



CMEA BAY SECTION  
Promoting the Advancement of Music Education

# TEMPO



**SUMMER 2024**

Winter Conference - NEW DATES  
November 15th & 16th, 2024  
San Jose State University

Festival Season Recap  
Turning of the Guard  
Winter Conference



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**Save the date!**

**CMEA Bay Section  
Winter Fall Conference  
November 15 & 16, 2024**



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# A LETTER FROM OUR EDITOR



Here's to another great year of music-making in the books! I am sure that most of us are ready to recharge as we head into summer. I hope that you are able to find time to spend on yourself, for yourself this summer.

I have enjoyed my time as editor of the Tempo this year. In this position I get the privilege to watch the exemplary educators who volunteer their time to the board brainstorm, formulate, and implesupport and opportunities for music students throughout the Bay Section. It is apparent that each an every one of the board members are passionate about music for all, always looking for avenues to better music education in our section.

In this edition of the Tempo you will see this in action as we transition into a new Executive Board, reflect on the festival season of this year, and look forward to a new era of the Bay Section Conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah Musker". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tempo Editor

**2024 Winter Conference**  
**San Jose State University**  
**November 15th & 16th**



# **SANDRA LEWIS**

## **PRESIDENT**

### **CMEA BAY SECTION**



Dear Bay Section Members,

This is my last article as Bay Section President, and I wanted to let the membership know what an honor and privilege it has been to serve on the Bay Section Board.

The past two years have certainly passed by quickly and I am so grateful for all that I have learned. As I leave this office to become past president and support our new incoming president, I am convinced that we have “turned a corner” since the pandemic and I look forward to the resumption of old routines as well as new challenges for our section.

The CMEA State Board recognizes all that our section does to support music and music education in our section. All of the success of our section would not be possible without the participation of our membership, along with the Bay Section Full Board and Executive Board. I would like to thank and acknowledge the following Executive Board members, Keith Johnson- Past President, Craig Bryant- President-Elect, Joseph Kelly-Treasurer, Bruce Lenacher-Adjudication, Angelina Fitzhugh-Secretary, Paul Lorigan-Administrative Secretary.

I am eager to see all of you at our conference this November and also the various festivals throughout this year. Please join me in supporting our new President Craig Bryant who will do an outstanding job!

The depth of knowledge from our membership continues even as leadership changes. As we move forward this commitment to music education along with the tradition of supporting our students, friends and colleagues will benefit CMEA Bay Section for many future years.

With Gratitude,  
Sandra Lewis



**Sandra Lewis, CMEA Bay  
Section President**

# CRAIG BRYANT

## PRESIDENT-ELECT

### CMEA BAY SECTION



### Who's ready for summer break!?

I hope this article finds you wrapping up the school year in a positive manner, enjoying the final concerts of the school year, and getting ready for a well deserved summer break. I am excited to take on the role of President of CMEA Bay Section starting next month. A huge thank you to our outgoing President, Sandra Lewis, for her positive leadership and organization these past two years. A thank you to our Past President, Keith Johnson, for his work as well. It has truly been a team effort from the entire board to “right the ship” in the wake of the pandemic years. I finally feel like we are back to where we were before it all started.

Our festival season was huge this year! We served 334 Bands/Orchestras , 71 Choral groups, and 49 Jazz ensembles at 26 different sites! We were also able to host our first Solo & Ensemble event since the pandemic with a full slate of events. CMEA Bay Section is truly unique in hosting the scale and scope of these types of festivals for our members. Thank you to all of the dedicated and hard working site hosts, our adjudication panels, and to all who attended a festival this year.

The annual Bay Section Conference is making the move to November. This is due to the expansion and earlier dates of CASMEC. I am thrilled we will be able to continue hosting professional development sessions and Conference Honor Ensembles at San Jose State University in a very similar fashion as in the past. The dates of the conference are November 15-16. A thank you to to the SJSU School of Music and Dance, and especially our official site host, Mr. Mark Lee (Graduate Assistant with the SJSU Bands). Registration for the conference, and student honor group nominations will open September 1st. Please add the conference dates to your calendar and be on the lookout for more detailed information about the event when the new school year begins.

I wish you a restful summer break, and look forward to serving CMEA Bay Section in my new role this coming Fall.

All my best,  
Craig Bryant  
President Elect, CMEA Bay Section



**Craig Bryant, CMEA Bay Section  
President-Elect**

# Festival Season Recap

Thank you to everyone in Area I for another great school year! As Area I Representative, I was fortunate to be able to attend and help coordinate our festivals in the North Bay. I'm sincerely appreciative to everyone who hosted, participated in, and judged. I was impressed by the positive, collegial atmosphere at our jazz, band/orchestra, and choir events. I look forward to involving even more schools and programs in 2024-2025!

Matt Verplaetse  
Area I Representative

This season was my first year being involved with CMEA. Having never attended a CMEA festival or the bay section conference I didn't know what to expect but boy did I have hopes. The two things I hoped for most when taking on the role of Area Rep for San Francisco and San Mateo counties was to build connections with fellow music educators in my area and get the opportunity to listen to their groups live. As an area rep, I got to do exactly that at our bay section festivals!

