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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.

Important Websites

MSVMA
www.msvma.org

American Choral Directors
Association-Michigan
www.acdami.org

Michigan Music
Educators Association
www.michiganmea.org

Michigan Music Conference
www.michiganmusicconference.org

Michigan School
Band & Orchestra Association
www.msboa.org

Michigan Youth Arts Festival
www.myaf.org

Spring 2011
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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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President's Message

Steve Hinz, President

I hope this letter finds you in the midst of productive preparations and enjoyable performances at solo/ensemble and choral festivals. How wonderful it was to see so many of you this past month at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids. For me, the weekend was full of opportunities for growth in professional development sessions, artistic gratification from performances, and camaraderie with our peers. As the only school choir director in my community, I cherish these moments to be challenged as a teaching artist in this environment. I smile as I think back on many wonderful moments of time shared with friends. I hope you took much from your experience as well.



we took time to celebrate our organization by recognizing our emeriti, and the elected honors choir directors and board members as well as our 2010 teacher of the year. Congratulations to all, and thank you for sharing your wisdom and expertise. I'm once again touched by our emeriti's continued active involvement and willingness to help others. Their service to our association built a strong organization and leaves us with a rich heritage of artistic achievement. Their previous work coupled with the energy of our current membership will carry our association forward to accomplish great things for our students.

Prior to the conference, our leadership team met in executive and full board meetings. We are blessed with leaders that give a great deal of their time and energies to offer experiences for our choir students. Their work along with many of you as volunteers, your students, and their parents provides wonderful opportunities for our choir students in festivals and honors choir activities. At our full board meeting, we debated many important issues regarding the state honors choir program, the experiences of the smaller schools and 5th Grade, and the possibilities of new membership profiles. All of this good debate centers around the rapidly changing culture of music in our schools. MSVMA continues to look forward in meeting young musician needs for many years to come. I urge you to be aware of the proposals and to discuss these with your district managers so that your perspective can be heard.

One of my favorite events of the conference is the MSVMA annual meeting and luncheon. At the event,

As the weekend concluded, we were all inspired by the students' performances in the honors choirs concerts. What a joy it was to watch and listen to the level of artistry achieved by these young singers under the expert leadership of our conductors. What a joy, as well, to interact with parents after the concerts as they boasted with pride over the high level of performance achieved by both our middle and junior schools and high school honors choir students.

Personally, as my tenure on the executive board of the MMC draws to a close, I will miss the opportunity to dialog with our colleagues in MSBOA, MASTA, and MMEA. While each of our approaches to our music-making is unique, we share a passion for education, music, and children. What a true joy it is for all of us to have the daily job of inspiring student learning through music! I encourage you to remember the joy that brought you to music, and to rely on our association and its colleagues, to provide you with the professional support you need.

From the Desk of
Virginia Kerwin, Executive Director MSVMA

Greetings from the Staff at the MSVMA Office. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Michigan Music Conference and MSVMA Membership Luncheon in January. This annual event is always a wonderful opportunity to meet with friends and colleagues while taking in the many professional development sessions offered. Thank you to the MSVMA Planning Team that devotes countless hours in the creative planning and management: Steve Hinz, MMC Executive Board Chair, Erich Wangeman, Planning Committee, and Wendee Wolf-Schlarf, Planning Committee Chair. The MMC Team and the 75th Anniversary Committee (James Borst, Steve Hinz, Shirley Lemon) are busy working on next year's celebration of our organizations 75th birthday. We hope you will mark your calendar and plan to attend the 2012 Michigan Music Conference as we "kick off" a year-long tribute to MSVMA's history.

Membership

Below is the current membership report.

<u>Membership Category</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>
School	482
Associate	102
Retired	17
Student	24
Emeritus	100
Honorary & Staff	11
TOTAL	736

Adjudication

Thank you to the following districts for agreeing to pilot the new solo rubric for 2010-2011.

- District #4 – High School
- District #8 – High School and Junior High/Middle School
- District #12 – High School

I am very pleased to announce the adjudication panel for this year's state choral festivals:

South Site, Holt HS, April 28 & 29, Monty Bishop supervisor

- James Gallagher, retired Ohio State University
- Damon Dandridge, composer, doctoral student Michigan State University
- Jason Harris, doctoral student University of

Michigan

- Kelly Ann Westgate, Princeton Day School
- Charlotte Adams, retired Cherry Creek High School
- Margaret Jenks, Madison Youth Choirs
- East Site, Rochester High School, May 3 & 4, Marge Payne supervisor**
- Joey Martin, Texas State University
- Lynn Brinckmeyer, Texas State University, Past National President MENC
- Rick Bjella, Texas Tech University
- Brian Gendron, Maryland Boychoir
- Derrick Fox, doctoral student Michigan State University
- John Russell, San Diego Children's Choir
- West Site, Fairhaven Ministries, May 5 & 6, Shirley Lemon supervisor**
- Joey Martin, Texas State University
- Lynn Brinckmeyer, Texas State University, Past National President MENC
- Amanda Quist, Westminster Choir College
- Rick Bjella, Texas Tech University
- Mary Jane Pagenstecher, Holton-Arms School
- Leslie Manfredo, Mahomet-Seymour School District
- Central Site, Central Michigan University, May 10 & 11,**
- Hilary Apfelstadt, retired Ohio State University, Past National President ACDA
- Jose Rivera, University of Wisconsin
- Eugene Rogers, Macalaster College
- Debi Prather, Brownsburg High School
- Carolyn Minear, doctoral student Michigan State University
- Ryan Beeken, doctoral student Michigan State University
- Southeast Site, Jackson Community College, May 12 & 13, Wendy Treacher supervisor**
- Bridgett Sweet, University of Illinois
- Julie Skadsem, University of Michigan
- Tim Sharp, National Executive Director ACDA
- Adam Wurst, Allendale MS
- Ryan Beeken, doctoral student Michigan

Executive Director *continued.....*

State University
Andrea Ramsey, composer, doctoral student
Michigan State University

Full Board

The following full board action was taken at the January 21st meeting:

- 10-12 Addition of 5th Grade MSVMA Membership Category - *withdrawn*
- 10-13 5th Grade MSVMA Festival Participation – *passed for comments only*
- 10-21 Creation of Full Board Position for Advocacy - *passed*
- 10-22 Eliminate 7-8-9 SATB Honors Choir, Establish 7-8-9 TTB Honors Choir – *tabled until the June meeting*
- 10-23 Waive Membership Requirement for College and University Directors Nominated as Directors for MSVMA Honors Choirs - *defeated*
- 10-24 MSVMA Change In Membership Structure - *withdrawn*
- 10-25 Establishment of Award for State S&E Ensemble Finalists - *passed*
- 10-26 Restructuring of Points System for Superior and Excellent Ratings at MSVMA Choral Festivals - *defeated*
- 10-27 Restructuring MYAF Ensemble Selection Process at State S&E Festival - *defeated*
- 10-28 Restructuring MYAF Ensemble Selection Process for Listening Panel - *withdrawn*
- 11-01 Replacement of 7-8-9 SATB Honors Choir with 6-7-8-9 SATB Boys Choir – *tabled until the June meeting*

In This Issue

Evan Marymee is a sophomore at West Bloomfield High School. His essay describes his experience being a member of the 2010-2011 honors choir program. He is also a member of the 2012 All-State Choir at MYAF.

Carla Baker Marymee is the mother of Evan Marymee, who has Asperger's Syndrome. In her article she tells of his journey, and the profound influence music has had on Evan's life.

MSVMA Emeriti: Class of 2011

Sue Catanese, Carol Gess, and Doug Robinson reflect upon their careers in choral music education and offer profound insights.

The MSVMA Journal is published online 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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at the following link:

<http://www.regonline.com/msvma2011>

MSVMA Financial Report for the Period July 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>Total</u>
Accountant			Accountant	3000.00	290.00
Adjudication		120.00	Adjudication	3910.00	1377.68
Awards & Medals	50000.00	11791.50	Awards & Medals	45311.00	7573.47
Executive Board			Executive Board	9250.00	3892.88
Full Board		980.45	Full Board	17000.00	5098.65
HS Honors Choir	59000.00	24650.00	HS Honors Choir	59000.00	27317.11
JH/MS Honors Choir	37000.00	32135.00	JH/MS Honors Choir	37000.00	21108.78
Legal Counsel			Legal Counsel	1000.00	
Membership	175567.00	179725.00	Membership	2500.00	595.00
Miscellaneous	100.00		Miscellaneous	500.00	
MYAF	1750.00		MYAF	3000.00	1899.27
Pop & Chamber Festival	1000.00	265.00	Pop & Chamber Festival	1000.00	100.00
Professional Development	51000.00	25762.70	Professional Development	50500.00	26175.86
Publications	3000.00	3025.00	Publications		
Sight Reading	9000.00	1672.31	Sight Reading	7600.00	1509.20
State Choral Festival	60400.00		State Choral Festival	60400.00	
State Solo & Ensemble Fest.	55500.00		State Solo & Ensemble Festival	55500.00	
Technology Development			Technology Development	10000.00	6504.12
Office Management	1700.00	502.18	Office Management	138546.00	71887.60
TOTAL	505017.00	280629.14	TOTAL	505017.00	175329.62

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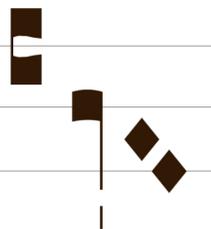


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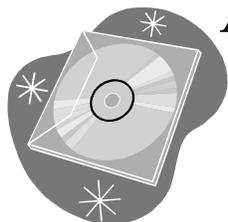
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Paul Heidemann has been the organist at the United Church of Big Rapids since 1981. For the previous ten years he held a similar position at the First United Methodist Church of Big Rapids. He received a bachelor's degree in music education with an applied major in organ from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, where he studied with Dr. Warren Berryman. He also holds an M.M. in Winds from the University of Michigan, where he studied bassoon with Lewis Cooper.

