



Cate Gasco
District 4 Manager
State Choral Festival East Coordinator
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District 4 - Fall Meeting 2025

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Social Hour 4:30 PM

Meeting 5:30 PM

River's Edge Brewing Co.

AGENDA

- **CALL TO ORDER**

- Time: 5:42 PM
- Motion: Angel
- 2nd: Cherub
- Members Present:
 - Cate Gasco
 - Anthony Funaro
 - Cherub Beard
 - Angel Gippert
 - Brian Leduc

- **INTRODUCTIONS**

- *New Members?!*
 - Diana Hochella (Power MS)
 - Caisey Fowler (DCDS)
 - Joene Plotzke (WBHS)
- *Name, School, and something you have been impressed with with your students so far this year!*
 - Anthony - Howell HS kids swinging with The Jackson Symphony (Duel of the Fate and Neptune)
 - Cherub - survived Les Mis!!!
 - Cate - first year that CK kids are auditioning for MT Intensive and Region Honor Choir and doing Chamber Festival! We are excited!

- **APPROVAL OF SPRING 2025 MINUTES**

- Motion: Anthony
- 2nd: Angel

- **FINANCIAL**

- Fall starting balance: \$11,191.52

- **UPCOMING DEADLINES**

- Membership Dues
 - **September 15, 2025! ASAP!**
- Carolyn Leep Scholarship
 - Application due May 15, 2026
- Mini-Grants
 - Sept 15
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- **MSVMA 2025-2026 EVENTS**

- Please see 2025-2026 MSVMA CALENDAR
- (found on website: RESOURCES-DOCUMENTS-OTHER)
- **HONOR CHOIRS:**
 - **6-7-8-9**
 - Online auditions open September 8, 2025
 - Auditions due October 3, 2025
 - East and West Regional rehearsal and concert 9a-1p October 18, 2025
 - Fees and forms deadline November 8, 2025
 - Rehearsal November 8, 2025, TBD 10a-4p
 - Rehearsal November 22, 2025, TBD 10a-4p
 - Rehearsal January 10, 2026, TBD 9:30a-4p
 - Rehearsal and Performance @ MMC
 - **HS**
 - Online auditions open September 2, 2025
 - Audition selection: "O Vos Omnes" - Victoria (ed. Dunn)
 - Auditions due October 9, 2025
 - Regional Honor Choir/State auditions registration deadline October 24, 2025
 - Regional Honor Choir December 6, 2025
 - State Honor Choir registration deadline December 12, 2025
 - State Honor Choir rehearsal and performance January 22-24, 2026 @ MMC
 - **HS All-State Jazz**
 - Auditions open October 17, 2025
 - Auditions deadline October 31, 2015
 - Results posted November 5, 2025
 - Registration deadline November 22, 2025
 - Rehearsal December 6 or 14, 2025 @ Rockford HS (TBD)
 - Rehearsals and performance January 22-24 @ MMC
 - **Musical Theatre Honors Ensemble**
 - Online auditions open November 2, 2025
 - Auditions deadline December 5, 2025
 - Registration deadline December 19, 2025
 - MMC rehearsal January 21, 2026 8am-7pm
 - All-State rehearsal and performance May 7, 2026

○ **SPECIALTY EVENTS:**

- **Musical Theatre Intensive**
 - October 4, 2025 @ Livonia Churchill HS
 - Application deadline **September 15, 2025**
- **Musical Theatre S&E**
 - November 8, 2025 @ Oxford HS
 - Application deadline October 3, 2025
- **Vocal Jazz Intensive**
 - October 27, 2025 @ Forest Hills HS
 - Application deadline October 15, 2025
- **Chamber Choir Festival**
 - November 11, 2025 @ Oakland University
 - Application Deadline October 15
- **A Capella Festival**
 - October 18, 2025 @ Ann Arbor Skyline HS
 - Registration opens August 15, 2025
 - Registration deadline October 1, 2025
- **Art Song Intensive**
 - January 14, 2026 @ Eastern Michigan University
 - Registration opens December 1, 2025
 - Registration deadline January 7, 2026
- **Music Ed/Vocal Performance Audition Workshop**
 - September 27, 2025 @ Saline HS
 - Registration opens August 13, 2025
 - Registration deadline September 17, 2025

○ **DISTRICT EVENTS:**

- **Transfer Deadline for District Events: November 15**
 - Transfer must have a legitimate reason. Email me, the DM of the district you want to transfer to, and Matt Callaghan and specify the reason.
- **NEW:** Registration for all D4 events will open and close on the same day - I will work hard to get BOTH schedules done around the same time so you can get ahead of bus requests
- **NOTE:** Pianists! 5 limit on Friday, 10 on Saturday. Please do not register for more than this, or change the spelling, or put TBD, etc. - it causes me a lot of stress and the scheduler will not schedule you! Please plan ahead.
- **D4 HS & JHMS S&E - January 30 & 31, 2026**
 - West Bloomfield HS; Jolene Plotzke, Host
 - Registration opens Oct. 1, 2025; Deadline: Friday, December 12, 2025
- **D4 JH/MS & HS Choral Festival - March 4-6, 2026**
 - Birmingham First United Methodist Church; Casey Proch, Host
 - Registration opens **October 1, 2025**; Deadline: Friday, **December 12, 2025**