Cheers,  
Oliver Bishop  
Area VI Representative

It was such a great privilege to serve as an Area Rep for Bay Section this year. The festivals that I got to oversee were well organized, efficient, and fun. There is so much incredible music making happening in the bay area, and it is an incredible testament to all of the hard working students, teachers, and families and bay section. It makes me so proud and happy to be a music teacher in this area. I can't wait to see what the next school year holds for Bay Section!

Ben Scharf  
Area V Representative

# CHORAL

Jenni Gaderlund



## Summer Break is here!!

Veteran teachers know...these short weeks will fly by. How do we get the most out of them? As I thought about how I spend my Summer break, some patterns emerged.

**Rest:** As much as my 3 children will allow me, I do absolutely nothing. Sitting, reading, sitting in the sun, reading in the sun, sitting at the park, reading in the park. Sitting and reading are clearly my favorite ways to rest. What are yours? Prioritize rest!\*

**Recharge:** This Summer I plan to prioritize health and movement, and go on an epic road trip with my family. How do you plan to recharge?\*

**Reflection:** For me, no Summer is complete without just a little preparation for the coming school year. I spend time reflecting on what went well in my choirs, and what can be improved. I also spend time listening to Repertoire (another R!!) and getting inspired for the coming school year. There are so many songs I want to revisit with my choirs and also new songs to explore! It helps me get excited for the coming school year. I keep a running list of titles I am interested in on JW Pepper. Check it out here.

**Bucket List Professional Development?** One thing I'd love to do someday is attend some bigger professional development. Maybe a Summer Masters Program? Start working on that Kodaly Certification? I've always wanted to attend a Carol Kruger workshop in person! There are also usually reading sessions hosted by various publishers, and even conferences hosted by Choral Organizations.

As focused as we are on Summer Break, I want to make sure you know that the CMEA Conference is moving to November 2024. That means that nominations for our 7-9th grade Honor Choirs will be moving up to September. It's going to feel pretty quick after we start school, so start thinking about which kids in your program are deserving of a nomination!

I hope your Summer leaves you rested, recharged, and ready to ROCK!

\*Privilege Check: I want to recognize that many of us need to continue to work over the Summer "Break," and may not be able to indulge in the type of resting/recharging we wish we could. If you are in this situation, I hope you are able to create some smaller moments of rest if/when you do have time off!

# Higher Education

Vu Nguyen

In my welcome newsletter article at the beginning of this school year, I emphasized the profound impact of our work as music educators. We have the unique opportunity to inspire, guide, and empower the next generation of musicians, artists, and citizens – helping our students find their voice. As we transition into summer, I encourage you to take some time to rest and reflect. Reflect on the countless moments you made a positive difference in your student's lives and education, even through the inevitable highs and lows of the school year. I was fortunate to witness many of these transformative moments in the classrooms I visited this year.



I also hope that you found time last year to reach out to friends, colleagues, and mentors when you had wonderful and exciting news to share or need someone to lend an ear or provide encouragement. Our music education community is a vibrant network of friends and colleagues who are always ready to support one another. If you didn't do that during the year, the summer is a perfect time to reconnect and strengthen these bonds.

With the Bay Section Conference moving earlier into the school year, I am already contemplating possible presenters and topics for November. Over the last few years, presenters in the Higher Education area have covered a wide range of topics including conducting, instrument repair, mariachi, percussion technique, creativity, repertoire, student teaching, differentiation, and the community college system among others. What topics or presenters would you like to see at next year's conference? Your input is invaluable, so please don't hesitate to share your ideas.

Thank you for being so committed to music education. Remember that your hard work enriches the lives of your students and that you make a difference. Wishing you all the best for a restful and relaxing summer!



# Multicultural

Emelynn Montoya



Greetings, esteemed colleagues!

As we close out another school year, I am already looking forward to the next school year.

I worked closely with my school counselor to recruit for next year's classes. I also worked with my instrumental music counterpart to plan the music calendar to submit to admin before the last day of school.

I am also looking forward to recharging during the summer, getting outside more, hosting playdates, as well as performing in a Ho'ike with my daughter for our Halau.

As we ended a lot of our school site Professional Developments, here is an Optimistic close: I look forward to stepping into a school year where I am excited to meet lots of new students and show them how wonderfully diverse and beautiful music is.

# ELEMENTARY MUSIC

**By Keith Hunter**

As this year winds down, I am looking forward to spending time with family and rejuvenating for the next school year. I plan to go camping, complete house projects, and prioritize self care this summer. It is fun to see students planning to attend one of the many local music camp opportunities in our area and I am excited for those students to embark on those journeys as I once did long, long ago. I am also excited to devise new materials and plans for our incoming students for the 24-25 school year.

While wrapping up this year, I've noticed the excitement for this next chapter with the CMEA Bay Section. With the new conference timing, I hope this year will be better than ever. We have an amazing leadership team and we are already helping prepare for the Fall 2024 CMEA bay conference.



*Keith Hunter is the Elementary/General Music Representative for the CMEA Bay Section, and is a music teacher in the Palo Alto Unified School District in Palo Alto, CA.*