six gender-based choirs throughout the day.
Thank you! It has truly been an incredible honor receiving this very distinguished award. Since the announcement in January, I still haven’t found the words to accurately express how deeply touched I am, especially as the K-12 educator in a small district, to be solely recognized among so many esteemed MSVMA colleagues. From the Facebook posts and cards to newspaper articles, from a surprise party by my HS choir students to an open house by my Whiteford teacher friends, from receiving a County Commissioners plaque to the MYAF Touchstone Award….

I honestly feel like I have already heard my own eulogy! Everyone has been so generous and kind with accolades and compliments that I often find myself saying…”Wow, I would really like to meet this Todd Schreiber guy someday!”

When I read the congratulation letter by the workshop committee inviting me to speak this afternoon, it said to please keep your comments under one minute. According to my timings of practicing this address, the “under one minute” has just passed. So the only compromise I could come up with is to use the six letters of the word “minute” to do my humble best to describe what receiving this special MSVMA award personally means to me.

While “M” could obviously be MSVMA, Music or Memories, there was only one option…Mom! I had the best one! Love, support, humor, nurturing, acceptance, understanding…discipline, stubbornness, consistent, fairness…she knew how to raise great kids, was the fear of all our cousins and neighborhood friends, and was loved and respected by all. I was blessed to be part of a wonderful family, too, the greatest brother and sisters you could ask for. Thanks, Mom, for driving me to piano lessons, shaping my life and allowing me to become who I am today. I miss you everyday and wish you were here to share this moment.

The letter “I” was an easy one…Inspirational speeches by former Teacher’s of the Year. I never attended the dorm-room-bowling-fest Alma conference, but began my Summer Workshop experience and District 12 Manager career at the first Kellogg conference in 2002. Greg Cleveland made us all cry with his heartfelt comments about one of his former students. In other years I remember Bruce Snyder talking about the “woven fabric” created by being a part of MSVMA. Cathy Brodie made us laugh with her story about sliding down snowy hills on her saxophone case and how grateful she was that she didn’t play the flute. I, of course, had to take that comment one step farther and muttered to my table, “That would be a whole-nother kind of ride!” The prestigious list goes on, so re-read their amazing words in your past journals sometime…thank you former Teacher’s of the Year for the unbridled inspiration of your careers and for helping me set my educational goals at the highest level.

“N” is for Nominations…In my heart, I share this award with three other unbelievable teachers. When I saw the final ballot last fall and my name was in such iconic company of directors who have power-house choral programs in the state… I sang the Sesame Street song…”One of these things is not like the other, one of these things just doesn’t belong”. When “Todd Schreiber” was announced at the JMS Honors Choir Concert as the recipient, it was my own personal Sally Field moment…”they like me…they really like me”. Russ Larimer was Jack Nicholson, Randy VanWingerden - Tom Hanks, Karen Nevins - Meryl Streep. Three illustrious educators whom I have so much admiration and respect for…thank you, it is an honor to have shared this nomination with you.

Todd Schreiber
2013 Teacher of the Year
“U” represents Utilize…I received my first and thankfully only “IV” at an MSVMA choral festival in 1991 (I won’t mention the judges name, Janelle McGuire, ‘cause why would one even remember that…and the overall rating was a III…clearly I have moved on!) Not only did I get the “IV” but I got one of those notes in the envelope, specifically directed to me. Like any young teacher, I justified and excused this moment with a myriad of reasons…thus it wasn’t my fault, it was the judges. In time, however, things began to change. Within the next few years of just trying to stay afloat with my crazy K-12 schedule, it finally dawned on me that I am my own feeder program…DUH…I was so jealous of everyone else who had these great Elementary and Middle School programs feeding their High School’s…it wasn’t fair…it wasn’t fair…oh…that’s me at my school…oops! So I stopped complaining about what I didn’t have and began to utilize what I did have. I became more involved at the District and State level and took advantage of the purpose of MSVMA…to help ME! Then Kathy Petrich changed my life when she gave my women’s ensemble Whiteford’s first “I” rating ever…the rest is history! I continue to utilize whatever resources exist…I even renamed my school’s performance space the “Gymnatorcaetaserioum”…you simply do the best with what you have! So thank you, MSVMA and Whiteford Schools and community for letting me utilize you these past 25 years!