Paul is active in the West Central Concert Band and has performed previously on organ with the Big Rapids High School Choirs, the Big Rapids High School Band and the Community Chamber Orchestra. He has also participated in the Tuba Bach chamber music series and the Festival of the Arts.

He retired from the position of Director of Instrumental Music at Morley Stanwood Community Schools in June 1996 after 30 years of teaching. He is currently working at Ferris State University in Student Technology Services (STS), which provides computer support for all students. He creates and maintains databases for the Department of Public Safety, the Business office, the Accounting office, the Educational Counseling Office and STS and is responsible for hardware and software support for hall directors, desk service managers and residence hall front desks.

He is an avid photographer who likes to travel and visits Europe (mostly Germany) often with his wife, Maryanne, who teaches German here at Ferris State University.

Congratulations to the following individuals who were selected by membership vote to serve MSVMA. Such recognition by the MSVMA membership is evidence of the high respect in which each individual is held as a choral educator in the state of Michigan.



James D. Borst
2011
Teacher of the Year

Each year the Michigan School Vocal Music Association honors one member whose love and passion for the choral art has inspired others and made a difference in the Michigan music community. Michigan is rich in talents and love of choral music education. The 2011 MSVMA Teacher of the Year is James D. Borst from the East Grand Rapids Public Schools.

James D. Borst has taught at all academic levels from Kindergarten through the university. In his second year of teaching choral music at East Grand Rapids High School, Dr. Borst previously taught choral music for 19 years at East Kentwood High School and was the Coordinator of K-12 Fine Arts Education for Kentwood Public Schools. He taught K-12 choral and general music at North Muskegon Public Schools from 1985-1990. He has been adjunct professor of music at Grand Valley State University, conducting the GVSU Festival Chorale from 1999-2004, and recently teaching in the GVSU graduate music education department.

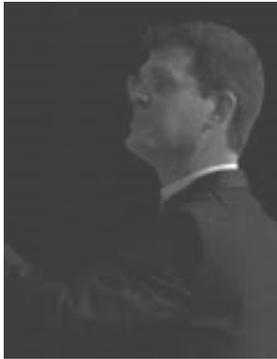
Borst earned the Bachelor of Music and the Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University. He holds a PhD in Choral Music Education, also from MSU. As part of his degree program, Borst completed course work at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey, and the Rene' Clausen Choral School in Morehead, Minnesota. He studied choral conducting with Charles K. Smith, Dale Warland, and Doreen Rao. His scholarly research is published in *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*, the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, and in the book *Exploring Research in Music Education* by Kenneth Phillips.

Dr. Borst's varied teaching career includes conducting with the Saint Cecilia Music Society, North American Choral Company, and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. He has been organist and choirmaster at several area churches. Borst is known for demanding excellence from his students while empowering them to enjoy becoming a self-motivated musician. Vocal music students and choirs under Borst's direction have consistently achieved excellent and superior ratings at festivals.

James has served the Michigan School Vocal Music Association for 19 years as a full board and executive board member. He was full board member for selecting junior high and high school festival repertoire, and was the Junior High and Middle School representative for several years. Currently James is immediate Past-President of MSVMA. He won the Carolyn Leep Scholarship for academic study in 1998, and his peers elected him to conduct the SSA Junior High State Honors Choir that same year. He continues to be in demand as festival adjudicator and guest clinician throughout the state. He has presented his assessment tool for choral classes in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio.

James is married to Dr. Joan M. Borst, professor and director of the Master of Social Work program at Grand Valley State University. The Borsts have two children. Abigail is a graduate of GVSU with a major in liberal studies, and Benjamin is a sophomore at Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois.

MSVMA State Honors Choir Directors



Adam Wurst
2012 6-7-8 SA



Deborah Fristad
2012 7-8-9 SSA



Susan Catanese
2012 7-8-9 SATB



Pam Pierson
2012 HS SSAA



Les Rowsey
2012 HS TTBB



Greg Cleveland
2012 HS SATB

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FEATURE

How It Feels To Be a State Champion

By Evan Marymee
Student at West Bloomfield High School

One very spectacular weekend of my 16 year life a defining moment of my future took place in January 2011, when I traveled to Grand Rapids to sing with the MSVMA State Honors Choir. MSVMA stands for Michigan School Vocal Music Association. This experience began when my parents and Mrs. Hauk persuaded me to try out for the Regional Honors Choir. I was given a packet of sheet music, a CD, and an audition date. I practiced by myself and with my private vocal teacher, Mr. James Patterson. We practiced this classical piece to perfection, which is entitled "Thanks Be To God" from "Elijah". The day came, and my mother drove me to Anchor Bay High School near Lake St. Clair. I competed with kids from high schools located in Southeast Michigan. Since I practiced a lot, I felt prepared when I sang in front of the judge. Later, I received the good news that I made the Regional Honors Choir.

After hearing the compliments of how well I did in the Regional audition, I learned that I had qualified to compete in the State Honors Choir. I knew that my dad and mom were proud of me because I saw them cry tears of joy. I also felt proud of myself without showing off. To prepare for the State competition, I received 4 more packets of sheet music, another CD, and another audition date. The 4 pieces are entitled "The Rocky Road to Dublin", "When I Hear Her I Have Wings", "I Am Not Yours", and "Hold On!" This time, I knew I had to practice harder because the level of singing became more difficult. Those who made it were better than before. Again, I practiced my singing with Mr. Patterson. The songs were harder than the first one, with little room for breath and high notes that can give you a sore throat. Two months passed by, and I was ready to sing in the Regional Honors Choir at Anchor Bay High School. Seeing friends like Brian Baylor and Chris Brody, I felt confident. After practicing, I auditioned to the maximum in front of the judge and I also participated in a concert featuring the songs we practiced. After the concert, I learned that I was successful.

In January, I left for Grand Rapids with my mom and Meg Joliffe and her mom. The drive took about three hours, and when we got to the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, we checked in, got our keys, and put our stuff in the room. After that, we grabbed a very quick lunch and scurried around the maze of the hotel to find the Governor's Ballroom, where I was set to practice. Brandon Ulrich, a music teacher at Stoney Creek High School, was our conductor. I joined the group of over 84 boys and we rehearsed there for 4 hours. The next day we rehearsed for 8 hours, and we only had one break for lunch and a few bathroom breaks. After Friday, I was tired but felt prepared to sing those pieces in English. The exception was a Haitian piece entitled "N'ap Debat" written in Creole by Sidney Guillaume. This song was written in response to the Haitian Earthquake. This was unusually frustrating to sing because of the fact that it is written in a different language.

Saturday was the big day. That morning, we ate a quick breakfast, took quick showers, and hurried over to the DeVos Place. It was do or die for "N'ap Debat", translated in English as "We're Hanging On". Practice started in the morning, and lasted until 2:00. During my time off, I walked to the pool and fitness center and swam and laid back in the hot tub. It was so relaxing to my tight nerves and muscles. After that, I ate dinner and took a nap. At 5:00 it was time to go to a dress rehearsal to prepare for the concert. It was just so as we could know where our spots were and how we looked under different colored lights. When we were done, we let the next choir go on, and then we all took our seats. Starting with SSAA, then came us, and everyone thought we sang beautifully. It was a great experience to receive such tremendous applause.

I learned that if you are able to work hard, you can achieve most goals. Again, my parents were in the audience, and said "You sang beautifully". My dad and mom told me how proud they were of me. Mrs. Hauk also said she was proud of me, Brian, Chris, and Meagan. It was a trip I will never forget.

FEATURE

A Beautiful Voice: My Son's Journey with Asperger's Syndrome

By Carla Baker Marymee

Think of the worst day of your life. Now, multiply that feeling 1,000 times.

Thirteen years have passed, but I still remember a day in September 1998 when a part of me died.

That was the day my beautiful, healthy, three-year-old son, Evan, was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Autism spectrum disorders are a group of developmental disabilities that cause lifelong social, communication, and behavioral challenges in children and adults. The Center for Disease Control estimates that between one in 110 children have an autism spectrum disorder.

Because of this epidemic, many people now know about autism. In 1998 it was still a mystery. Little was known about the disability, its causes, or how to help children.

With a heavy heart and a diagnostic report of autism in hand, my husband and I went into action. Not much information existed then. We hunted for information to learn as much as we could. We knew next to nothing.

While the "experts" were uncertain about what the best teaching methodologies were, one thing they all agreed upon was that early identification and intervention could improve Evan's long-term outcomes. I was obsessed about helping him. Time was my enemy.

Preschool

I began advocating. It wasn't easy. Just ask any parent who has advocated for their child with special needs. But with fear comes determination. I obtained a placement for Evan to attend a small, year-round, six-hour-per-day preschool for children with communication handicaps. Evan attended that

preschool in the Oakland Unified School District in California for two years.

