March 26-28, 2020
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Mississippi Music Educators Association and Mississippi American Choral Directors

Present

A Conference You Won’t Want To Miss

Here are a few reasons why...

- Performances by Gulfport High School Choir, DeSoto Central High School Choir, Delta State University Choir, Ole Miss Choir
- All State Honor Show Choir Performance
- All State Elementary Honor Choir Performance
- All State Junior High Treble and SATB Choir Performances
- All State High School Treble and SATB Choir Performances
• All Collegiate Honor Choir Performance

• Professional Development Sessions by ALL of the following outstanding presenters:

**Franklin Willis - Hip Hop in the Orff Classroom**
Learn new, practical, and relevant strategies to incorporate Hip Hop into your general music curriculum. By using the Orff methodology, I will share how to effectively merge the best of both worlds. Do you feel like you have the Orff teaching approach mastered, but would feel uncomfortable bringing Hip Hop into your classroom? Well, this session is for YOU! I will give you standards based, student approved, and fun filled activities to take back to your classroom. You will leave this session educated and empowered to teach Hip Hop in the Orff Classroom!

**Jeron Stephens - Teacher Favorited, Student Approved**
Building a choir program from the ground up can be a tough process. Selecting the most effective repertoire to both engage and encourage your students can prove to be the largest challenge of them all. In my three years of teaching, I have handpicked a selection of music that has both excited and challenged my students. During this reading session, attendees can except a variety of repertoire catered towards new and growing choir programs approved by the most honest critics of all: middle school singers.

**Hannah Gadd Ardrey - Giving Your Concert a Dose of Vitamin P: Publicizing, Programming and Pacing**
Presenting multiple concerts a year can become routine and put a damper on anyone’s creativity. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, Vitamin P is a solution to ail your concert woes! With one dose of Vitamin P, you can give your concerts the boost of energy you’ve been looking for. We will explore steps on how you can implement Vitamin P effectively into your concerts, creating an atmosphere that leaves you recharged, your students excited and your audience begging for more!

**Toney Keeler - Your Strongest Suit: Costuming and Attire for Choral Ensembles**
Your Strongest Suit: Costuming and Attire for Choral Ensembles is an interest session that focuses on attire suggestions for show choirs, choirs, pop a cappella groups, and directors. 4 choral directors with experience that spans the spectrum of levels --- Middle School, High School, and Collegiate are here to offer ideas, suggestions, and tricks of the trade for all of your costume questions. With so many options to choose from, ensemble directors can often feel lost when it comes to selecting attire for their ensembles. This interest session will feature "Do's and Don’ts" of costume attire, a round-table discussion for directors to ask questions and share information, as well as suggestions for products and vendors.

**Ashley Allen & Amon Eady - Sources of Job Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction Among Public School Music Educators**
This research-into-practice session is designed to explore job satisfaction and teacher stress, and to discuss ways of coping with stress and burnout effectively. The study to be discussed was conducted in order to identify elements of job satisfaction and dissatisfaction in public school music educators. Participants (N = 4, men = 2, women = 2) were selected from two Midwestern states and represented a variety of years of experience, types of music classrooms, and settings. Each participant was interviewed twice, with a time span of one month between the interviews. Results indicated that student achievement, rapport, and respect were main sources of satisfaction. Factors of dissatisfaction noted were feelings of inequality and lack of control over time and resources. Other themes, findings, and conclusions from the study will be discussed in the session, along with strategies for managing stress and staying fulfilled as a music education professional.
Eric Johnson - From First Note to Last Concert: Raising a Middle School Singer Through Repertoire
Repertoire is our choral textbook, but its sequencing is often not laid out in a cut and dry manner. The building of musical skill sets and literacy through a structured approach to repertoire is crucial to developing a well-rounded singer. We will be exploring how to develop harmony in an easy to access framework of steps and how to look for these steps in literature for differing levels, voices, and skill sets.

Let’s Hear It For The Boys! Strategies for Developing A Thriving Men’s Choral Program
A men’s choir, specifically at the middle school level, is a very special and important part of any choral program. This session will explore techniques for recruiting young men, assessing voice classification, and building comradery amongst singers. It will equip teachers to design a daily rehearsal flow that will address the unique nuances of the all-male choral ensemble.

Robert Sims - High School Reading Session and Junior High Reading Session
These reading sessions offer accessible repertoire to fit all choral programs. They include music from several time periods, genres, and voicings. The purpose of these sessions is to offer new repertoire ideas to choral directors across the state.

Hillery Price - 5 Ways to Engage Middle School Music Students
Explore the intersection of technology and project-based learning for increasing engagement and retention in middle school students. In this session, participants will learn strategies for incorporating modern music, digital resources, and projects to not only teach core musical concepts but to also highlight the power of integrating technology in the music classroom! You’ll walk away ready to meet your students where they are, using the music and devices already in their possession to address age-appropriate concepts and skills while inspiring a connection to music that will last a lifetime.

