

SCVA NEWS

Southern California Vocal Association January, 2014

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John Hendricks

Greetings from SCVA and Happy New Year to you! The start of 2014 is the perfect time for renewal in our lives, in our music, in our teaching, and in our association. At present, this idea is particularly timely as we wish SCVA a very happy 75th birthday. Yes, it was on January 21, 1939 that the Southern California Vocal Association was officially born. 75 years have passed since the first board meeting, which included Ralph J. Peterson as President and Howard Swan as the "Vice-President representing the College Level." In 2014, we will celebrate the rich legacy of SCVA and the dreams of those who built it, while taking a deep look at what we hope our organization will be in the future. In the final months of the current board's term, we will spend a great deal of time constructing a long-term strategic plan that will build upon the past and be rooted in working toward a bright future for your organization, looking forward ten and twenty years from now. There are many exciting possibilities here as we build upon a vibrant base.

If one extrapolates and estimates from the "leanest" years of our presence in California (and some periods when we have incomplete records of student participation), it can safely be said that SCVA has directly served well over one million students and music educators in its nearly eight decades of supporting choral music education in schools. One million!... and likely many more, as this is a conservative estimate. I would like to think that our founders would be proud to experience the legacy that generations of caretakers have created—those who have helped your SCVA evolve and innovate to meet the needs and challenges of the each generation while retaining our core principle across the decades of supporting and promoting choral music education.

So what is next for SCVA? This is a critical and exciting juncture in our history, and one that is ripe with opportunity. Your organization remains committed to providing outstanding experiences for you and your singers. We want to be known for hosting exciting events of the highest quality that inspire the modern choral student and are highly relevant to the needs of our membership. We aim to provide the most consistent, transparent, and trusted rating systems and adjudication rubrics at every festival site, audition, and professional event. We will further strengthen our ties to our close colleagues in CMEA and ACDA, as so many of our members (myself included) are members of those great organizations. We will support the creation of a statewide festival system. We will work to further define our unique role in being solely dedicated to choral music **education** in California and to insuring that every student in our state has access to a quality choral experience in school. We will recommit our support of the highly effective efforts that are succeeding in Sacramento amongst our affiliate associations. We will be guided by the overarching idea that if we always put our students and members first, maintain a relentless insistence on achieving the highest possible standards at events, be fiscally prudent in providing accessible and affordable opportunities for members and constantly look for ways to do things better, we will best serve choral music education in California and thrive as we move forward.

I sincerely hope that 2014 will be your most fulfilling year yet. Happy Birthday, SCVA. Here's to the next 75 years!

Junior High Honor Choir Auditions are right around the corner!

Molly Peters, VP-Junior High Honor Choir



Auditions for Junior High Honor Choir are scheduled for two Saturdays in 2014: January 18th and January 25th. We have audition sites in various locations around Southern California, so there is definitely one close to you and your students! These wonderful site hosts are opening up their schools to you and your students (6th-9th grade) so that they have the opportunity to participate in the honor choir. And it is going to be really special this year: Ms. Desiree Fowler is our guest conductor and she is wonderful! Your younger singers will really enjoy working with her.

The deadline for auditions is January 13th, which may have passed by the time you receive this, so be sure to read all of your SCVA e-mail updates. I realize that many of us will just be getting back to school at that time, so time is of the essence!

Audition Requirements

1. Sing a major scale up and down (a cappella)
2. Sing a major triad and a minor triad (a cappella)
3. Sing an octave (a cappella)
4. Sight read one melodic and one rhythmic example
5. Sing tonal memory patterns
6. Sing "**America**"/"**My Country 'Tis of Thee**" (a cappella)

Regional Audition Dates (various sites)

Saturday, January 18:

Lincoln Middle School, Santa Monica (host: Vanessa Counte)

Saturday, January 25:

Irvine High School, Irvine (host: Tina Peterson)

Mesa Robles Middle School, Hacienda Heights (host: Debbie Montpas)

Travis Ranch Middle School, Yorba Linda (host: Jessica Schlenz)

Westview High School, Poway (host: Crystal Stone)

Regional Rehearsal Sites and Times

Saturday, March 15, 9am - 1pm at John Adams Middle School (Santa Monica)

Saturday, March 22, 9am - 1pm at Mesa Robles Middle School (Hacienda Heights)

Final Rehearsal and Performance

Location: John Adams Middle School, Santa Monica

Date: Saturday, April 26

Rehearsal sessions will be from 10:00am to 6:00pm

Concert is at 6:00pm

Ticket Cost: \$5.00 general admission (available at the door)

Guest Clinician: Ms. Desiree Fowler

Junior High Honor Choir (continued)

I would like to build on last month's article by giving more resources for your developing singers, including various sight-readings (in C major, only using skips in the triad), tonal memory passages to play for your students, and places you can go for more ideas and tools for use in your classroom.

