



TEMPO

CMEA Bay Section

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Back to School Edition



National Association
for Music Education

EDITOR'S NOTE

Leah Musker



Greetings Bay Section music teachers,

My name is Leah Musker and I am the new Tempo Editor for CMEA Bay Section. I am excited to be joining CMEA and sharing information with our membership about the happenings within our section.

I currently teach K-4 elementary general music in Palo Alto Unified School District after teaching general music and beginning instrumental music in Dublin USD. I love getting to share and create joy through music with my students and to help provide them with fundamental music skills that they can carry with them not only through the rest of their education, but also throughout their lives.

Our Fall edition of the Tempo Magazine includes letters from our Executive Board and Special Area Representatives welcoming us to another year of music and sharing about the great things to come in CMEA Bay Section this year.

Please read on to hear about some exciting new things on the horizon!

Leah

PRESIDENT

Sandra Lewis



Greetings CMEA Bay Section Members,

I hope that you have had a restful summer with time to relax and reflect on all that happened over the past school year.

A few months ago, I was looking at the end of May as a symbolic finish line. While I started to prepare for the end of the musical school year I realized that not only was I thinking about the upcoming school year but I had also begun to plan for the Bay Section “season”.

I reflected on some of the challenges that we experienced as well as the many successful events and festivals that Bay Section hosted this past year.

This was my first year as acting president and I must admit that I had my share of “bumps” as well. I am very grateful for the support of the CMEA State Board. When our school Zoom no longer had unlimited minutes, Trish Adams the CMEA State Executive Administrator graciously helped our section out by logging on our board meetings with the State Zoom link. I am also grateful for Anne Fennell for her wonderful Keynote presentation at the Bay Section Winter Conference in January.

Also, crucial to our success this year was the unwavering support that I received from our Full Board and of course the expertise and knowledge of our Executive Board.

The many years of experience from our current Bay Section executive board definitely helped keep the year running smoothly. I would like to publicly recognize and acknowledge Keith Johnson, Past-President; Craig Bryant, President Elect; Angelina Fitzhugh, Secretary; Paul Lorigan, Executive Secretary and Bruce Lengacher, Adjudication chair. Our current Treasurer Tim Walker had to leave this year due to health concerns but I am happy to say that we now have a new Treasurer, Joe Kelly whose enthusiasm and interest makes me grateful for his willingness to accept the position.

I look forward to seeing you at our Winter Conference in January as well as at the many festivals that CMEA hosts. It is our privilege to serve such a great section of music educators. The best of luck as you begin another year’s journey of teaching a very important subject so that all students have the chance to express themselves through the language of music.

With Gratitude,

Sandra Lewis

CMEA Bay Section President

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Craig Bryant



Greetings CMEA Bay Section Members!

My name is Craig Bryant and I am proud to serve as President Elect for CMEA Bay Section. I teach instrumental music at Albany High School and Albany Middle School in Alameda County. I hope you've had a great start to your school year. I'm just finishing up my third week with my students and feeling very positive about things. The biggest change on our campus seems to be the increased familiarity and confidence students show with everyday routines and activities. This makes the process of getting down to music making so much easier and fun. I hope you are feeling some of this at your site as well.

My role on Bay Section supports the executive board and special representatives in hosting our annual Winter Conference. We have worked together as a board to put together a great collection of professional development sessions and repertoire reading sessions for this year's conference, all framed with the goal of building camaraderie and a positive network for music educators in the Bay Area. Please nominate your students for our Conference Honor Groups. They provide an exceptional experience for your students, and they will bring so much back with them from the weekend. Please also consider nominating a worthy colleague for recognition with one our Bay Section awards. Announcements about this information will be coming out via email soon and can also be found on our website.

The real benefit of being a CMEA Bay Section member is being part of an incredibly supportive music education community. Whether you are new or have been around for 30+ years, we need you to continue that wonderful tradition. Please plan to attend the Winter Conference, January 5th-6th at San Jose State University to reconnect with your colleagues. This is especially important for our newer colleagues in the area, so veteran teachers please reach out to folks who might be new in your part of the Bay and bring them on board. Lastly, the rumors are true, and as CASMEC moves earlier in the year (and closer in Sacramento!), we will be working this school year to re-vamp our Bay Section Conference. More on this in the next few months. For now, I wish you a great Fall semester with your students filled with music and fun.

