It has been quite the fall semester for many of us. This year marked the beginning of the long march back to what we hope new be the next “new normal.” I am daily reminded of the paraphrase from the Dao De Jing (ascribed to Lao Tzu) “The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

While most of us have returned to our regular performance venues, and many are planning tours, we are still working through the trauma and learning loss created by nearly three years of turmoil. Our administrators continue to stress lessons that promote social-emotional learning and the need for grace and understanding as our students continue to regain their place in a physical (versus virtual) environment.

Through this, I find myself using pieces that I haven’t looked at in ages. Pieces that are joyous, uplifting and that support the pedagogy that I use in my classroom every day. Sometimes, you find the piece that is magic for your students and to your teaching soul. I pride myself on continually discovering new-to-me choral literature. But for this year, I’m also finding comfort in pieces that will have new life with students who have never heard these pieces before. There are purposefully no titles listed in this article because those pieces are so personal to every teacher (I am happy to share them with you individually if you email me).

So as we carol our way through the month of December and wonder how there are still 9 days until school is out, think about what your soul-feeding, tomato-soup-and-grilled-cheese-sandwich pieces are for next semester.

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS

Drew Lewis, SCVA Past-President put on a fantastic Fall In-Service at the end of October in Fullerton. If you were in attendance, you know how powerful it was to have a group of choral conductors in a room singing, learning and sharing ideas. Roger Emerson was and inspiration and gave us a good reminder to embrace the journey (our own and that of our students).

Bethany Encina and Kristen Walton (VPs of High School Honor Choir) and Sara Logsdon (VP of Vocal Jazz/Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir) are some of the most calm, collected and gracious people I have ever seen work in the storm that is High School Honor Choir Weekend! Once again the weekend gave so many of our choral students an experience that they will remember for a lifetime. All four of the conductors took the students on a journey with their programming that resulted in beautiful sounds, smiles, rambunctious applause. Remember to send your positive comments and thanks to these people who volunteered so much of their fall semester to create this amazing event — Let them know that they are appreciated and the time they spent made a difference to our humans!
THANK YOU SCVA COMMUNITY!

November 19th closed a wonderful Honor Choir weekend with a concert of fine performances from our 2022 SCVA High School Honor Choir participants.

Many Thanks!

Thank you to our fantastic conductors: Dr. Iris Levine, Dr. Nicholle Andrews and Dr. Alicia Walker for sharing your wisdom and inspiration with our students. To our most excellent pianists: Christopher Luthi, Dr. Joseph Schubert and Dr. Sara Shakliyan for your exemplary musicianship, and to our amazing choir hosts, Bekka Knauer, Miranda Ford and Jennifer Phillips for your patience, persistence and tirelessness! Our sincere gratitude to the University of Redlands and Dr. Joe Modica for your wonderful hospitality.

Thank you also to the army of volunteer SCVA members and parent volunteers who kept our weekend running seamlessly! You made the honor choir weekend superb. Finally, thank you directors for your work encouraging your students to audition and prepare for Honor Choir this year. Your work made a difference.

Bethany Encina, 
HS Honor Choir VP I

Kristen Walton
HS Honor Choir VP II

scvahonorchoir@gmail.com
TTBB Honor Choir
Dr. Alicia Walker, conductor
Christopher Luthi, pianist

SATB Honor Choir
Dr. Nicholle Andrews, conductor
Dr. Joseph Schubert, pianist

SSAA Honor Choir
Dr. Iris Levine, conductor
Dr. Sara Shakliyan, pianist
**Concert Festival Registration Had Begun!**

Kenneth Haro, VPI Festivals

Registration for Spring SCVA Concert Festivals has officially opened! Please see the list below for selections to take your students this year to participate in one of these amazing festivals.

A special thank you to all the hosting school sites and directors! Without your help, we would be unable to put on community building choral events for our young singers.

