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<u>Brittney Wescamillo</u> VP - Jazz/Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir

> <u>Kaitlin Pi</u> VP –Jazz Festival

<u>Sarah Flores</u> Elementary Activities

<u>Marco Rodriguez</u>
VP - Close Harmony Festival

Southern California Vocal Association

OCTOBER 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael Ushino

Dear Colleagues,

It is spooky season! With many of our first performances already taking place, I hope that this time of year is more enjoyable than scary. These are the formative times of growth for our students and our programs as we set them up for future success as the year progresses. Our patience is being tested as we are continually trying to reach new heights with a different batch of students in our classroom. It is so difficult to fight the impatience that comes with trying to get our students to reach our expectations faster than they are ready. But it is with our continued belief, love, toil, and labor that everything will come out well in the end.

It is times like this where I am reminded of the words from my dear mentor of nearly two decades, the late Joseph Huszti (former Director of Choral Activities at University of California, Irvine). Professor Joe Huszti changed my life in every way and shepherded my musical path as he did for so many others. He always gave words of wisdom that were woven into annoyingly cryptic riddles that I would have to figure out. I never got a straight answer when I asked a question and he would often ask a question to answer my question. I never realized how important that was as a young conductor and it is a practice I still continue with my students. With our current generation of students, I have found that many of them are waiting for us to tell them what to do instead of looking for the answer themselves.

Roughly a week before he passed, I met with him with one of my colleagues, who was also a UCI alumni, and we had the opportunity to thank him for everything he did for us, reminisce about past adventures, and joke about his beloved Cleveland sports teams. But like the life-long educator he was, he left me with a few final lessons that I think are very apt for our school years thus far. I will leave his cryptic words as an encouragement to all of you to keep fighting the good fight and live life serendipitously.

"Don't Change Your Colors," "Stay Spooky," and "Keep Things Weird."

HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIRS FEE WAIVERS

The Southern California Vocal Association is offering full and partial fee waivers to students who demonstrate financial need and who have been accepted into any of the 2025 SCVA High School Honor Choirs (SSAA, TTBB, SATB, Vocal Jazz).

General Information

• Teacher Nomination

The student's nominating high school music teacher must fill out the confidential information form and submit the <u>Teacher</u> <u>Nomination</u> on or before October 18, 2025.

Student Application

The applicant must complete an application and write an essay of 200 words or less describing financial need and what honor choir participation would mean to them.

The <u>Student Application</u> must be submitted on or before October 18, 2025

Financial Need

Full and/or partial fee waivers will be awarded to select students who demonstrate financial need and fulfill the other application requirements.

<u>Application</u> OPEN NOW

Apply by Oct. 18, 2025

- Complete Student Application and Essay
- Complete <u>Teacher Nomination Form</u>
- Due on or before October 18, 2025
- Recipients will be notified on October 27, 2025



SPRING FESTIVALS

Registration opens Oct. 15th!

