



SCVA NEWS

Southern California Vocal Association January, 2016

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rodger Guerrero

Well, it's about 11:00am on Tuesday, December 15, and as usual, the deadline to complete my regular front-page contribution to the SCVA News is upon me. I am not averse to the writing process; I just always seem to anguish over the details. While I am never certain that SCVA members benefit from or even read what I write, I do my best to contribute something valuable to our small but vibrant Southern California choral world. Still, after nearly four years of this, it's difficult to continue to offer consequential subject matter. Thank goodness for Karen Bluel's perpetual patience!

At about 8:00am this morning, the Harvard-Westlake Emergency Notification System lit up my cell phone with a succession of texts and my home and office phones with a series of computer-generated calls. The messages, delivered to the entire HW community, detailed that while LAUSD decided to cancel classes today in response to a "credible threat," the HW Administration determined that both campuses were safe enough to continue business as usual. Fortunately, because HW is in the midst of semester exams, I do not have to teach classes today. However, my colleagues do, and the students I teach, all of whom received the messages that I did, still have to take those exams today. I wonder, how do these young, phenomenal, maturing minds cope with the violent world in which they live? Most importantly, is there anything that I do to help them?

Every summer, Dr. Sara Shakliyan and I plan the next year's choral curriculum by studying, playing through, and listening to recordings of thousands of choral octavos. It's a painstaking process but one that always seems to deliver fresh, innovative programming possibilities. This year, it produced a collection of music for the HW Winter Choral Concert which prompted the title, ***Sing of Peace, Sing for Joy***. I had no idea in July how pertinent this title would become in December.

Throughout last week's after-school rehearsals, I regularly communicated with the students I teach in order to gauge their thoughts about the volatile events in Paris and San Bernardino. I also did my best to observe their temperament in order to assess their collective state of mind. I saw anxiety, confusion and bewilderment. What could I do to alleviate their fears? ***After all, I'm just their choir teacher.***

I decided to do a little research. I Googled the terms ***music, peace, and joy***, and then filtered through and organized the series of profoundly applicable quotes that appeared. I then concluded last week's dress rehearsal with an open-ended conversation about the world's events and the potential relationship between them and the music the students were to present. During the discussion, I was once again reminded that teenagers are inherently perceptive, caring, imaginative, and audacious human beings. They speak their minds when they feel encouraged to do so, and they understand much more than we give them credit for. At the end of our discussion, amidst many hugs and tears, I read the quotes I found to the students. I did the same as part of an introduction at the beginning of the concert. Here are a few you may find particularly meaningful:

Henry David Thoreau: *In a world of peace and love, music would be the universal language.*

Confucius: *Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.*

Lai Tzu: *Music in the soul can be heard by the universe.*

Kahlil Gibran: *Music is the language of the Spirit. It opens the secret of life, bringing peace and abolishing strife.*

Jimi Hendrix: *If there is something to be changed in this world, then it can only happen through music.*

Moliere: *All the disorders, all the wars which we see in the world, only occur because of the neglect to learn music.*

Percy Bysshe Shelley: *Are we not formed, as notes of music are, for one another, though dissimilar?*

Leonard Bernstein: *This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, and more devotedly than ever before.*

We have little control over the world in which we live. All we can do is to make music with the students we teach. In doing so, we contribute brief but vital moments of beauty to our universe, bringing joyful, peaceful respite to all who listen. This may seem insignificant to the world beyond us, but it means everything to our students. And their wellbeing must be at the heart of everything that we do.

SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR

Patty Breitag, VP - Show Choir



Mark your calendars and register your groups for the annual SCVA Show Choir Spectacular set to take place at Diamond Bar High School on **Saturday, May 7!**

As in past years, the event will include multiple sessions for show choirs at all levels. Middle School show choirs will compete in the morning session. The afternoon session will feature Novice and Intermediate level High School groups, and the Advanced High School show choirs will perform in the evening session. Choirs will be adjudicated by an experienced panel of show choir experts, and awards will be presented in all divisions.

