

MENC Northwest Division Conference 2009



Spokane, Washington Session Descriptions Orchestra



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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.

Orchestra

Thursday, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

MENC NW Event

String Educators Reading Session

Presenter: Nicholas Wallin, Washington State University, Pullman WA
Luis Millan, University of Montana, Missoula MT

Bring your instruments and read some forgotten treasures and some new gems from the repertoire! We will explore both "oldies-but-goodies" and recent highlights of the orchestra catalogue in a fun, informative setting. Music provided by J W Pepper, Tacoma.

Friday, 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

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.

Instrumental

If Only They Could Play "By Ear" - Imagine the Possibilities!

Presenter: Molly Weaver, West Virginia University, Morgantown WV

Experience the music teaching and learning benefits of playing "by ear" as well as "by eye." "By ear" proficiencies improve musical memory and can lead your students to improved performance of all elements of music. Discover the means to promote and strengthen creative musicianship in your program.

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.

Friday, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM

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.

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Friday, 1:00 PM-2:00 PM (Continued)

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.

Orchestra

Practical Motivation Strategies for Young Music Educators

Presenter: Rick Stamer, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff AZ

What teacher-initiated motivation strategies do students perceive as effective in stimulating them to learn? Practical strategies (from research) that stimulate student motivation will be presented and discussed in detail. Four categories of motivational factors: (1) Creating a Nurturing Environment, (2) Providing Feedback, (3) Assigning Meaningful Repertoire, and (4) Presenting Appropriate Challenges will be addressed.

Friday, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

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

Improving Conductor-Ensemble Communication through Thoughtful Warm-Ups

Presenter: Timothy Robblee, Washington State University, Pullman WA

Many directors decry the lack of responsiveness from their ensemble to their conducted gesture. In the belief that warm-ups are often the cause of this poor communication, this session will explore methods of utilizing warm-up time to achieve desired learning and playing goals while simultaneously making ensembles MORE responsive to the conductor's gestures.

Performing Group: Mount Spokane High School Wind Ensemble, Spokane WA, Scott Jones, Conductor

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.

Instrumental

The Three E's of Instrumental Music in Challenging

Presenter: Kevin Mixon, Blodgett K-8 School, Camillus NY

Feel like you're climbing "up" the "down" escalator lately? Strategies will be shared to help maximize instrumental music program success while accounting for challenges such as low student motivation, behavior problems, inadequate rehearsal time, heterogeneous lesson groups and varied student skill levels. Sponsored by Alfred Publishing.

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Friday, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM (Continued)

Orchestra

Vibrato Can't Be Taught - Or Can It? Strategies for Teaching Vibrato in the Heterogeneous Orchestra

Presenter: Kathryn Hoffer, Anchorage School District, Anchorage AK

ALASKA PRESIDENT'S SESSION This session will include a survey of vibrato teaching tools applicable to all four string instruments and how to apply the methods in a class setting. The session will be most beneficial with an instrument in hand.

Friday, 4:45 PM-6:00 PM

MENC NW Event

Orchestra Concert Hour

Performing Group: Crescent Valley Camerata, Corvallis OR, Charles Creighton, Conductor
University of Wyoming Chamber Orchestra, Laramie WY, James Przygocki, Conductor

Saturday, 8:30 AM-9:30 AM

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.

Instrumental

Building Strong Instrumental Ensembles with Curricular Integration

Presenter: Kevin Mixon, Blodgett K-8 School, Camillus NY

Keep your ensemble on the list of school essentials! Increase student interest, deepen ensemble experiences, meet standards and garner strong support for your program through curricular integration. Field-tested strategies will be shared that will enable you to begin easily from scratch or expand existing endeavors in any ensemble setting. Sponsored by Alfred Publishing.

Instrumental

Music for Life: The Importance of Small Ensembles

Presenter: Michael Levine, Dallas Brass, Dallas TX

The Dallas Brass discuss how small ensembles open the door to the future for many young musicians, especially hobbyists. This clinic focuses on the multiple benefits of playing in small ensembles, in terms of musicianship, leadership and future opportunities. Discussion will include repertoire and ideas for developing a successful small ensemble program.

Orchestra

The School Orchestra's Guide to Exquisite Intonation

Presenter: Kristin Turner, Ball State University, Muncie IN

This session will present activities and strategies string teachers can use (and MUST use) every day to sharpen students' ears and improve their ability to manipulate and adjust pitch. As skills develop, teachers can turn responsibility for heightened pitch sense and producing exquisite intonation over to the students for ultimate ownership of group intonation. The subject can be addressed through multiple avenues of musical endeavor with exercises, games and demonstrations.

