

# MENC Northwest Division Conference 2009



## Spokane, Washington Session Descriptions



### Choir

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The 2009 MENC Northwest Division Conference has more than 160 sessions with participants from 30 states and Canada. While only one or two areas of interest are indicated in the program, many sessions overlap. This list will indicate some of the sessions that are of particular interest to the listed area.

### Choir

Thursday, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

#### MENC NW Event

##### *Choral Educators Reading Session*

Presenter: Gary Weidenaar, Central Washington University, Ellensburg WA

Wallace Long, Willamette University, Salem OR

Camille Blackburn, Accompanist, Idaho Falls ID

Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue. Repertoire which includes a variety of styles and difficulty will be presented. Bring your voices, talk is cheap - this is about the music, lots of good music. Much of it for mixed choirs, but there will be a few women's and/or men's pieces as well. Music provided by J W Pepper, Tacoma.

Friday, 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

#### Choir

##### *Taking Your Choir to Festival: An Adjudicator's Perspective*

Presenter: John Weiss, Bismarck State College, Bismarck ND

Reginald Unterseher, Freelance Musician, Kennewick WA

Randel Wagner, Eastern Washington University, Cheney WA

This panel discussion will cover what choral adjudicators look and listen for regarding tone and vocal technique, diction and pronunciation, balance, blend, repertoire selection, stage deportment, and how the adjudication process can benefit your program. It will also suggest what constitutes being a good adjudicator and how to present an "instant," yet successful, 5-10 minute choral clinic.

#### Choir

##### *Sleeping on the Gym Floor: Choir Retreats for Young Singers*

Presenter: Christine Hroncich, Camelot Elementary School, Federal Way WA

Would you like your choir to be a more cohesive group? Do you wish you had more time to teach? Plan a retreat for your elementary or middle school choir! Discover the many benefits of a retreat and how to make it work for you. Participants will receive specific information for in-depth planning, addressing common concerns and garnering support.

#### Elementary, Choir

##### *Choral Reading Session: Elementary Choirs*

Presenter: Michele Paise, University of Idaho, Moscow ID

This choral reading session will enable participants to read through a variety of choral literature suitable for 4th- and 5th-grade choirs. Sight-singing techniques, age-appropriate warm-ups and tips for working with the child voice will be integrated throughout the session.

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**Friday, 8:30 AM-9:30 AM (Continued)**

## **General Interest**

### ***Solving Rhythm Problems in the Instrumental and Choral Ensemble***

Presenter: **Garwood Whaley, Meredith Music Publications, Galesville MD**

This clinic presents a comprehensive program for wind, string, percussion and voice teachers to share transferable rhythm skills enabling any individual or ensemble to perform complex rhythms at sight. The end result is development of rhythmically fluent students, capable of performing rhythms from any style or historical period. Sponsored by Hal Leonard.

**Friday, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM**

## **Choir - Oregon President's Choice Session**

### ***Style and Performance Practice in Choral Repertoire***

Presenter: **Stephen Coker, Portland State University, Portland OR**

A practical and effective conference presentation on choral style, performance practice and related rehearsal techniques applied to Renaissance, Baroque and Classical choral literature. Attendees will receive a helpful outline and numerous choral works and excerpts to sing in the session.

## **General Interest**

### ***Rehearsal Discipline for Your Toughest Customers***

Presenter: **Jerome Welenc, Toledo School for the Arts, Toledo OH**

Time- and field-tested strategies and procedures to use for students who don't respond to gentler methods or who are chronic disruptions in your class or rehearsal.

## **General Interest**

### ***Behaviors in Communication***

Presenter: **Sandra Howard, University of Missouri Kansas City, Kansas City MO**

Effective communication for music professionals is crucial to building school music programs, interacting with students, parents and administrators. This session will focus on a highly regarded communication model by humanistic psychologist, Jack Gibb, that outlines defensive and supportive behaviors. Interactive scenarios and active personal reflection will be included as part of the group discussion.

## **General Interest**

### ***What's New in Music Technology 2009: A report from NAMM***

Presenter: **Mike Klinger, Synthesis Midi Workshop, Carson WA**

Mike Klinger, just returning from the recent 2009 NAMM convention, shows and demonstrates the latest advances in music technology.

## **MENC NW Event**

### ***Special Performance, Vocal Ensembles***

Performing Group: **Meadowdale High School Impressions, Lynnwood WA, Jeff Horenstein, Conductor**

**Havre High School Belles Voix, Havre MT, Patrick Ryan, Conductor**

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Friday, 2:15 PM-3:15 PM

#### Choir

##### ***Balance, Blend and Vocal Voodoo: A Principled Approach to Achieving Ensemble Unity***

Presenter: Frank Eychaner, Colorado Christian University, Lakewood CO

Participants will learn essential principles for creating a unified ensemble sound. Issues to be addressed will include standing positions, conducting gesture and its impacts, principles and techniques to unify vowels, consonants, dynamics, pitch and resonance, and how rhythm issues affect blend. Specific techniques and exercises to facilitate unity will be discussed. Participants will receive a generous resource packet.

