Drew Lewis  
President

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Drew Lewis

SCVA recently hosted our first High School Honor Choir weekend in Redlands in two years! It was beautiful to hear the voices of the students and to see how excited everyone was to have an in-person event like this again. I’m so grateful for the creative thinking and resilience of our honor choir chairs Michael Ushino, Bethany Encina, and Christine Tavares-Mocha who organized a spectacular experience for those involved. For every event that happens like this I get more and more excited about what lies ahead. Even if it feels at times like we are merely surviving, we are still moving forward.

We Are Not Alone

It’s interesting to see how varied the responses and COVID-19 mitigation strategies are throughout the Southern California region. If your school is anything like my district, it seems the requirements change almost daily. I know it’s challenging and can be physically draining, but we are doing what we can to show up for our students. Even if it doesn’t feel that way at times, let me tell you this: you are a rock star! Thank you for bringing music and meaning into the lives of students throughout Southern California. If you feel like you are alone, remember that this is why organizations like SCVA exist. We are here to support each other and offer ways to help and inspire each other. I had many great conversations with colleagues during the recent Honor Choir weekend, and it’s connections like this that keep me going. On Thursday, January 13th, SCVA will also host another Happy Hour on Zoom from 5-6 PM to continue those conversations.

We Move On

Many of us are trying to rebuild programs and recover what seems to be lost. I know I’m still trying to work with students to overcome the quiet and timid singing that became the norm after a year and a half online where they were trying to complete music assignments without bugging family and neighbors, all while being afraid of their judgement. However, I am also the guy who is always thinking ahead about the next concert during tech week. In SCVA we are thinking ahead as well. We have a busy Spring coming up with our creative versions of multiple festivals along with our middle school honor choir. We also have changes in the works that are only the beginning of where we hope to move in the future. Our Vocal Solo Competition now has added a third category for commercial music, and we are reaching out to some of our Gospel choir experts to broaden our festival experience. We are here to support each other and offer ways to help and inspire each other. I had many great conversations with colleagues during the recent Honor Choir weekend, and it’s connections like this that keep me going. On Thursday, January 13th, SCVA will also host another Happy Hour on Zoom from 5-6 PM to continue those conversations.

Take heart everyone. You’ve almost made it through another semester. Enjoy your holidays and use your winter break to refresh and recharge. We’ll see you in the new year!
Fall In-Service Highlights
Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir is May 7, 2022 at Portola High School with Dr. Joshua Palkki. Please encourage your middle school and 9th grade students to audition.

Auditions will be January 22 and 29 at various locations. Please consider volunteering to host the auditions. We will also need many judges to help us adjudicate all the students. Both hosts and judges will be compensated for their time.

Students will be required to sing My Country Tis of Thee or America the Beautiful, a cappella. They will be required to sing a major scale, major and minor triad, and an octave. In addition, they will do four tonal memory exercises and this will be followed by rhythmic and melodic sight reading.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 22 and 29 - Auditions at various sites.
- March 26 - Rehearsal, Spring View Middle School, Huntington Beach.
- May 7 - Honor Choir rehearsal and concert, Portola High School, Irvine.
SCVA will once again host its annual Show Choir Competition LIVE on Saturday, May 7, 2022 at the Hart High School Auditorium in Santa Clarita, CA. We hope to sell out this year after two years with no live competition so register as soon as you can! Show Choir Divisions include: Middle School Treble, Middle School Mixed, Novice Treble, Novice Mixed, Intermediate Treble, Intermediate Mixed, Men (all levels), Advanced Treble, and Advanced Mixed. Registration is open now at scvachoral.org. Click on the link for Show Choir Competition to access the registration form and either pay by pay-pal or mail a school check directly to:

SCVA Show Choir Competition  
Attn: Sarah Anders  
18034 Ventura Blvd. #480  
Encino, CA 91316

We encourage groups to attend regardless of the ability or experience of the group. Our judges have years of experience and always give positive suggestions for improvement. Trophies will be awarded to the top scoring groups in each division along with plaques for outstanding achievements in both Showmanship and Musicianship.
**In Person Concert Festivals?!? Yes!!!**

_Nancy Ludwig, VPI Festivals_

Are you ready for an in-person SCVA festival, because WE are! HUGE thanks go out to all of our members who are volunteering to host a festival this coming spring. SCVA Festivals would not be possible without the help of every single volunteer host.

Please note! There are a few festivals that are restricted to participants within their own district, so make a note of that when you are planning your calendars.

Registration deadline is March 1, 2022. Register online: [http://www.scvachoral.org/festivals.php](http://www.scvachoral.org/festivals.php)

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### High School Festivals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Host</th>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Chaparral HS PAC</td>
<td>Temecula</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>3/11</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Beckman HS</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Class I</td>
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<td>Sarah Norris</td>
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<td>Thousand Oaks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
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<td>Kelley Squires</td>
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## Junior High/Middle School Festivals

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<th>Level</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<td>Clinic</td>
<td>Jeff Kopasz</td>
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<td>5/05</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Norco HS</td>
<td>Norco</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Clinic</td>
<td>Kyle Betts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thrus</td>
<td>5/05</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Norco HS</td>
<td>Norco</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Clinic</td>
<td>Kyle Betts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
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<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Bellflower Civic Center</td>
<td>Bellflower</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Sergio Montes</td>
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</tbody>
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**SCVA Vocal Solo Competition/ Small Ensemble Festival**  
*Erika Jackson VP*

Hello everyone, we hope your school year is progressing nicely and that this busy season will be filled with positivity and joy! Just by way of reminder, we have made some permanent changes with Round 1 being virtual and Round 2 being live. We believe it provides better access and equity and will allow more students to participate. We have also added a new category this year so that we can offer more scholarships. Again, you can find all new and important information on our website under The Events Tab. We are excited to be working with you and your fine students this year and we will keep you updated as we go. Lastly, we are happy to report that our Judges Clarissa Shan and Charlie Kim will be joining us again this year and are so excited to see live performances in Round 2. Round 1 is just around the corner so please continue preparing some amazing submissions with your students.