His teacher, Patti Lowe Stevenson, was experienced in working with children with receptive language and pragmatic difficulties as well as higher-functioning autism.

Ms. Stevenson provided a setting that was nurturing with structure and routines that were predictable and clear. Since Asperger's Syndrome is essentially a communication disability, she emphasized helping Evan respond to other children, to interact, and to begin to initiate and sustain social interactions with his peers. He also received intensive speech and language therapy and occupational therapy through the school district and privately for many years to learn even the simplest things that many of us just take for granted.

One of the ways to help Evan organize language and express himself was for us to emphasize the melody and musicality of speech in everyday conversation and through play.

When I played with Evan, I used dialogue that would help demonstrate the give-and-take needed for meaningful communication. Since he had no siblings or friends his age to communicate or play with I became his playmate. I named and then created characters, voices, and personalities for about 15 stuffed animals. In my spare time, I became a ventriloquist.

We bought a little play theatre and for months I was a one-woman show. I used stuffed animals as puppets and made them talk to each other. One day Evan picked up a stuffed animal duck named Cluck and made it sing a song to Teddy. (Teddy was a big brown bear who was afraid to sleep in the forest alone without his favorite blanket!) I don't remember the song Evan made "Cluck the Duck" sing (or quack), but it was music to my ears.

Early intervention was important. After preschool, Evan was fully included in a general education kindergarten classroom with extra support of a full-time shadow aide.

Second Grade

Evan was in the second grade in 2003 and his favorite reads were the [Wall Street Journal](#) and "Go, Dog. Go!" Diagnosed as having high-functioning autism or Asperger's syndrome, he attended one of the first schools in California to start a program for children with Asperger's Syndrome.

Many considered him to be a brilliant boy. The truth is that he couldn't read social cues or facial expressions, skills most toddlers learn intuitively. He had a full-time aide, Jolie Harris, who helped him focus during class and ride out mood swings.

She used a variety of methods to keep his frustration from escalating: doing push-ups against the wall and listening to classical music. When Evan "stayed on task," he was rewarded with jazz trivia postcards, which he memorized with glee. He loved Miles Davis and Nat King Cole at 8 years old. (The kid had good taste!)

His love of music started then.

That same year, Evan participated in the Hillcrest School Talent Show with Jolie's help. She was a wonderful young woman who took on the additional roles as music teacher and dance coach. Wearing a black leather jacket, T-shirt, jeans, and tennis shoes, my adorable second grader got up on stage, held a microphone to his mouth, and sang his little heart out. He showed no fear as he sang a solo rendition of Nat King Cole's Route 66.

Not only did he have little dance moves, but like a professional entertainer, encouraged the audience to participate saying, "Everyone, come and sing with me." And they did! That auditorium was filled with the enthusiastic voices of young children. Evan stole the show. He was amazing. And, of course, there wasn't a dry eye in the house when he dedicated the song to me. It's still a memory I treasure.

We moved to Michigan in 2004.

Elementary School

Evan's transition to a new elementary school was made easier by Katherine Sheiko, principal of Green Elementary in the West Bloomfield School District. She was tremendously supportive, a godsend, and Evan continued experiencing educational success.

Middle School

Time passed too quickly. Evan was off to middle school. I don't think any kid escapes these awkward years unscathed by some negative experience. When we found out that Evan was being bullied, social worker Sommer Yono and school principal Sonia James put an immediate stop to it, suspending several children from school. This district ***did not*** tolerate bullying.

It took about a year before Evan's confidence was restored. One of the things that helped build his self-esteem was his love of music. He participated in choir and sang at the Orchard Middle School Fall 2008 Choir Concert.

I sat in the audience as music teacher April Tini gave direction to a stage of 30 high-spirited teenagers. They were all adorable -- girls dressed in sparkly, black tank tops and boys wearing shiny, long-sleeved shirts, black ties, and dress pants that hardly fit.

I enjoyed all the songs, but the highlight was when they sang and danced to Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

Unbeknownst to me, nearing the end of the song, up walks Evan to the microphone. In a deep, strong, voice he slowly speaks the lines done originally by Vincent Price, complete with maniacal laughter at the end.

I know it's not politically correct to say, but he stole the show! The laughter and applause from the audience validated just how fabulous he was. I thought of all the times he was in middle school and some of his classmates made fun of his quirky ways. That night was important. He showed another side of himself and felt appreciated by teachers, classmates, and friends for the gift he possessed.

High School

I wasn't prepared for Evan to attend high school.

To say that I was afraid for him is an understatement. I felt panic.

West Bloomfield High School is a large facility that houses attendance of more than 1,900 children. Would Evan be able to navigate the halls? Could he handle the transition from class to class and be on time? Would the classes and homework be too difficult for him? Would he become too anxious? I had doubts.

His freshman year was difficult, but he grew academically and musically. I think one of the reasons he made it through was his participation in Concert Choir under the direction of music teacher Sheri Hauk. She provided a safe haven and nurtured and built his self-esteem. I was glad when that year was over!

Evan is now a sophomore and possesses a beautiful, deep, bass voice. In the fall, Ms. Hauk suggested that he audition for Regional Honors Choir. I didn't even know what this was, but I said yes.

We gave him the old parental gems of wisdom, "Just try it. It'll be a good learning experience for you," speech. He was given four songs to learn and my daily nag fest began. My mantra every day for the next several weeks, "Evan, have you practiced your songs today? You haven't? Well, you know what you need to do. Get at it."

With the help of his voice coach, Jim Patterson, Ms. Hauk, and me, his biggest nag, critic, and fan, he auditioned. Mark and I had zero expectations.

When Ms. Hauk told us that Evan had been chosen to attend and sing at the MSVMA High School State Honors Choir, I was shocked and speechless. Then I cried. I was so proud of Evan.

To get ready for Grand Rapids, Evan received more songs to learn. Since this was a higher level of singing, I upped my "nag" level to ensure that he would be prepared.

For additional support, I attended the TTBB rehearsals for three days and sat in the back of the

room. Brandon Ulrich conducted this choir. I wish every parent of each of these young men could have seen how hard they worked.

I was astonished.

They gathered as a random group of young men from 86 high schools in the state. I watched and listened as the enormously talented and amusing Mr. Ulrich used humor and whatever else it took to get the most gorgeous sound from these kids.

Mr. Ulrich didn't let up. Even when I thought they couldn't sound better, he would suggest a small tweak that would yield another amazing improvement. By Friday afternoon he had transformed the group into a beautifully sounding cohesive Men's choir.

As I sat in the back of the room and heard them sing the soft, lilting, sensitive "When I Hear Her," I thought of just how far my son had come.

I watched him with pride as he sang. The music reached deep within my heart and healed me. Tears of joy ran down my face.

In that moment, I wished that every person who had supported Evan's journey could have seen him. I wanted them to share in the joy I felt and to see the results of how they may have helped shape this wonderfully talented young man.

Just when I thought my heart would burst with joy, two days ago I was told that Evan is going to participate in the elite MSVMA All-State Choir in May. Again, I was shocked and speechless. And, yes, I cried.

I am so proud of Evan.

He is only 16 years old. His journey is far from over. In fact, it's just beginning.

As I continue this journey with him, the road is still rocky with many potholes around the corner.

The difference is that now I walk beside him with more hope for the future and joy in my heart.

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Michigan Youth Chamber Singers
Paul Rardin, Conductor

Michigan Youth Jazz Improvisation Ensemble
Mark Kirschenmann, Conductor

Michigan Youth Symphony Orchestra

Anthony Elliott, Conductor

Michigan Youth Women's Chorale
Julie Skadsem, Conductor

Sunday afternoon rehearsals
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Winter: mid-January - March

Auditions - April 17-19, 2011



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2011 summer performing arts camp for high school students from around the world led by U-M faculty.

July 3 - 16

Bassoon Institute
Jeffrey Lyman

Clarinet Institute
Chad Burrow

Flute Institute
Amy Porter

Horn Institute
Adam Unsworth

Oboe Institute
Nancy Ambrose King

Percussion Institute
Joseph Gramley

Saxophone Institute
Donald Sinta/ Andrew Bishop

Theatre & Drama Academy
Gregg Poggi/ Janet Maylie

Trombone Institute
David Jackson

July 10 - 30

Musical Theatre Workshop
Brent Wagner

July 17 - 30

Harp Institute
Joan Raeburn Holland

Performing Arts Technology Institute
Jason Corey

Summer Dance Institute
Jessica Fogel/ Robin Wilson

Vocal Arts Institute
Jerry Blackstone/
Julie Skadsem

Jazz Institute (NEW)
Andrew Bishop



music.umich.edu/adultprograms

2011 summer intensive workshops for adults which may be taken as a participant or for graduate credit.