High School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Туре	Sight-Reading	Host
Monday	2/24/2026	10:00 AM	Hacienda Heights Community Center	Hacienda Heights	Open	Open	N	Jeffrey Fahey
Tuesday	3/3/2026	8:00 AM	Granite Hills High School	Apple Valley	Open	Open	Y	Shane Churchill
Thursday	3/5/2026	6:00 PM	Bloomington High	Bloomington	Open	Open	N	Ryan Duckworth
Thursday	3/5/2026	10:00 AM	Bishop Amat High School	La Puente	Open	Open	Y	Jennifer Escovar
Thursday	3/5/2026	2:00 PM	Bishop Amat High School	La Puente	Class I	Open	Y	Jennifer Escovar
Monday	3/9/2026	7:00 PM	California Lutheran University Chapel	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	N	Janna Santangelo
Tuesday	3/10/2026	10:00 AM	Loara High School	Anaheim	Open	Open	N	Katherine Keilty
Tuesday	3/10/2026	7:00 PM	California Lutheran University	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	N	Amy Rolniak
Wednesday	3/11/2026	10:30 AM	Bonita Center for the Arts	San Dimas	Open	Wome n/Men	N	Ryan Yoder
Wednesday	3/11/2026	10:00 AM	Rubidoux High School	Jurupa Valley	Open	Open	N	Jeff Lin
Thursday	3/12/2026	10:30 AM	Bonita Center for the Arts	San Dimas	Open	Mixed	N	Ryan Yoder
Thursday	3/12/2026	10:00 AM	San Marino High School	San Marino	Open	Open	Υ	Derek Jamieson
Thursday	3/12/2026	1:00 PM	San Marino High School	San Marino	Class I	Mixed	Y	Derek Jamieson
Friday	3/13/2026	10:00 AM	Temecula Valley High School	Temecula	Open	Open	N	Sang Park
Friday	3/13/2026	12:00 PM	Santa Susana High School	Simi Valley	Open	Open	N	Bevin Abbe
Friday	3/13/2026	6:30 PM	Santa Paula High School	Santa Paula	Open	Open	N	Jerry Cruz
Saturday	3/14/2026	11:00 AM	Biola University Lansing Auditorium	La Mirada	Open	Mixed	N	Shawna Stewart
Saturday	3/14/2026	3:00 PM	Biola University Lansing Auditorium	La Mirada	Open	Mixed	N	Shawna Stewart
Saturday	3/14/2026	7:00 PM	Biola University Lansing Auditorium	La Mirada	Open	Mixed	N	Shawna Stewart

SPRING FESTIVALS High School Festivals

cont.

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Туре	Sight-Reading	Host
Monday	3/16/2026	12:00 PM	University of La Verne	La Verne	Open	Open	Υ	Clarissa Shan
Tuesday	3/17/2026	10:30 AM	Silverado High School	Victorville	Open	Open	N	Jackie Reeff
Tuesday	3/17/2026	10:00 AM	Vista Del Lago High School	Moreno Valley	Open	Open	N	Jennifer Meregini
Tuesday	3/17/2026	10:00 AM	Fontana High School	Fontana	Open	Open	N	Andrew Salas
Wednesday	3/18/2026	1:30 PM	Santiago High School	Corona	Open	Open	Y	Rachelle Randeen
Wednesday	3/18/2026	9:30 AM	Santiago High School	Corona	Class I	Open	Y	Rachelle Randeen
Wednesday	3/18/2026	11:00 AM	Etiwanda High School	Etiwanda	Open	Open	N	Sheri Nelson
Friday	3/20/2026	10:00 AM	Los Osos High School	Rancho Cucamonga	Class I	Women's	Y	Stevie Leyton
Friday	3/20/2026	2:00 PM	Los Osos High School	Rancho Cucamonga	Class I	Mixed	Y	Stevie Leyton
Friday	3/20/2026	1:00 PM	Murrieta Mesa High Schol	Murrieta	Open	Mixed	N	Bradley Allen
Tuesday	3/24/2026	10:00 AM	Sunny Hills High School Performing Arts Center	Fullerton	Class I	Open	N	Aaron Schwartz
Wednesday	3/25/2026	10:00 AM	Sunny Hills High School Performing Arts Center	Fullerton	Class III	Open	N	Aaron Schwartz
Thursday	3/26/2026	8:30 AM	Arcadia Performing Arts Center	Arcadia	Open	Mixed	Y	Connie Tu
Thursday	4/2/2026	10:00 AM	Corona del Mar Sea King Theater	Newport Beach	Class I	Open	Y	Andrew Ball
Tuesday	4/7/2026	9:00 AM	Ramon C. Cortines School	Los Angeles	Open	Clinic	Y	Drew Lewis
Wednesday	4/15/2026	12:30 PM	Marshall Auditorium	Pasadena	Open	Open	Y	Michelle Espinosa
Tuesday	4/21/2026	10:00 AM	El Monte High School Auditorium	El Monte	Open	Open	N	Joel Whisler
Tuesday	4/21/2026	7:00 PM	The Thacher School	Ojai	Open	Open	Υ	William Wagner
Thursday	5/21/2026	7:00 PM	Mira Costa High School	Manhattan Beach	Open	Open	Y	Kate Crellin