**Important Dates:**

* Application and Round 1 Submission Deadline: Friday February 25, 2022
* Finalists Results Posted: March 4, 2022
* Round 2 Submission Deadline: May 7, 2022
* Live Finals Concert: May 21, 2022 MVHS PAC
* Judges: Clarissa Shan & Charlie Kim

More Info: Visit scvachoral.org / Questions: ejackson@mvusd.net
2021 Southern California Vocal Association Vocal Jazz Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir
Director, Shams Ahmed

Change The World – Eric Clapton – arranged by Shams Ahmed
Soloist: Khara Bigham

The Bones - Morris, Robbins, Veltz - arranged by Ben Bram, Shams Ahmed
Soloists: Aarya Shah, Elizabeth Scheffer, Tomi Lessis, Khara Bigham, Madison Cheramie, Emma Henao, Elizabeth Scheffer

The End of Love – Florence + The Machine, arranged by Elliot Von Wendt and Shams Ahmed
If You’re Out There – John Legend – arranged by Shams Ahmed
Soloists: Rhea Madhogarhia, Mallory Snyder, Tomi Lessis, Azarine Rushenas, Elizabeth Scheffer, Khara Bigham

SCVA VJCA Honor Choir Vocalists

Charlie Doris - Baritone
Elizabeth Scheffer - Soprano
Mallory Snyder – Mezzo Soprano
Emma Henao – Alto / Tenor
Lucas Santos - Tenor
Khara Bigham – Mezzo Soprano
Marcus Espinosa - Bass
Ariane Villanueva - Alto
Tomi Lessis – Tenor / Baritone
Azarine Rushenas - Alto
Madison Cheramie - Soprano
Griffen Beebe - Tenor
Sophia Sooter – Soprano
Aarya Shah – Mezzo Soprano
Miles Roja - Baritone
Ethan Bowling - Bass
Rhea Madhogarhia
Matt King - Bass
Alex Homani – Guest Beatboxer

Congratulations to our directors listed & the following schools on such a fantastic performance!
Sara Greenberg, Chaminade College Prep High School, Christine Mocha, Valencia High School
Zanaida Robles, Harvard Westlake High School, Kelly Squires, Rancho Cucamonga High School
Kaitlin Holt, Saugus High School, Bethany Encina, Los Osas High School, Sandy Sooter, Excelsior Charter High School

SCVA VJCA Honor Choir Chair/Coordinator: Christine Mocha, SCVA VJCA Honor Choir Manager: Sara Greenberg
CLOSE HARMONY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022

• PERFORMANCE AND COACHING FROM SIGNATURE QUARTET
• EVENT CLINICIAN CHRISTOPHER PETERSON
• A FULL DAY OF HARMONY YOU WON’T WANT TO MISS!

TO REGISTER, VISIT SCVACHORAL.ORG OR SCAN THIS QR CODE
2021 Regional Honor Choirs
Event Wrap-Up

SCVA celebrated a triumphant return to in-person performance with a successful 2021 Regional Honor Choir weekend! 189 students from 54 High Schools from throughout the region came together to create an outstanding musical experience.

A sincere thank you to our conductors, Dr. T.J. Harper, Julie Dana and Dr. Gene Peterson, and our collaborative pianists Dr. Sara Shakliyan, Christopher Luthi and Dr. Joseph Schubert for their exemplary work, as well as to our choir hosts, Miranda Ford, Jennifer Phillips and Kristen Walton for their massive efforts in keeping the event running smoothly. A special thank you as well to composer Shawn Kirchner for sharing his presence and wisdom with our students!

We are also grateful to Dr. Joe Modica and the University of Redlands, as always, for their hospitality and the use of their beautiful facility.

 MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Know Your Choral Community

Rose Taylor is currently in her 3rd year at Dorothy McElhinney Middle School in Murrieta, CA. Rose teaches 6th/7th Grade Choir, Concert Choir, semester-long Beginner Choir, Guitar, and Music Appreciation. She loves educating 11-15 year olds about their physical vocal development (what’s a pharynx?) and how to accept their instrument as it grows. DMMS students learn a holistic approach to vocal arts that include body mapping and mindfulness meditation. When students can accept the physical space in which they exist, they can engage more authentically with their music and each other. Rose’s favorite Choir tradition is during the Winter Concert, when the audience sings “Let it Snow” and “Silver Bells” along with the students on stage.
2021 Regional Honor Choirs

SSAA Honor Choir
Dr. T.J. Harper, Conductor
Dr. Sara Shakliyan, Collaborative Pianist

TTBB Honor Choir
Julie Dana, Conductor
Christopher Luthi, Collaborative Pianist

SATB Honor Choir
Dr. Gene Peterson, Conductor
Dr. Joseph Schubert, Collaborative Pianist
2022 IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

- Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Auditions: Jan 22
- Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Auditions: Jan 29
- Close Harmony Festival: Feb 5
- Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Round 1 Application & Submission Deadline: Feb 25
- Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Finalist Results Posted: March 4
- Vocal Jazz, Gospel & Contemporary Acapella Festival: March 24
- Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Rehearsal: March 26
- Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Rehearsal & Concert: May 7
- Show Choir Spectacular: May 7
- Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Round 2 Submission Deadline: May 7
- Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Live Concert Performance: May 21

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