





2026				THURSDAY - JANUARY 29, 2026 Registration for AMEA Conference Open 4-6 p.m. — Palo Verde Lobby ABODA All-State Jazz Concert 7:00 PM @ Mesa Arts Center FRIDAY - JANUARY 30, 2026 Conference Registration open 7:30 a.m (Palo Verde Lobby) Exhibits open 8:00 a.m. - Coffee/Danish etc. available Session 1 - 8:30 - 9:20 (50 minutes)				2026													
~ABODA~ "Classroom Management in Real Life" - Rachel Scherrer ~Cholla~		~Collegiate~ "How to Get the Most Out of Your AMEA Conference Experience" Erin Cole Steele ~Ballroom D~		~ACE~ Kickoff session featuring VOCASOL Celine Durney & Katherine Rosenfeld ~Conference Theatre~		~ABODA~ "Practice Made Possible: Tools, Techniques, and Motivation for Today's Learner" Raine Hollingsworth ~Starlight~		~AzSGM~ "Universal Design in the Elementary Music Classroom" Bryson Tarbet ~Superstition Ballroom~		~AzSGM~ "Connection Over Control: A SongWorks-Inspired Approach to Classroom Management" Rachel Gunderson ~Apache~		~ABODA~ "How to Maximize Critique Sessions for Marching / Indoor Pageantry" Wardell King and Brandy Dubose King ~Sirrine~		~ABODA~ "More Than Music: Strategies for Early Career Success" Salvador Rodriguez and Jeffrey Malone ~Crismon~		"Tech Tools for Teaching in the 2020's How Incorporatig Apps, AI, and Digital Equipment Can Make Your Classroom Work Better" - James Harding and Sonja Lynne ~Robson~		~ABODA~ "YES! Even You Can Join the 108th Army Band, 'Arizona's Own' Part-time, Local, Professional." SSgt Casey Ehrler ~Pomeroy~			
Session 2 - 9:30 - 10:20 (50 minutes)																					
~ABODA~ "It's Time to Teach Music Production! Now What? Everything You Need to Know to Get Started" Matthew Lyons ~Cholla~		~ABODA Concert~ featuring Campo Verde HS Symphonic Strings Crystal Payne & Corona del Sol High School Wind Ensemble David DuPlessis ~Palo Verde Ballroom~ 9:30-10:30		~ABODA~ "Beyond Creativity - Using Improvisation for Assessment and More" Matt Lennex ~Starlight~		~Collegiate~ "Tips For Successful Programming At All Levels" Jamal Duncan and Jason Caslor ~Ballroom D~		~ACE Concert ~ fearuring Tucson Girls Chorus Mariposa Singers Jess Edelbrock & Betty H. Fairfax High School Vocal Ensemble Christopher Hughes and Andrez Alcazar ~First United Methodist Church~ 9:30-10:30		~AzSGM~ "Increase Community Engagement by Hosting a Family Folk Dance Night " Bryson Tarbet ~Superstition Ballroom~		~AzSGM~ "Harnessing the Power of Solfege in Your Teaching" Shelle Soelberg ~Apache~		~ABODA~ "Jazz Upright Bass Fundamentals" - Christopher Finet ~Sirrine~		~ABODA~ "Music for Resiliency: How to use Brain Science to Help Music Students Survive and Thrive in Stressful Times" - Allison Wilkinson ~Crismon~		~AzSGM~ "How to Thrive in Your First Year of Teaching Elementary General Music" Hannah Solomon ~Robson~		~AzSGM~ "Curriculum Development: The Core of Music Education" Emily Stanton ~Pomeroy~	
BREAK - 10:30 - 11:30 (60 minutes) Breakfast with the Vendors Free Continental Breakfast Musical Entertainment "108th Army Band, Front Line Jazz "																					
Session 3 - 11:30 - 12:20 (50 minutes)																					