This is the perfect year-end event for your show choir as well as a chance for developing groups to see and hear what other schools are doing, and to receive a positive and helpful adjudication. Please spread the word to colleagues who may have show choirs as part of their choral programs but may not yet be members of SCVA. We can't wait for them to discover all that our organization has to offer!

To register your group(s) for the Show Choir Spectacular, visit www.scvachoral.org and click on "events." Entry fee is \$200 per choir. Once registered, you will be contacted with performance times and other details.

Please contact me with any questions you may have. I'm looking forward to a truly "Spectacular" event in May!

CALLING ALL CANDIDATES!

Mark Henson, Past President



It has been my joy to serve on the SCVA Executive Board in various capacities since 1998. When I first joined the board as VP of Show Choirs, we were in the process of splitting the then "Jazz/Show" festival into two separate events since the number of participating groups had grown to an unmanageable size for one event. (Such a problem to have!) Happily, both events continue to flourish. Serving next as VP of Junior High Honor Choir, I was thrilled to see a great increase in the size and quality of the honor choir, and to see that many of these students return year after year as members of our High School Honor Choirs.

While I served as Executive Vice President, SCVA entered the "digital age" with the launch of our organization's website. (For this, I was happy to be a "supportive onlooker" since I had no idea how any of it worked!) The website now continues to streamline the day to day functioning of SCVA and helps us to be a visible presence in the choral music world. I then went on to serve two terms as President and Past President, and am now in what I call the "Bonus Round" term as Past President since John Hendricks relocated to the East Coast.

One of the final tasks of the Past President is to present to the membership a slate of candidates for Executive Board who will serve during the next term. Board members are dedicated SCVA members who manage events and work together for the continued growth of the organization. These officers meet monthly to plan and execute business and to help one another as events draw near. Perhaps YOU have been thinking about serving on the SCVA Board?

SCVA Executive Board positions:

- President
- President Elect
- VP High School Honor Choir
- VP Junior High Honor Choir
- VP Elementary Activities
- VP Festivals
- VP Vocal Solo Competition
- VP Show Choirs
- VP Jazz Choirs
- VP Membership
- Treasurer
- Secretary

(Outgoing President assumes the role of Past President.)

If you would like your name to be on the ballot for one of these positions, please let me know via email (scvemail@yahoo.com) by **March 1st**. Elections will take place in April, and those elected for the 2016-2018 term will begin to serve in August. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the board positions, elections, etc.

Serving on the SCVA Board has been a rewarding experience both personally and professionally. If you are interested in being part of SCVA's future growth, and if you are wanting to become more actively involved in our wonderful profession, I urge you to consider running for a position on the SCVA Executive Board.

Junior High/9th grade honor choir auditions are just around the corner!

Auditions close at midnight on January 9th, 2015. Please be sure to sign up your developing singers for this awesome opportunity. Our guest clinician is Ms. Lori Marie Rios, a wonderful music educator and a wonderful, funny person. Your kids will ADORE working with her for the 2016 SCVA Junior High/9th grade honor choir. For audition requirements, please see: <http://scvachoral.org/20160507.html> or e-mail Molly Peters at mepeters79@gmail.com.

Regional Rehearsal Sites and Times

Saturday, March 12, Saturday, 9am - 1pm

Monica Lincoln Middle School (Santa Monica)

Saturday, March 26, 9am - 1pm:

Mesa Robles Middle School (Hacienda Heights)

*Students only need to choose ONE regional rehearsal to attend.

