



Cate Gasco
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State Choral Festival East Coordinator
Supervisor of Musical Theatre
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District 4 - Fall Meeting 2026

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Social Hour 4:00 PM

Meeting 5:00 PM

Beerhead (Novi) - 44375 W 12 Mile Rd, g157, Novi, MI 48377

AGENDA

- **CALL TO ORDER**

- Time: 5:15 PM
- Motion: Sam Samuels
- 2nd: Anthony Funaro
- Members
 - Cate Gasco
 - Sam Samuels
 - Jolene Plotzke
 - Maggie Reed
 - Bailey Tallman
 - Dianna Hochelle
 - Tracey Turney
 - Cherub Beard
 - Abha Dearing
 - Anthony Funaro

- **APPROVAL OF SPRING MINUTES:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sHliuf0iBFUUPzW-gYCf6OOWON8Y0OwwYfL6A-OMfM/edit?usp=sharing>

- Motion: Bailey Tallman
- 2nd: Maggie Reed

- **FINANCIAL**

- Fall starting balance: \$13,117.83

- **UPCOMING DEADLINES**

- Membership Dues
 - **September 15, 2026**
- Carolyn Leep Scholarship:
 - **Application due May 15, 2027**

- Pursuing an advanced degree or a interested in enrolling in a non-degree choral music institute or workshop
- An MSVMA member with at least three years teaching experience in Michigan
- Able to return to MSVMA activities after using the scholarship
- **Areas of study include**
 - Choral Conducting
 - Composition, with emphasis on Choral/Vocal Music
 - Vocal Music Education
 - Church Music with Vocal/Choral emphasis

- **MSVMA 2026-2027 EVENTS**

- Please see 2026-2027 MSVMA CALENDAR
 - (Found on website → RESOURCES → DOCUMENTS → OTHER)
- **HONOR CHOIRS:**
 - **6-7-8-9**
 - Online auditions open September 14, 2026
 - SA Birdsong, TTB Come Travel With me, SSA If Ye Love Me (*backordered! Must have for Region Day and provide POP to get a PDF in the meantime*) + clinic pieces
 - *If a 9th grader decides to go the MS track, are they required to stay MS track all year (as in S&E, Honor Choir, etc.)? The answer is no; they can go MS Honor Choir Track, but participate in HS Solo and Ensemble.*
 - **Auditions deadline October 11, 2026**
 - East and West Regional rehearsal and concert 9a-1p October 24, 2026
 - State Fees and forms deadline November 6, 2026
 - Rehearsal November 7, 2026, TBD 10a-4p
 - Rehearsal November 21, 2026, TBD 10a-4p
 - Rehearsal January 9, 2027, TBD 9:30a-4p
 - Rehearsal and Performance @ MMC
 - **HS**
 - Online auditions open September 1, 2026
 - Audition selection: "Sicut Cervus" - Palestrina (ed. Hofstadter)
 - **Auditions deadline October 8, 2026**
 - Region acceptance announced October 13, 2026
 - Regional Honor Choir/State auditions registration deadline October 30, 2026
 - Regional Honor Choir December 5, 2026
 - State Honor Choir registration deadline December 18, 2026
 - State Honor Choir rehearsal and performance January 21-23, 2027 @ MMC
 - **HS All-State Jazz**
 - Auditions open October 14, 2026
 - **Auditions deadline October 30, 2026**
 - Results posted November 6, 2026
 - Registration deadline November 20, 2026
 - Rehearsal December 13 (tentative), 2026 @ Rockford HS
 - Rehearsals and performance January 21-23, 2027 @ MMC

- **Musical Theatre Honors Ensemble**
 - Online auditions open November 2, 2026
 - **Auditions deadline December 4, 2026**
 - Registration deadline December 18, 2026
 - MMC rehearsal January 20, 2027 8am-7pm
 - All-State rehearsal and performance May 13, 2027
- **SPECIALTY EVENTS:**
 - **Musical Theatre Intensive**
 - October 3, 2026 @ Thurston HS
 - **Application deadline September 15, 2026 - Extended through tonight**
 - **Musical Theatre S&E (East)**
 - November 14, 2026 @ Oxford HS
 - **Application deadline October 2, 2026**
 - **Transfer Deadline for Musical Theatre S&E: 9/15 if you want to perform at a different site than Oxford**
 - **Vocal Jazz Intensive**
 - October TBD @ TBD
 - **Application deadline October TBD**
 - **Chamber Choir Festival**
 - November 10, 2026 @ Oakland University
 - **Application Deadline October 15, 2026**
 - **A Capella Festival**
 - October 21, 2026 @ Ann Arbor Skyline HS
 - Registration opens August 15, 2026
 - **Registration deadline October 1, 2026**
 - **Art Song Intensive**
 - October TBD, 2026 @ Detroit Opera House
 - Registration opens August 15, 2026
 - **Registration deadline September 15, 2026 - extended to**
 - **Music Theatre Audition Workshop**
 - September 26, 2026 @ Ann Arbor Huron HS
 - Registration opens August 15, 2026
 - **Registration closes September 12, 2026**
 - **Music Ed/Vocal Performance Audition Workshop**
 - September 26, 2026 @ Dewitt HS
 - Registration opens August 15, 2026
 - **Registration deadline September 12, 2026 - extended to 9/17**
- **DISTRICT EVENTS:**
 - **Transfer Deadline for District Events: November 15**
 - **Note:** Registration for all D4 events will open and close on the same day - 12/4, not 12/11 - I will work hard to get BOTH schedules done around the same time so you can get ahead of bus requests
 - **NOTE:** Pianists! Limit 5 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 29-30, 2027**