Eternally grateful is what I am because of an experience I had in high school. Between my junior and senior year I got to go to Ohio’s Boys State program at BGSU. A few days before I left, a really sad thing had happened. My piano had been repossessed because my mother wasn’t able to afford paying for it. But being Todd Schreiber like I was, I thought “That’s OK…I can play at school, I can play at the church because I played every Sunday anyways.” So I wasn’t too broken up about it, but she was. Anyway, I go away for a whole week while I’m there, a few days before I come home, we had talked on the phone and she said “Hey, there’s a surprise for you when you get home.” I didn’t even make any connections about it, but I said “That’s cool”. But she wouldn’t tell me what it was. So I get home from that week being gone and walk in out front door. Right there in the “piano spot” was a big sign on my piano that said “…from your family and friends at church.” They had collected money and bought the piano back…for me. From that moment on I learned how to be eternally grateful…and that’s how I feel with this moment, right now!

Thanks, everyone, for this beautiful and unforgettable honor!

“T” can only represent Teachers…I could list from Kindergarten through College all of the fascinating teachers who have given me the gift of music and a lifetime of invaluable memories and tools to do what I do! I can never properly thank them, but I will hold their names in my heart forever and repay the treasure of their knowledge to my own students. And just as important…all of you…teachers, dear friends…young and young at heart, early and late careers, K-12…you are my mold. When I turn to dust, there will be MSVMA ashes all over the place because you made the some of the best parts of them!

Lastly…“E” which should have been Energy, Enthusiasm, and if you really know me, Eating…or even Executive Director, Ginny Kerwin, whose guidance and leadership over the years has been immeasurable. But to end my “under one minute” address, I chose the phrase “Eternally grateful”…and here’s the reason why…
MSVMA has partnered with

La Scala

to offer

Music Banners for Vocal Classrooms

The Seven Banners available include:

"The Ladder" Solfeggio Banner
Hand Signs
Diatonic / Pentatonic
Diatonic with Altered Tones
Keyboard & 5ths
The 4 Clefs
Notes

MSVMA Members get a 25% discount when banners are purchased through the MSVMA State Office.

“The Ladder” is retails at $59.95, with MSVMA Member’s discount it is $45.00.
All other banners retail at $39.95, with MSVMA Member’s discount they are $30.00.

To order—send an email to PamHughes@msvma.org
Including quantity and type of banners.

Just think - you’ll never have to write it on the board again!
“The Survey Says…”

I want to thank all members who took time last spring to complete the survey. The results were enlightening and the suggestions offered were thoughtful and insightful. I am so proud to be part of an organization where members can voice their concerns. I’m more proud, however, at the overwhelmingly constructive responses.

First, a look at the survey results:

The educational opportunities MSVMA offers for members and their students encourage continued membership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>66%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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The In-Service Opportunities MSVMA offers for members are useful and effective.

<table>
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The MSVMA Executive and Full Boards spend an appropriate amount of time on policy and procedure.

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<td>12%</td>
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The MSVMA Executive and Full Boards spend an appropriate amount of time actively pursuing issues that will continue the strength of our organization.

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<thead>
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The cost of dues for being a member of MSVMA is worth the educational benefit.

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I am a valued member of MSVMA, and of the Executive and Full Boards.

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<th>Agree</th>
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<tr>
<td>Somewhat Agree</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>13%</td>
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The survey was not meant to be a conclusive study in any way. Rather, a snap-shot of how members are feeling in the current climate, and of how they feel MSVMA is serving the needs of its constituents. In all but one question, the majority of those who took the survey agreed with the statements made. And in most cases the percentage of those who disagreed with the statements made were far less than in the two positive categories.

Data is a great tool for evaluation. However, it doesn’t always tell the entire story (as most educators, and few politicians seem to understand). Truly, the most telling portion of the survey came from the 14.5 pages of suggestions made in response to the following prompts.

Please identify three areas where MSVMA Leadership should place its focus for the benefit of the organization and its members.

Please offer potential solutions to the areas of focus you’ve listed.

To be sure, most members had no trouble offering areas needing improvement. Solutions were a little trickier, though. Still, as previously stated, most responses were well thought out, positively stated, and very constructive.

As mentioned before the results of the survey were meant to be a litmus test; a way to help focus our leadership as we look to the future. Overwhelmingly the biggest areas of concern were:

1. Schools that have more challenging paradigms (smaller, very rural or very urban, block and/or trimester, have one teacher for instrumental and vocal, etc.) need encouragement and ways to feel successful.
2. As times change and the landscape of education evolves it feels as though there is a dichotomy in MSVMA. It seems to members as though this duality occurs between the larger schools who have sustained numbers and success, and smaller schools who have less support and/or resources.
3. The rubric is a very good tool for assessment, but it exacerbates the issues mentioned in 1 and 2 above.
4. Membership dues are increasingly difficult to justify.

