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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Karen Garrett



Happy Fall!

Such a magical time of year – crisp fall air, holidays just around the corner and a sense of thankfulness that we get to make music 40 hours a week positively impacting the lives of children. Yet finding the balance to do it all with grace and energy is sometimes a challenge. If I listed ALL the responsibilities of the average choral director it would fill this entire newsletter. It has taken me many years to follow the advice of conventional wisdom that tells me to take control and live life with a sense of mindfulness – a purpose.

Build your choral program with a purpose, a plan that will create meaningful experiences for your students. In this culture of “Edutainment” in the arts it is important to keep the musical education forefront in your program. Yes, we must be present on campus and perform at rallies and assemblies. It is important to do the occasional community gig that promotes and brings your program out to the community. But when we find ourselves cutting out the sight singing lesson, aural training or deep dives into the cultural background of that Baroque piece we’re singing, then we’ve lost our educational balance.

SCVA has a myriad of ways your students can immerse themselves in the core of the choral art. Sign up today for a Choral Festival this spring. Better yet, sign up for a sightreading festival and guide your students to success using the sightreading materials on the SCVA website: www.scvachoral.org

Come to the High School Honor Choir concert Saturday, Nov. 18th @ 7:00 p.m. at Redlands University. Whether or not you have students in the concert, it is a wonderful way to be inspired and re-charge your musical batteries. Also, encourage your singers to sign up for the solo vocal/small ensemble competition – the deadline is in January 8th so talk to your singers about it before winter break.

Do you have young men in your program that would benefit from singing with a HUGE men’s ensemble? Come and join the Young Men’s Harmony Festival. You don’t have to field a whole choir, just bring as many as you wish to participate in a fun-filled “guys rule” day. Don’t miss early registration Nov. 10th at the SCVA website.

So, plan your year with musical purpose in mind. Don’t let the everyday craziness of school deter you from the passion for music that brought you to this career in the first place. This is our greatest gift to our students, sharing the passion for this beautiful choral art.



HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIR INFORMATION

Crystal Stone, Vice President I, Senior High Honor Choir – cstonesings@gmail.com

Matthew Netto, Vice President II, Senior High Honor Choir - matthew_netto@jusd.k12.ca.us



Congratulations to the 256 members of our 2017 SCVA Regional Honor Choirs. We auditioned 446 students this year. Thank you to the 12 audition sites and 50+ adjudicators that made this whole experience possible. We certainly could not do it without you and sincerely appreciate the hard work, preparation and facilities you provided.

October 28 was the first rehearsal at Fullerton College. A very special thank you goes to our gracious host, John Tebay. The three choirs met from 8am-4pm to work with our inspiring rehearsal conductors: Michael Hayden (Women's Choir), Tammi Alderman (Men's Choir) and Tina Peterson (Mixed Choir). Thank you all for your hard work!

**Thank
You**

Honor Choir weekend is November 17 and 18 at the University of Redlands. The culminating concert will be on November 18 at 7pm in Memorial Chapel at the University of Redlands. Please invite your students and parents to attend what is sure to be a fantastic concert. Tickets are \$10 for general seating and may be purchased in advance, online at www.scvachoral.org, at honor choir rehearsals, or at the door.



REMINDERS:

- Students must attend **all** rehearsals in their entirety or be subject to the removal from the honor choir. If a student does not attend all rehearsals, their home school may be suspended from Honor Choir participation for one year.
- All of the honor choir rehearsals are **OPEN REHEARSALS**. This is a great opportunity for directors to see our outstanding guest conductors at work. You can learn great techniques and rehearsal ideas that you can use in your own ensembles at home. Rehearsals are all day on November 17 and 18. Again, our esteemed conductors are Dr. Jaclyn Johnson (Women's Choir), Dr. Joshua Palkki (Mixed Choir) and Mr. Bruce Rogers (Men's Choir).
- **We count on you**, the directors of participating singers, to volunteer during honor choir weekend. Please find the Volunteer Spot link at www.scvachoral.org and sign up as soon as possible. You can choose from a variety of volunteer areas including t-shirt distribution, registration, ushering, clean-up and more. Thank you for your assistance!
- Please encourage your students to **PRACTICE** and practice often. It is important that the singers feel confident on their individual parts. Have them come to you with their music and sing their parts with the provided tracks. Do not assume efficient practice is occurring at home. Have them be accountable to you **BEFORE** honor choir weekend. Practice tracks are available at www.scvachoral.org



We look forward to seeing you all at our 2017 SCVA Regional Honor Choir Weekend!

Junior High/Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir

Marcelo Martínez, VP – Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir

Auditions for the 2018 Junior High/Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir will be on Saturday January 20, 2018 and Saturday, January 27, 2018 in several locations throughout Southern California. The locations are already posted on the website and your students can sign up now.