Sight-reading examples:

(Students will receive two scores per measure: one for rhythm and one for pitch. Sight-singing does not have to be performed on sol fege; a neutral syllable is fine.)



Tonal memory passages:

(Each measure is a different passage. Play each one twice for you students; they are allowed to hum along on the second play.)



Other resources for music theory/ear training:

Progressive Sight-Singing, Carol Krueger. (Thanks to Santa Monica-Malibu Unified for the tip on the excellent resource!)

Hal Leonard "**Thirty Days to Music Intervals**"—reproducible book with lessons, quizzes, and lots of ear training exercises

Hal Leonard "**Thirty Days to Music Theory**"—very basic beginner level. I actually start with the sequel "**Thirty More Days to Music Theory**" as it goes more in depth with the concepts and vocabulary introduced in the first book.

Online Festival Registration Continues!

Nancy Ludwig and Melva Morrison, Festivals VPs

Registration to participate in festivals has been open since Nov. 5 and many choirs have already taken advantage of the offerings! Over 200 groups have registered for festivals and several festivals are already closed.

The deadline to register for a festival is March 1, 2014, but registration ASAP is encouraged Register as soon as you can to insure attendance at the festival location that works best for you. **Late registrations will not be accepted.**

The cost per choir for each festival is \$100, and you may access the online registration form at <http://www.scvachoral.org/festivals.php>. Your registration is not complete until payment has been received. Any registrations that are not paid within 30 days from the initial date of submission will be cancelled. In addition, we cannot process your registration unless you are a current member of SCVA. If your membership is not current please purchase it online or add \$45 to your check amount.

Questions? Contact Nancy Ludwig at: nancyludwig6@gmail.com, or Melva Morrison at: melsmusic@verizon.net. You may also visit the FAQ page at: http://www.scvachoral.org/festival_faq.html.

Junior High/Middle School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
Wed	3/19	10:00am	David Starr Jordan MS	Burbank	Open	Open	Christine DeMore
Wed	03/19	10:00am	SCU of Health Sciences	Whittier	Novice	Mixed	Jeremy Fletcher
Thurs	3/20	10:00am	Murrieta Mesa HS	Murrieta	Open	Clinic	Lavinia Tikasingh
Tues	4/01	9:00am	Menifee MS	Menifee	Open	Open	Tom Oliver
Tues	4/01	12:00pm	Menifee Valley MS	Menifee	Open	Open	Tom Oliver
Thurs	4/03	7:00pm	Thousand Oaks HS PAC	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	Janna Wilhelm
Tues	4/08	9:00am	Oaks Christian School	Westlake Village	Open	Open	Edward Rouse
Tues	4/08	11:30am	Oaks Christian School	Westlake Village	Open	Open	Edward Rouse
Tues	4/15	9:00am	James L. Day MS	Temecula	Open	Open	Patricia Halic
Tues	4/15	1:00pm	James L. Day MS	Temecula	Open	Open	Patricia Halic
Wed	4/16	9:30am	Valley View MS	Simi Valley	Open	Open	Hilary Nordal
Wed	4/23	1:00pm	Marshall Fundamental	Pasadena	Open	Open	David Pitts
Thurs	5/01	10:00am	Las Flores MS	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Benefield
Tues	5/06	5:00pm	Monrovia HS	Monrovia	Open	Open	William Moore
Thurs	5/08	10:30am	Venice HS	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Wendy Kornbeck/Sarnoff
Thurs	5/08	6:30pm	Venice HS	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Wendy Kornbeck/Sarnoff
Fri	5/09	11:00am	Manhattan Beach MS	Manhattan Beach	Adv	Open	Heather Gold
Fri	5/09	1:00pm	Ramirez Intermediate	Eastvale	Novice	Clinic	Kyle Betts
Wed	5/14	10:30am	Bernardo Yorba MS	Yorba Linda	Open	Mixed	Linda Nason
Fri	5/16	1:00pm	Segerstrom Fundamental	Santa Ana	Open	Mixed	Greg Ellis
Wed	5/21	10:00am	Walnut Park MS	Huntington Park	Novice	Mixed	Rosa Lopez
Wed	5/21	10:00am	McGaugh Auditorium	Seal Beach	Open	Open	Rachelle Randeem
Thurs	5/22	9:30am	William and Jane Bristol Civic Auditorium	Bellflower	Open	Open	Jae Shu
Thurs	5/22	10:00am	McGaugh Auditorium	Seal Beach	Open	Open	Rachelle Randeem