There were also many solutions offered, including:
1. Restructuring of fees/dues
2. Appointing a classification system at festival (as MSBOA and MHSAA do)
3. Develop an advocacy team to help support directors/schools in need

I assure all members that these issues (and possible solutions to them) have been, and will continue to be, discussed and debated by the leadership boards of MSVMA. And I promise that the great educators that volunteer their expertise and countless hours of their time to our organization do so in an effort to make a difference for the membership and their students.

This fall the Executive and Full Boards will utilize some of this data as we look to create a new Strategic Plan for MSVMA. It is our hope that the plan will address these issue and several others brought to light in the survey.

I encourage all members to become involved in helping to shape the future of MSVMA by volunteering their time to more positively affect the outcome of our efforts.
As another school year begins, I am reminded that change is afoot for all of us. Some are entering the classroom for the first time, while others are beginning their final year of teaching before retirement. Some have relocated to new districts and communities, while others have new courses to prep or are teaching new grades. Regardless of the type of change, all of us are faced with the exciting and daunting task of reaching out to a new group of students to begin a lengthy musical journey together.

The concept of ensemble is at the very center of the choral classroom, as students and teachers work together to create a thoughtful and artful community of learners. The message of the African proverb above easily connects with the team aspect of a choir and can help focus ensemble goals and ambitions. But how does it apply to our own professional journey to become better music educators?

For many of us, we are the only individual in our building teaching vocal music, so the notion of “going it alone” may seem like the only viable option. Yet if we look deeper, we can uncover numerous opportunities to reach out to others and as a result, further our individual and collective development as educators.

All of us have something to offer to the profession and our colleagues. Veteran teachers can share best practices and tried-and-true repertoire that has worked with their ensembles over the years. Younger teachers can share new ideas about assessments and rehearsal strategies. We all struggle with aspects of repertoire selection, classroom management, and administrative concerns, among others. The key is realizing that we all have something to share and are seeking to improve.

MSVMA provides a tremendous professional resource for all of us, if we only take advantage of the opportunities available. Can the MSVMA Clinician/Consultant program be utilized? Is there an outstanding teacher in another department that could be observed? Will you be attending the fall adjudication workshop or the MMC? Can you reach out to new teachers in your school or MSVMA district to offer support? Are you able to attend a colleagues’ fall concert?

We all have the opportunity to mentor, support, and encourage each other through the new challenges we face. MSVMA offers a broad community of teachers and learners who value collaboration and teamwork.

When the opportunity arises, will you choose to go fast and alone, or go far and together?

**The Value of MSVMA**

**How Can I Afford Not To?**

How can I afford not to belong to MSVMA? I imagine that I am no different than many of you. I taught in a small rural district for 26 years where I was the only secondary choir teacher. I never had much of a budget or a large amount of parental support. I wanted and needed to do a better job. I was isolated, alone and frustrated. I discovered that just about everything I needed could be found through the Michigan School Vocal Music Association. I found education, colleagues, activities and educational opportunities for my students, volunteer opportunities, a sense of my place and a passion for what I do in so many ways. I am so proud to be part of an organization that does so much for teachers and students. I can’t imagine my life without MSVMA, can you?

**MSVMA Chamber Choir Festivals**

Would you like your students to hear choirs from other schools? Would you like your students to support choirs from other schools? Would you like your students to perform in a friendly, supportive, non-judgmental environment? Would you like your students to meet their peers from other school choirs? All this and more are outcomes of participation in a MSVMA Chamber Choirs Festival. We hope you consider this unique MSVMA sponsored event!
2013 – 2014 Chamber Choir Festivals
Nov. 5, 2013 – West Ottawa Performing Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.
Supervisor – Pam Pierson
Nov. 19, 2013 – Oakland University, 7:00 p.m.
Supervisor – Bert Van Dyke

Pop & Jazz Festival
After a number of years on hiatus, there will be an MSVMA Pops Festival once again! We hope this event gets great participation!
Nov. 14, 2013 – Niles High School
Supervisor – Matt Hunkler

Changes for 2014 State Festivals

- **State Choral Festival**
  - The Southeast JMS Site has been eliminated.
  - All HS State Choral Festival sites will have a concurrent JMS State Choral Festival that will be scheduled following HS events. The procedures and policies for JMS State Choral events will remain the same.
  - A proposal to allow hiring 50% in-state judges (non-active) for HS State Choral adjudication was approved at the June Full Board meeting.

