



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VOCAL ASSOCIATION
JUNE, 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Drew Lewis

Congratulations! You made it (or like me you're almost done). If ever there was a time when every teacher should win a trophy just for teaching, this is it. You are here and you made it through. Take a deep breath. There has been pain and loss. There has been stress, depression, and feelings of isolation. But there has also been hope, joy, and community. I can honestly tell you that I feel *more* connected to the music community than I did before COVID-19 closed down our school campuses. I may be tired and exhausted right now in a different way than I normally am during this time of year, but I'm also feeling hopeful. As Dolly Parton said, "I can see the light of a clear blue morning."

Every year around this time I like to reflect upon the eight months of teaching that passed while the thoughts are fresh in my head. I like to reflect upon what went well during my year of teaching and list five things that I'd like to see change. This year, I think I will add to that list five things I want to adapt from my online teachings skills as I head (hopefully) into fully in-person teaching this fall – hint: it's not more virtual choirs!

As an organization, SCVA is reflecting as well. In this newsletter we recognize the amazing legacy of our members who are retiring this year. Thank you so much for your contributions and investments in the lives of the many students you have served! We will also spend time as a board to reflect upon the last several months and determine what innovations we can adapt in the future. I can't say enough how amazed I have been at the resilience and creativity of this team these past 12 months!

As we head into the summer, I for one am looking forward to taking a real vacation again. I tend to like busy, action packed vacations, but not this year. I will be content to go on a trip that is more about lounging around in the sun, enjoying time with my wife, and as always reading a few good books. Now more than ever, we need to *rest*. Please prioritize time to rest for you and your family. We are not our jobs, and after this traumatic year we really need to take that time to relax and rejuvenate.

After we reflect and rest, then I think it's a good time to plan for the future. There are still plenty of uncertainties about the year ahead, but I think there is a lot to be optimistic about. I am so excited for our future! Our SCVA scholarship committee, comprised of board and community members, received several amazing applications from graduating seniors that give me so much hope for the future of music education! And I'm thrilled we were able to offer **two** scholarships to graduating seniors for our first *Future Choral Educator Scholarship* this year. I'm hopeful we will continue to make more and larger investments into the future! This is just the beginning. Be on the lookout soon for some exciting new changes and opportunities for the music education community.

SCVA members, I encourage you to be hopeful. There is a light coming at the end of this long dark night. But don't forget to take the time you need to reflect and rest this summer. We look forward to seeing you in the fall, ready and able to take on the challenges and celebrate the victories the coming year will bring.

Drew Lewis
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Christine Tavares-Mocha
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A Cappella Honor Choir

Kaitlin Holt
VP – Jazz Festival

Theresa Thomasulo
Elementary Activities

Antone Rodich
VP - Close Harmony Festival

SCVA wishes to thank our retiring teachers for their years of service to the choral art.



Patricia & Brian Trevor
19 years teaching in the
Glendra Unified School
District.



Todd Helm
38 years teaching.
Retiring from Bonita
High School.



Joseph Schubert
38 years teaching.
Retiring from
Orangeview
JHS/Western HS.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Crystal Duffy
14 years teaching.
Retiring from
Fitwanda High
School.



Greg Ellis
39 years teaching.
Retiring from
McFadden
Intermediate School.



Kathryn Cobb-Woll
42 years teaching.
Retiring from Santa
Ana High School.

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always be at your back...

SCVA Vocal Solo Competition/ Small Ensemble Festival

Erika Jackson VP

Congratulations again to all of our Vocal Solo Competition Round 2 Finalists and Winners! We are so excited about our group this year and are proud of all of your hard work. You were amazing! We want to send out a special thank you to our judges, Dr. Clarissa Shan and Charlie Kim. We value your wonderful feedback. Thank you so much for your wonderful performances and participation in the concert. You guys are awesome!!