Final Rehearsal and Performance

Location: Lincoln Middle School, Santa

Date: Saturday, May 7

Rehearsal sessions from 9:00am to 6:00pm

Concert is at 6:00pm

Ticket Cost: \$5.00 general admission
(available at the door)

Guest Clinician: Lori Marie Rios

SCVA Vocal Jazz and A-capella Festival

Date: Friday, March 18, 2016

Featuring Cal State Long Beach's *Pacific Standard Time*

Adjudicators: Grammy Nominated Jeremy Fox and CSULB Vocal Jazz Director Christine Guter

Sign Ups are starting now! This festival fills up early!

Please register ASAP at www.scvachoral.org

Time: 1:00pm-6:30pm - 1/2 hour Afternoon performance & clinic;

7:30 pm public performance with Cal State Long Beach's "*Pacific Standard Time*"

Level: Novice to Advanced A-capella and Vocal Jazz Festival

Location: Valencia High School in Valencia, 27801 N. Dickason Drive, Valencia, CA 91355

Cost: \$175.00 per group

Pacific Standard Time Tickets: \$5.00 general admission, available in advance

(through **Brown Paper Tickets**) and at the door **Contact:** Christine Mocha

Phone: (661) 294-1188 ext. 526, cmocha@hartdistrict.org

Take Common Core to the Mat and Register for a Festival!

Nancy Ludwig and Melva Morrison, Festival VPs



While wrestling metaphors might not be the greatest way to promote choral festivals, it might be an appropriate parallel to how many of us feel about Common Core. But Common Core is something that music educators do everyday as a natural part of their curriculum, so let's own it, take it down, and pin it to the mat: register for a festival and further challenge your singers!

Festival participation is not just about showing up, singing, and going home with a shiny new plaque for our classrooms. It is also about teaching our students to be critical *listeners*. How often do we ask the question, "Ok, what did you think of our performance?," only to have the answer come back, "Um, it was good!" Our singers must be taught what it is they are listening for, and hearing other choirs at a festival is a wonderful way to promote that process. This is something we can take back to our classrooms and discuss with our students. Learning to evaluate their own performance as well as the performances of other choirs is right at the heart of Common Core.

Registration continues online, and spots are filling up! The following list includes all festivals that were still open as of December 20, 2015. The cost per choir for each regular festival is \$100, and festivals with sight-singing are \$130. You may access the online registration form at <http://www.scvachoral.org/festivals.php>.

Questions? Contact Nancy Ludwig or Melva Morrison. You may also visit the FAQ page at: http://www.scvachoral.org/festival_faq.html.

Junior High/Middle School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
Thurs	3/24	10:00 am	Las Flores MS	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Benefield
Thurs	3/24	2:00 pm	Las Flores MS	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Benefield
Thurs	4/07	9:00 am	James L. Day MS	Temecula	Open	Open	Patricia Halic
Thurs	4/07	1:00 pm	James L. Day MS	Temecula	Open	Open	Patricia Halic
Tues	4/12	12:30 pm	Menifee Valley MS	Menifee	Open	Open	Tom Oliver
Thurs	4/14	10:00 am	Shivela MS	Murrieta	Open	Clinic	Lavinia Tikasingh
Wed	4/20	1:00 pm	Marshall Fundamental School	Pasadena	Novice	Open	David Pitts
Thurs	4/21	10:00 am	Oak MS SIGHTREADING	Los Alamitos	Open	Open	Rachelle Randeem
Thurs	4/21	10:00 am	TeWinkle MS	Costa Mesa	Novice	Mixed	Tim McFadden
Fri	4/22	10:00 am	Oak MS SIGHTREADING	Los Alamitos	Open	Open	Rachelle Randeem
Fri	5/06	8:30 am	Ramirez Intermediate School	Eastvale	Novice	Clinic	Dathan Jones
Fri	5/06	11:00 am	Manhattan Beach MS	Manhattan Beach	Adv	Open	Heather Gold-Pollak
Fri	5/06	1:00 pm	Ramirez Intermediate School	Eastvale	Novice	Clinic	Kyle Betts
Tues	5/17	10:30 am	Venice HS	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Wendy Sarnoff