High School Festivals

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Host</i>
Thurs	3/06	9:00am	Chaparral HS PAC	Temecula	Open	Open	Rob Hodo
Tues	3/11	8:00pm	Harvard-Westlake School	Studio City	Adv	Chamber	Rodger Guerrero
Wed	3/12	10:00am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Adv	Chamber	Mark Henson
Wed	3/12	2:00pm	Glendale HS	Glendale	Open	Open	Grace Sheldon-Williams
Thurs	3/20	10:00am	MMHS Gershwin PAC	Murrieta	Adv	Clinic	Jeffrey Kopasz
Thurs	3/20	10:00am	Beaumont USD	Beaumont	Novice	Open	John Fieldhouse
Wed	4/02	10:00am	Jurupa Hills HS Theatre	Fontana	Open	Open	Darrin Schuck
Wed	4/02	10:00am	Fallbrook HS	Fallbrook	Open	Open	Heather Smith
Tues	4/08	7:00pm	California Lutheran University	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	Janna Wilhelm
Fri	4/11	9:00am	Jurupa Valley HS Theater	Mira Loma	Open	Women	Melva Morrison
Fri	4/11	10:00am	Arlington HS Theater	Riverside	Open	Open	Kelli Dower
Fri	4/11	12:30pm	Jurupa Valley HS Theater	Mira Loma	Open	Open	Melva Morrison
Fri	4/11	2:30pm	Garden Grove HS	Garden Grove	Open	Open	Samuel Nunez
Tues	4/15	10:00am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Men	Mark Henson
Tues	4/15	6:30pm	Knight HS	Palmdale	Open	Mixed	Suzanne McGarraugh
Wed	4/16	10:00am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Women	Mark Henson
Wed	4/16	7:00pm	EHS Ruth Chapman Theater	Chula Vista	Open	Open	Joseph DeMers
Thurs	4/17	9:00am	FUHS Auditorium	Fullerton	Open	Women/ Men	Scott Hedgecock
Thurs	4/17	10:00am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Mixed	Mark Henson
Thurs	4/17	1:00pm	FUHS Auditorium	Fullerton	Adv	Open	Scott Hedgecock
Wed	4/23	9:30am	Marshall Fundamental School Auditorium	Pasadena	Open	Open	David Pitts
Thurs	4/24	4:00pm	Golden Valley HS Theater	Santa Clarita	Open	Open	Kerry Riccio Agüero
Thurs	4/24	6:00pm	Golden Valley HS Theater	Santa Clarita	Open	Open	Kerry Riccio Agüero
Tues	4/29	7:00pm	Thacher School	Ojai	Novice	Open	Bill Wagner
Tues	5/13	5:00pm	Monrovia HS	Monrovia	Adv	Open	William Moore
Mon	5/19	7:00pm	West Torrance HS	Torrance	Open	Open	Kathleen Jensen
Wed	5/21	2:00pm	Montebello HS	Montebello	Open	Open	Jessie Flasschoen
Wed	5/21	7:00pm	Montebello HS	Montebello	Adv	Open	Jessie Flasschoen
Wed	5/21	7:00pm	Loma Linda Academy - Chan Auditorium	Loma Linda	Open	Open	Jeremy Morada
Thurs	5/22	1:00pm	William and Jane Bristol Civic Auditorium	Bellflower	Open	Open	Carolyn Kelley

BYORD (Bring Your Own Recording Device): We will continue with BYORD for the 2014 SCVA Festivals. BYORD allows recorded adjudicator comments to be provided to the director in any audio format the director desires, and the audio files are available immediately at the end of the festival. If you do not bring a recording device to your festival, you will receive two written adjudications. Some festival hosts may choose to provide digital recordings of adjudicator comments, but if your festival host does not, then plan to bring your own recording device. There are MANY devices that can serve this purpose, please email us if you need more information.

SCVA High School Honor Choir

Karen Garrett, VP – High School Honor Choirs

Congratulations to Our Honor Choir Students on an Inspiring Concert!

What a beautiful concert our Honor Choir students presented on November 23rd in Santa Monica! From the spirited *Hallelujah from the Mount of Olives*, performed by the Mixed Choir to the whimsical *Coney Island Baby* of the Men's Choir and the soaring *Still I Rise* by the Women's Choir the audience was enthralled by the skill and emotion the choir presented to a full house.

This year we had 490 students audition from the Southern California area. 270 students were chosen based on scores that ranged from 61-100 depending on voice section represented by 77 high schools. We have approximately 157 high school directors in SCVA. Next year let's have 157 schools represented in Honor Choir! Encourage your students to audition.

Thank You to Our Wonderful Volunteers of the 2013 Honor Choir!