I am excited to announce that this year's Honor Choir Director will be Dr. Angel Vázquez-Ramos. Dr. Ramos is Director of Choral Studies at California State University, Bakersfield where he teaches courses in music education, choral conducting, and conducts the University Singers and Chamber Singers. Before his appointment to CSUB he served as Director of Choral Music Education at Chapman University in Orange.

As always, the audition will include both melodic and rhythmic sight reading. Any system that you use in your classroom is acceptable as long as the student reads the music accurately. In my classroom, I try to work in some type of sight-reading almost everyday to get everyone prepared. There are plenty of resources online including on the SCVA website. You can find examples under the festivals' page. Here you will also find a link to Masterworks Press where you can buy many reproducible sight-reading examples.

In my experience, students who have made it into the Honor Choir have always loved the experience and are always glad that they tried it. I hope that you will encourage your 6th-9th graders to audition this year. The Audition Requirements are listed below:

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

- Sing a major scale up and down (a cappella)
- Sing a major and minor triad (a cappella)
- Sing an octave (a cappella)
- Sight read one melodic and one rhythmic example
- Sing tonal memory patterns
- Sing "America"/"My Country 'Tis of Thee" (a cappella)

The final rehearsal and JHS/9th Grade Honor Choir Concert will be held on Saturday, April 21 at Portola High School in Irvine. 1001 Cadence, Irvine, CA

SCVA Junior High/9th Grade Honor Choir auditions are opening SOON!

Keep your eyes open for an SCVA email from me. Auditions will be held in January 20 and 27 at various locations around Southern California. A PayPal fee of \$10 is required for the audition. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at timekp@hotmail.com.



Preliminary Performance Registration

Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Competition

How Do I Register?

Step 1:

Register your solo or ensemble
www.scvachoral.org

Step 2:

Select the Performance Category

*Classical or Musical Theatre/Jazz

*Competitive, Non-Competitive,
Rating or Comments only

Step 3

Pay the Registration Fee

\$30 for solo, and \$35 for small
ensembles online

Online Application & Payment Deadline

Monday, January 8, 2018
www.scvachoral.org

For further questions and
information: Please email
marisa.bradfield@providencehigh.org

Audition Dates and Locations

Saturday, January 20th: Fullerton High School, Host: Scott Hedgecock

Saturday, February 3rd: Newbury Park High School, Host: John Sargent

Saturday, February 17th: Providence High School, Host: Marisa Bradfield

Performance Guidelines Quick Tips

- All registrations must have director approval
- Directors or voice teachers must be current SCVA members.
- When performing in an ensemble, only one vocalist per part will be allowed.
- Ensemble participants can have a group size of three to eight vocalists.
- All solo performances must be accompanied.
- All performers must supply their own accompanist.
- All solo performances must be memorized. Ensemble performances may choose to perform with scores.
- All participants must select repertoire from the classical, musical theatre, or jazz genre.

Attention!

SCVA applicants who earn a superior rating will automatically qualify to participate in the CMEA State Solo and Small Ensemble Finals Competition. For more information, please visit: www.calmusiced.com

Young Women's and Young Men's Harmony Festivals

Mark Freedkin, VP - Barbershop Harmony Festivals

Applications for this year's Barbershop Harmony Festivals for Young Women and Young Men are still being accepted. Both events will be held at the Robert B. Moore Theater on the campus of Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. The 13th annual "**Diva Day**" Young Women in Harmony Festival, sponsored by the Harborlites Chorus, will be held on Saturday, February 3, and the 18th annual "**Young Men's Harmony Festival**" will be held on Saturday, February 10, sponsored by the Masters of Harmony. Both of these events will provide a unique musical opportunity for your singers and will provide a positive boost to your choral music program.

The early-registration deadline is November 15, so you can still take advantage of the \$25 registration fee per singer. After November 15, the application fee will be \$30 per singer. The sponsoring choruses will cover the remaining costs for all sheet music, practice CDs, rehearsal facilities, guest clinicians and performance costumes. Each singer will receive a commemorative T-shirt. We will also provide lunch and dinner for the singers, choral directors and any adult chaperones accompanying the singers.

There will also be a special session for all of the attending choral directors, so you can learn more about how to use the Barbershop style to supplement your existing music program and attract more young men into your program.

Please download and print the appropriate application forms from the SCVA website. Complete and return the applications and forms, along with payment by cash, check or money order payable to **Harborlites** (for Diva Day) or **Masters of Harmony** (for the Young Men's Festival). Each event will be limited to a maximum of 250 participants, so be sure to submit your applications early. Note that these festivals are separate events, and you must send the appropriate forms and payments to the proper recipient.



WEBSITE UPDATE

Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster

Our new website design has been operational for the past year, and we are very proud of the cosmetic and functional improvements that have been made. The original site served us well since it was first implemented in early 2000, and we have been continuously adding automation and real-time registration processing to help our organization operate more efficiently. The new design also brings the SCVA website more in line with modern Internet website styles.