FESTIVALS Middle School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Туре	Sight-Reading	Host
Thursday	3/16/2026	10:00 AM	Beacon Park School	Irvine	Open	Open	N	Miguel Chicas
Monday	3/17/2026	1:00 PM	Bonita Center for the Arts	San Dimas	Open	Mixed	N	Jared Pugh
Monday	3/17/2026	10:00 AM	Bonita Center for the Arts	La Verne	Open	Open	N	Caitlin Shaw
Tuesday	3/17/2026	11:00 AM	Los Cerritos Middle School	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	N	Grant Goldstein
Tuesday	3/18/2026	10:00 AM	Bonita Center for the Arts	La Verne	Open	Open	N	Caitlin Shaw
Friday	3/18/2026	8:30 AM	Santa Susana High School	Simi Valley	Open	Open	N	Bevin Abbe
Thursday	3/18/2026	11:00 AM	Los Cerritos Middle School	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	N	Grant Goldstein
Thursday	3/20/2026	10:30 AM	Roosevelt Middle School	Oceanside	Open	Open	Y	Dawn Inouye
Thursday	3/20/2026	10:00 AM	Baldwin Park Performing Arts Center	Baldwin Park	Class III	Open	N	Becky Othmer
Thursday	3/20/2026	10:30 AM	Ladera Ranch Middle School	Las Flores	Open	Open	N	Elena Benefield
Thursday	3/24/2026	1:00 PM	Corona del Mar Sea King Theater	Newport Beach	Open	Open	Y	Andrew Ball
Tuesday	3/25/2026	1:00 PM	Ramon C. Cortines School	Los Angeles	Open	Open	N	Drew Lewis
Friday	3/26/2026	9:00 AM	Norco Intermediate School	Norco	Open	Open	Y	Kyle Betts
Friday	4/2/2026	1:00 PM	Norco Intermediate School	Norco	Open	Open	Y	Kyle Betts
Wednesday	4/7/2026	10:00 AM	Marshall Fundamental School Auditorium	Pasadena	Open	Open	Y	Michelle Espinosa
Thursday	4/15/2026	2:00 PM	Ethel Dwyer Middle School	Huntington Beach	Open	Open	Y	Neil Reyes
Thursday	4/21/2026	10:00 AM	Vista Del Lago High School	Moreno Valley	Open	Open	N	Jennifer Meregini
Thursday	4/21/2026	10:30 AM	Las Flores Middle School	Las Flores	Open	Open	N	Elena Espinosa
Thursday	5/21/2026	10:30 AM	Ladera Vista Performing Arts Gym	Fullerton	Open	Open	N	Andrea Calvo
Friday	5/8/2026	1:30 PM	Manhattan Beach Middle School	Manhattan Beach	Open	Open	Y	Kate Crellin



Vocal Jazz/ Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir Concert: Friday, November 14th 2025 @ 7pm

FEATURING DIRECTOR: JOHN KNUTSON!



Location: Valencia High School 27801 Dickason Dr. Valencia, CA 91355

John Knutson is Director of Choral Studies at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, CA. He is a former member of the professional vocal jazz ensemble Vocalogy, formed by Phil

Mattson in 1998.

John holds a Masters in Conducting degree from Northern Arizona University and a Bachelors in Piano Performance from the University of Minnesota.

John has served as a clinician at jazz and choral festivals in 18 states, and in five Canadian provinces. John has numerous choral compositions; his vocal jazz arrangements are available through UNC Jazz Press and Anchor Music

Buy Vocal Jazz/Contemporary
A Cappella Honor Choir Concert Tickets at:
http://www.scvachoral.org/payments.php

Publications.