- **State Solo & Ensemble Festival**
  - Due to a significant drop in the number of entries at State
  - S & E and for the need to remain solvent, the following entry fees have been changed. The Solo entry fee will remain the same at $27.
    - Large Ensembles - $70.
    - Small Ensembles - $40.

- **Transfer Policy**
  - The following proposal passed at the June Full Board meeting and will go in to effect July 1: “The State Event transfer guidelines will allow for schools with school related conflicts to transfer on a first come, first served basis. The transfer will be approved provided the requested site is not full. Approval and notification will be given after scheduling is complete. The Nov. 15 deadline applies and past policy is still in place”.
  - We will attempt to notify directors immediately following the application deadline when we know how many entries we have at a site.

II. State Solo and Ensemble Festivals

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Kevin Cornwell</td>
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<td>Cindy Hunter</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Mary Rashid</td>
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<td>Kathy Cunningham</td>
<td>Big Rapids HS</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Katie McInnis</td>
<td>Lake Superior Christian Church</td>
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<td>Jan Brodersen</td>
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III. State Choral Festivals

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<tr>
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<td>Monty Bishop</td>
<td>Holt HS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>East Site</td>
<td>April 29 &amp; 30, 2014</td>
<td>Marge Payne</td>
<td>Mike Peterson, Walled Lake Northern HS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>West Site</td>
<td>April 22 &amp; 23, 2014</td>
<td>Les Rowsey</td>
<td>Jenison HS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Central Site</td>
<td>May 6 &amp; 7, 2014</td>
<td>Emerick Dee</td>
<td>CMU</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.P Site</td>
<td>March 21 &amp; 22, 2014</td>
<td>Jan Brodersen</td>
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IV. Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble

I am currently working to provide a coordinator for this event in the hopes that we can have an east and west site. Will send an e-mail to the MSVMA membership at the appropriate time.
As we begin thinking about everything that must be done at the start of a new school year, be sure to include the Honors Choir program in your plans. We have many amazing conductors this year from which our students could learn so much.

The conductors guiding our students in those few hours of artistic genius for 2013-14 are:

- HS SATB – John Beck
- HS TTBB – Dr. Robert Oster
- HS SSAA – Mandy Mikita-Scott
- 6-7-8 SA – Julie Skadsem
- 7-8-9 SSA – Kelli Falls
- 7-8-9 TTB – Douglas Armstead
- HS All State – Dr. Judy Bowers, Florida State University

Our biggest change this year is the replacement of the 7-8-9 SATB with a 7-8-9 TTB choir. We are very excited about this change and eagerly await the journey of our first middle level male Honors Choir!

Last year, 859 unique students across the state participated in the program at the Regional, State, and All State level! This is slightly down from the previous year with 883 student participants. One of our primary goals this year will be to continue to increase the number of students who audition and subsequently, increase the size & quality of the choirs at the regional and State level. Don’t forget that you can send up to 14 students to 6-7-8-9 auditions and 32 students to High School auditions.

Our secondary goal will continue to be reinforcing student music-preparation and memorization for each event through individual testing. Last year we implemented this testing at the State and All-State levels and we found that overall, students came to these rehearsals much more prepared than previous years. Rehearsals were as a result, much more productive beginning with the very first rehearsal. Responsibility for success lies squarely on the shoulders of directors who send their students and relates directly to the time they invest in preparing the music.

We have a fabulous Honors Choir administrative team in place to help deal with all aspects of organizing and managing students, events, and logistics. Our 2013-15 team includes:

- 6-7-8 SA Coordinator – Amanda Koba
- 7-8-9 SSA Coordinator – Gail Worden
- 7-8-9 TTB Coordinator – Mark Shepherd
- 6-7-8-9 Supervisor – Eric Floetke
- Region A/State SSAA Coordinator – Chris Hodges
- Region B/State SATB Coordinator – Matt Laura
- Region C/State TTBB Coordinator – Andrew Hathikhanavala
- Region D Coordinator – John Beck
- All State Coordinator – Nate Degner
- HS Supervisor – Ben Rodgers