A more recent improvement has been to require Members-Only login before registering for any SCVA events. This helps us to streamline the automated processing, and it eliminates redundant entry of data for all of our members, since the on-line application or registration forms are automatically populated with the information directly from our membership database. Of course, this means that you must standardize on using a single e-mail address for all of your SCVA activities. Similarly, your students who wish to register for Honor Choirs or Vocal Solo Competition must also use that same e-mail address.

Just like Disneyland, a website is never really "finished". It continues to evolve, so please let us know of any comments or suggestions you may have about our website, and we will do our best to accommodate those requests.

Paperwork | Advocacy | Mentorship | Membership | Extra duties | Vocal health! | Social media as a professional | Administrative support | How to be "on" all the time. | Classroom Management | Media in the classroom | What to do with the sub? | Student mental illness | Audition tips & tricks | Poverty training / assistance | Big crises and everyday struggles | Setting limits with younger children | Teaching students with special needs | Switching gears / transitional moments | How many programs/concerts is enough? | What to do when things don't go perfectly | The calendar & connected paperwork | How much planning is too much planning? | What should be repeated? And for how long? | Teaching performance & audience expected behavior | Preparing for festival | Sight-reading | Music Theory



New Teachers!

So much new information, so many new experiences, so many issues to solve!
How can we help?

What might be the most helpful to you?

An all-day workshop for new / newer teachers? A mentor? Area get-togethers?

Which subjects would you like to talk / learn about?

We want to hear from you!

Please email rachelle.randeen@cnusd.k12.ca.us with your thoughts!

You are the ones in charge of helping build the next generation through music!

SCVA'S 2018 VOCAL JAZZ & A CAPPELLA FESTIVAL/CLINIC

FRIDAY MARCH 9TH, 2018

Now accepting Novice-Advanced Junior High and High School choirs

Adjudicators and Clinicians Jamie Shew and VJ Singh

Featuring our Headline Performers

The Filharmonic

as seen on the hit TV Show "The Sing Off"

<http://www.thefilharmonic.com/>

To apply, visit SCVACHORAL.ORG (under events)

SCVA Festival Fee Scholarships Available!!!

Nancy Ludwig, VPI Festivals

What?!?!?

SCVA understands that many programs in Southern California struggle financially, and even affordable festivals seem out of reach. This is why we have initiated two scholarship programs this year, and one of them is the Festival Fee Scholarship! Through an application process, SCVA is able to award 10 scholarships of \$100 each to programs in need of assistance.

This scholarship can be used for any SCVA festival in the current academic year.



How do I apply?!?!?!?

1. Register for the festival you want to attend at <http://scvachoral.org/festivals.php>
2. See scholarship details, process, and application at: http://scvachoral.org/festival_scholarship_reg.php
3. The scholarship committee will review all applications and notify you regarding acceptance.

Scholarships are based on financial need and circumstance. It is our hope that this will provide a festival opportunity to choirs who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend due to financial constraints.



SCVA Member, 10 Years Jeff Kopasz

2010-2016: Murrieta Mesa High School
(Murrieta Valley Unified)

2016-present: Raymond Cree Middle School
(Palm Springs Unified)



Who have been your most influential teachers?

Alisa Allen, director of Karousel Kids in Claremont, Jill Geist & Jason Harney, my junior-high and high-school directors, Bill Hall and Joe Modica, my directors at Chapman University, Jan Osborn professor of my "Content Area Literacy" class

What's one of your favorite pieces to program?

A great combined piece for HS and feeders to perform together is John Rutter's "Look at the World."

What do you do outside of school to stay balanced?

Singing with *adults* is an important outlet. Last year I joined the Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus and their concerts always have a good balance of 'serious' and 'fun' literature. Raymond Cree Middle School also has a partnership with PSGMC (established before I was hired, thanks to previous director Yesenia Garcia, also an SCVA member!) and each May we put on a unique and meaningful "Harvey Milk Day" Celebration/assembly for which we just received an award from Equality California.

Southern California Vocal Association

21111 Avenida Magnifica, Lake Forest, CA 92630

www.scvachoral.org / email: scvmail@yahoo.com



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Festival Host Registration Closes	November 1, 2017
CMEA State Choral Festival Deadline to Apply	November 1, 2017
Young Men's Harmony Festival Early Fee Deadline	November 11, 2017
HS Honor Choir Weekend at University of Redlands	November 17-18, 2017
Diva Day	February 3, 2018
Young Men's Harmony Festival	February 10, 2018
California All-State Honor Choirs	February 15-17, 2018
CMEA State Choral Festival	March 8, 2018
Vocal Jazz & A Cappella Festival/Clinic	March 9, 2018
Show Choir Spectacular	May 5, 2018