June 4 - 7

Anatomy of Sound Flute Workshop
Amy Porter/ Jerald Schwiebert/ David Gilliland/
Laura Dwyer/ Special Guest Artist Ian Clarke

June 13 - 17

Harpsichord Music of George Frideric Handel
Edward Parmentier

June 19 - 24

Band Conducting and Pedagogy Workshop
Michael Haithecock/ Rodney Dorsey

June 20 - 24

Fundamentals of Harpsichord Playing & Repertoire
Edward Parmentier

June 23 - 25

Michigan String Workshop
Michael Hopkins/Bob Phillips, Alfred Publishing/
Judy Palac, Michigan State University

June 27 - July 1

Advanced Music Technology for Music Educators
Mary Simoni

Popular Music Songwriting

Dick Siegllel, Ann Arbor/ Betty Anne Younker

July 4 - July 8

Developing Choral Sound through Diction & Pedagogy
Julie Skadsem

July 11 - 15

Choral Conducting Symposium
Jerry Blackstone/ Julie Skadsem

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MSVMA EMERITI CLASS OF 2011

Susan Catanese

It all started thirty-five years ago when a shy, insecure music ed. major graduated from Aquinas College, grateful for the *opportunity* to begin her teaching career. Teaching jobs were scarce, and even more so in music education. Susan found herself in the small rural town of Armada, three hours away from home and family, teaching K-12 music, choreographing and directing the high school musical and assuming the position of JV and Varsity football and basketball cheerleading coach! Of course, she also came down with pneumonia that year, but gained worlds of experience in the areas of personal growth, musical growth and building a foundation for a teaching style that continued to develop the next thirty-four years.

Teaching has provided a world of *opportunities* for Susan. The most treasured include introducing her students to Broadway musicals in NYC, performing in MSVMA and MYAF festivals, performing with Josh Groban, the DSO, and the Barenaked Ladies, mentoring student interns from various universities, directing 13 musicals, and teaching at Blue Lake and Oakland Hills music camps. No matter which school district, building, or campground in which she taught, Susan's primary goal was to create an atmosphere of tolerance, acceptance, creativity and community. She is rewarded by the lasting relationships her students have with her and with each other. Susan is most proud of the fact that over 30 of her former students have made music performance and music education their career of choice. How rewarding to feel that one has truly touched the lives and souls of young people, through the art of choral mu-

sic. What a perfect medium to discover and explore the inner human spirit. Mentoring, guiding, exploring together in an atmosphere of nurturing and encouragement. What an honor, gift and privilege it has been to teach vocal music students in Michigan's public schools.

Susan is indebted to MSVMA and its members for guidance and inspiration over the years. The annual conferences, workshops and lifelong friendships made, have been invaluable. Susan is proud to have served MSVMA in the capacity of District Manger, State S&E Supervisor, Summer Workshop Director, and now on the Executive Board as Director of State Events. Susan has twice been honored by MSVMA by being elected to the position of Honors Choir Director, and in 1997, as Teacher of the Year.

Susan's words of wisdom to young teachers starting their careers, or even in the middle of their careers is this: There will be times when you feel lonely, inadequate and frustrated, but keep your sites on your goals and do what it takes to accomplish them; go to workshops, find a mentor, observe other teachers you admire, swallow your pride, dig in, and keep moving forward. You truly can and will accomplish your goals. Don't blame your administration, your students, your education, the size of your school district or lack of administrative support. What takes place in your classroom can be magical if you set the stage, create the environment and allow it to happen. Yes, you will get frustrated and discouraged along the way, but don't give up! Believe in yourself!

Quote: What a tremendous learning experience it has been to be a member of MSVMA. It is with deepest gratitude that I accept the award of Emeritus status. I never thought it would come so soon. I have so much more to offer and I look forward to many more musical *opportunities* to come!

Carol Gess

I grew up knowing that one day I would become a teacher – that’s all I ever wanted to be!! It wasn’t until I enrolled in high school choir at Ottawa Hills that I knew I wanted to teach music. Music had been an important part of my life, and I was thrilled with the idea of sharing it with others. Thank you Ted Pasma, my high school choir director, for being the teacher that made the difference in my life!!

My pursuit of formal education led me to Western Michigan University where I received a Bachelor of Music in 1968. I was pretty “green,” yet bursting with excitement in September, 1968, when at 21 years of age I stood in front of my first choir of 80 high school students in Adrian, Michigan. Little did I know that I would end up teaching 34 years of choral music and have had the opportunity to encourage and impact thousands of youth.

My husband’s military service afforded me the opportunity to teach in both Indianapolis, Indiana and Norfolk, Virginia. Following his military service, we returned to Michigan and I earned a Masters of Music Education while teaching four years at Parchment High School. A job change brought us to Grand Rapids, and in 1984 I took a music position with the Caledonia Schools. I remained with the Caledonia Schools for 26 wonderful years, retiring in June 2010.

How lucky I am to have spent the majority of my teaching years in Caledonia, a progressive educational system with a community that actively supports the arts. Over the years I was able to build a vocal music department to 4 choirs and add a piano keyboard class in addition to the other music offerings. Each year not only held the responsibility of choir festivals, Honors Choir, community performances, Solo and Ensemble, but a musical production and directing a pit orchestra.

Before I retired I had a goal to take my top choir

abroad, and this happened two times: once to Germany and once to London. I can’t even begin to explain the thrill of singing in St. Paul’s Cathedral and seeing the awe in the faces of my students. In Germany we sang at a hospital where our words were not understood, but the music brought tears to those who heard it. Yes.....music is the international language.

Last spring I combined all 4 choirs to perform the Faure Requiem accompanied by our high school orchestra. Over 200 musicians were on stage performing classical music beautifully.....and they loved it!! Does life get any better?

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention all the special education students that have been in choir. Many of them could not read but loved to sing. One was so gifted in music that I named her “Little Miss Solfege.” When the choir couldn’t get an interval I would look at her, and with a smile on her face, she’d nail it every time!

Over the years I’ve done it all: church choir director, bell choir director, and piano teacher, but nothing can compare to the years I’ve spent in the classroom helping students grow through music. The awards I’ve received have no special name. However, I retired with the love and appreciation of my students and community, and respect from my teaching colleagues. This makes my day!!

Thank you to MSVMA for years of education and encouragement. I believe learning from my peers, especially at the summer workshops, has been most helpful, and if I regret anything, it would be not getting involved with MSVMA sooner. Thank you also, MSVMA, for deeming me worthy to be an emeritus member of this fine organization.

And to those of you who are still teaching and have the opportunity to change lives, my word of advice would be to love your students, because when they know you care about them, all things are possible.

Douglas Robinson

In the 38 years that I taught school, I learned that one of the keys to being a successful teacher is flexibility. Over the years I taught music from kindergarten through high school. When there were budget crises resulting in program cuts, I taught junior high English (the principal saw that my teaching certificate listed my degree as music education and literature, thereby qualifying me). I served a stint as athletic director, which was a valuable education in working with professionals outside the community and meeting deadlines. This would be of great help later on. For five years I served as president of the local teachers' union, which taught me much about the value of effective communication.

1986-1988

Benzie Central Schools, K-12

In addition to elementary music I taught high school and junior high choirs. Several soloists participated at district festival. The high school choir performed at district festival for the first time. This was my first contact with MSVMA. It was here that I learned of the importance of sight reading at festival, and formed my approach to teaching it so the students could be successful.

1988-2009

Cheboygan Area Schools

After five years of teaching elementary music and directing a children's choir, I was given the task of developing a sustainable choral program that had been dormant for many years.. We joined MSVMA in fall of 1995, went to choir festival that winter, and our first soloists participated in state solo and ensemble festival. I established an auditioned ensemble meeting after school, which continued to grow and improve, and performed at several state festivals. This would become the Women's Choir.

I attended summer workshops and learned much from contact with fellow professionals. I was able to share ideas with other teachers, listen to them and apply what I learned to my situation. I will never forget the encouragement that was offered when my colleagues learned what we were developing in Cheboygan.

In 1999 we moved into a new middle school building, and were able to include seventh and eighth grade choirs as part of the curriculum. In the ensuing years several of these groups participated at the state level.

The last ten years of teaching were my favorite. The program was becoming established, and I had valuable support of the administration at school. Many students were accepted at Regional and State Honors Choirs and excelled at performance at the state level. One of the most memorable moments for me was the first time the high school choir went to state festival. It was truly one of the highlights of many of the students' high school careers.

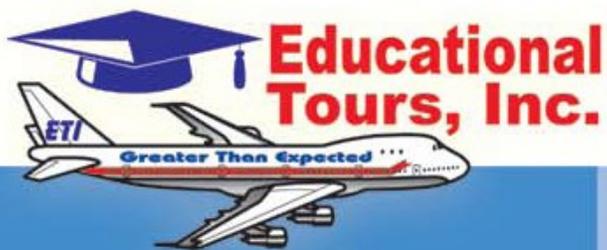
We were able to expand the high school curriculum to a Concert Choir and incorporate the Women's Choir as a full class, even though we met at "Zero Hour," which means an hour before the rest of school classes begin. The advanced group developed rapidly, and earned Excellent ratings consistently at district and state festivals, both as a full choir and as ensembles.

For my final district festival I challenged the Concert Choir to be at their absolute best. They accepted the challenge, and qualified for state festival. As with the students in that first choir that went to state festival, these students understood the value of setting a goal and working to be able to achieve it.

In my spare time I taught private voice and piano lessons, served as church choir and organist for many years, directed a community choir, and directed the all-school musical annually.

Over the years I learned to share in the joys of success with the students, and to be understanding when performances were not so successful.