Registration deadline is March 1, 2023. Make sure to reserve your spot soon! Register online at http://www.scvachoral.org/festivals.php

### 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Bloomington HS</td>
<td>Bloomington</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Ryan Duckworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>San Marcos HS</td>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>Class 1</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Eleni Pantages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Fontana HS</td>
<td>Fontana</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Jennifer Hartman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Newport Harbor HS</td>
<td>Newport Beach</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Jeffrey Ledon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3/13</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Thousand Oaks HS</td>
<td>Thousand Oaks</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Janna Santangelo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Bonita HS</td>
<td>La Verne</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Women/Men</td>
<td>Ryan Yoder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Bonita HS</td>
<td>La Verne</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>Ryan Yoder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Mission Viejo HS</td>
<td>Mission Viejo</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Sarah Norris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Mission Viejo HS</td>
<td>Mission Viejo</td>
<td>Class 1</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Sarah Norris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Vista Del Lago HS</td>
<td>Moreno Valley</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Jennifer Meregini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Freeman Eakin Auditorium</td>
<td>Santa Paula</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Jerry Cruz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Santa Susana HS</td>
<td>Simi Valley</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Bevin Abe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>California Lutheran University</td>
<td>Westlake Village</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Amy Rolnick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Performing Arts Center</td>
<td>Baldwin Park</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Suzanne Brokey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Performing Arts Center</td>
<td>Baldwin Park</td>
<td>Class I</td>
<td>Chamber</td>
<td>Suzanne Brokey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3/24</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Biola University</td>
<td>La Mirada</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>John Tebay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3/24</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Biola University <em>Sight-Reading</em></td>
<td>La Mirada</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>John Tebay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3/24</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Biola University <em>Sight-Reading</em></td>
<td>La Mirada</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>John Tebay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3/29</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Corona Del Mar HS</td>
<td>Newport Beach</td>
<td>Class I</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Andrew Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3/30</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Ramon C. Cortines HS</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Clinic</td>
<td>Drew Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3/30</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Walnut HS</td>
<td>Walnut</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Elizabeth Lopez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Eastside HS</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Lance Azasada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Moreno Valley HS</td>
<td>Moreno Valley</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>Erika Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4/12</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Los Osos HS</td>
<td>Rancho Cucamonga</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Bethany Encina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4/12</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Los Osos HS</td>
<td>Rancho Cucamonga</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Bethany Encina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Norco HS</td>
<td>Norco</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Rachelle Randeen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Norco HS</td>
<td>Norco</td>
<td>Class I</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Rachelle Randeen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4/14</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Vista Murrieta HS</td>
<td>Murrieta</td>
<td>Class I</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>Zachary Krug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Gabrielson HS</td>
<td>San Gabriel</td>
<td>Class III</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>David Pitts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Gabrielino HS</td>
<td>San Gabriel</td>
<td>Class I</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>David Pitts</td>
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### Junior High/Middle 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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Santa Susana HS</td>
<td>Simi Valley</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Bevin Abe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3/22</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Performing Arts Center</td>
<td>Baldwin Park</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Suzanne Brokey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3/23</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Las Flores Middle School</td>
<td>Las Flores</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Elena Mariano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3/29</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Corona Del Mar HS</td>
<td>Newport Beach</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Andrew Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Vista Del Lago HS</td>
<td>Moreno Valley</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Jennifer Meregini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4/14</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Norco Intermediate School</td>
<td>Norco</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Kyle Betts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4/14</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Norco Intermediate School</td>
<td>Norco</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Clinic</td>
<td>Kyle Betts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4/18</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Las Flores Middle School</td>
<td>Las Flores</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Elena Mariano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5/9</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Vanguard University</td>
<td>Costa Mesa</td>
<td>Class III</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Ashley Riodoka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What classification do I use when registering my choirs? Help!

SCVA CHORAL FESTIVAL CLASSIFICATIONS
By Alan Garcia | VP of Festival Adjudication

One of the most frequent questions I ask myself when I am both programming music and registering my choirs for festivals is thinking about their classification. This can be a difficult subject because of how vague the terms can be. Are my choirs “advanced” or “novice”? What constitutes an intermediate choir? Instead of relying on semantics, SCVA sought to clearly define these classifications. This was especially useful to ensure that adjudication is consistent across all of our festivals. It is also a way for us as directors to provide context for the adjudicator about our ensembles.

These classifications are organized by grade level, with middle school and high school classifications being defined slightly differently. It is important to note, however, that even with more clear definitions, gray area will always exist. Because of this, directors are encouraged to use their discretion when choosing their classification. Each classification listed below also lists permutations of choirs that can fall in each category.