Awards and Winnings:

- High School Classical:
 - 1st place: **Ava Wadia**, *Poway High School, Poway Ca*
 - 2nd place: **Mila Moretti**, *Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica Ca*
 - 3rd place: **Matthew Thorson**, *Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica ca*

- High school Musical Theater/Jazz:
 - 1st place: **Kennedy Percival**, *Top Billing Entertainment Performance Academy, Glendora*
 - 2nd place: **Juliette Dube**, *Providence High School, Burbank Ca*
 - 3rd place: **Isabella Henao**, *Valencia High School, Valencia Ca*
 - 3rd place: **Chloe Stavis**, *Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica Ca*

- Middle school:
 - 1st place classical: **Isabella Robertson**, *St. John The Baptist School Costa Mesa Ca*
 - 1st place Musical Theater: **Sara Jackson**, *Vista Heights Middle School Moreno Valley Ca*

Wrap Up and Reminders:

- If you are competing in the CMEA finals, we would love to know. Please email us and let us know your results. We would love to celebrate you!
- Next school year's Vocal Solo Competition News will be coming at the start of the school year, so look out for that moving forward in August or September.
- FYI: Moving forward, we are planning on making some changes to the competition and will be adding more competitive categories and opportunities for awards. Also, we will be considering the live vs. virtual portions of the competition to best fit the needs of all participating students and programs. More information will be shared and addressed in the future, but I wanted to let everyone know we are striving to make this the best it can be and provide better access and equity in this competition. Thank you all! Have a great summer!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. ejackson@mvusd.net

RECAP OF THE SCVA

VOCAL JAZZ & CONTEMPORARY A CAPELLA FESTIVAL

WITH KATE MCGARRY & JAMOND MCCOY



Live Concert by Kate McGarry & Keith Gainz

Thank you for joining us!



**Jr. High/MS Honor Choir
Amanda Benavides, VP**



2021 Jr. High Honor Choir Virtual Performance – May 9th

**Dr. Desiree Balfour, Conductor
Mr. Drew Lewis, Accompanist**



Huge thank you to Dr. Balfour, Drew Lewis, Ryan Rubell (video creator), and to all that made this event possible!



HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIR

THANK YOU

to all who made this year's **Virtual Honor Choir Symposium** a possibility for our students. To **Dr. Edith Copley** for reminding us of the human need for connection which choral music fulfills. To **Elena Sharkova** for teaching us to mindfully connect with our bodies during our work together. To **Dr. Geoffrey Boers** for inspiring our students to lead by example. To **Dr. Olga Perez Flora** for leading a warm, meaningful masterclass to help some of our soloists hone their performances. And to **John Tebay** for facilitating human connection over beautiful repertoire.

Thank you to our participating SCVA schools, students & directors!

2021-22

SCVA HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIR

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES IN AUGUST!

Thank you for your patience as we await pandemic guideline updates before moving forward. The dates below are tentative and details will be communicated via email and newsletter to our membership as they become available.

In Person Auditions

Sept 25 & Oct 2

SCVA Honor Choir Weekend

Nov 18-20





A Note of Thanks.....

To the
33 Directors
1,348 Singers
6 Adjudicators
10 Hosts
And 1 Webmaster



who made SCVA Virtual Festival Clinics a reality!
Thank you for your support, creativity, perseverance, courage,
grit, determination, beauty of spirit, and dedication.
SCVA Festivals are not possible without you, and
this year is definitely no exception.

May your summer be filled with opportunities to rest, rejuvenate,
and get back to normal!

***Best wishes from your SCVA Festival Team!
Dan Hawkins, Nancy Ludwig, and Kristen Walton***



SCVA SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR 2021

Sarah Anders, VP-Show Choir



Friday May 28th and Saturday May 29th SCVA teamed up with the directors of John Burroughs High School, Oceanside High School, and Hart High School to put on the SCVA Show Choir Spectacular: Virtual Edition! This event was part of a larger, four event series that showcased work from many schools in Southern California as well as Northern California, New Mexico, Texas, and a handful of schools in the Midwest and East Coast!

The SCVA Show Choir Spectacular was aired on [Twitch.tv/socalshowchoir](https://www.twitch.tv/socalshowchoir) and featured virtual and recorded live performances from over FIFTY choirs from 30 different schools. This is the largest showing at an SCVA Show Choir Competition in recent years and we hope to keep the momentum going once we are back in person next year!

In addition to showcasing the amazing performances of these choirs, Audience Choice awards were given for each division. These awards were the result of the show choir community voting online for their favorite choirs. Winners included Temecula Valley Charter Roaring Harmony (Middle School), Saugus High School Blue Heat (HS Novice), Oceanside HS Sound Waves/High Seas (HS Intermediate Mixed), John Burroughs Sound Sensations (HS Single Gender), and Medina HS Encore Entertainment Company (HS Advanced Mixed)!