- West Bloomfield HS (Jolene Plotzke, Host)
- Registration opens Oct. 1, 2026; **Deadline: December 4, 2026**
 - **Is there any consideration of separating MS and HS for S&E?. 2**
districts do this, but usually in April - *will explore for 27-28 school year and discuss tonight*
 - Members express that if it was in May, some MS teachers would be more likely to attend
 - *Break down how many HS and MS participate - if we decide to split it, talk to Adjudication about who is certified for what*
- **D4 JH/MS & HS Choral Festival - March 17-19, 2027**
 - Wednesday-Thursday March 17-18th at Walled Lake Northern HS (Ashley Ward, Host)
 - Friday March 19th at Waterford Kettering HS (Courtney Laird, Host)
 - Registration opens Oct. 1, 2026; **Deadline: December 4, 2026**
- **STATE EVENTS:**
 - **Transfer Deadline: February 15** - ALL State Choral and S&E events will now be at specific sites. Ours are below:
 - **State S&E (East) - April 9-10, 2027**
 - Site: Most likely Anchor Bay HS - TBD
 - Lily Slayton, Coordinator
 - Registration opens TBD
 - Deadline March TBD
 - **State Choral Festival (East) - April 28-29, 2027**
 - Marysville HS
 - Rachel Quillian Host, Cate Gasco Coordinator
 - Registration opens TBD
 - Deadline TBD
 - **All State Festival : May 13-15, 2027**
- **MSVMA Website**
 - Has been refreshed and should all follow the same formatting.
 - New: Social Media Request (under the Resources Tab)
 - New: Parent Portal. Please let the State Office know if you'd like to see anything in particular on that page!
 - Clinician/Consultant payment process has been updated (Professional Development Tab).
 - *Tempo!* Has been refreshed. If anyone has anything to submit for *Tempo!*, please email Membership & Office Coordinator Kathy Balch: kathybalch@msvma.org
 - Rubrics have all been updated (District, Specialized, State, and Honors Choir). You can see them all under the Resources Tab. This update also includes moving Honors Choir adjudication to follow our MSVMA rubric. Listening Panels moved to following our MSVMA rubric in 2026-2027.
 - We have some members very interested in starting/re-introducing advocacy groups within our organization! If you would like to be a part of a Black Caucus, a Neurodivergency Group, or any other specific category, please reach out to Executive Director Brian Leduc: brianleduc@msvma.org

- **OTHER BUSINESS**

- ACDA Fall Conference
 - ACDA MI Fall Conference October 9-10, 2026
 - Alma College
- Upcoming PD events:
 - **Adjudication Conferences:**
 - Saturday, October 17, 2026, 8 AM - 1 PM @ Grand Ledge High School
 - Thursday, January 21, 2027, 8 AM - 1 PM @ Michigan Music Conference
 - AFTER conference is attended, attend an inservice to complete your adjudication:
<https://msvma.wildapricot.org/Adjudication-Inservices>
 - **Fast Track:**
<https://msvma.wildapricot.org/Adjudication-Fast-Track>
 - **September 24, 2026 - 7:15am - 3:00pm @ Jackson Northwest High School**
 - **MMC: January 21-23, 2027 @ Grand Rapids**
 - **D8: Choral Creativity w/ Stuart Hill - September 28th (deadline September 21)**
 - At Okemos HS
 - For directors!
 - Carolyn Leep Scholarship 2026 Donation Amount **(\$1,000 proposal)**