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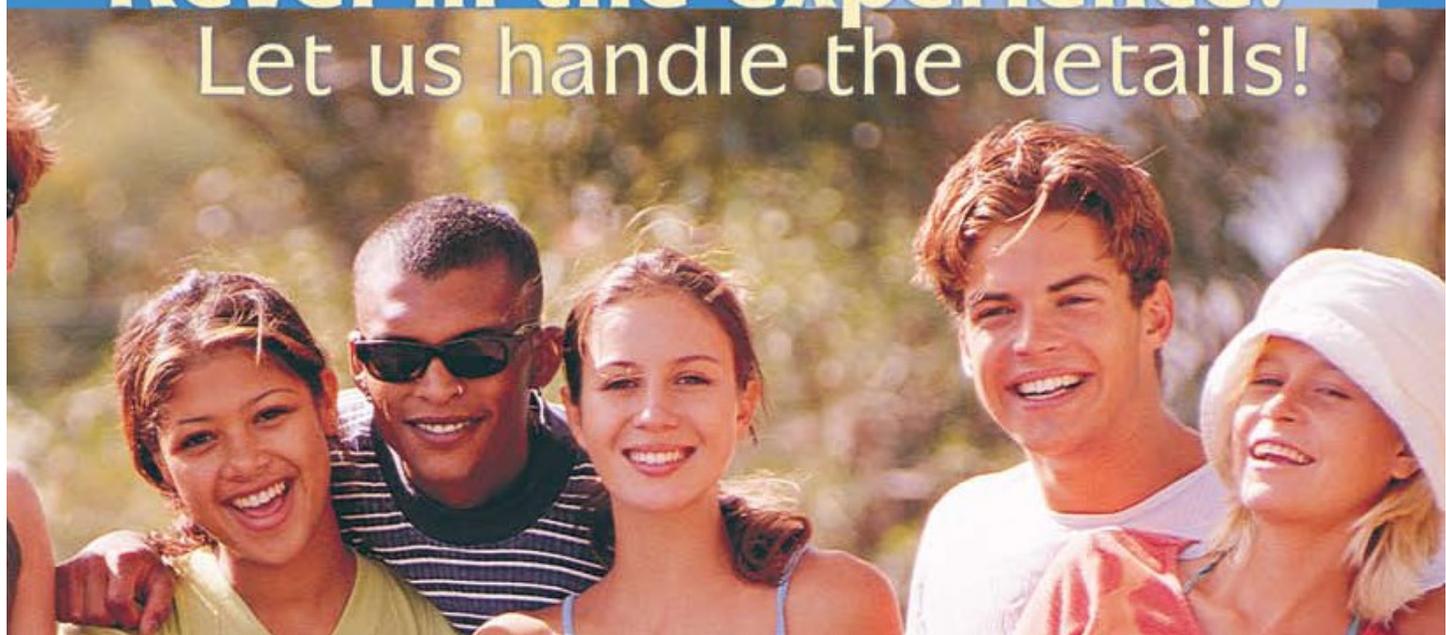
Kristina Collins
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Technology Report, Update & Proposal: January 2011

Adam Wurst, Technology Supervisor

Headlines & Improvements: since Fall 2010 report

- Automated scheduler for S&E has seen significant upgrades and improvements
 - The functionality for district festival supervisors has been greatly improved and has more user-friendly messages that have gotten rid of “technology-speak”.
 - Adjudication labels are a new function that will allow for easier printing and organizing. This was also developed to help further MSVMA’s goal in marketing our scheduler to other associations throughout the country.
 - Improvements have been made to include more versatility in selecting break times and event and adjudicator break lengths. Online editing is still available with the update of having conflicts being “red flagged” so it is easier to spot and solve by the supervisor. More improvements are planned to give further control to managing event conflicts.
 - A major improvement that will be seen by directors is that a school’s events are now dispersed over several rooms to give the best adjudication experience for students.

- A State S&E registration process was piloted during 2009-2010 at the West Site. For 2010-2011 all districts will be able to register and schedule State S&E festivals completely online. The process will be very similar to the registering and scheduling for district festivals. The most complex piece was adding sight reading and MYAF requirements. These items are working properly and our software developer, Cimulus, has shown support during the district festival season that is exceptional.

- MSVMA has requested a finished product in the automated scheduler to be completed by the Spring of 2011 which includes a new database management system that will help a director maintain their own account information, including email and password updates. This request appears to be on target both

financially and developmentally.

- In May 2010, it was recommended that MSVMA member training would be available during MMC and Summer Workshop sessions. A Summer Workshop session was made available for 2010 and has also been scheduled for 2011. We are working to strategically place this session so membership can attend without being in conflict with artistic presentations which will promote healthier attendance.

- Online voting was utilized for the first time for membership. According to research, MSVMA has found the only known online voting system that allows ballots and surveys in a protected environment for no cost. The savings of time and finances have been significant. Membership reported very few problems working with this new technology.

Membership Voted:	243		
Membership Notified:	685	Notified who haven't voted:	442
NOT Notified:	0	Participation Rate:	35%

Convenience of voting online for MSVMA elections.

Did you find voting online to be as equally or more convenient as voting with a paper ballot?

Response	Count	Percent	Rank	Graph
Yes	231	95%	1	
No	12	4%	2	

Would you prefer to continue voting online for important MSVMA elections and/or proposals?

Response	Count	Percent	Rank	Graph
Yes	232	95%	1	
No	11	4%	2	

Update on Future Development

MSVMA introduced a new website design and structure, as well as a greatly improved database

functionality through Wild Apricot. Training was provided at the State Office and at the District Manager Retreat in 2010. The State Office has reported greater reporting abilities and faster servicing of member's questions and needs. Last year's Technology Report (May 2010) looked to improve:

- Handbook information in website content versus booklet form. All information is available in each section of MSVMA activities, such as Honors Choir, Choral Festival, and Membership. Content that is exclusive to MSVMA membership is password protected which adds value and protection to member privileges.

- Website to become the focus of MSVMA activities and resources for membership as well as students and their families. New and easier to use features are available online including Public Forums, The Journal, Advocacy, "Live" Forms such as "Contact Us" and "Adjudicator Evaluation", Favorite Performances, and an interactive calendar.

- Marketing of scheduling management systems to other state music associations through either State Office representation or through an MSVMA focus group. This will benefit MSVMA in a variety of ways:

 - Recuperation of initial development cost

 - Providing ongoing residual income that benefits MSVMA and its members

 - Elevating the professional and technological awareness and influence of MSVMA on a national basis.

 - Stability and ease of use have been of major focus as updates have been made. To date, no other software system fully automates the registration and scheduling process of events with consideration to a variety of numerous and complex conflicts between events. As of January 2011, we may have our first potential candidate to use the scheduler as a non-MSVMA event.

Proposal for improving technology experience within MSVMA

Even as the website and S&E registration and scheduling experience has been improved, the word that I've heard given to me by our members and DMs most often is still "frustrated". The State Office staff's time has greatly been challenged as both DMs and members have struggled with aspects of technology that largely revolve around misunderstanding the function of a website or the need to login to two different sites (MSVMA member site and festival registration site) with different information. I've tried to communicate as necessary through membership email broadcasts but sometimes it seems like that information either gets missed or isn't reviewed thoroughly for the information it contains.

Our membership represents a wide variety of gifts and areas of expertise. While it would be ideal to say that technology is a load we can bear together I'm not sure it is practical for members to bear the load of leading, volunteering, and attempting to troubleshoot technology issues that do and will inevitably come up.

It may be the right time to move our technology communications for S&E Scheduling to the State Office level.

Once the initial information has been generated, DMs would then concentrate on communicating with their membership regarding scheduling, payment, cancellations, etc. In the event a festival supervisor wanted to accommodate a schedule change they would be able to access the scheduler and facilitate the request. While this would increase the financial commitment to support provided at the State Office, I don't know if it's fair to expect members to lead our membership in technology areas that are uncomfortable and intimidating for many people. Our District Managers and membership will be happier and feel more productive by taking this challenging technology piece away from their area of responsibility.

Proposed cost of hiring additional support at the State Office level for District and State S&E Festivals: approximately \$2,500 depending on the structure of responsibility of editing scheduling requests as communicated by directors.



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MSVMA Executive Board Updates

James Borst
Past President

Carolyn Leep Scholarship

Congratulations go to Ms. Sarah Stockton, choral music educator at Grand Blanc Public Schools, for being this year's recipient of the Carolyn Leep Scholarship. Sarah was awarded \$1,000.00 to continue post-masters study. She impressed the scholarship committee with her professionalism, and her drive for academic study that will enhance her student's instruction.

All members of MSVMA are encouraged to apply for this prestigious award. Deadline for application to the Past President is November 1 of each year. Candidates must be available the Thursday of the MMC each year for an interview. The application can be found on the MSVMA website by clicking MEMBERS ONLY, then FORMS AND REIMBURSEMENTS, then CAROLYN LEEP SCHOLARSHIP.

2011 Emeriti

The MSVMA membership celebrated three retiring choral professionals during the annual luncheon at the Michigan Music Conference: Susan Catanese, Carol Gess, and Douglas Robinson. These retirees were nominated by their respective MSVMA districts for Emeritus Status with MSVMA. This recognition includes life-long membership to MSVMA, allowing them to continue their association with the organization for years to come.

In 1994-95 MSVMA began an emeritus membership program to honor retired men and women whose lives have been devoted to the improvement of choral music programs in the secondary schools of their communities and who have been active members of MSVMA.

Candidates are recommended by their respective district to the state executive board of MSVMA. A candidate must have taught vocal music or have been actively involved with the choral music program for twenty-five or more years prior to retirement. In addition to teaching music, a candidate may have spent part of his/her twenty-five years as a supervisor, coordinator, chairman or director of a school music program of which choral music is a part. A candidate must have demonstrated significant service to MSVMA during his/her career. Exceptions to the —years of experience requirement will be considered by the executive board on an individual basis.

