

The logo for SCVA NEWS features a large, stylized blue 'O' at the top. Below it, the letters 'S.C.V.A.' are written in a blue, cursive font, with a checkmark-like flourish under the 'V'. To the right of 'S.C.V.A.', the word 'NEWS' is written in a black, cursive font.

Southern California Vocal Association February, 2014

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John Hendricks

This is the prime time for your SCVA. Welcome to festival season! I am so excited about what we have on the horizon for your students, and I strongly encourage you to dive deep into our newsletter and our website, scvachoral.org, for complete information. We offer over 60 adjudicated large choral festivals for choirs and vocal ensembles of all ability levels and stylistic focuses, serving well over 10,000 students annually. I am so pleased that we've also been able to reintroduce a festival to the San Diego area this year, as we are committed to continuing to expand our offerings and convenience for our southernmost members. If you have questions about our adjudicated performances, please contact our Vice Presidents of Festivals, Nancy Ludwig and Melva Morrison. They'll be happy to answer them as well as guide you toward an event that is compelling and appropriate for your students. Your choir is sure to be inspired. Festivals are filling quickly, so don't delay with your registration.

Our second major adjudicated event of the coming months is the Vocal Solo Competition & Small Ensemble Festival. Jeffe Huls has guided the superb evolution of what was formerly known as the Vocal Solo Competition into a revised format. A component was added last year to include the performance, with one voice per part, of ensemble vocal music, and the competition has been renamed to reflect that change. This SCVA event is currently the only large-scale small ensemble festival currently offered in our region, and a remarkable opportunity for your students to receive constructive feedback from experts in a variety of vocal genres. I can't wait to see and hear our singers this year!

Our Vocal Jazz event now offers a Contemporary A Cappella component, and I'm thrilled by the growth of this festival. Please join us in Valencia on March 7 to observe top groups from our region in this genre. Our clinicians are renowned members of True North, and after the adjudications and on-stage clinics, they'll take the stage at 7:00 p.m. to perform a concert that's open to the public. You'll want to reserve your tickets now. Thank you, Christine Tavares, for your enlightened leadership.

Our Show Choir Spectacular is scheduled for May 3. Patty Breitag is our VP at the helm, and this is a fantastic event for novice through advanced ensembles.

In the non-adjudicated category, you won't want to miss our affiliated Barbershop Harmony Festivals that will be held on two consecutive Saturdays in February at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. *Diva Day* is February 8 and the Young Men's Harmony Festival (in conjunction with Masters of Harmony) will be held on February 15. Our Middle School/Junior High Honor Choir concert is on Saturday, April 26. Thank you, Mark Freedkin and Molly Peters.

Stay tuned next month for an update about our partnership in support at the legislative level of the CMEA-led Stand Up 4 Music coalition and how we are working with other professional music organizations to best support your programs and create a consistent statewide festival system. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you at our events, and at the CMEA/CA-ACDA/SCVA sponsored Choral Leadership Academy at the ACDA Western Division Convention.



Show Choir Spectacular

Patty Breitag, VP – Show Choir

The SCVA annual sponsored Show Choir Spectacular Competition is set for May 3, 2014. The venue is being finalized this week and information pertaining to the times and venue will be sent to SCVA members upon verification.

This event features show choirs from high schools and middle schools in the Southern California areas. Divisions featured include:

Middle School novice, intermediate and advanced mixed or single gender groups
High School novice, intermediate and advanced mixed or single gender groups

We encourage groups to attend regardless of the ability or experience of the group. Students really enjoy the competitive atmosphere and to share with the other schools, the music and choreography they have worked so hard to master. Teachers can get new ideas for choreography, set designs and music choices as well. The three judges have years of experience as educators and clinicians and always give positive assessment for improvement. So come and experience this popular choir genre on May 3, 2014.

There is no audition necessary to participate. We welcome all schools to register. Each group will receive a trophy along with written and aural adjudication from the judges. Registration should be made on the SCVA Website before April 10, 2014. The application fee is \$200.00, which can be paid through pay-pal or with a school check made out to SCVA.

Mail all checks to:

SCVA
Attn: Patricia Breitag,
Diamond Bar High School
21400 E. Pathfinder Rd., Diamond Bar, CA 91765

If you are looking for a final show choir event for 2014, feel free to sign up on the SCVA Website. Click on the link for Show Choir Competition and fill out the paperwork. If show choir is new to you, consider bringing your students to pay for a seat in the audience and see and hear what all the excitement is about! Show choir could be another exciting genre to add to your school choir program. Come join the fun!