- This is earlier than usual, but remember - you just need to register the groups. You can go back and adjust/edit the titles of your pieces if they change
- **STATE EVENTS:**
 - **State S&E (East) - April 10-11, 2026**
 - Lake Orion HS
 - Matthew Smith, Host, Christopher Knapp Coordinator
 - Registration opens TBD
 - Deadline March TBD
 - **State Choral Festival (East) - April 27-29, 2026**
 - Location TBD - most likely Marysville HS
 - Host TBD, Cate Gasco Coordinator
 - Registration opens TBD
 - Deadline TBD
 - **All State Festival : May 7-9, 2026**
- **OTHER BUSINESS**
 - **Summer Conference meeting updates**
 - Festival Scheduling
 - Festival Experience - change to registration
 - **Default is “Festival Experience” - YOU NEED TO CLICK for a RATING when you register your groups!**
 - Matt Callaghan will email membership/create graphics for social media for reminders throughout this first part of the year.
 - Please start looking at your dates for next year and the year past next if you can for festivals. **DM’s will be expected to have festival dates to President Elect sooner. (February 28th!)**
 - **District Solo and Ensemble 2027:**
 - **District Choral Festival 2027:** Brighton HS?
 - **District Solo and Ensemble 2028:**
 - **District Choral Festival 2028:**
 - **Anyone willing to host a STATE event if needed?**
 - **NEW! Nominations for Listening Panel Participants: Each District will nominate up to 2 people from their district to be considered for a spot on the listening panels for..**
 - State S&E Large Ensembles (usually nominated by ED) - after adjudicated event at State S&E (for all of the **alternates** from all sites)
 - Outstanding Choir - All-State (usually nominated by ED)
 - Choral Hour (usually nominated by President Elect)
 - Specialized Choral Hour (usually nominated by Dir. Spec. Events)
 - From S&E: All State MT Large Ensembles

- From S&E: All State MT Solos & Duets
- PAID: All-State Jazz (Jed) - auditions
- PAID: All-State MT Honors Ensemble (Megan, Lyn, All State Director) - auditions
- PAID State Honors Choir Traditional
- PAID All-State Honors Choir Traditional? **Isn't this the same as State?**
 - **NOTE: Nomination DOES NOT guarantee a placement on a listening panel.**
- **D4 Nominations:**
 - Angel Gippert - Honors Choir (State, All State), Choral Hour, S&E Large Ensembles (no Jazz or MT)
 - Cherub Beard - ANY besides Jazz
 - Anthony Funaro - ANYTHING besides Jazz
 - Phil Johnson - Specialized Choral Hour / Jazz
 - Julie Malloy - ANY
 - Jolene Plotzke - Honors Choir
 - Mary Rashid - MT
 - Greg Cleveland - MT
 - Bailey Tallman
 - Sarah Stockton
 - April Tini - Jazz
 - Ashley Ward - ANY
- **ACDA Fall Conference**
 - ACDA MI Fall Conference October 17-18, 2025
 - Alma College
 - Early bird registration deadline Sept. 30
- **Upcoming PD events:**
 - Adjudication Conference
 - October 25, 2025 8a-1p
 - Grand Ledge Beagle MS
 - Registration on the MSVMA website
 - If you are interested in becoming an adjudicator, email **Kelli Falls** to learn more!
 - MMC: January 22-24 @ Grand Rapids
 - Adjudication conference Jan. 22 8a-1p
- **NOMINATIONS**
 - Honors Choir Directors (2028)
 - 678 SA -
 - 789 SSA - Kristen Burton, Angel Gippert
 - 789 TTB - Ryan Dawley, Emerick Dee, Jeff Zurkan
 - HS SATB - Matt Callaghan, James Pecar, Julian Goods, Mike Mitchell
 - HS SSAA - Megan Eldrige-Woolsey, Erin Stier
 - HS TTBB - Matt Callaghan, Mike Mitchell
 - All-State MT - Greg Cleveland, Mary Rashid
 - Teacher of the Year

- Phil Johnson, Brandon Ulrich, Emerick Dee, Ashley Ward
 - Emeritus
 - Jeff Danner, John Beck, Jan Broderson
 - Reaching for the Stars
 - Jan Boswell
- **OPEN DISCUSSION/TOPICS TO BROUGHT UP AT NEXT BOARD MEETING**
 - Can MS and HS students do a duet for MT S&E? Can you do this for Classical too? **There is no rule against this, so we are going to say yes, but will follow up!**
 - Can we allow 6th grade to do all events? **We are writing a proposal for the Board to approve**
 - Don't like December audition for all State! **Have their State Honor Choir retest/part check at MMC be their All-State Audition. Ask 1-2 people to be the judges for a single voice part (i.e. ALL sopranos 1s) Score based on tone and memory. Needs to be approved by Anna Bolton. Brian is aware and will contact Anna about this and keep us posted.**
- **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER (F.T.G.O.T.O.)**
 - **2025 SR Books:** Free to new homes!
 - Facebook group - join! MSVMA District 4 Family
- **NEXT MEETING**
 - Monday, June 8, 2026 (Craft Breww City, Farmington Hills)

**Will try to have on west side of district in the fall and on east side of district in the spring*
- **ADJOURNMENT:**
 - Motion to adjourn: Cherub
 - 2nd: Anthony
 - 3rd: Angel
 - Time: 6:48 PM