Craig Bryant
CMEA Bay Section, President-Elect

TREASURER

Joe Kelly



Welcome to the 23-24 School Year fellow CMEA Bay Section Members,

I am Joe Kelly and in June I was appointed to my new role as Bay Section Executive Treasurer effective the new fiscal year in August. I am excited to work with all of you in a very different way. Though I have lots of experience serving our profession, this position will come along with newly learned skills so bare with me as I grow into the new role. I look forward to seeing many of you at our January conference and at our spring festivals. My long term plan is to make the financial part of what we do as smooth and efficient as possible.

As an educator, I have been the band and orchestra director at Fremont High School in Sunnyvale since 2000 and I previously served on the Bay Section Board as an Area V Rep in the mid to late 2000s. I hosted a Solo and Ensemble Festival for a few years and am now a site host for a current Band/Orchestra Festival. I served on the Santa Clara County Band Directors' Association Board for 11 years as Vice President, President and Past President and though I am no longer on that board, I am still involved by being the site host for our annual Honor Band Auditions. I have also served as a site rep, site president, and district president for our local Teacher's Union. I also have been a participant in WASC as a visiting team member and committee chair in recent years.

Outside of school, I remain an active performing artist playing my French horn regularly as the principal horn with the Cambrian Symphony (over the summer we got to record Mahler 5 at Skywalker Sound), a section member of the San Jose Wind Symphony, and subbing for groups/friends when able. I have also music directed numerous musicals with WVLO and SBMT, most recently "Singin' in the Rain" this past May and June. I reside in Sunnyvale with my wife and two daughters, the oldest who is now a 9th grade trombonist in my band. That has already been a very cool parental experience.

If you should ever need anything from me regarding CMEA Bay Section financial matters, please email me at treasurer@cmeabaysection.org. For any other matters, feel free to reach out to me at my school email, joseph_kelly@fuhisd.org.

Let's have a great year,
Joe

ADJUDICATION

Bruce Lengacher



Welcome back to the new school year! I hope you all had a relaxing and recharging summer. Large Ensemble Festival registration will roll out in early September on our new registration portal that can be found on the Bay Section Website.

One of the tools we use to maintain adjudication standards is the adjudication evaluation form that you get after you attend a festival from the site host. It's important to listen to your recordings and consult your score sheet to accurately assess the quality and usefulness of each adjudicator's comments. Your feedback allows us to identify issues that we can address and, in doing so, improve the quality of our adjudication process and your overall festival experience.

At Winter Conference at SJSU on January 5 and 6, 2024, we will be presenting two sessions. One will be a festival do's and don'ts for festival attendees and site hosts. The other session will be an overview and refresher for adjudicators and directors to reacquaint everyone with the rubric and festival procedures.

I will be assigning judging panels to confirmed festivals by the beginning of September and will fill in panels for other festivals as they become confirmed.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about festivals, repertoire, or anything adjudication.

Wishing you all a rewarding and musical year!

Bruce Lengacher

CMEA Bay Section Adjudication Chair

BAND

Jorge Jimenez



Greetings CMEA Bay Section members and colleagues!

My name is Jorge Jiménez and I am continuing this year on the CMEA Bay Section Board as Band Representative. I am very excited to be continuing in this role and look forward to helping our organization move forward with a fantastic year of music education! I currently teach instrumental music (Band, Orchestra, Jazz Band, AP Music Theory) at College Park High School in Pleasant Hill, Contra Costa County. This is my 13th year in the Mount Diablo Unified School District and 19th year overall as a music educator. As I work to provide representation for our Bay Area band directors, I do hope to continue to meet as many band teachers as possible!

Just a few items to remember as this fall semester gets going...

CMEA Festival Registration

Don't forget that registration for the spring 2024 CMEA festivals opens on Wednesday, September 6 at 4:00pm. You will be able to access the registration link at our CMEA Bay Section website soon.

Winter Conference 2024

Our annual CMEA Bay Section Winter Conference will take place January 5-6, 2024 at San Jose State University. I encourage all bay area band teachers to consider attending. We will have four conference sessions dedicated to topics related to teaching band as well as our Conference Honor Band for students in grades 7 through 9. Information about the nomination process for the Honor Band will be posted on our website and will be sent out via email from our Assistant Band Representative, Brittany Shankle (Las Lomas HS, Walnut Creek).