Elizabeth Hearn - Is Bigger Better? A Rationale for Maintaining Choral Ensemble Identity
Due to staffing issues, scheduling challenges, and many other external and internal forces currently impacting choral music programs, there exists a trend nationally toward choral teachers combining individual, curricular choir classes to create larger (bigger) ensembles for performances and especially for performance assessment. This practice appears to be especially prevalent in regions and areas where choral programs are underfunded and lacking in support. Regardless of whether this approach is a result of personal preference or a response to the many real-world challenges choral teachers face, important pedagogical, artistic, and developmental issues exist that should be considered. This session will examine some of those issues as it presents a rationale for maintaining choral ensemble identity as much as possible. It will include a discussion of the positive and negative considerations experienced by choral educators in the field who regularly combine curricular ensembles for performance.

Dr. Josef Hanson - Learning Theories for Today’s Music Classroom: A Real-World Approach
Is how we teach aligned with how students best learn music? The most effective music educators develop theoretical understanding of how people learn, and then consciously incorporate this understanding into their lessons. At this session, participants will review established learning theories, discover new ones, and work together to translate them into real-world approaches for the music classroom and rehearsal hall. Theoretical perspectives highlighted through hands-on activities will include several from the Conditioning, Social Cognitive, Constructivist, and Motivation/Self-Regulation families of pedagogical thought. This interactive session will provide opportunities to collaborate, create, and contemplate.
Dr. Mitchell Davis - *We're Going to Sight Read… The Concert? An Exercise in Conceptual Teaching*

Have you ever felt like you are working on the same things over and over again, rehearsal after rehearsal, only to have them fall apart at the concert? This session is inspired by the presenter’s own experience challenging an ensemble to sight read a concert. Sight reading will be presented as an effective tool for challenging students to internalize and transfer learned concepts. Strategies to incorporate sight reading into every phase of an ensemble-class lesson—warm ups, new skills and knowledge, application, assessment, and closure—will be presented. Moreover, the session will focus on the conceptual teaching and learning that must precede sight reading. Our discussion of conceptual teaching and learning will work through teaching global concepts which can be applied to many musical instances rather than teaching an instance of a global concept. We will also explore how to sequence learning tasks to promote independent musicianship. Finally, sight reading will be revisited as an application and assessment of student learning.

Jason Sulliman - *More than Just a Game: What Educators can learn from the Gaming Industry*

In this presentation, I give a summary of modern online games (using Clash of Clans, Call of Duty, World of Warcraft, etc. as examples) and demonstrate how the multi-billion dollar industry of gaming has figured out successful ways to cultivate resilience, motivation/delayed gratification, long-term planning, cost/benefit tradeoff application in practice, etc. along its members. Designers understand the place for failure as a fun tool for learning among people of all ages and backgrounds. It’s not just a waste of time- the gaming industry has done what music educators have been trying to do with music programs. The carry-over may surprise you. By the end of this session, you will be armed with understanding how and why people buy into the long-term dedication of developing their gaming chops and will be better equipped to apply the same concepts to your teaching strategies to increase retention and get your students to dig in to their practice sessions.

Brandon Cash - *I Have the Job, What to do Next? "Teaching Choral Music in an Urban Setting!"

The prevailing discourse surrounding teaching urban choral music education suggest the deficit-lade notion that urban school settings are “less than, “different than, “their counterparts (Fitzpatrick-Harnish, 2015). In pursuit of providing all students with meaningful music experiences, teachers of students of low socioeconomic status (SES) areas can experience both stratification and dissatisfaction. Because many students in urban areas are from low SES, music instruction could be particularly beneficial. Equal access to music education for all students is necessary because arts education is essential for the creation of well-rounded engaged citizens of the world (Doyle, 2014). This interest session will explore strategies step-by-step on how to build a successful choral program in an urban setting.

Dr. Keith Dye - *Implementing Technology with Ensembles: It's easier than you think!*

Does the idea of introducing technology to your ensemble evoke nightmarish visions of mountains of prep work, device incompatibility issues, and content creation? Software, like any other tool, should maximize instruction time and make your job easier, not harder. During this session, we’ll introduce you to a single-sign-on platform, compatible across all devices (even mobile!), which integrates seamlessly with your favorite software tools, includes expertly curated content, and enables you to track student growth over time. We’ll also explore the teacher-specific productivity tools, including a digital gradebook, automated assessments, a drag-and-drop calendar, in-platform communication, and unlimited file storage.

**Student Assessment Made Easy**

This session will be an analysis of tried and true music assessment practices and how they can be readily quantified through use of digital technologies on a multitude of devices. Attendees will leave knowing a variety of options, many at no cost, and most importantly, how to implement these as organic elements of instruction.

Hillary Ridgley - *Developing a Community of Empowered Literate Musicians: RHYTHM*
Far too often students are musically illiterate when they enter the ensemble setting and directors aren’t sure how to develop elementary skills in younger and older students. Working from the premise that students learn musical skills in much the same order as they do language skills, participants will explore how we ‘learn’ music through hearing and imitating patterns before reading and writing. The TAKADIMI rhythm-pedagogy system, a beat-oriented system, will be incorporated. The rhythm syllables can easily be adapted to the K-Collegiate general music and rehearsal settings. Empowering every student to be able to read, write, improvise and perform independently allows every voice to be a valuable and equal contributor instead of a bystander, as well as providing every voice with the opportunity to experience and celebrate musical excellence.