~ACE~ "Antiqua Nova: Building a Bigger Buffet for the Modern Secondary and Beyond Choral Program" Vance Acker ~Cholla~		~ABODA~ "How Do I Teach Jazz Improvisation and Jazz Combo Skills?" Dr. Jeff Quamo and the Chandler HS Jazz Combo ~Conference Theatre~		~ABODA~ "Diagnosing your Orchestra: Common Pedagogical Ailments with Technique-Based Remedies" Raine Hollingsworth ~Starlight~		~AZSGM SHOWCASE PERFORMANCE~ Brisas Mallet Masters Tracy Werner / Lisa Sellers & Sahuaro High School Advanced Guitar Orchestra Philip Hemmo ~Superstition Ballroom~		~AzSGM~ "Celebrating Many Cultures & Traditions Through Music" Sylvia Munsen ~Apache~		~ABODA~ "Captive or Captivated? Keeping Your Audience In Their Seats" Jack Bannon ~Sirrine~		~Administrators Session~ "How Can Administrators Support Music Educators?" Scott Burgener ~Crismon~		~ACE~ "Beyond Squeaks & Breaks: Young Tenor & Baritone Technique" Timothy Westerhaus ~Robson~		~Collegiate~ "No Surprises! What to Expect after College!" Robert Herrings ~Pomeroy~					
Session 4 - 12:30 - 1:20 (50 minutes)																					
~ACE~ Steps and Leaps Towards Learner-Centered Music Programs - Evan Tobias ~Cholla~		~ABODA Concert~ featuring Pueblo Middle School Symphonic Band Arlie DuPlessis & Rincon/University HS Jazz Ensemble I Jeff Marchant / Dan Phillips ~Palo Verde Ballroom~ 12:30 - 1:30		~ACE & Collegiate~ "More Than Music: Building a Choir Family" Katie Gerrich, Joseph Johnston ~Conference Theater~		~ABODA~ "Stop the Slide! Tips for Quickly Improving the Quality of Any Trombone Section at Any Level" Dr. Matt Lennex ~Starlight~		~AzSGM~ "You Can Say It, You Can Play It! " Building Rhythmic Fluency Through Speech Thomas Murphy ~Apache~		~ACE~ "Sing Through the Change: Repertoire for Young TB Voices" Cassie Gonzales ~Sirrine~		"Show Me the Money: A Guide to Funding your Artistic Endeavors" Kelly Montaño & Mark Hodge ~Crismon~		~ACE~ "Choral Storytelling: Powering Expression & Connection Through Text" Timothy Westerhaus ~Robson~		~ABODA~ "Beats and Backing Tracks for Strings" Kelsey Nussbaum ~Pomeroy~					
AMEA HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON 1:30 - 3:00 Annual Awards Music Educator of the Year ~Arizona Ballroom~																					
Session 5 - 3:10 - 4:00 (50 minutes)																					
~ACE~ "Developing Expressive Singing and Independent Musicianship in the Rehearsal and Classroom" Sylvia Munsen ~Cholla~		~Collegiate~ "Changing Classroom Management Struggles Into Successful Results" Jon Gomez ~Conference Theater~		~ABODA~ "Orchestra Reading Session: Grade .5- 3.5" - Linda Levy ~Starlight~		~AzSGM~ "Recorders with Biscuits, Butterflies, and Bouncy Balls" Joshua Block ~Superstition North~		~AzSGM~ "Reaching the Reluctant: Making Music Relevant for Middle Schoolers" Bryson Tarbet ~Superstition South~		~AzSGM~ "Exploring Beyond the Notes" Nigel Croston (Quaver) ~Apache~		~ACE~ "An Unconventional Approach to the Urban Choral Classroom" Odell Zeigler IV ~Sirrine~		~ABODA~ "Behind the Judge's Table: Demystifying Adjudication for Music Directors" - Phil Lemar ~Crismon~		~ACE~ "It's Easier Than You Think: Practical Approaches to Vocal Jazz for Choir Directors" Marcy Spencer ~Robson~		~ABODA~ "Daily Drills that Develop Individual Fundamentals and Ensemble Skills" - Robert Herrings ~Pomeroy~			