Candidates who have spent only part of their careers in the state of Michigan must meet all requirements with credit given for choral teaching or supervising in other states, as well as credit given for being active members of vocal music organizations in other states.

Lifetime membership in MSVMA, with dues paid by MSVMA, will be granted to all candidates receiving the award of "Member Emeritus." Members Emeritus are not entitled to hold office.

A one time emeritus nomination fee of \$100 per candidate is paid by the district. This fee covers the cost of an award and dinner or luncheon during the Michigan Music Conference.

Election Results

2011 MSVMA Choir Teacher of the Year:

Dr. James Borst, East Grand Rapids High School

Congratulations to the following choral music educators for being nominated and elected to conduct an honors choir:

Adam Wurst: 2013 6-7-8 SA

Deborah Fristad: 2013 7-8-9 SSA

Susan Catanese: 2013 7-8-9 SATB

Board continued...

Pamela Pierson: 2012 High School SSAA

Leslie Roswey: 2012 High School TTBB

Gregory Cleveland: 2012 High School SATB

Please note: a one-time nomination and voting process will occur late winter of 2011 for the 2013 High School Honors Choir program.

Congratulations to the following choral music educators for being nominated and elected to serve on the MSVMA executive board:

Douglas Armstead: President-Elect

Rod Bushey: Treasurer

Brandon Ulrich: Summer Workshop and MYAF

Pamela Pierson: State Events

Thank you to the retiring choral music educators for their faithful service to the MSVMA full board:

Tami Brush, District 6 co- manager; Andrea Van Deusen, District 6 co-manager; Carolyn Bertrand, district 11 manager; Carmelle Atkins, District 12 co -manager; Georgia Guitte, supervisor of central state choral festival.

THE ELECTIONS PROCESS:

All elections are handled by an elections committee which is selected by the President and chaired by the Past President. The following procedure is used for all elections:

Anyone wishing to be considered for a position on the Board or as an Honors Choir Director may send a resumé and letter of application to the Past President by April 1.

Nominations will take place at each district's spring meeting. The district managers shall submit the names of the nominees to the Past President by June 1st. Nomination forms for all prospective officers, directors, teachers of the year, and honors choir directors are included in the district manager's handbook.

District Managers are to contact prospective nominees before submitting their names for nomination to confirm the nominees eligibility for office and willingness to have his/her name on the ballot.

- All nominees will be notified of their nomination.
- Preliminary ballots will be sent to the membership in September.
- The Election Committee, appointed by the President, shall study the preliminary ballot results and select at least two candidates for each position to be presented to the membership.
- The candidates chosen by the committee will have their resumé and pictures presented on the MSVMA Website under Elections.
- The membership shall vote by written ballot prior to the 10th of January.
- All elections are decided by a simple majority of those voting.

Technology

Adam Wurst continues as the MSVMA Technology Consultant. Adam's position is now a non-voting member of the full board. A stipend is provided for being the MSVMA webmaster.

MSVMA Mentorship Program

Over 30 retired teachers have signed-up to be a mentor to new and nearly new choir teachers. Mr. Fred Sang heads this exciting new program, in which seasoned educators become personal mentors to our young professionals.

Erich Wangeman
President Elect

Confessions of a Technological Neophyte

When I was sixteen (and I knew EVERYTHING) it amazed me that my parents didn't understand how to record a television program using the VCR. They would complain that the technology was too confus-

ing to bother. Taping my favorite show seemed simple enough to me. What was the matter with them? I learned to do it without reading the instruction manual. Wasn't using technology just common sense? I vowed to myself that I would NEVER be an adult who was behind the times when it comes to technology. Well.....

Two years ago when I began to attend meetings as the incoming President Elect (MMC, Executive Board, Full Board, etc.) I was surprised to see the number of people who arrived with laptop in hand. These folks accessed the meeting agenda, previous minutes, and all proposals utilizing their computer. They took notes, sent correspondence, and ran the business of the meeting all without shuffling through piles of papers or leafing through manuals six inch thick. Everyone, it seemed, was miles ahead of me on the technology curve. WHAT WAS GOING ON? We're musicians!!! We revel in the moment. Our art is about the spontaneous creation of beauty which exemplifies the greatness of our shared human existence. We love what is present, what is tangible, what can be manipulated physically and felt emotionally. That's not what technology is. Computers aren't emotional. Where did I fall off the band wagon? More importantly, when did I become exactly like my parents?

Being elected to a leadership position of MSVMA has had countless rewards. Meeting and working with gifted educators (our membership) who share a common vision to advance the art of choral music and improve the profession of music teaching is just one of many. In fact, so much of my experience as President Elect seems to have led me on a path of self discovery that it seems rather selfish. I didn't expect to have reaped so many benefits. (And I know there will be more.)

It is here then I entrust you, my esteemed colleagues, with a confession. I am a technological idiot. Well, maybe not an idiot....anymore. Maybe now I'm what you could call a technological neophyte. I own a laptop and I use it when I attend meetings. I have created and utilized Power Point in a presentation. (Though not to the extent that Steve Hinz does.....as I stated, I'm a neophyte.) I have wireless in my home (so I can write journal

articles in bed) and most importantly, I know how to program my DVR.

Sadly there are still areas of technology I am baffled by. I don't own a smart phone, I can't use Finale for more than a single staff, I don't have a Facebook account, and I don't yet understand how to utilize every aspect of the new MSVMA website. Some of this is by ideology. A smart phone isn't part of our family budget and I can hardly keep up with communication via email let alone something like Facebook. Some of this is simply because the technology is new and I haven't yet figured out how to use it optimally. The MSVMA website is a good example in this case.

The new format is extremely user friendly and it categorizes everything into logical areas of interest. Application forms are now linked to the page that describes each event, and locating members is easier than ever. Still its taking me some time to find everything because "it's not the way it used to be". What I've realized is that I must allow myself time to understand the new format, and that if I'm patient while I learn the new way, I will save time and energy in the long run. (And save MSVMA time and money.)

The same is true with the online scheduler. There have been issues in regards to the online scheduling program which we continue to solve. Adam Wurst has done an amazing job of working with Cimulus to create the program. He has also spent time with District Managers at the retreat in July, and countless hours answering member questions regarding set up and procedures.

What I've learned as a technological neophyte is that anytime something is new we encounter issues which generally fall into two different categories. The first are issues regarding the learning curve. It takes time for me (and indeed all of us) learn to use new technology correctly. The second are issues from the bugs and/or flaws which become clearer as the technology is put to use. We must all remember as we move forward that the implementation of anything new (technology or otherwise) takes time, patience, and a positive attitude. In the meantime we must embrace the progress we've made with a willingness to learn and grow.

MMC 2011 – A Great Success

Thanks To So Many

It wasn't long ago that we moved MMC from Ann Arbor to Grand Rapids. During the first few years we encountered issues which generally fell into two different categories. There was a learning curve as we all made adjustments to a new location with new facilities, and there were issues which arose from the bugs and/or flaws which became clear as we attended the conference those first few years. (Kind of like using new technology...) In the past few years MMC has really become one of our nation's most innovative and progressive professional development opportunities for music educators.

MMC is the result of a yearlong process in which we collaborate with our associate music education organizations to create a stimulating educational experience for all attendees. This amazing convention creates a chance for professional renewal, the opportunity for connection to one's colleagues, and the occasion to celebrate the rewards of music education in our state.

Many thanks go out to the committee members who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the conference. Their dedication made it possible for each of us to reap the aforementioned rewards. I would especially like to thank Wendee Wolf-Schlarf – Planning Committee Chair, Virginia Kerwin – Executive Committee Member, Mark Krempski-Honors Choir Coordinator, and Steve Hinz – Executive Committee Chair.

The sessions offered at the conference were conceived, created, and presented by the exceptional individuals who wished to share their expertise and talents with us so that we, in turn, can share new ideas with our students. I would especially thank all of our MSVMA colleagues that spent their time and energy creating these wonderful workshops, presentations, and concerts. They include: Doug Armstead, Adam Boyce, Jeff Cobb, Meghan Eldred, Carolyn Goss, Trey Jacobs, Phil Johnson, Bonnie Kidd, Vickie Kopistiansky, Russ Larimer, Shirley Lemon, Kristina MacMullen, Robert Peavler, Pamela Pierson, Jolene Plotzke, Brandon Ulrich, and Kent Wattleworth.

Each of the presenters listed above have been graciously supported by a presenter who donated his or her time to ensure that the session was properly introduced and professionally run. Thank you to those who gave of their time. They include: Christy Case, Juli Dick, Helen Hansens, Julia Holt, Phil Johnson, Christina Kelbert, Betsy Marsh, and Sheri Tulloch.

I would like to encourage members to consider submitting session material for MMC 2012. This event promises to be extra special as it is the 75th Anniversary of MSVMA and plans are underway to make next year's conference an AMAZING experience. Members who have session ideas should visit the M M C W e b s i t e a t www.michiganmusicconference.org and click on the top link entitled "2012 Proposal Application-submit your proposal to be a speaker". The deadline is April 1, 2011.