Friday, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

#### Choir

##### ***Learning Music Their Way: Choral Connections with South Africa***

Presenter: Kathy Robinson, University of Alberta, Edmonton AB

This workshop will give participants a hands-on experience with traditional South African choral dance songs appropriate for upper elementary, secondary and university students. Cultural context, translation, pronunciation, movement and strategies for learning each song aurally will be presented by indigenous musicians via videotape prepared in collaboration with several Galeshewe choirs known for their excellence at the provincial and national level.

#### Choir

##### ***It's All About Sight-Singing: Great Choirs are Good Readers***

Presenter: Jack Halm, Bellevue School District, Bellevue WA

Joel Ulrich, Bellevue Christian School (Retired), Bellevue WA

For 6-12 choirs: How to make sight-reading an essential part of your rehearsal and the benefits of doing so. Materials available, methods and strategies for success. It's more than just having a sight-reading book. It is all about the rehearsal and incorporating reading intervals and hearing them. Solfege or Numbers? They can both work!

#### Choir

##### ***The Dynamic Duo: Choral Conductor and Accompanist***

Presenter: Timothy Fitzpatrick, Western Washington University, Bellingham WA

This session explores the relationship between choral conductor and accompanist and offers strategies for creating a more effective interaction between the two. Specific tricks of the trade will be discussed using excerpts from a variety of scores to illustrate ways in which an accompanist can more efficiently assist in rehearsal and ways in which a director can maximize their accompanist's ability to provide the kind of support needed.

#### Conducting

##### ***A New Hierarchy for Conductors***

Presenter: John Falskow, Tacoma Community College, Tacoma WA

This presentation will propose and explain a highly personal and unique hierarchy of values for conductors. Traditionally, conductors have focused studies on score knowledge and baton technique. Most collegiate conducting classes explore body language, the power of gesture and the discipline of score study and analysis. But this presentation will offer and alternate hierarchy of values for conductors and music educators to consider.

#### General Interest

##### ***Telling Isn't Teaching; Asking Isn't Assessing: Nonverbal Teaching and Performance-Based Assessment Strategies to Improve Pedagogical Performance***

Presenter: Molly Weaver, West Virginia University, Morgantown WV

"Hands-on" survey and review of effective and efficient nonverbal teaching strategies and performance-based assessment procedures that will improve the quality of teaching and learning in classes and rehearsals.

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**Friday, 4:45 PM-6:00 PM**



## **MENC NW Event**

### **Choral Concert Hour**

Performing Group: **Madison High School Bel Canto, Rexburg ID, David Hinck, Conductor**  
**Whitworth University Choir, Spokane WA, Marc Hafso, Conductor**

**Saturday, 8:30 AM-9:30 AM**

## **Choir**

### **Rehearsal Blues and Blahs**

Presenter: **Timothy Seelig, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX**

Have you been singing the blues over rehearsal technique? Well, get on board and look at rehearsals in a whole new light. What we do as choral directors is like being travel agents. We choose delightful destinations, but we don't always make the journey as enjoyable or exciting as the destination. We spend days, weeks and months en route to a destination, stay an hour or two and start all over. It's time we re-tooled for the trip. This is your Triple R – Rehearsal, Rehabilitation and Rescue.

## **Elementary, Choir**

### **Proven Materials from the Music Room**

Presenter: **Pam Faletto, Somerset Elementary School, Bellevue WA**  
**Carol Whitworth, Chinook Middle School, Bellevue WA**

The best of the best for elementary general music and middle school choir. Two veteran teachers will share their favorite materials including books, theory, sight reading and history materials, warm-ups, music and CDs.

## **General Interest - Montana President's Choice Session**

### **Classroom Management: Making the "System" Work for You**

Presenter: **Dennis Granlie, Great Falls Schools (Retired), Great Falls MT**

A retired music supervisor shares classroom management techniques and strategies gleaned from observing more than 100 teachers in their classrooms over the past 14 years. Besides practical approaches to classroom management, the session handout also provides additional resources for help with management and discipline.

**Saturday, 9:45 AM-11:00 AM**

## **CMENC**

### **Making an Advocate Out of Your Principal: Ten Things You Can Do on Monday**

Presenter: **Marcia Neel, Music Education Consultants, Las Vegas NV**

This informative, inspiring presentation was developed after a district-wide survey which asked principals what they appreciated most about their music educators and what one area that teachers could improve. Learn how the principals responded along with practical, proven ideas to build and maintain the teacher/administrator relationship.

## **MENC NW Event**

### **Choral Concert Hour**

Performing Group: **Casper Children's Choir, Casper WY, Marcia Patton, Conductor**  
**Pacific Lutheran University Choir of the West, Parkland WA, Richard Nance, Conductor**

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Saturday, 12:15 PM-1:15 PM

#### Choir

##### *Rehearsers as Choral Chameleons*

Presenter: Gary Weidenaar, Central Washington University, Ellensburg WA

95% of a group's time is normally spent in rehearsal, but all rehearsals are not created equal. Using a live high school choir, Dr. Weidenaar will conduct four 5-minute rehearsals, each with a different focus and discussion between each rehearsal: 1) "How NOT to rehearse" (a synthesis of bad rehearsal techniques), 2) a "how to rehearse" rehearsal, 3) presenting musical concepts for long-term understanding and 4) rehearsing to learn things as quickly as possible.