Performing Group: Whitworth University String Orchestra, Spokane WA, Phillip Baldwin, Conductor

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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

Orchestra Concert Hour

Performing Group: Boise High School Chamber Orchestra, Boise ID, Wendy Hartman, Conductor
University of Oregon Symphony Orchestra, Eugene OR, Wayne Bennett, Conductor

Orchestra

From Blah to Bam! Engaging the Unengaged String Player

Presenter: Carrie Michel, Central Washington University, Ellensburg WA

Often string players fail to connect emotionally with the music due to a limited understanding of what the music is trying to convey. The Kairos Quartet will explore ways to help young musicians more fully invest themselves in the music by using such tools as narrative, choreography and popular culture.

Saturday, 12:15 PM-1:15 PM

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.

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

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.

Instrumental

Expect More, Give More: The Effect of Expectations and Feedback Specificity on Low Achievers

Presenter: Mary Ellen Cavitt, Texas State University, San Marcos TX

Do students labeled as low achievers in beginning instrumental music classes receive less specific, non-contingent feedback? Does this in turn create an environment where low achievers have fewer opportunities to improve? We will discuss how effects in education activities and early learning experiences predict current learning activities, motivation and achievement.

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Saturday, 12:15 PM-1:15 PM (Continued)

Instrumental

Getting the Most from Rehearsals: Before, During and After

Presenter: Timothy Robblee, Washington State University, Pullman WA

Nicholas Wallin, Washington State University, Pullman WA

This session will focus on techniques to get the most out of your orchestra and band rehearsals. The presenters will focus on three main areas: 1.) Pre-rehearsal strategies: • Developing outcome-based rehearsal plans • Score study tips, 2.) Rehearsal techniques: • Non-verbal communication • Empathetic verbal communication, 3.) Post-rehearsal strategies: • Analyzing rehearsal videos • Listening assignments • Adjusting rehearsal plans

Instrumental

Successful Strategies for Exceptional Learners in Ensembles

Presenter: Kevin Mixon, Blodgett K-8 School, Camillus NY

Every student counts! Field-tested modifications, adaptations and other practical solutions will be shared that will help directors meet challenges presented by diverse learners and help them become productive, valued members of the instrumental music ensemble. Sponsored by Alfred Publishing.

Orchestra

Orchestra Rehearsal Laboratory

Presenter: Mark Laycock, Wichita State University, Wichita KS

Employing a demonstration ensemble, this session is designed to showcase creative rehearsal techniques in a practical setting. Issues explored include active listening, self- and peer-assessment, transfer of skills and developing expressive musicianship.

Performing Group: Whitworth University String Orchestra, Spokane WA, Phillip Baldwin, Conductor

Saturday, 3:15 PM-4:15 PM

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.

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.

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.

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

Orchestra

Building Winning Orchestras

Presenter: Mark Laycock, Wichita State University, Wichita KS

Which characteristics distinguish the finest orchestras? These advanced ensemble techniques—well beyond just “notes and rhythms”—are among the factors that elevate an orchestra to the upper echelon of peer ensembles. This session will explore these characteristics, providing practical suggestions for their implementation. Subject areas explored include articulation, expression, bow management, harmonic weight, balance, tempo and rhythm. Examples from the standard orchestral repertoire.

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

Instrumental Concert Hour

Performing Group: Hellgate High School, Missoula MT, John Combs, Conductor
Eastern Washington University Wind Ensemble, Cheney WA, Patrick Winters, Conductor

Sunday, 1:15 PM-2:15 PM

General Interest

But I Don’t Have 10,000 Hours! Small Group Practice Techniques that Share Improvement

Presenter: Scott Backus, Tye Middle School, Bellevue WA

Practical applications for high school and later-middle school shared improvement via sectionals or mini-ensembles breaking out to practice repertoire excerpts: both instrumental and vocal techniques. Ideas for use 3-4 times over a term to display assessment and clear, significant improvement. Handouts for vocal and instrumental include descriptions, technique applications/sectional feedback forms/assessment grids.

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!

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Sunday, 2:30 PM-3:30 PM



Orchestra

Classroom-Based Performance Assessment for Strings

Presenter: Lanette Shepherd, Monticello Middle School, Longview WA

Connie Noakes, Monticello Middle School, Longview WA

Classroom Based Performance Assessments tailored for instrumental students with an emphasis on bowed stringed instruments. Rubrics for various string techniques, such as vibrato, shifting, bow hand posture, left hand posture, styles of bowing, tone quality and intonation as well as rubrics for rehearsal readiness and etiquette.