I would also strongly encourage members to submit recordings of their ensembles to be considered for the MSVMA Choral and/or Ensemble Hours. Middle school directors and directors of ensembles in class B, C, or D schools are especially encouraged to submit recordings as we wish to have a cross section of school sizes represented if possible.

The deadline is May 21, 2011.

The form can be found at www.msvma.org

Under the "Meet and Greet" tab click on "MSVMA Services"

Click on the downloadable form toward the bottom of the right hand column under "Michigan Music Conference" entitled "2012 MMC Application"

Submit Application and Recording for MMC 2012 to:

Erich Wangeman
President Elect, MSVMA
Haslett High School
5450 Marsh Road
Haslett, MI 48840

Board continued...

Doug Armstead
Director
Summer Workshop Awards

The annual Summer workshop is turning out to be absolutely fantastic. Brandon Ulrich and Jolene Plotzke have done a great job in lining up an amazing group of clinicians. Each year the team has added something new to the workshop. In the past, we have offered you a choice of three sessions each hour to attend. This year you will have up to four sessions to choose from each hour. This will allow you to find a session that you will thoroughly enjoy each hour. Another change will be on Tuesday night. The Celebration Banquet will be replaced with a "Teacher of the Year" social hour. This will be less formal but will still allow us to hear an inspiring speech from our teacher of the year.

I am pleased to announce that the 2010 Summer Workshop was huge success. There were many positive comments about the facilities and being able to walk to many fine restaurants and shops in the downtown area was very exciting. The workshop will continue to be at the Radisson Hotel and Convention Center for the next few years. The workshop will be held on the following dates: August 1-3, 2011; August 1-3, 2012 & July 30-August 2, 2013.

Our headliner will be Dr. Joe Miller, who is the conductor of two of America's most renowned choral ensembles – the Westminster Choir and the Westminster Symphonic Choir. As director of choral activities at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, N.J., he oversees an extensive choral program that includes eight ensembles. Joe Miller earned a master's degree and a doctorate in choral conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education and voice from the University of Tennessee.

Have you ever used the MSVMA music library?

MSVMA purchases new books and DVD's every year. The library now has over eighty selections to choose from. I highly recommend that you check out the list and rent a few of them. The form can be found on the MSVMA website with a complete listing of what is available.

Finally, I want to thank the members for the great honor of being elected as the next President-Elect. I am looking forward to serving MSVMA in this new area. One quote that I am reminded of is, "The more you give, the more you will receive". I truly believe in this statement. As I continue to give to MSVMA, I continue to learn from all of you. This has strengthened my teaching and how my students learn. If you have not volunteered, I strongly encourage you to get involved. They are many opportunities in which you can give and be blessed in return.

Susan Catanese
Director
State Events
Pop & Chamber Festivals

State Festival Scheduling Update

Due to the statewide alignment of dates for Spring breaks and due to Easter in April, we are forced to move all State S&E festivals to one weekend in March and one weekend in April. Most schools are now going to the first week in April for spring break. This eliminates the first two weekends in April for festival. To comply with MYAF deadlines, we cannot go the last weekend in April. We can no longer use the last weekend in March because it interferes with MSBOA State S&E festival. This is a hardship on teachers, students, accompanists and parents. We will rotate these weekends between sites, i.e. Year 1, South Site is in March, Year 2, South Site is in April, etc. West & East sites will be held the same month, South and Central will be scheduled together. Districts that have the March dates are encouraged to schedule their district festivals earlier in the season.

Board *continued...*

State Festival Registration Update State S&E Festivals will use Online Scheduling (all sites). State Choral Festivals will use *registration forms* from the *online handbook*. I urge you to place the dates on your school choir calendar NOW, in the event your students may be eligible to attend.

2011 State S&E Update

For solos and ensembles earning a 'I' rating at District S&E festival; see fee structure in the online handbook. Online scheduling applies to all sites.

East Districts 3, 15, & 16
March 18-19, 2011
Online Scheduling Deadline:
February 22, 2011
Site: Avondale HS (Host:
Kevin Cornwell)
Supervisor: Marge Payne
mpayne7332@aol.com
248-628-4947

West Districts 6, 10 & 11
March 18-19, 2011
Online Scheduling Deadline:
February 22, 2011
Site: Aquinas College (Host
Barbara MacCargar)
Supervisor : Rick Gossett
rgossett@gpsk12.net
616-254-6351

South Districts 4 & 12
April 15-16, 2011
Online Scheduling Deadline:
February 22, 2011
Site: Walled Lake Central
HS(Host: Mary Rashid)
Supervisor: Mary Rashid
mary.rashid@gmail.com
248-255-7070

Central Districts 1, 2, 7, & 9
April 15-16, 2011
Online Scheduling Deadline:
February 22, 2011
Site: Big Rapids HS (Host:

Katie McInnis)
Supervisor: Juli Dick
dickj@ghaps.org
616-850-6195

U.P. Districts 13 & 14
April 16, 2011
Online Scheduling Deadline:
February 22, 2011
Site: Lake Superior Christian
Church
Supervisor: Jan Brodersen
jbrodersen@mapsnet.org
906-225-5383

2011 State Choral Update

For choirs deemed Superior or Excellent (18-42 points) at their District Choral Festival; see fee structure and Registration Forms in online handbook.

U.P Site Districts 13 & 14
April 16, 2011
Registration Deadline:
March 22, 2011
Site: Lake Superior Christian
Church
Supervisor: Jan Brodersen
jbrodersen@mapsnet.org
906-225-5383

South Districts 8, 11, 12 & 15
April 28-29, 2011
Registration Deadline:
March 22, 2011
Site: Holt HS
Supervisor: Monty Bishop
mbishop@hpsk12.net
269-744-0522

East Districts 3, 4 & 16
May 3-4, 2011
Registration Deadline:
March 22, 2011
Site: Rochester HS (Host:
Jolene Plotske)
Supervisor: Marge Payne

mpayne7332@aol.com
248-628-4947

West Districts 6, 7 & 10
May 5-6, 2011
Registration Deadline:
March 22, 2011
Site: Fairhaven Ministries
Supervisor: Shirley Lemon
lemon@ghaps.org
616-850-6131

Central Districts 1, 2, 5 & 9(HS/MS)
May 10-11, 2011
Registration Deadline:
March 22, 2011
Site: CMU (Host: John Jacob
son)
Supervisor: Meghan Eldred
eldredm@dewittschools.net
517-320-5699

Southeast Districts (JH/MS)
May 12-13, 2011
Registration Deadline:
March 22, 2011
Site: Jackson Community
College
Supervisor: Wendy Treacher
2sing4u@modempool.com
517-784-5652
or 517-784-9175 ext. 15

Applications Update

Avoid application problems by following 3 easy steps:

- 1) Read Directions
- 2) Follow directions
- 3) Mail your applications personally, on time, to the correct supervisor.

Contact your supervisors with any questions or concerns. They are wonderful volunteers willing to help you and your students. Remember to thank them profusely!



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Mark Krempski
Director
Honors Choirs

1. Auditions, Performances and Rehearsals
As I write this, we have successfully completed all and look forward to the rehearsals and performances in Grand Rapids at the Michigan Music Conference! Thanks to all of our hosts and Honors Choir leadership for their volunteer commitment to the program.

2. Communication and Website
All communication has been done via email this year. All information, forms, practice recordings (through Choraltech.org) and updates were available for download at the MSVMA Honors Choir website. We hope to have online registration for all events next year. Thanks to Adam Wurst for making this possible through his work on creating the new website.

*Two points regarding website concerns: 1) issues with membership status and website access caused significant delays in members accessing Honors Choir forms and information in time to meet the initial deadlines; 2) students/parents cannot access most Honors Choir information – their directors must provide all information.

3. Participation and audition Results (see attached result data)

We had about an 10% decrease in HS registered auditioning students this year. As a result, we selected about 10% fewer students for this year’s State Honors Choirs (see below for results data). This is not insignificant, and we anticipate decreased participation in the coming year. Of greatest significance is the decrease in Region A (over 35% decrease in auditioning students). Grade 6-7-8-9 had very similar registered number of auditioning students, but a significantly larger percentage of singers were accepted to State Honors Choir. Changes in the program may be necessary to meet the changing needs of the MSVMA membership.

4. Deadlines
We faced an increase of tardy and incomplete registration materials and checks from participants. We hope moving to online registration will greatly eliminate this perennial issue. The largest obstacle we faced was our new website – members could not access the restricted areas of the website because of the delay in membership registration prevented them from logging on to the site.

5. All State
Selection of singers will take place after the January 22nd State event. Results will be available on February 1. Contact Nate Degner or visit the MSVMA website for all information regarding All-State. Our Conductor will be Dr. Joe Grant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Repertoire may also be found on the MSVMA website.