Every year we try to have venues that are in various parts of the Southern California area so those who travel the farthest one year, might not have to travel as far the next. If your school would like to be considered as a host school, let me know soon as we will set up next year's dates as soon as possible.

If you are interested in attending any of the other Southern California show choir competitions held throughout the spring competitive circuit between February and April, please feel free to email me for more information. Southern California is privileged to have many National Show Choir Championships so come and support these amazing groups.

Concentrated Teaching part 5: The Power of “Warm-up” (Resonance 3)

Jeffe Huls, Vocal Solo Competition

Continuing the series from last year, the third part of resonance building is range extension exercises. This part requires meticulous monitoring of your singers particularly if they are young, inexperienced voices. For my beginning classes, I direct the voice parts or individuals when to drop out as the extremes of the ranges are reached. As singers become older and more experienced they can be encouraged to monitor their own voices and drop out as necessary. It is also important to remind the singers that a little voice cracking and experimentation, here and there, is normal when working on extending the range as long as they are supporting and singing with a free and beautiful tone. Again, I include lots of body movement. Deep knee bends and lunges, throwing a baseball, bending the knees and throwing hands up over the head, pointing down, gently pushing a beach ball under water, and spinning the hand alongside the head - these are all great motions for freeing the voice when approaching higher tessitura. Remember, range extension includes downwards motion as well, especially for your developing bass/baritone (even mezzo) voices. Remind your students that singing low is counter-intuitive, we naturally want to pull the tongue back and sing in our throats, when we must do the opposite. The voice should be pulled forward with a little bit of “buzz” in it. Keep a close eye (ear) on your female singers to not avoid belting which is so easy for them in the low extremes. The following exercises should move up or down by half steps with a careful ear as to what is appropriate for your singers.

And... Don't forget to visit scvachoral.org and register for the solo and small ensemble festival.

It's a great way to encourage independent musicianship in your choral singers!

[i] _____ [a] _____

[i] _____ [e] _____ [a] _____

[i] _____ [e] _____ [a] _____

[si - no - - - - re]

1/2 steps downward, and try it in minor!

[vi] [di] [vi] [vi] [di] [vi] [di] [vi] [vi] [di] [vi] [di] [vi] [di] [vi]

Festival Registration Deadline Approacheth!

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 250 groups have registered for festivals and several festivals are already closed.

The deadline to register for a festival is March 1, 2014, and it's coming up quickly! 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.

The following list represents open festivals as of 1/15/2014:

Junior High/Middle School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
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 Kombeck/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
Fri	5/16	1:00pm	Seegerstrom 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	7:30pm	Harvard-Westlake School	Studio City	Adv	Chamber	Rodger Guerrero
Wed	3/12	2:00pm	Glendale HS	Glendale	Open	Open	Grace Sheldon-Williams
Thurs	3/20	10:00am	Beaumont USD	Beaumont	Novice	Open	John Fieldhouse
Fri	3/21	10:00am	Beckman PAC	Irvine	Adv	Open	Nancy Stuck
Fri	3/21	1:00pm	Beckman PAC	Irvine	Open	Open	Nancy Stuck
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
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
Thurs	5/08	6:30pm	Venice HS	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Wendy Kornbeck/Sarnoff
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

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.

Getting to the “Core” of Sight-Reading

Karen Garrett, VP – High School Honor Choirs



Much discussion has surrounded the upcoming change to Common Core Standards. Many of us are at different places on our journey to understanding and implementing new strategies to our planning and lessons. At the last district in-service at my school, Armalyn De La O, Director of the RIMS CALIFORNIA ARTS PROJECT, presented literature that included a statement that I found both reassuring and necessary to my enthusiasm for the up-coming changes. That quote is, **“It is important to note that these Reading standards are meant to complement the specific content demand of the disciplines, not replace them.”** (Calif. Dept. of Education March 2013). The state and national standards for music education are still in effect. The National standards for music education are currently under revision and will be revealed in June of this year. It will remain up to the state of California to adopt them. What we do know about these new standards is that the fundamental skills that are required to become a literate student of music will not change. We have our own, unique Content Literacy. The skill of Reading and Notating music will still be alive and well. Sight-reading will still be the means to creating literate, independent, and strong content knowledgeable students.

Here are some ideas to reinvigorate your choral classroom with successful and engaging sight-reading lessons.