High School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
Mon	2/29	4:00pm	Del Norte HS	San Diego	Open	Open	Keith Sattely
Wed	3/09	2:00 pm	Montebello HS	Montebello	Open	Open	Jessie Flasschoen
Wed	3/09	6:00 pm	Montebello HS	Montebello	Adv	Open	Jessie Flasschoen
Tues	3/15	9:00 am	Chaparral HS	Temecula	Open	Open	Rob Hodo
Tues	3/15	10:00 am	Rio Hondo College	Whittier	Open	Open	Kellori Dower
Tues	3/15	7:30 pm	Harvard-Westlake School SIGHTREADING	Studio City	Adv	Open	Rodger Guerrero
Wed	3/23	9:00 am	Fallbrook HS SIGHTREADING	Fallbrook	Open	Open	Heather Smith
Wed	3/23	4:00 pm	Golden Valley HS	Santa Clarita	Open	Open	Kerry Riccio-Aguero
Wed	3/30	10:00 am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Adv	Mixed	Grace Han
Thurs	3/31	10:00 am	Fontana HS	Fontana	Open	Open	Jennifer Esquivel
Tues	4/05	6:00 pm	First Baptist Church of Downey SIGHTREADING	Downey	Open	Open	Robert Peterson
Tues	4/05	7:00 pm	Cal Lutheran University	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	Janna Santangelo
Wed	4/06	9:00 am	CSU San Bernardino SIGHTREADING	San Bernardino	Adv	Open	John Russell
Thurs	4/07	9:00 am	Mission Viejo HS	Mission Viejo	Open	Women's	Sarah Norris
Thurs	4/07	10:00 am	Bloomington HS	Bloomington	Open	Open	Ryan Duckworth
Fri	4/08	9:00 am	Jarupa Valley HS	Mira Loma	Open	Women's	Melva Morrison
Fri	4/08	12:30 pm	Jarupa Valley HS	Mira Loma	Open	Open	Melva Morrison
Tues	4/12	9:00 am	Westridge School	Pasadena	Open	Open	Paul Stephenson
Tues	4/12	6:00 pm	Pete Knight HS	Palmdale	Open	Mixed	Suzanne McGarraugh
Wed	4/13	10:00 am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Men's	Grace Han
Thurs	4/14	10:00 am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Mixed	Grace Han
Wed	4/20	9:30 am	Marshall Fundamental School	Pasadena	Open	Open	David Pitts
Wed	4/20	10:00 am	Placentia Yorba Linda USD PAC	Placentia	Open	Women's Men's	Michael Fenton
Wed	4/20	1:00 pm	Placentia Yorba Linda USD PAC	Placentia	Open	Mixed	Michael Fenton
Fri	4/22	9:00 am	Murrieta Mesa HS SIGHTREADING	Murrieta	Open	Clinic	Jeffrey Kopasz
Fri	4/22	12:30 pm	Murrieta Mesa HS SIGHTREADING	Murrieta	Adv	Clinic	Jeffrey Kopasz
Tues	4/26	6:00 pm	Mark Keppel HS	Alhambra	Open	Open	Tony Azeltine
Thurs	4/28	10:00 am	Hamilton HS	Los Angeles	Adv	Open	Kelci Hahn
Tues	5/03	7:00 pm	The Thacher School	Ojai	Open	Open	Bill Wagner
Wed	5/04	4:00 pm	El Monte HS	El Monte	Open	Open	Joel Whisler
Wed	5/18	1:00 pm	William and Jane Bristol Civic Auditorium	Bellflower	Open	Open	Carolyn Kelley
Thurs	5/19	6:30 pm	Venice HS	Los Angeles	Novice	Mixed	Wendy Sarnoff
Mon	5/23	6:00 pm	West HS	Torrance	Adv	Mixed	Antone Rodich

BYORD (Bring Your Own Recording Device): We will continue with BYORD for the 2016 SCVA Festivals. BYORD allows recorded adjudicator comments to be provided to the director in any audio format the director desires, and the audio files are available immediately at the end of the festival. If your festival host does not provide recordings for you, then plan to bring your own recording device, or plan on receiving two written adjudications. Please email us if you need more information.