- **OPEN DISCUSSION**

- Feedback?
 - Dates keep switching (last year was early March and then it was late March); could we possibly be on a rotation? *I will ask*
 - SO many events. Are we doing too much? SO many overlapping dates and deadlines. Would it help to have parents be in charge of registering kids for things? Or would it start to blend together? Parents could chaperone? *All good thoughts I will share.*
 - Since so many schools have the 9-1 time limit for CF, could judge lunch be pushed back to 1 PM? Other ideas for what to do about bussing issues? *I will ask*
- Announcements?
 - Ron - Weiler Creative Media - reach out for concert video and recording needs
 - Thoughts of bringing back a TTBB and Treble Day - possibly pair up with D16 and D15; Community sponsors? **Will send out a Feedback Form again for people willing to host/coordinate/sectional**
 - Recommend Clinician Consultant Program - \$200 reimbursement
 - Could pool with other districts to bring in a clinician for a day
 - Pay then show proof of payment after the fact (picture of the check or invoice) and MSVMA will reimburse; **must be on the approved list (on the website)**
 - Apply for \$500 mini-grant

- Help with two-school membership
 - Gave away ~10 \$500 mini grants last year **include links**
 - Abha - Dearing Concert Duo dearingconcertduo.com
- Any other business?
 - Julie Malloy brought up having a Region Choir day in the fall to break into sections and learn/rehearse the piece - will put together a form before September; looking at Sunday afternoon (or Saturday), 2-4 PM? Shrine willing to host for no cost - **Will reach out about this**
 - Spoke with Matt Smith about the possibility of having a D4/D16 MS Solo and Ensemble in May instead of January; will poll members this year and look to do this next school year 27-28
- **New Members/Old Members in New Roles**
 - Sam Samuels (Groves HS and Berkshire MS)
 - Sydney Timmer (Scranton MS)
 - Savannah Durham (White Lake MS)
 - Ava Hayes (Marian HS)
- **NOMINATIONS**
 - **Upcoming Honors Choir Directors:**
 - **2027**
 - 678 SA - Eric Floetke
 - 789 SSA - Kathryn Becksvoort
 - 789 TTB - Rachel Niewada
 - HS SATB - Dr. Brandon Ulrich
 - HS SSAA - Julia Holt
 - HS TTBB - Dr. Derrick Fox
 - **2028**
 - 678 SA - Ryan Dawley
 - 789 SSA - Natalie Smith
 - 789 TTB - Jonathan VanEck
 - HS SATB - Matthew Callaghan
 - HS SSAA - Megan Sinclair
 - HS TTBB - James Pecar
 - Honors Choir Directors (2029) -
 - 678 SA - Katie McKimmy, Meghan Gallagher
 - 789 SSA - Carolyn Carrano
 - 789 TTB - Andrew Schaefer, Emerick Dee, Jeff Nelson
 - HS SATB - Julian Goods, Mike Mitchell, Bailey Tallman
 - HS SSAA - Carolyn Gross, Ashley Paul, Jeff Nelson, Bailey Tallman
 - HS TTBB - Mike Mitchell, Phil Johnson
 - President-Elect (current Matthew Callaghan)
 - Matt Smith
 - Treasurer (current Julia Holt)
 - Julia Holt
 - Secretary (current Zach Everly)
 - Zach Everly

- Director of State Events (current Matthew Snell)
 - Matt Snell
 - Director of Specialized Events (current Megan Sinclair)
 - Megan Sinclair
 - Director of All-State (current Amy Schroeder)
 - Amy Schroeder
 - Teacher of the Year
 - Julian Goods, Jeff Nelson, Phil Johnson
 - Emeritus (Retired; Taught vocal music or been actively involved with a choral music program for twenty-five or more years; May have spent part of his/her career as a supervisor, coordinator, chairman or director of a school music program which includes choral music; Demonstrated significant service to MSVMA; Spent part of their careers in Michigan and with credit given for choral teaching or supervising and active vocal music organization membership in other states.)
 - Doug Armstead?, Todd Schreiber
 - Reaching for the Stars (a member who has demonstrated extraordinary volunteer service to the mission of MSVMA, going above and beyond normal expectations; rarely given and necessitates *extraordinary* service “lifetime achievement” vibes)
 - Todd Schreiber
 - Listening Panel (2 nominations only)
 - Cherub Beard - everything but Jazz
 - Tracey Turner - everything but Jazz
 - April Tini - JAZZ!! Anything
- **Farewell and THANK YOU!**
 - Any retirees this year?
 - **2026 SR Books:** Free to new homes!
 - **Next meeting:**
 - **Location Ideas**
 - Proposed dates/times:
 - Monday, June 7, 2027 (Farmington Hills - Craft Breww City)

**Will try to have on west side of district in the fall and on east side of district in the spring, or open to a consistent central location*
 - **Adjournment:**
 - Motion to adjourn: Bailey Tallman
 - 2nd: Dianna Hochella
 - Time: 6:30 PM