3 pages of results follow:

6-7-8-9 Honors Choir

Cheryl Gapinski
MSVMA 6-7-8-9 Honors Choir Supervisor

2010-11 Grade 6-7-8-9 Honors Choir			
	Auditioned	Accepted	Ratio
SA	130	68.5	52.7%
SSA	59	41	69.5%
SATB	27	24	88.9%
2009-10 Grade 6-7-8-9 Honors Choir			
	Auditioned	Accepted	Ratio
SA	119	59	49.6%
SSA	59	33	55.9%
SATB	28	20	71.4%
2008-09 Grade 6-7-8-9 Honors Choir			
	Auditioned	Accepted	Ratio
SA	?	69	?
SSA	?	37	?
SATB	26	20	76.9%

High School Honors Choir

Angel Gippert - MSVMA High School Honors Choir Supervisor

Regional HC numbers and scores for 2010-11									
REGION A	Sop 1	Sop 2	Alto 1	Alto 2	Tenor 1	Tenor 2	Bass 1	Bass 2	TOTAL
# of students registered	36	43	38	32	8	16	20	12	205
# of students auditioned	30	33	26	29	6	13	14	10	161
# of students accepted	14	17	13	17	4	7	8	8	88
Lowest score accepted	79	80	79	80	70	68	82	79	
REGION B	Sop 1	Sop 2	Alto 1	Alto 2	Tenor 1	Tenor 2	Bass 1	Bass 2	TOTAL
# of students registered	53	46	52	42	17	18	35	21	284
# of students auditioned	47	40	45	40	16	16	31	18	253
# of students accepted	25	25	25	25	16	13	24	18	171
Lowest score accepted	88	84	84	90	81	71	81	73	
REGION C	Sop 1	Sop 2	Alto 1	Alto 2	Tenor 1	Tenor 2	Bass 1	Bass 2	TOTAL
# of students registered	68	61	57	44	24	24	33	22	333
# of students auditioned	54	47	43	34	19	20	28	17	262
# of students accepted	22	23	23	23	16	15	16	17	155
Lowest score accepted	85	88	80	79	73	73	80	82	
REGION D	Sop 1	Sop 2	Alto 1	Alto 2	Tenor 1	Tenor 2	Bass 1	Bass 2	TOTAL
# of students registered	8	7	8	8	3	5	7	6	52
# of students auditioned	7	7	8	8	3	5	7	5	50
# of students accepted	7	7	8	8	3	3	7	5	48
Lowest score accepted	78	78	85	79	77	92	81	80	
Totals	Sop 1	Sop 2	Alto 1	Alto 2	Tenor 1	Tenor 2	Bass 1	Bass 2	TOTAL
# of students registered	165	157	155	126	52	63	95	61	874
# of students auditioned	138	127	122	111	44	54	80	50	726
# of students accepted	68	72	69	73	39	38	55	48	462
Lowest score accepted	78	78	79	79	70	68	80	73	605
State Quotas: Singers per State Choir	SSAA	Region A	Region B	Region C	Region D	Total			
	S1	6	9	7	2	24			
	S2	6	8	8	2	24			
	A1	5	8	8	3	24			
	A2	6	8	8	2	24			
		23	33	31	9	96			
	TTBB	Region A	Region B	Region C	Region D	Total			
	T1	3	8	8	2	21			
	T2	4	7	8	2	21			
	B1	3	9	6	3	21			
	B2	4	8	7	2	21			
		14	32	29	9	84			
	SATB	Region A	Region B	Region C	Region D	Total			
	S1	3	4	3	1	11			
	S2	3	4	3	1	11			
	A1	3	4	3	1	11			
	A2	3	4	3	1	11			
	T1	1	4	4	1	10			
	T2	1	3	4	2	10			
	B1	2	4	3	1	10			
B2	2	3	4	1	10				
	Total	18	30	27	9	84			

Board *continued...*

OCTOBER RESULTS
2009 HS Regional Honors Choir

Re- gion A		Sop 1	Sop 2	Alto 1	Alto 2	Tenor 1	Tenor 2	Bass 1	Bass 2	TO- TAL
		# of students registered	56	62	73	32	23	18	40	20
	# of students auditioned	44	44	59	23	17	12	29	18	246
	# of students accepted	26	26	30	18	13	9	15	13	150
	Lowest score accepted	87	87	87	78	70	65	81	79	
Re- gion B		Sop 1	Sop 2	Alto 1	Alto 2	Tenor 1	Tenor 2	Bass 1	Bass 2	TO- TAL
		# of students registered	58	58	66	38	29	23	32	36
	# of students auditioned	43	46	54	36	20	21	25	31	276
	# of students accepted	27	27	25	25	16	14	20	22	176
	Lowest score accepted	85	85	92	89	79*	80	87	91	
Re- gion C		Sop 1	Sop 2	Alto 1	Alto 2	Tenor 1	Tenor 2	Bass 1	Bass 2	TO- TAL
		# of students registered	55	55	39	31	25	20	33	17
	# of students auditioned	49	49	35	26	24	18	30	15	246
	# of students accepted	24	24	24	24	19	14	17	15	161
	Lowest score accepted	92	90	84	85	89	83	89	86	
Re- gion D		Sop 1	Sop 2	Alto 1	Alto 2	Tenor 1	Tenor 2	Bass 1	Bass 2	TO- TAL
		# of students registered	4	4	5	5	4	3	3	3
	# of students auditioned	4	4	5	5	4	3	3	3	31
	# of students accepted	4	4	5	5	4	3	3	3	31
	Lowest score accepted	84	85	93	83	96	92	94	93	
TO- TAL S		Sop 1	Sop 2	Alto 1	Alto 2	Tenor 1	Tenor 2	Bass 1	Bass 2	TO- TAL
		# of students registered	173	179	183	106	81	64	108	76
	# of students auditioned	140	143	153	90	65	54	87	67	799
	# of students accepted	81	81	80	74	55	42	55	53	521
	Lowest score accepted	84	85	84	78	70	65	81	79	

Board *continued...*

December Results 2010 State HS Honors Choirs					
SSAA	Total accepted	<i>TTBB</i>	Total accepted	SATB	Total accepted
S1	23	T1	20	S1	11
S2	23	T2	19	S2	11
A1	24	B1	21	A1	11
A2	24	B2	21	A2	11
Total	94	Total	81	T1	10
				T2	10
				B1	10
				B2	11
				Total	85

Les Rowsey
 Director
 Repertoire Sight Reading

As I gaze out my front window and watch the snow whirl and blow, I am amazed at how powerless we are against nature, You guessed it, I am taking advantage of Jenison's first snow day of the year! As I reflect and relax with my feet up, trusting that my furnace will keep nature's fury at bay, I am reminded of how powerless I am in the Eternal scheme of things. That said, my thoughts begin to turn to what I can affect, and how my presence and actions can move things along for the better.

By now, you are realizing that my emphasis is not on the usual reminders. Those will come at the end. What is on my heart today, however, seems more important. Maybe it is driven by the understanding that Festival is only a few days away, we need the reps and can't do them, and there's absolutely nothing I can do about it! Too, maybe I'm sensing the apprehension that might be building within some students, as well. I reflect on the deadline that we agreed upon for memorization: "Not soon enough," I decide, not having factored in the unpredictability of a typical Michigan winter. I resolve to call/e-mail/Facebook them later.

I am forced to stop. Now. And, that has me thinking.

Through all this busy Festival Season, that follows Honors Choir, that follows the Christmas Season, that follows the busy start-up/Fall Concerts season, what am I providing that will last past the events themselves? Are the rehearsals, and what happens there, just as important--or even more important!--than the performances? Am I taking time to connect with my students, or are we hurriedly moving through time, from event to event? Knowing that the kids are involved with many other activities and groups such as sports, student council, NHS, theatre, jobs, homework, family and the like--are they experiencing something daily in choir (and in their lessons, for those that choose)--that will transcend the placement of sound, tone, intonation, diction, phrasing, musical line, syllabic stress and all the necessary technical and expressive elements of good music-making? Am I doing anything that really lasts? Are we all so busy with Stuff that we don't listen to either the kids or ourselves? Do we hear that still, small voice?

I always said I never wanted my students, and certainly not own children, to sing one note for me, take choir, go to S/E, whatever. It is not about ME. Do I want to attract and involve lots of kids in doing cool things, learning and having fun? Do I want to provide something that the kids can't get anywhere else? Do I want them to develop literacy and analysis skills that they'll use for a lifetime? Of course! And, so do you.

Board continued...

My point is, however, that maybe we need to give ourselves time to think. To listen. To evaluate. To connect. It was at least two decades before I realized that I didn't have to do everything that MSVMA offers (those of you who know me well are probably smiling right now). But really, we all need to step back and evaluate: What are we doing, and why are we doing it? Who is it about, and who is it for? After all, your students won't be with you forever, and for those of you with our own children know that they are growing up-*fast!*

Now, for those reminders:

*When choosing music from the Required Repertoire List, you must use the exact edition specified. I do not have the latitude to approve other voicings than those on The List, as the process of choosing the music requires approval from the Executive Board. One thing that I have approved recently, however, is restoring the original text in lieu of a translation in an edition already on The List. The director had found the original Russian and asked permission to use it over the provided Latin and English translations.

* Please feel free to transpose music for your students, either groups or soloists. For instance, something may be written in F, but sings better up or down a half or whole step. If transposition makes it better for your kids, do it!

* The same thing goes in Sight-reading at Festival. It is OK to transpose if it helps your students sing the exercises (the analysis would remain the same, however).

* In order to receive a rating at State Solo and Ensemble Festival, there is a sight-reading requirement.

Specifics are as follows:

1. Soloists: There are three levels for soloists: Primary, Intermediate and Advanced. If a soloist is attending for the first time, the director may choose the sight-reading level. If a student has previously participated and received a First-Division rating in sight-reading, that student will read, in terms of difficulty, at least the next level up.

2. Ensembles: There are two levels for ensembles, Primary and Intermediate. All ensembles wishing to be considered for Michigan Youth Arts Festival

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