**Developing a Community of Empowered Literate Musicians: TONAL**

Helping students become musically literate is central to the choral and instrumental curriculum. While there is much agreement about why we should teach sight singing, there is less agreement about how we should teach those skills. Are we teaching students to be independent musicians or savvy symbol decoders? This session will present real world concepts to implement a sound before symbol approach to teaching tonal literacy—an approach that will help students learn to read music from the inside out. A sequence of pitch exercises will be presented to aid the development of tonal skills. Empowering every student to be able to read, write, improvise and perform independently allows every voice to be a valuable and equal contributor instead of a bystander, as well as providing every voice with the opportunity to experience and celebrate musical excellence.

**Creating Community Through Choral Text**

The foundation of choral music is the connection between the music and the text. In performance one of the challenges directors encounter is engaging the choir in expressing the text, and for the singers to invest in the text and music. In this session text will be explored in a two-prong approach: (1) Mechanics of the text and (2) Connection to the text. Creative and practical strategies for engaging singers in expressing, understanding and unifying the text will be explored. Every director strives to develop a choir in which each and every voice has the opportunity to experience and celebrate musical excellence. Refining the mechanics of text and choir text transfer allows for each choir member’s voice to be equally heard and valued. Through this exchange, members can find commonalities and learn to value differences, resulting in greater community.

**Dr. Mark Malone and Janet Kennedy – The Director Is IN**

Collegiate members are welcome and encouraged to attend and grow from this session!

Stations with Veteran Directors to welcome small groups of 3-4 teachers to visit

Time Frame: 12 minutes, then switch twice

Directors: give brief (3 minute) background on teaching experience

Visitors: ask questions of veteran teachers such as:

- what piece of music was a “winner” for choral competition?
- how did you manage a large number of singers in a choral situation?
- what do you think is the best approach to teaching sight-reading?
- demonstrate three of your favorite vocalises
- open the floor for other questions

**Jennifer Davis – Mississippi Solo and Ensemble Masterclass**

Soloists and Ensembles selected as OUTSTANDING PERFORMER from the judge (s) will have the opportunity to work with a high quality master teacher in a master class setting. Each performer/ensemble will take about 10 minutes and there will be about 5 performances. The clinician will discuss techniques for improvements and give ideas for fresh ways to keep repertoire fresh and performance-ready.

**David Row - The Art of Possibility: Expanding and Exploring our Horizons**
There are hundreds of ways to teach a song! In this workshop we'll take some of our favorite folk songs and look at them from all angles, exploring the possibilities in each lesson. Could we add instruments? Could we include a dance? Could we modify the song’s form? Could we change the tempo? You'll walk away with some new songs and lessons as well as the skills and resources to revitalize old favorites.

**Kids That Dance (and Teachers too!)** Children are inherently wiggly and giggly but getting them to dance or move in creative ways isn’t always an easy task. Too often, lessons involving movement that should be fun become embarrassing, boring, or out of control. This session includes quick and easy strategies to get kids dancing and moving freely. We'll explore folk dance, creative movement, lesson scaffolding, tips, tricks, and more!

**Divide and Conquer: Utilizing Learning Centers in the Elementary Music Classroom**
Learning centers can be a wonderful tool for teaching and reinforcing concepts but setting up those centers can be a nightmare. It’s easy to get bogged down with the questions about logistics – the how, where, why, and when. Come to this session to learn tips and tricks about creating/organizing centers, integrating small group learning into your curriculum, and some strategies for assessment.

**Sing, Play, Think! Critical Thinking for Everyday Learning**
Impress your administrator, improve student learning, and gain confidence when you make critical thinking a priority in your classroom. Whether you are playing instruments, singing, dancing, or reading music you can encourage critical thinking with a few basic teaching strategies. This session will cover tactics like effective questioning, wait time, transfer of knowledge, and think alouds. You’ll walk away with resources and ideas to integrate strategic thinking into all your lessons.

**Jennifer Davis and Carrie Owens - Filling Big Shoes: How to Have a Successful First Year With an Established Program**
Are you ready to make a move to a new school? Are you thinking about moving from middle school to high school? Are you looking for some fresh ideas to make connections with students? Please join Jennifer Davis, Starkville High School and Carrie Owens, Newton County High School as we discuss Filling Big Shoes.

**Dr. Lindsey Berthiaum – Learning Through Play and Rigor**
Learning through play and rigor has staying power for students. In this session learn tools of the trade and leave with ready to go resources for your elementary music classroom. Learn how to repackage active listening, composition, music history and theory to engage the modern student.

**Elementary Reading Session and Elementary Division Meeting**

**Junior High Reading Session and Junior High Division Meeting**

**High School Reading Session and High School Division Meeting**

**Pop A Cappella Reading Session**

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser**

**Guest Speaker: Rodney Eichenberger**