A Vocal Solo Competition was held during the first three events of the series and culminated in a top 9 for the finals on Friday night of the SCVA event. From there, a top three was chosen and they were:

3rd Place- Jake Ballash (Burbank HS)


2nd Place- Jillian Flynn (John Burroughs HS)

1st Place- Joey Negrete (Hart HS)


Finally, a Director's Choice award was given to Mt. Eden High School's Choirs- Monarch Mirage and Who's Your Daddy?! These amazing kiddos from Heyward, CA are part of a program that has had a tumultuous past few years with a storied program going through several directors and ending up being almost entirely student run this year and still making magic happen through their performances!

Thanks to all who participated, watched, and supported this endeavor! It was truly a SPECTACULAR event!


Congratulations to Our SCVA Future Choral Educators!



Raymond Ortiz
Downey High School
\$1000 Future Choral Educator
Scholarship
USC – Class of '25



Hannah Park
Great Oak High School
\$500 Future Choral Educator
Scholarship
CSU, Fullerton – Class of '25



**Close Harmony Festival
Returning in February 2022!**

Antone Rodich – VP of Close Harmony



More information to come!



Vocal Jazz / Contemporary A Cappella

VP – Jazz/Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir

After a full year for many of us of zoom online classes, what can we do to invigorate our Vocal Jazz / Contemporary A Cappella Programs?

Professional Development this Summer?

In a year when nothing was routine, many of our colleagues sought out new ways to teach choir /vocal jazz/small/large ensembles. In fact, many of us turned towards learning a Digital Audio Workstation. Some of us even had our students actually learn, record, edit, and balance voicing within Soundtrap, Bandlab, or Logic. Some teachers went even farther, having our students learn Adobe, Davinci, iMovie, or even Logic itself that syncs tracks to video! These new skills actually CAN be used in the future (in moderation, of course, nothing replaces singing with others in a choir) to strengthen our programs. If this sounds like something you learned and created with your students during online learning, consider getting your secondary credential in CTE – Arts, Media, and Entertainment.

The California Career Technical Education Standards in Arts, Media, and Entertainment is a credential that many choral directors have begun to pursue. The CTE AME career path helps students focus on tech, as in understanding how to record, produce, edit, mix, and sound engineer. It also allows students community partnerships and internships with businesses, owners, and those in the industry to connect from school through the medium of masterclasses, interviews, and mentoring partnerships. It also has the potential to qualify your choral program for state-allocated funds to purchase industry and tech equipment. This equipment (such as keyboards, computers, software) is to be used for educational purposes within the classroom. If this sounds interesting to you as a teacher, talk to your administration and school district or CTE Administrator. Most likely, your administration will support you as our students who sing and love choir will be given preparation and possibly more opportunities for employment in the future within the music industry. It also allows choir to get dual practical arts credit.

For more information or to get started, visit the California Department of Education Webpage <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/gi/ameindustrysector.asp>

Want Personal Professional Development as a Vocal Jazz Educator?

A couple summers ago, I was fortunate enough to enroll in a Summer Intensive on Vocal Jazz voicing, piano, arranging, and composition. After the session, I was able to comp and play piano with jazz voicing. I also wrote my first arrangement accessible for high school vocal jazz. If you are looking to grow in your theory, understanding, and approach to vocal jazz, consider a Summer Intensive Study. Many are available online this Summer (if travel is an issue) and offer graduate units. Here are some camps that are happening this

Vocal Jazz Workshops and Camps for Students and Educators

Long Beach Vocal Jazz Academy, Northern California Vocal Jazz Academy, Stanford Jazz Workshop, Jazz Camp West, Jam Camp West, SMV Vocal Jazz Camp, New York Voices Summer Camp.

2021 SCVA Fall In-Service

Friday, Oct. 15, 2021

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Location: To Be Determined



SPECIAL GUEST:
DR. JEFFREY
BENSON
SAN JOSE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Join us!

Rekindle your heart, mind
and musical motivation
as we step into post-
COVID choral education!



Southern California Vocal Association

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IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

2021

Close Harmony Festival	February
High School Honor Choir Auditions	September 25
High School Honor Choir Auditions	October 2
SCVA Fall In-Service	October 15
High School Honor Choir Weekend	November 18-20

Please follow our social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) for updates on upcoming events that will be finalized prior to our next newsletter publication.