**MS Classification III: Middle School Novice Level Ensembles (grades 6-8)**
- MS ensembles in which the majority of students began singing in the fall or have less than one year of experience
- MS ensembles performing beginning level MS repertoire
- MS ensemble that is the only group of its kind offered at the school

**MS Classification II: Middle School Intermediate Ensembles (grades 6-8)**
- MS ensembles in which the majority of students have 1-2 years of experience
- MS ensembles performing intermediate level MS repertoire
- Intermediate level MS ensembles from schools that offer a sequential program

**MS Classification I: Middle School Advanced Level Ensembles (grades 6-8)**
- MS ensembles in which the majority of students have 2-3 years of experience
- MS ensembles singing advanced level MS repertoire
- Advanced level MS ensembles from schools that offer a sequential program

**HS Classification III: High School Novice Level Ensembles (grades 9-12)**
- Novice level HS ensemble in which the majority of students have 1 semester - 2 years of experience - Including experience from middle school
- Including, but not limited to: Ensembles from small high schools
- HS ensembles performing beginning level HS repertoire
- Beginning level HS ensemble from schools that offer a sequential program
- HS ensemble that is the only group of its kind offered at the school

**HS Classification II: High School Intermediate Level Ensembles (grades 9-12)**
- Intermediate level HS ensemble in which the majority of students have 2-3 years of experience - Includes experience from middle school
- Including, but not limited to: Ensembles from small high schools
- HS ensembles performing intermediate level HS repertoire
- Intermediate level HS ensemble from schools that offer a sequential program

**HS Classification I: High School Advanced Level Ensembles (grades 9-12)**
- Advanced level HS ensembles in which the majority of students have 3+ years of experience - Includes experience from middle school
- HS ensembles performing advanced level HS repertoire
- Advanced level HS ensembles from schools that offer a sequential program
Congratulations to the 2022 SCVA Vocal Jazz Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir Singers!

Performance: Friday, November 18th, 2022 at the University of Redlands

Ariane Villanueva, Aarya Shah, Ashna Parekh, Lauren Effertz, Abigail Walston, Isabel Pierson Celine Joy Taguibao, Micah Banaag, Ethan Bowling, Marcus Espinosa, Lucas Santos, Nathan Egami, Nathaniel Casequin, Tyler Gladden, Isaac Tiu, Tomi Lessis, Emma Henao, and Griffen Beebe

Featured High Schools & Directors:
Valencia High School, Christine Mocha
Saugus High School, Kaitlin Holt
Chaminade College Preparatory, Sara Logsdon
Los Osos High School, Bethany Encina
Woodbridge High School, Jim Blackett
Downey High School, Cory Olariu
Harvard Westlake, Zanaida Robles
AUDITIONS 1/21 AND 1/28

By the time you see this, registration should be open for the Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir. There will be various locations throughout Southern California. Last year’s event was a lot of fun and students enjoyed it. I know your students will enjoy working with Dr. Ángel Vázquez-Ramos, from CSU Bakersfield.

For the auditions the following will be required:
- Sing America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee), a cappella
- Sing a major scale on C
- Sing a major & minor triad
- Sing an octave
- Sing five, five note tonal memory exercises
- Read a 4-measure rhythmic sight-reading example. Will include at least one dotted quarter note, eight note figure.
- Read a 4-measure melodic sight-reading example. It will be completely diatonic. Mostly step wise motion and rhythmically simple.

CONCERT MAY 6, 6:00PM
PORTOLA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Tracks will be provided to help students learn their music. Directors are also expected to guide students in learning their music. Students are expected to attend the rehearsal on March 25 at Mark Keppel High School in Alhambra. We will need your help to lead this rehearsal.

The final rehearsal and concert will be on May 6 at 6:00pm at Portola High School. The concert will be in their beautiful auditorium. Tickets will be $10 and will be available online and at the door.
Vocal Solo Competition & Small Ensemble Festival

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, February 24th
Audition Application & Round 1 Submission Deadline

Friday, March 3rd
Results for Finalists Announced

Friday, May 5th
Final Submission Deadline

Sunday, May 21st
Live Finals Round @ 2:00 pm
Northridge United Methodist Church
9650 Reseda Blvd, Northridge, CA 91324

We Look forward to hearing your submission!