With that, welcome to the new academic year and I hope everyone has a great fall semester!

Sincerely,

Jorge Jimenez,
Band Representative, CMAE Bay Section
College Park High School, Pleasant Hill

CHORAL

Jenni Gaderlund



Hello Choral Colleagues!

My name is Jenni Gaderlund and I am your brand new Bay Section Choral Representative. I am beginning my 21st year as a choral educator at Graham Middle School in Mountain View. I also live in Mountain View with my husband Blake, and 3 kids (ages 16, 13, and 8), all of whom are forced to be involved in music at the K-12 level.

I also want to introduce you to our Assistant Choral Rep, Kate Huyzinga. Kate is beginning her 3rd year as a choral educator at Albany Middle School and High School. She lives with her fiancé, Sam and her rescue dog, Pixie.

As I begin to write this article, I have just dusted off my laptop from several weeks of neglect and have written my To Do list for going back to school. Yes, even after 20 years of teaching, I still plan and prep for the first days of school. By the time you read this article, those first days of school will have come and gone, and you'll already be well into developing the routines and procedures, and building the culture that will make your choral classroom a great place to learn!

What routines and procedures do you practice in your classroom? I am particularly interested in how my students enter and exit the classroom, as well as how they get on and off the risers throughout the period when needing to use the bathroom... or get water...or get tissues...(the list goes on...and on) without interrupting rehearsal.

How do you build your classroom culture? This is something that I prefer to happen organically, but "you make the weather," as they say, so I am intentional about greeting my students when they enter the room, building in time for games and interactions, and modeling "progress over perfection."

Why am I waxing poetic about classroom management instead of music? In my opinion, these are the things that make or break a student's experience in choir. Especially if that choir is *ahem* "a very popular place for your administrators to place students who don't have another elective to go into." I can say that in fewer words, but this is a professional article.

I am so happy to serve as your Bay Section Choral Rep for the next 2 years. I have plenty of wisdom to share about choosing repertoire, teaching music literacy, advocating for your program, classroom management, and more. Get in touch if you are in need!

ORCHESTRA

Richard Vaughn



Welcome Back!

By now, summer might seem for some of us a distant memory but take a moment to reflect upon something you did musically, just for yourself. My moment was singing Nathaniel Dett's Chariot Jubilee in Lisbon, Portugal with a combined choir under the direction of San Jose State's Dr. Jeffrey Benson. It was simply incredible and something I will always remember. That experience of beauty and joy is what we hope our students will be able to create for themselves, thanks to you! As I tell my students, music WILL take you all over the world!

Getting there, however, requires organization and planning which is why I always start of the Fall with a series of checklists: Parent Letters; Instrument Inventory; Ordering Music; Getting Instruments Out To Students; Performance Calendar; CMEA Festivals; Professional Development & Conferences; All-State and Bay Section Honor Ensemble Auditions.

It can feel overwhelming but knock off one or two each day and within a week, you can breathe a sigh of relief!

Speaking of Conferences & Auditions - make sure to already have on your calendar the CMEA Bay Section Conference & Honors Ensemble Concert at San Jose State on Jan. 5 & 6, 2024. There will be wonderful sessions, clinics and the opportunity to meet your fellow educators. I am proud to announce that the Honors Orchestra will be directed by Mary Dougherty of Berkeley High School. Besides leading the award winning Berkeley High School orchestra, Mary teaches and conducts at the BMUZ Berkeley Music Camp and Cazadero Performing Arts camp.

Look for sign-up & audition information for the Bay Section Honors Band and Orchestras to be coming your way soon.

As well, please note that the All-State submission deadline has been moved forward to Nov. 1 and that CASMEC will now be held in Sacramento from Jan. 31 - Feb. 4.

I hope that your school year is off to a great start! As your Orchestra Representative, feel free to reach out with any questions, <rvaughan@mpcsd.org>.

It is an honor to represent you!