Start with aural skills first. Just like in language acquisition; sound before symbol. Sing scales in solfege (other methods such as numbers are possible but solfege and Curwin hand signals have definite advantages). Sing many patterns by imitation (incorporating Curwin hand signals) that enforces specific intervallic steps and leaps. I always begin with simple stepwise examples, do-so and then progress to skipping patterns. Patterns on the triads are very effective. Begin with the tonic and add skipping patterns to outline the I, IV and V chords. While aural exercises are continuing for a few minutes each day, begin basic rhythmic notation lessons. These can be very accessible and fun. Try adding pop music tracks while the students clap progressively difficult rhythmic patterns.

Now take the stepwise solfege patterns you have been singing by imitation to the board and transfer them to music notation. Beginning with stepwise patterns, notate Do-sol. Point and sing many patterns in quarter note rhythm to establish staff and scale direction. Continue layering more range and adding some simple rhythmic patterns.

NOW IT’S TIME TO MAKE A PLAN AND FIND A SIGHT-SINGING METHOD BOOK

I don’t know about you, but no one gave me choral music benchmarks or defined what sight-reading levels 1-6 were. So I’m on my own and you probably are too. So make a curriculum chart. What do you expect your students in each choir (different levels) to accomplish in the first semester of 1) Sight-reading 2) music theory 3) vocal production 4) repertoire and other standards?

Map it out, be specific. I decided that at the end of the semester each of my beginning students must sing a major scale in solfege in tune with Curwin hand signals. Each of my 50 beginning girls stood up in class and performed a scale alone (not all on the same day!). My advanced groups were required to sing leaps on the tonic triad. They had to create a minimum of an 8 note pattern leaping only on Do-mi-so-do. This is also a small example of improvisation -another standard down!

In addition, they must sight sing from our sight-reading text, “Jenson Sight Reading Course”, according to their choirs’ level. The aural skills are always one step ahead of their reading ability. Perhaps your choirs are novice and your expectations are modest, or your program has a long tradition of reading and you have a killer feeder program. Level is of little importance; it’s the consistent forward motion in your planning and your student’s progress.

Curriculum changes and state mandated standards change with the political wind. However, the fundamental music skill of sight-reading will always be a part of every music educator’s responsibility to teach.

Karen Garrett
SCVA Honor Choir VP
kgarrett@cnsd.k12.ca.us

Looking for a Jazz Festival?

Christine Tavares, VP- Vocal Jazz

SCVA's A-cappella and Vocal Jazz Festival is happening March 7th, 2014! Our festival is full, however, there are many more to choose from. If you are beginning an acappella / jazz group, the quickest way to get students motivated is to register for a festival!

(Thank you to Matt Falker for compiling this resource. Go to Mattfalker.com for more)

February 28 - March 1 Columbia College Vocal Jazz Festival
March 7 SCVA Jazz Festival
March 7-8 DeMiero Jazz Fest
March 8-9 California Capital Show Choir & Vocal Jazz Festival
March 14-15 Santa Cruz Jazz Festival (Cabrillo College)
March 15 McNally Smith Vocal Jazz Festival
March 19-21 Northwest Jazz Festival (Northwest College)
March 20-22 Brandon Jazz Festival (Brandon University)
March 21 Fullerton Jazz Festival (Fullerton College)
March 22 New York Voices Jazz Festival
March 28-29 Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival
March 29 Point Loma Nazarene Vocal Jazz Festival
April 2-3 Ontario Vocal Jazz Festival
April 3-5 Oceanside Jazz Festival (MiraCosta College)
April 11-12 Reno Jazz Festival (University of Nevada-Reno)
April 19 Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival
April 19 Columbia Basin College Jazz Unlimited
April 24-26 University of Northern Colorado Jazz Festival
April 24-27 Canadian Rocky Mountain Festival

You are cordially invited to attend the 2014 California All State H.S. Vocal Jazz Choir perform at the CASMEC convention in Fresno under the direction of Christine Guter! Friday, February 21st at 8pm in the Saroyan Theater, Fresno. Ca.

Congratulations to the following teachers and students for making the 2014 California All State Vocal Jazz Choir!