ADJUDICATORS

Professional Performing Artists

BARAKA MAY & TODD STRANGE

For More Information: www.scvachoral.org
Questions: Marisa.Bradfield@providencehigh.org or Avakiagk@PierceCollege.edu
SCVA and Barbershop Harmony Society are co-hosting the 2023 SCVA Close Harmony Festival on **Saturday, February 11th** at Jordan High School. This festival will encompass students from middle school and high school, learning songs in the barbershop style, singing a-cappella music and culminating with a showcase.

Registration is open for any middle school and high school barbershop quartet (SATB, SSAA, TTBB) that would like to be a part of the showcase performance. You can bring as many students as you desire to participate in the rehearsals (SATB).

**Choral Educators Registration Form** ([link](#)) - Please complete this form by **December 16, 2022 at 11:59pm PT**. You can submit the form partially complete in advance of submitting your payment. The form can be edited before January 11th with any necessary changes. **$35 per student**

**Parental Consent Forms** ([link](#)) - Please make sure your student’s parents or guardians complete this form by **January 31, 2023 at 11:59pm PT**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:00</td>
<td>Arrival &amp; Registration (Name tags &amp; T-shirts provided) / Bring your music!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:30</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 - 11:00</td>
<td>Warm ups and demonstration of the barbershop style</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 - 12:00</td>
<td>Rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 - 12:45</td>
<td>Lunch (Provided)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45 - 1:45</td>
<td>Sectional rehearsals (as needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45 - 2:00</td>
<td>15-minute Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 - 3:00</td>
<td>Final Rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 - 4:00</td>
<td>Performing Arts Doors Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>Showtime!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have any questions about this amazing event, feel free to email Marco Rodriguez (Vice President of Close Harmony) at **marcoantiorodriguezjr@gmail.com**
SCVA PRESENTS

THE VOCAL JAZZ & CONTEMPORARY A CAPELLA FESTIVAL

Featuring performance from female a capella group ANGELES

MARCH 9, 2023 | $250 ENTRY
SAUGUS HS, SANTA CLARITA

VISIT
WWW.SCVACHORAL.ORG/JAZZ_FESTIVAL.PHP FOR MORE INFO
SCVA SHOW CHOIR FESTIVAL

WHEN:
APRIL 29TH, 2023

WHERE:
ROWLAND HIGH SCHOOL
2000 S. OTTERBEIN AVE.
ROWLAND HEIGHTS, CA 91748

DIVISIONS:
MIDDLE SCHOOL:
NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED

HIGH SCHOOL:
NOVICE TREBLE/MIXED
INTERMEDIATE TREBLE/MIXED
ADVANCED TREBLE/MIXED

REGISTRATION:
Registration will be open in January 2023

QUESTIONS? CONTACT BRANDON HARRIS
BHARRIS@ROWLANDSCHOOLS.ORG
WEBSITE UPDATE
Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster

Hints for Choral Festival Registrations
In order to register for any SCVA Choral Festival, your SCVA Membership must be current. After you register for one or more choral festivals, you can see all your Festival Registrations by logging-in to the Members-Only area of the SCVA Website, and you can modify any of your Sightreading selections. Just be sure to use one consistent e-mail address for your SCVA membership and all of your Festival Registrations for that to work properly. You can also view and download an Invoice for any Choral Festival Registration Fees. You can download the W-9 Form, which shows our Tax-ID information.

Hints for Using PayPal and Saving Money
You can use a single PayPal transaction to pay the application or registration fee for multiple events at the same time (such as Festival Registration Fees), rather than checking out after submitting each item. Simply add each item to your current shopping cart, and then click on the Continue Shopping link to return to the SCVA website. After you have completed all of the items you wish to purchase, you can then proceed to the checkout page and receive a single invoice that lists all of those items. If you want to save even more money, use one payment transaction with a quantity larger than one to pay for multiple items of the same kind, rather than adding multiple line-items to your shopping cart.

If you have any comments, questions or problems with any aspect of our website please contact Mark Freedkin at mfreedkin@yahoo.com or (714) 357-1187
IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Junior High Honor Choir Auditions Jan 21 & 28
Close Harmony Festival Feb 11
Vocal Solo Audition Application and Round 1 Submission deadline Feb 24
Vocal Solo Finalist Results March 3
Announced
Show Choir Spectacular April 29
Vocal Solo Final Submission May 5 Deadline
Junior High Honor Choir Concert May 6
Vocal Solo Live Finals Round 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.