JAZZ

Dave Gregoric



I am Dave Gregoric, Music Director at Mills High School and I am the Jazz Representative for the CMEA Bay Section. I look forward to working with the outstanding Kyoko Yamamoto to serve you as your Jazz Education team. This is an exciting time of the year. We all have prepared fabulous lessons for developing fun and engaging jazz ensembles with the hope of success.

Finding the right repertoire is something I put a lot of time into. Student success during the first rehearsals of the year is crucial and I use charts which are in the technical grasp of students returning from summer with “vacation” chops. I have a collection of charts I call the “Let’s remember how to swing” charts which I use to help students remember the past year’s technique and listening skills while not pressing range and technical issues. I use these charts to introduce swing feel, breaking down new rhythms and start level 1 improvisational instruction (basic blues, modal, guide tones, etc). I also have experienced students (who need a challenge) to practice memorizing 4 bar phrases in the charts (advanced sight reading skill).

I really encourage you to scaffold your repertoire development. I begin with style/concept, fundamental improvisation and guided listening drills embedded in accessible arrangements. I also use the early weeks to teach students how to do sectionals. In the past I have taken for granted that all students already know how to do sectional. Now I make sure to visit sectionals to observe and help the leaders. I also meet with my section leaders and discuss progress and working points needed in each section and show them different ear training and skill drills they can use in their sectionals. Besides working on rep stuff, I also give assignments to sections to work on. For example, a simple dorian minor scale drill ascending and descending in a call and response between section leader and section. This gets the sections to think beyond individual parts and hopefully motivated to improve individual practice routines.

Warm Ups-

I was doing some cross curriculum observation and saw a math class warm up routine. There was a problem on the board and as students walked into the class they immediately just started doing math. Those students were engaged as soon as they sat down and the class began without a word from the teacher. This inspired me to have the first ten minutes of rehearsals be that productive. My “warm up” starts with the drummer starting a slow groove and while a student does a call and response on a descending F scale (solo F-E, band solo F-E, solo E-D, band E-D, solo D-C, band D-C etc). This long tone exercise (4 counts top note, 8 counts bottom) develops tone, intonation and blending. Our daily routine includes another exercise after the long tone drill which goes through brass flexibility exercises and sax/rhythm section work.

When I started teaching, I talked with everyone I could. Please contact me if you have questions or comments that I can help you with. Have a great year!

ELEMENTARY

Keith Hunter



Welcome back to what we all hope is our best year of teaching! My name is Keith Hunter and I've just entered my 12th year of teaching music and this is my second year on the CMEA Board as the Elementary Music Representative. Can't wait for our CMEA winter conference in January! I am nearly done finalizing our elementary presenters for this year's conference and I can't wait to share their incredible sessions with you.

I currently teach 5th grade band for all of the Palo Alto Unified School District elementary schools and am looking forward to working with my colleagues. Many of you may know that having the opportunity to work with others, collaborate, or co-teach is an incredible and helpful experience. If you do not have this opportunity, I encourage you to reach out to another teacher at your school or nearby district so you feel as if you are not alone. I am grateful to work with colleagues who have become friends and for being able to create music and great memories with them on a daily basis. This keeps me happy, energetic, and excited year after year. I hope you all have an amazing start to your school year.

HIGHER ED

Vu Nguyen



It's my pleasure to warmly welcome each of you as we start the new school year. For those who don't know me, I am the director of bands at the University of the Pacific, and it is an honor to serve as your Higher Education Representative once again. I'm excited to connect with you as we begin the journey of this new school year.

Our role as music educators is more than a profession; it's a calling to inspire, guide, and empower the next generation of musicians, artists, and citizens. As we prepare to greet our students and classrooms, let's take a moment to reflect on our unique impact and the remarkable journey ahead.

I've had the opportunity to conduct Carol Brittin Chamber's piece, *To Create a Voice*, with various bands in the last couple of years. It was written in memory and celebration of music educator Chris Anderson who taught for many years in Stockton. In the program notes, Carol writes that the piece was largely inspired by this specific quote from Chris:

"Most people would consider the sounds students first make on their instruments to be cringe-worthy, but to me, that's music to my ears because that's the first time students put a voice to their instrument. Over time those voices become stronger; they become clear, more confident, and get to a point where they use those voices to communicate with each other, and to their audiences."