Those students who participated in this year's Regional Honor Choirs were guided and inspired by our three esteemed conductors; Rob Istad, Amanda Quist and Jeffrey Benson. I find one of the great benefits of Honor Choir is when my students return to class rehearsal and share their experience with their school choir. They return inspired and musically energized and these good vibes permeate my rehearsals. Thank you to Tina Peterson who headed up the event along with me. It takes countless hours to organize and present this outstanding concert. Honor Choir weekend would not be possible without the help of Jeffe Huls who hosts the event at Santa Monica High School. To our countless volunteers: choir hosts, Crystal Stone, Tammi Alderman and Molly Peters, SCVA President John Hendricks – thank you for being there whenever needed. Thanks also to our web master Mark Freedkin for working his technical magic to make all our lives easier. Special thanks to all volunteers who stayed Friday and Saturday of Honor Choir weekend, selling tickets, supervising students and attending to all the myriad of details. Lastly to you, the choral directors who prepared their singers for the audition and concert, congratulations on a successful 2013 high school Honor Choir!

We Listen!

Over the years directors have made suggestions to improve the Honor Choir process and we listened! So many things have been streamlined and improved I decided to list them here to encourage you and your students to participate in the process:

- Audition judge sign-up, student registration, concert ticket sales, volunteers and payment of all fees now on-line for your convenience.
- Part checks at the first rehearsal maintain the high quality of our choirs.
- Returning of audition sheets to all directors so that students may receive constructive feed back.
- High quality concert video, CD and picture available for purchase.
- All three choirs are of equal size for optimal performance presentation.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome as we continually strive to improve the Honor Choir experience for students, directors and audience. E-mail: kgarrett@cnusd.k12.ca.us

VOCAL JAZZ NEWS!

Christine Tavares, VP- Vocal Jazz

SCVA VOCAL JAZZ FESTIVAL MARCH 9TH, 2014

Just a reminder, the SCVA Jazz and Acapella Festival is fast approaching! Registration is filling up and there are just a few slots left! You can now find the form to register at www.scvachoral.org. Come and learn from the top leading vocal jazz performers and college directors! Matt Falker and Fletcher Sheridan will be our adjudicators. Sign ups are limited so don't delay!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE?

As we wrap up our holiday season and begin to pick new music, I thought I would inquire if each of you could take a moment to send me your favorite vocal jazz or acapella piece. Next month I will list the suggestions made by all of you as we search for new repertoire to inspire and challenge our students!

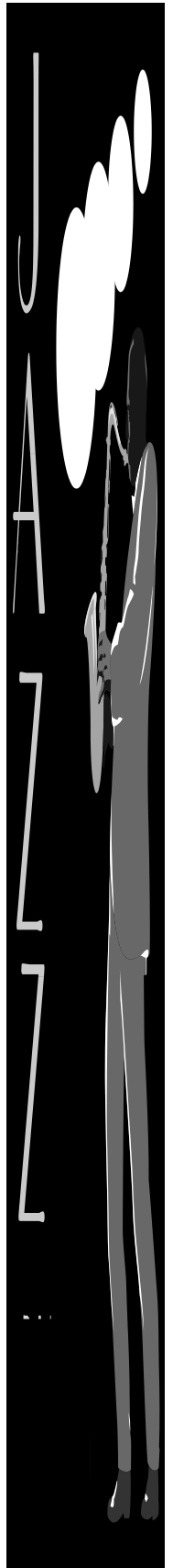
Please email me at christinetavares33@gmail.com

ANNOUNCING A NEW FESTIVAL!

**Warren High School A Cappella & Vocal Jazz featuring *m-pact!*
January 21 at the Downey Theate**

In an effort to have choirs come for the whole day, lunch is included in your registration fee. Also, there will be an opportunity for one of your students to perform a solo during the lunch break. This is a non-competitive festival, however *m-pact* will choose one group from the day to perform in the evening concert.

The website for the festival is www.whsjazzfestival.com. For more information please contact Bob Petersen at ropetersen@dusd.net



Southern California Vocal Association

c/o The Buckley School

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www.scvachoral.org / email: admin@scvachoral.org



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

SCVA Festival Registration	Ongoing
Solo/Small Ensemble Registration Deadline	January 13, 2014
SCVA Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir Auditions	January 18, 2014
SCVA Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir Auditions	January 25, 2014
Diva Day	February 8, 2014
Young Men's Harmony Festival	February 15, 2014
ACDA Western Division Conference	February 20 – 22, 2014
SCVA Festival Registration Deadline	March 1, 2014
SCVA Vocal Jazz/Acapella Festival	March 7, 2014
SCVA Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir Rehearsal	March 15, 2014
California All-State High School Honor Choirs	March 20 - 22, 2014
SCVA Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir Rehearsal	March 22, 2014
SCVA Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir Concert	April 26, 2014
SCVA Show Choir Competition	May 3, 2014