Performing Group: University High School, Spokane Valley WA, Russ Seaton, Conductor

#### General Interest

##### *No Need to Start from Scratch!*

Presenter: Stephanie Standerfer, Shenandoah Conservatory, Winchester VA

Lisa Hunter, Buffalo State College SUNY, Buffalo NY

This interactive session will assist ensemble directors in uncovering the state or national standards naturally embedded in quality repertoire. Standard choral and instrumental pieces serve as examples for developing practical, standards-based teaching ideas for ensembles.

#### General Interest

##### *What does my school administrator "really" expect of me?*

Presenter: Timothy Yontz, Wheaton College Conservatory, Wheaton IL

Do you ever wonder what your administrators really expect of you? Having recently served for four years as a school administrator, Timothy Yontz gives you an inside view of the world of school administration. He provides practical ways of reasoning with the good, the bad and the downright ugly so you can better serve your students.

#### General Interest

##### *Unleash the Influence of Empowerment through Student Leadership Training, Part 1*

Presenter: Neal Schnoor, University of Nebraska, Kearney NE

Unleash the power of student leadership and open the door to highly rewarding rehearsals while touching students' lives in truly meaningful ways. This session presents an overview of a leadership model taught to thousands of students at band and choral clinics. Directors attest to truly transforming effects in both rehearsals and students' personal lives.

Saturday, 3:15 PM-4:15 PM

#### Choir

##### *Nutrition for Singer and Soul*

Presenter: Timothy Seelig, Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX

This session will lead you step by step from the beginning of posture right through to the final blending of heavenly and healthy voices. Packed with fun and humor, you will find you have learned a great deal and will be armed with a new and practical arsenal of methods to improve your singing and that of your chorus.

#### Conducting

##### *Essential Anatomy and Kinesiology for Every Conductor*

Presenter: Nicole Lamartine, University of Wyoming, Laramie WY

The workshop will explore major muscle groups, joints and bony structures involved in conducting. We will explore common conductor physical habituations paired with self-diagnosis and correction of non-efficient movement patterns. The attendees will learn a selection of exercises to increase skill, strength and body engagement for efficient and effective communication.

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**Saturday, 3:15 PM-4:15 PM (Continued)**

## **General Interest**

***Unleash the Influence of Empowerment through Student Leadership Training, Pt. 2***

Presenter: Neal Schnoor, University of Nebraska, Kearney NE

Unleash the power of student leadership and open the door to highly rewarding rehearsals while touching students' lives in truly meaningful ways. This session presents an overview of a leadership model taught to thousands of students at band and choral clinics. Directors attest to truly transforming effects in both rehearsals and students' personal lives.

## **General Interest**

***Making Music Amidst the Madness: Rediscovering Our Musical Self***

Presenter: Milton Allen, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston IL

Music educators are quitting at an alarming rate. Arts education is in crisis. Low pay, poor conditions, helicopter parents, competition pressures: is this what you thought it would be like? Come reflect, recharge and/or rediscover that original passion for music. Enjoy an inspiring session that examines our personal musical journey and what impact that has on our students.

**Saturday, 4:30 PM-5:45 PM**

## **General Interest**

***How is Your Float, Flick, Dab and Punch? Using Laban-based Principles of Movement to Improve Nonverbal Conducting Technique***

Presenter: Timothy Yontz, Wheaton College, Wheaton IL

A practical, hands-on conducting clinic designed to strengthen participants' nonverbal communication through the application of movement principles inspired by dance choreographer Rudolf Laban. The concepts are applicable to all areas of music education. Participants should be prepared to actively take part during this fast-paced clinic.

## **MENC NW Event**

***Choral Concert Hour***

Performing Group: Ferris High School Canterbury Belles, Spokane WA, Barbara Tappa, Conductor  
Oregon State University Meistersingers, Corvallis OR, Hal Eastburn, Conductor

**Sunday, 1:15 PM-2:15 PM**

## **General Interest**

***Upgrade Your Band, Orchestra or Choir: Cutting-Edge Composition for the 21st Century***

Presenter: Jack Halm, Bellevue School District, Bellevue WA

Aaron Faletto, Bellevue School District, Bellevue WA

This session will introduce you to composition software for use with your band, orchestra or choir. We will give you the tools to get started, including How-Tos, worksheets, lessons and approaches to composing. You'll hear student samples from grades 6-12, and walk-through the actual composing procedure. Take your students' basic knowledge of music elements and expand their horizons!

**Sunday, 4:15 PM-5:15 PM**

## **Choir**

***Ruining Voices? How to Audition and Place Singers in Your Choir***

Presenter: Randel Wagner, Eastern Washington University, Cheney WA

Avoid damaging voices through proper classification and placement. Learn ways of determining voice types and abilities of singers (changed voices and older) for the choral ensemble.