Session 6 - 4:10 - 5:00 (50 minutes)																					
~ABODA~ "From the Neck Up: Building Better Single Reed Fundamentals" Kyle Jones ~Cholla~		~ACE Concert~ featuring Scottsdale Community College "ArtieVox" Jazz and A Cappella Choir Dr. Kira Rugen & Highland High School Concert Choir Katie Bortnem and Albert Lee ~Palo Verde Ballroom~ 4:10 - 5:10		~Collegiate~ "Developing Classroom Connections and Culture" Bill Humbert ~Conference Theater~		~ABODA~ "Beginner Jazz Improv for String Orchestra" Sue Buzzard ~Starlight~		~AzSGM~ "Maximizing Instructional Time Through Engaging Transitions in the Elementary Music Classroom" Bryson Tarbet ~Superstition North~		~AzSGM~ "Possibilities with Project Based Learning & Teaching" Evan Tobias ~Superstition South~		~AzSGM~ "Theory Throwdown!" Tess Birch ~Apache~		~ABODA~ "Pass the Aux! - Auxiliary Percussion Techniques for Young Percussionists" - Ian Grzyb ~Sirrine~		~ABODA~ "Fighting Burnout in Music Educators" Milas Yoes ~Crismon~		~ABODA~ "High Brass: Day One" - Mary Monaghan and KB Blade ~Robson~		~ABODA~ "Strategies to Unlock More Budget and Better Scheduling" Rick McEnaney ~Pomeroy~	
5:00 - 6:30 Vendor Hall "After Hours" Appetizers, Beverages, Special Guest Entertainment, and Prizes Presenting "Vocal Jazz Group from The Nash" 5:00 - 5:30 "Bones Southwest" 5:35 - 6:05																					

2026						SATURDAY - JANUARY 31, 2026 AMEA CORPORATION MEETING @ 7:00 — Palo Verde Lobby REGISTRATION OPEN 7:30 AM — Palo Verde Lobby Exhibits open 8:00 a.m. (Complimentary Breakfast Food and Drink available)						2026		
SESSION 7 — 8:30 - 9:20 a.m.														
~FAME~ "Introduction to Careers in Music Education" Scott Burgener ~Cholla~	~ABODA~ "Setting the TONE for the Rehearsal: Developing Individual and Ensemble Fundamentals in Your Band" Jeff King ~Conference Theatre~	~ABODA~ "Improv Fundamentals" Adam Roberts ~Starlight~	~ABODA~ "Core Values in Practice: Designing Systems that Shape Classroom Culture" Dana White ~Ballroom A~	~ABODA~ "Mental Well-Being and Music Ensemble Participants" Geoff DeSpain ~Ballroom B~	~ABODA~ "They Just Aren't Listening! How to Cultivate Students' Error Detection" Raine Hollingsworth ~Ballroom C~	Phi Beta Mu 7:30-8:30 ~Ballroom D~	~ACE~ "Reading Session; Unveil Haydn Gems" Albert Lee ~Ballroom E~	~ACE~ Mix it Up! "Brain Breaks in the Music Class" Susan Brumfield ~Ballroom F/G~	~AzSGM~ "Feel It, Don't Just Read It: Teaching Music Through Movement" Xue Zhao ~Superstition North~	~AzSGM~ "Playful Pathways to Music Readiness in Early Elementary: First Steps in Music" John Crever ~Superstition South~	~AzSGM~ "I've Fallen and I Can't Get Up!" - Sub Plans for the Unexpected" Linda Levy, Cicely Brazier ~Apache~	~Collegiate~ "Build a Strong Foundation Using Toys" Amy Brewer ~Sirrine/Crismon~	~ACE~ "Building Sound Through Conducting Gestures" Hyejung Jun ~Pomeroy~	
SESSION 8 — 9:30 - 10:20 a.m.														