Executive Board Director of Honors Choirs – Angel Gippert

Our coordinators and supervisors put in countless volunteer hours in order to provide the youth of Michigan with outstanding musical experiences and memories! Thank you again to those who completed their service as coordinators and supervisors this past year – Jan Flynn, Toni Micik, Cheryl Gapinski, Robin Kieft, Steven Bowen, Karen Nevins and Mark Krempski. As you can see, we have many new faces on our team and look forward to an exciting year!
Every year brings new faces, new host locations, deadlines, dates, fees, repertoire, and a variety of details. The MSVMA website is the repository of all current knowledge and information concerning MSVMA – Please make sure that you visit the website often. Below is some information that can be found on our website:

2013-2014 6-7-8-9 Honors Choir Dates

**September 24** - Audition Registration DEADLINE
**October 19**  – Auditions, @ Owosso HS and Monroe MS
**November 2**  - Rehearsal & ALL Fees/Forms DEADLINE, @ Birch Run HS
**November 16**  – Rehearsal, @ Allendale
**January 4, 2014**  – Rehearsal, @ Walled Lake Northern HS
**January 16, 2014**  - State rehearsal & MMC performance @ 6:30 PM THURSDAY

2013-2014 High School Honors Choir Dates

**September 17** - Audition Registration DEADLINE
**October 12**  - Regional Auditions

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<th>Region A</th>
<th>Region B</th>
<th>Region C</th>
<th>Region D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Lake HS &amp; Gladwin HS</td>
<td>Western MI University</td>
<td>Lincoln HS</td>
<td>Escanaba HS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**October 22**  - Regional Honors Choir/State Auditions Registration DEADLINE
**December 7**  - Regional Honors Choir/State Auditions

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Region A</th>
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<tr>
<td>East Grand Rapids HS</td>
<td>Western MI University</td>
<td>Ann Arbor Pioneer HS</td>
<td>Bethany Lutheran Church, Escanaba</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**December 13**  - State Honors Choir Registration DEADLINE
**January 16-18, 2014**  - State Honors Choir @ MMC
**February 1, 2014**  – All-State selection announced
**March 1, 2014**  - All State Registration DEADLINE
**May 8-10, 2014**  - All State Honors Choir @ WMU


Grade 6-7-8-9 HONORS CHOIR REPERTOIRE 2013-2014

**Douglas Armstead**  7-8-9 TTB

**Colorado Trail**

**Come Travel With Me**

**A-Roving**

**Da Pacem Domino**

**Annabel Lee**

**A Red, Red Rose**

**Working on the Railroad**

**Julie A. Skadsem**  6-7-8 SA

**Jubilate**

**Night**

**Solaridad**

**I've the B'y**

**Petit Enfant**

**Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit**

**Kelli Falls**  7-8-9 SSA

**Fy Upon You, Fy!**

**Dance on My Heart**

**The Duel**

**Come, Ye Makers of Song**

**Carolee R. Curtright**  Choristers Guild, 1805522 AUDITION

**Wayland Rogers**  B&H, 9790051472857 CLINIC

**David L. Brunner**

**arr. John E. Govedas**

**L. Shaw & D. Thompson**

**L. Shaw & D. Thompson**

**Arr. Tom Fettke**  Gentry JG0289 AUDITION

**Allen Koepke**  SBMP 34 CLINIC

**The Duel**

**Paul Bouman**

**Earthsongs**

**Ruth Watson Henderson**

**Alfred VG363**
HIGH SCHOOL HONORS CHOIR REPERTOIRE 2013-2014

John D Beck  
**HS – SATB**

**Sicut Cervus**  
Palestrina  
Mercury Press 352-00075 AUDITION

**Magnificat**  
Jackson Berkey  
SDG 87-101 REGIONAL

He Never Failed Me Yet  
Robert Ray  
HL 44708014

Soneto De La Noche  
Morten Lauridsen  
Peer Music 3303312

My Friend Elijah  
Paul Carey  
WJMS1088

Congori Shango  
arr. Rolando Brenes  
Twin Elm 3159019

Mandy Mikita-Scott  
**HS – SSAA**

**Three Nightsongs** - a. Evening b. Moonsong c. Water  
Joshua Shank SBMP5980 REGIONAL

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal  
arr. Alice Parker  
Alfred, LG52931

O Sapo  
Stephen Hatfield  
B&H, 48005032

On suuri sun rantas autius  
Matti Hyokki  
B&H, 48016276

Bring Me Little Water,  
Silvy Leadbelly, arr. M. Smiley  
http://www.moirasmiley.com/MOIRA_sheetmusic.html