Adjudicator Announcement for the CMEA State Choral Festival

Nancy Ludwig, CMEA State Choral Festival Chairperson

CMEA is excited to announce its adjudicator panel for the inaugural CMEA State Choral Festival, scheduled to take place on April 1, 2016 at CSU Fullerton. This historic panel will include Dr. Charlene Archibeque, Dr. William Hatcher, and Dr. Christopher Peterson!

If you have a high school or middle school ensemble that achieved a unanimous superior rating from a CMEA or SCVA festival during the spring 2015 season, that group is eligible to apply. The deadline is January 15, 2016.

Application materials are available for download at <http://www.scvachoral.org/>, and for those of you interested in being prepared, you will be asked to provide the following information:

Application filled out and completed

Provide ratings from Spring 2015 CMEA or SCVA festivals

A recording, which includes two contrasting selections, of your ensemble

All details, including pricing, eligibility and full application requirements are available on the informational flier and also available online. The application deadline is only two short weeks away. Submit your application ASAP for the opportunity to be a part of this inaugural event.



Young Women's and Young Men's Harmony Festivals

Mark Freedkin, VP of Barbershop Harmony Festivals



THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE to register for SCVA's Young Women's and Young Men's Festivals! Both events will be held at the Robert B. Moore Theater on the campus of Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. The 11th annual "**Diva Day**" Young Women in Harmony Festival, sponsored by the Harborlites Chorus, will be held on Saturday, February 6, and the 16th annual "**Young Men's Harmony Festival**" will be held on Saturday, February 20, 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.

Although the early-registration deadline has passed, the application fee is still only **\$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.

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). Note that these festivals are separate events, and you must send the appropriate forms and payments to the proper recipient.

We look forward to receiving your applications. Please contact us if you have any questions about our festivals.

2015 High School Honor Choirs



Dr. Christopher Peterson – Director
Sara Shakliyan - Accompanist



Dr. Angel Vazquez Ramos - Director
Joseph Schubert - Accompanist



Dr. Lynne Gackle - Director
Michael DiGiacinto - Accompanist

What a marvelous SCVA Regional Honor Choir weekend filled with stellar talent, superb leadership and helpful volunteers! The weekend would be impossible without the countless volunteers who hosted choirs, ushered, cleaned up, made coffee runs, sold tickets, assisted with check-ins and everything in between. We sincerely appreciate your time and efforts and look forward to another wonderful honor choir experience next year.

Southern California Vocal Association

Harvard-West-Lake Upper School

3700 Coldwater Canyon, North Hollywood, CA 91604

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IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

CMEA State Choral Festival Applications Due	January 15, 2016
Jr. High/9 th Grade Honor Choir Auditions	January 16, 2016
Jr. High/9 th Grade Honor Choir Auditions	January 23, 2016
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Auditions	January 23, 2016
Diva Day	February 6, 2016
California All-State High School Honor Choirs	February 11 - 13, 2016
2016 All-State Choral Leadership Academy	February 12-13, 2016
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Auditions	February 20, 2016
Young Men's Harmony Festival	February 20, 2016
SCVA Festival Registration Deadline	March 1, 2016
Jr. High/9 th Grade Honor Choir Regional Rehearsal	March 12, 2016
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Auditions	March 12, 2016
SCVA Vocal Jazz & A Cappella Festival	March 18, 2016
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Auditions	March 19, 2016
Jr. High/9 th Grade Honor Choir Regional Rehearsal	March 26, 2016
CMEA State Choral Festival	April 1, 2016
Junior High/9 th Grade Honor Choir Concert	May 7, 2016