~FAME~ "Veteran Music Educators Q&A Panel" Scott burgener ~Cholla~	~ABODA Concert~ featuring Summit Academy Concert Band Brian Wilson & Highland High School Symphonic Strings Craig Ghormley & Any Bennett ~Palo Verde Ballroom~ 9:30 - 10:30	~ABODA~ "Teaching Beginners" Part 1 Robert Herrings ~Conference Theatre~	~ABODA~ "Jazz Drums Fundamentals" - Connor Sample ~Starlight~	~ABODA~ "No Knives Allowed: Adjusting Oboe Reeds for the Non-Oboist" Sara Hammelef ~Ballroom A~	~ACE~ "Barbershop Arrangements in Spanish for Choral Educators" Steve Scott ~Ballroom C~	~ACE~ "Demystifying the All State Jazz and Show Audition" Marcy Spencer and Allison Kluch ~Ballroom E~	~ACE~ "Two by Two, Old and New!" Susan Brumfield ~Ballroom F/G~	~AzSGM~ "From Chinese Potatoes to Peacocks" Joshua Block ~Superstition North~	~AzSGM~ "Techniques for the Feier-Drill - Musical Thinking Games for Literacy Development" John Crever ~Superstition South~	~AzSGM~ "Supercharge Student Songwriting: Listening Like a Songwriter" Alexander Adams ~Apache~	~Collegiate~ "Sound Exploration: Ideas and Practices for the General Music Classroom" Noah Karvelis ~Sirrine/Crismon~			
BREAK — 10:30 - 11:20 a.m. Breakfast with the Vendors Free Continental Breakfast Musical Entertainment "Scottsdale Chorus Sweet Adelines"														
SESSION 9 — 11:30 - 12:20 p.m.														
~FAME~ "College and University Round Robin Session" Scott Burgener ~Cholla~	~ABODA~ "Conducting Workshop" Chad Nicholson and the Mountain Ridge HS Wind Ensemble ~Palo Verde Ballroom~	~ABODA~ "Teaching Beginners" Part 2 Robert Herrings ~Conference Theatre~	~ABODA~ "More Than Notes: Building Community in your Orchestra or Band Program" Rebecca Joslin ~Starlight~	~AMEA~ "Approaching Retirement?" Michael Moreno (ASRS) ~Ballroom A~	~ABODA~ 30 MINUTE SESSION "Small Bites, Big Connections: Appetizers for Student Engagement" Lauren Scott ~Ballroom B~	~ABODA~ 30 MINUTE SESSION "Small Town, Big Stage: Why Small School & Rural Music Education Rocks!" Alex Moore	~ACE~ "Out of the abstract. Into Concrete. An Approach to Teaching Choral Tone Through Phonetics, Mind-Muscle Connection, and Formant Tuning." Timothy Klinger ~Ballroom D~	~ACE~ "Engaging, Well-Crafted Repertoire for the Developing Choir" Alanah Dickinson ~Ballroom E~	~ACE~ "Beyond the Melody: Building Confident, Literate Choirs from the Ground Up" Guillermo Keymolent ~Ballroom F/G~	~AzSGM~ "Sing, Dance, Play, Create: Transform your Elementary Music Classroom" Joanna Mangona ~Superstition North~	~AzSGM~ "Teaching Musical Concepts Through Stations and Games" Laura Huizenga ~Superstition South~	~AzSGM~ "Stick With It: Igniting Student Curiosity Through Music, Innovation, and STEAM" Michael Kollwitz ~Apache~	~Collegiate~ "Expressivity in Conducting: Musical Strategies for Keeping our Students Engage" Vlad Vizireanu ~Sirrine/Crismon~	
BBQ Lunch — 12:30 - 1:20 p.m. ~ Visit Exhibits & BBQ LUNCH ~ (Concessions also OPEN in Exhibit area). - Musical Entertainment "MCC Clarinet Choir"														
SESSION 10 — 1:30 - 2:20 p.m.														