J'entends le moulin  
Donald Patriquin  
earthsongs, W-10

Robert C. Oster  
**HS – TTBB**

**O Lux Beatissima**  
Howard Helvey  
Hinshaw HMC2192 REGIONAL

Once To Every Man and Nation  
George Mead  
Galaxy 1.2264 REGIONAL

Stodelé Pumpa  
arr. Shaw/Parker  
Alfred LG51049

The Last Words of David  
Randall Thompson  
ECS 2154

And Draw Her Home With Music  
Nancy Hill Cobb  
Santa Barbara Music SBMP 905

This is the Moment  
arr. F. Wildhorn, arr. King/Oxley, ed. R.OsterBarbershop

High School ALL STATE Repertoire  
Dr. Judy Bowers, Florida State University

The King Shall Rejoice  
G.F. Handel, ed. Andre J. Thomas Hinshaw HMC2332

Os Justi  
Anton Bruckner  
Peters Edition, P6315

Song of Democracy  
Howard Hansens  
Carl Fischer, O4028

Song to the Moon  
Z. Randall Stroope  
Hal Leonard, HL08501728

El Vito  
Spanish Folk. Arr. Mack Wilberg Hinshaw, HMC1280

How to get started, before time runs out:

1. Go to MSVMA Honors Choir website & read everything
2. Download & Complete application forms.
3. Send forms by deadline with a school check.
4. Purchase copies of the audition music (*and clinic piece for 6789*)
5. *(Optional but recommended)* - Order practice recordings of audition music from [http://choraltech.org](http://choraltech.org) *(only 6789 SA duets and TTB trios will receive access to download audition practice recordings from MSVMA upon audition registration)*
6. Teach your students the music and prepare them for the audition process.

It is my honor and privilege to step into this role and serve MSVMA as the Executive Board Director of Honors Choirs. Following exemplary leaders in this position such as Mark Krempski and Randy VanWingerden is humbling and quite daunting. I will do all that I can to support this amazing program that takes our singers out of their regular choral world, introduces them to the great vastness of all the talent throughout the state, and creates life-changing musical experiences and memories. In order to continue this extraordinary musical experience each year, we need your students to participate in the Honors Choir program! We hope to grow each year with an increase in participation. Please encourage as many of your students as possible who would greatly benefit from the program to audition in October! Now go start advocating…

30 - Fall 2013
The 2013 Arts Expo
The Arts Expo is a chance for high school arts students to meet face-to-face with representatives from college and university visual and performing arts programs from across the country. Students interested in pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in music, theatre, dance, visual art, media arts, and related disciplines are welcome!

Where is it?
Lansing Center, 333 E Michigan Avenue, Lansing, 48933

When is it?
Monday, October 28
10:00am to 1:30pm
Individuals and small groups can drop in anytime during expo hours. Although, it is preferred that you RSVP in advance with an estimated time of arrival; especially if you are traveling by bus.

How much does it cost?
Nothing. It’s FREE!

How cool is that?
Very cool. Over 30 colleges will be on hand, specifically to discuss their arts programs. And every student, parent or teacher who attends will receive a complimentary program guide, with complete contact information for every college, to continue the conversation after the expo.

Where can I learn more?
Visit www.michiganyoutharts.org or contact us at artsexpo@michiganyoutharts.org or 248-545-9200.

A college fair for students of the visual & performing arts.
Monday, October 28th 2013
Lansing • 10:00am - 1:30pm

Who will be there?
Here is a partial list of over 30 colleges and universities of which attended our 2012 Arts Expo. You can expect these institutions and more for 2013!

Central Michigan University
The Cleveland Institute of Art
College for Creative Studies
College of Visual Arts
Columbia College Chicago
Eastern Michigan University
Kalamazoo College
Kendall College of Art and Design
Marygrove College
Michigan State University
Minneapolis College of Art & Design
Oakland University
Roosevelt University
Rutgers University
Savannah College of Art & Design
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Michigan
University of Western Ontario
Wayne State University
Western Michigan University

Directions & Parking
From 496 WESTBOUND:
Take exit 7A - Grand Ave

From 496 EASTBOUND:
Take exit 6 - Pine/Walnut

Turn north on Grand Ave, then right on Michigan Ave.

Parking is available behind and below the Lansing Center for $6.
MSVMA Office Staff
Virginia Kerwin, Executive Director
Pam Hughes, Administrative Assistant
Telephone 231.592.9344  Fax 231.592.9345
Email Address msvma@msvma.org
Website www.msvma.org

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Mandy Scott, Director of Repertoire and Sight Reading
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MSVMA Emeritus