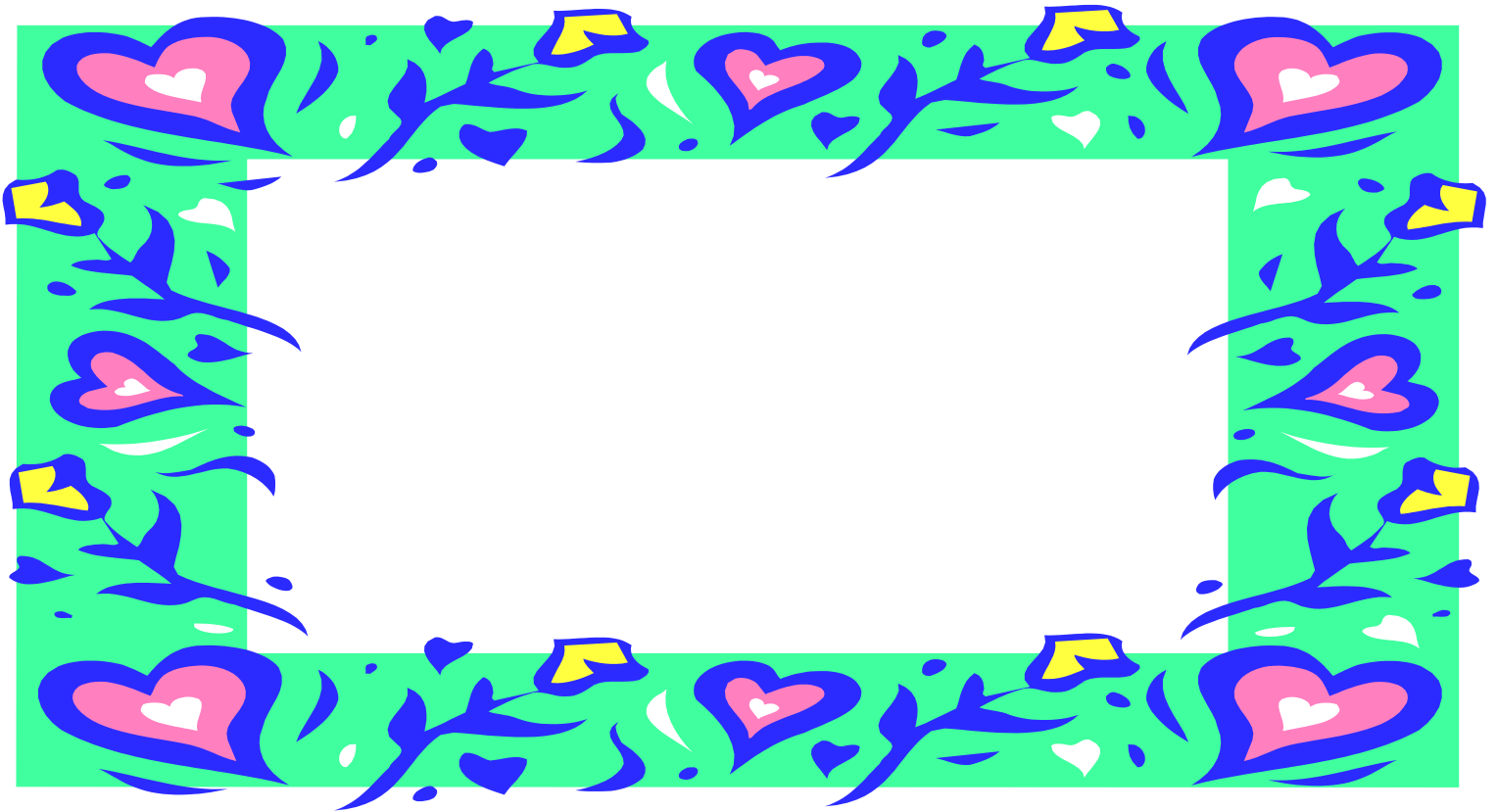
Alexandra Brandenburg	Samantha Theisen	Moorpark HS
Alondra Gonzalez	Curtis Gaesser	Folsom HS
Rachel Khuc	Myles Ellis	Piedmont HS
Lizzi Trumbore	Duane Otani	Rancho Bernardo HS
Katelyn Woodbury	Curtis Gaesser	Folsom HS
Kendra Laguilles	Christine Tavares	Valencia HS
Melissa Brausch	Curtis Gaesser	Folsom HS
Tanner Ming	Christine Tavares	Valencia HS
Tristan Bonds	Curtis Gaesser	Folsom HS
Cole Wersky	Curtis Gaesser	Folsom HS
Sam Fulkerson	Curtis Gaesser	Folsom HS
James Meske	Christine Tavares	Valencia HS
Colin Kersey	Curtis Gaesser	Folsom HS

Southern California Vocal Association

c/o The Buckley School

3900 Stansbury Ave. Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

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



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

SCVA Festival Registration	Ongoing
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