Our classrooms are not just places of learning; they're spaces where creativity thrives, students find their voices, and lifelong connections are forged. As we share our knowledge and passion through music, we cultivate an environment where curiosity is nurtured, and students are empowered to take ownership of their musical journeys. In these moments, we have the opportunity to ignite a lifelong love for music and provide a supportive space for them to express themselves.

As we navigate this new year together, let's draw inspiration from one another. I encourage you to reach out to friends, colleagues, and mentors. The shared stories of success and resilience, innovative teaching methods, and the common bond of music education are part of what makes our community so rich. Thank you for your dedication and passion for music education. Here's to a successful and enriching year ahead, where we help to cultivate our students' voices.

INNOVATION

Casey Jones



Hello my fellow music teachers!

I hope you have had a great start to the school year. The start of a school year can be as exciting as it can be terrifying. I love seeing both new and returning faces and helping guide them through their musical journeys. If you don't know me, my name is Casey Jones, and I have taught in the North Bay for 10 years – elementary through high school levels. I am currently starting my fifth year at Analy High School, directing bands and orchestra as well as teaching a beginning instrumental class. I hope to present sessions that focus on non-traditional music classes at this year's Bay section conference.

In my second year of teaching, my principal tasked me with starting a beginning music class at the high school level. I had so many thoughts racing through my mind! Should I start with a beginning book and hot cross buns? If I do guitars and pianos, where am I going to get a class set of guitars? How do I deal with students who got dropped into the class? Well, that first class was thankfully 12 enthusiastic students, one who still DJs in the community (and although I have absolutely no DJing skills, I feel that I helped him get started in his “musical journey.”) Most recently I have taught a “beginning instrumental” class that builds an appreciation of many genres of music, as well as develops the skills for playing a variety of instruments. I am hoping to have a round table discussion on what “alternative” music classes can look like, and how we can better serve our school community, regardless of prior experience. If you have questions, ideas or suggestions (or if you'd like to just share your thoughts) do not hesitate to contact me at cjones@wscuhdsd.org.

In January, I hope the innovation sessions help you explore what it means to make music in your classroom with tools for better learning and engagement. I hope that you as an educator are trying to share music with as many students as you can, and that the innovation sessions can help you achieve those goals. Please join us on January 5th and 6th at San José State University. I am excited to bring knowledgeable colleagues together to share information and practices that will create the best experience possible for us and our students.

MULTICULTURAL

Emelynn Montoya



Greetings, music colleagues!

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I am Emelynn Montoya, and I am delighted to continue to serve as your Multicultural Music Representative for CMEA Bay Section. In the past I have been reaching out to teachers in South Santa Clara County as the Area VIII Representative and mistaken as both a student and a parent during CMEA festivals. Haha! This year, I am teaching 3 sections of choir, an ukulele choir, and beginning violin at Sierramont Middle School. I just started my 9th year, and I have already begun meeting my students who seem to be eager to learn new things!

I recently completed a project/performance with Choral Audacity titled More Than Able, under the direction of Darita Seth, which centered stories of persons with disabilities. It was an unforgettable and transcendent experience. At the same time I was completing my last online seminar of the Summer Masters Program at San José State University. This summer was busy but so invigorating! I'm looking forward to this school year.

As we start choosing repertoire for our concerts, remember to showcase the cultures in an authentic way. Look for culture bearers, folks having the lived experience of the culture, willing to share and teach the *context* of the piece as well as the diction of the text. Make sure that the piece fits within the context of the concert and time of year to begin with. Practice the diction, especially if it is not the language you grew up speaking. Your student musicians will appreciate your effort to learn. Learn with vulnerability and joy, and your students will follow you! Have a wonderful start to the school year. I hope to see you at the CMEA Bay Section Winter Conference in January.

Emelynn Montoya (she/her) is currently teaching choir, ukulele choir, and beginning violin at Sierramont Middle School. She earned a Bachelor's of Music with a double emphasis in Music Education and Vocal Performance and a Master's of Arts in Music Education from San Jose State University. She has sung with Choral Audacity, the San José State University Choraliers, Concert Choir, and West Valley College Masterworks Chorale in tours throughout California, Europe, and at Carnegie Hall. Emelynn serves as the Multicultural Music Representative for CMEA Bay Section. In her free time, Emelynn likes to bake for her partner and their effervescent and outgoing toddler.