VOCAL JAZZ &CONTEMPORARY A CAPPELLA FESTIVAL

Saturday, February 7th, 2026- Saugus High School, Santa Clarita, CA Registration opens October 15^{th:} www.scvachoral.org/jazz_festival.php

Introducing our Clinicians:



Rob Dietz is a multiple award-winning arranger who has been composing, performing, and teaching contemporary a cappella music for over twenty years. Based in Los Angeles, Rob is best known for his work as an arranger and group coach for NBC's The Sing-Off. Over the course of his career, Rob has had the pleasure of collaborating with some of the top talent in the vocal music world including the Grammy award-winning Pentatonix. He has been a contributing arranger for performances by world renowned artists. Rob has a deep passion for a cappella education, and is a founding co-director.

of <u>A Cappella Academy</u>. In 2016, he launched Legacy, a youth a cappella group in Los Angeles. He is also the author of <u>A Cappella 101: A Beginner's Guide to Contemporary A Cappella Singing</u>. Alongside his work in contemporary a cappella, Rob is also an accomplished choral composer, with works published by Hal Leonard, Alfred, GIA Publications, and Heritage. His pieces continue to be performed by choirs from all over the world. Rob currently serves as the national repertoire and resources co-chair for Contemporary/Commercial music for ACDA.

Sean Fitzpatrick is a SAG-AFTRA studio singer, drummer, and educator with over 15 years of experience across diverse genres, specializing in jazz and choral singing, improvisation, vocal pedagogy, and jazz drumming. He holds a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at CSU Long Beach and a master's degree in jazz studies from CalArts. His session work spans film, television, and media projects, including The Lost City and Brooklyn Nine-Nine. He has performed with Pacific Chorale, L.A. Choral Lab, Voices of Terpsichor, the Los Angeles Bach Festival Chorus, and numerous contemporary a cappella groups, appearing at venues such as the Hollywood Bowl, Walt Disney Concert Hall, and Segerstrom.



He also performs regularly with jazz groups including Just Friends Duo and Emily & Friends. As Director of Vocal Arts at Citrus College, Sean has cultivated a thriving community of aspiring vocal artists, mentoring students in vocal performance, jazz voice, and music education. He is the founding director of Speakeasy, the college's premier vocal jazz ensemble, and Treble Chorus. He has also held faculty positions at Cal State Long Beach, Fullerton College, Long Beach City College, and Musicians Institute, and is a regular clinician at vocal jazz festivals.

SHOW SHOW SPECIAL SHOWS A SHOW A SHOW

Save the Date

RUSD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

2000 Otterbein Ave. Rowland Heights CA 91748





MIDDLE SCHOOL/9TH GRADE **HONOR CHOIR** 2025-2026

AUDITION HOSTS NEEDED!!

Ruth Morris Gray Conductor

<u>Important Dates</u>

Saturday January 31st

Audition Weekend #1

Saturday February 7th

Audition Weekend #2

Saturday March 14th

Regional Rehearsal

San Juan Hills High School

San Juan Capistrano

Saturday May 2nd
Rehearsal Day and Final Concert Portola High School ~ Irvine

AUDITION SIGN UPS OPEN IN **JANUARY!**



OPEN TO ALL 6TH-9TH GRADERS!

Important Dates & Deadlines

Event

Festival Registration opens
VJCA Festival Registration Opens
HS Honor Choir Fee Waiver Deadline to Apply
High School Honor Choir Weekend
VJCA Honor Choir Weekend
Show Choir Spectacular Registration Opens

Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Auditions VJCA Festival Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Regional Rehearsal Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Concert Show Choir Spectacular

to Sight Reading Factory. colleen@sightreadingfactory.com

2025

Oct 15

Oct 15

Oct 18

Nov 6-8

Nov 13-14

Nov 17

2026

Jan 31 & Feb 7

Feb 7

March 14

May 2

May 16