~ACE~ "Theory Throwdown!" Tess Birch ~Cholla~	~ABODA~ "Marching Percussion Demystified - Part 3: The Bass Drum Section" Wardell King and the All-Star Bass Section ~Starlight~	~ABODA~ "Building the Habit of Intonation" Kelsey Nussbaum ~Ballroom A~	~ACE~ "Navigating the First Year: Insights and Resources for New and Aspiring Music Educators" Omaris Torres-Frey ~Ballroom B~	~ABODA~ "Part 2: Continued Strategies for Success with High Brass" Mary Monaghan and KB Blade ~Ballroom C~	~Collegiate~ "Let's Practice Nailing Your Interview!" Jenny Nichols, Brad Seagraves ~Ballroom D~	~AzSGM~ "So, You Have to Teach a Piano Class?" Andie Chung ~Ballroom E~	~ACE~ "Sing It with Purpose: Melodic Activities to Empower Every Voice" Jason Mincy ~Ballroom F/G~	~AzSGM~ "More With Less! Overcoming Limited Orff Instrumentation" Thomas Murphy ~Apache~	~ABODA & Collegiate~ "Superior March Preparation for Pragmatists" - Dave Kuhns, Bill Humbert, Ryan Rockey, and the Deer Valley HS Wind Ensemble, directed by Khalila Govan ~Sirrine/Crismon/Robson/Pomeroy~					
SESSION 11 — 2:30 - 3:20 p.m.														
~ACE~ "Vocal Improv Session: How-to and Why" Brett Taylor ~Cholla~	~ABODA~ "Jazz Band Rehearsal 101" - Clark Gibson and the Nash Big Band ~Conference Theatre~	~ABODA~ "The Bow and Tempo: The Surprise Reason Your Orchestra May Be Rushing!" Raine Hollingsworth ~Starlight~	~ABODA~ "Teaching a Guitar Class for the Non-Guitarist: From Day 1 to Expansion of Your Program" Phillip Hemmo ~Ballroom A~	~ABODA~ "How to Make Lemonade out of Apples: Marching Band Tips for the Rural Band Director" Michael Schreiber and Kimberly Schreiber ~Ballroom B~	~ABODA~ "Basics to Breakthroughs: Engage, Motivate, and Transform Your Beginning Band" Richard Canter ~Ballroom C~	~Collegiate~ "Supporting and Empowering General Music Teachers: A Collaborative Roundtable" Stephanie Brewer, Jaici Sullivan, Shirleen Lee, Sara Newton, Vicki Sutera, Sherie Kent ~Ballroom D~	~ACE~ "Owl or Howl - The Importance of Unified Vowels in Choral Singing" Renne Wilson Wicker ~Ballroom E~	~ACE~ "More Than a Break: Using Play to Build Purposeful Choir Culture" Jason Mincy ~Ballroom F/G~			~AzSGM~ "Conejitos, Caballos, y Chocolate" Joshua Block ~Apache~			
SESSION 12 — 3:30 - 4:20 p.m.														
All-State Guitar Concert ~Palo Verde ballroom~	~ABODA~ "Student-Led Sight Reading: Helping Your Students Own the Process" Raine Hollingsworth ~Starlight~	~ABODA~ 30 MINUTE SESSION "Read the Room: Programming Your Band for Growth and Success Throughout the Year" - Jenn Bock ~Ballroom A~	AzSGM~ "Disconnected Students and the General Music Classroom" David Dashefsky ~Ballroom B~	~ABODA~ 30 MINUTE SESSION "Culture: Creating an Authentic Environment for Student Success" - Nathan Johnston ~Ballroom C~	~Collegiate~ 30 MINUTE SESSION "Let's Talk Next Steps: Sharing Conference Takeaways and Setting Intentions" Erin Cole Steele ~Ballroom D~	~ACE~ "Next-Gen Approaches to Choral Teaching: Creativity, Connection, and Technology" M. Nicole Davis assisted by Next-Gen: Annie Hartman, Makenna Hagedon, Darian Littleman, Benji Morgan , Nathan Aylesbury ~Ballroom E~	~ACE~ "A Vaccine for Performance Nerves: Using Music Psychology to Access Your Deepest Musicality and Stop Shaking on Stage" Allison Wilkinson ~Ballroom F/G~	ACE / AZSGM CONCERT featuring Phoenix Children's Chorus "Presto" Janel Huyett & Sunrise Drive Elementary Kristine Flores ~Superstition North/South~	~AzSGM~ "Classroom Management What the Textbooks Didn't Tell You" Selena Ryan ~Apache~	~ABODA~ LARGE ENSEMBLE SESSION "My Band Sounds Like Miltquetoast, What Do I Do Now?" Mike Willson and the Dobson HS Wind Symphony, directed by Jennifer Howard ~Sirrine/Crismon/Robson/Pomeroy~				