

# SCVA NEWS

*Southern California Vocal Association* February, 2013

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*John Hendricks*

It is strange, perhaps, to think that for many of us, we are well past the halfway point of the school year. Perhaps this midpoint is an appropriate time to do a bit of self-reflection. Are we where we thought we might be with our students by now? Are we enjoying the process of making music with our choristers... and of learning from them? Or is this the year when things are, perhaps, "different" from what we might have anticipated?

For each of us, of course, the answer is unique. I, though, have often found that this part of the year is challenging. A few of the seniors have started "checking out", and the next big round of concerts and festivals seems a bit too far off for some students to feel the excitement that accompanies the immediacy, urgency and joy of those performances. Is it them or is it me? What must I do to be more effective for my students, and be a catalyst for them to deeply understand and consistently engage with the subject matter and artistry? Often, I feel a renewal in my teaching once I embrace something that is stylistically beyond my comfort zone, and particularly when I reach out to colleagues. I find that watching other people rehearse and teach is one of the most instantly effective ways to reinvigorate my own classroom. My students can always tell when I've made these visits.

We have a rich and diverse choral community in the SCVA membership-- educators and conductors with immense talent, visionary intelligence, and accomplishments. These are people who love our art and the process of educating our students. I particularly appreciate those are not like-minded—those who will challenge our opinions and are simultaneously willing to give so generously of their knowledge in the service of friendship, professional camaraderie, and a deep passion for music education. I would encourage everyone to actively connect with our colleagues --- not only at the Fall In-Service, not only during summer conferences, but also on a regular basis. Let's invite each other to attend our concerts and to exchange classroom visits and teaching strategies.

I hope that you will use your SCVA to be one of your tools in the upcoming months to engage and invigorate your students... and YOU. We are "evolving" several of our offerings to better serve our members in this regard. Our Vice President of Vocal Solo Competition, Jeffe Huls, saw the need to add small ensemble and musical theater components to our events, which we have now done. Appropriately, this festival has been renamed the "Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Competition & Festival". I highly recommend that you bring your students to observe the final round, even if they're not participating. We have also changed the format of the Vocal Jazz Festival to include a Contemporary A Cappella classification. Perhaps this is the year that your students will be captivated by watching the clinics at this event on March 8 that will be led by the renowned Christine Guter and Kate Reid, and features a concert by the ever-innovative *Sonos*. Come to experience the exhilaration of the upcoming Barbershop Harmony Festival, or observe a rehearsal and the performance of the Middle School Honor Choir, under the expert and ever-inspiring direction of Dr. Christopher Peterson. And... stay tuned! There are many positive developments on the SCVA "horizon".

So today, do take a look at our calendar at [SCVAchoral.org](http://SCVAchoral.org). We offer festivals and events in the immediate (and more distant) future that are appropriate for almost every choral taste, stylistic focus, and ability level of your ensembles. Come listen, observe, and interact with colleagues. Perhaps you will experience your own mid-year renaissance.

## It's Festival Time!!!

Melva Morrison , *VP - Junior High School Festivals*



**W**e are so fortunate as choral music educators and members of SCVA to have the opportunity to take our choirs to a festival during the spring.

As choir director of five groups at Jurupa Valley High School for the past 24 years, I suppose it is possible that I have attended at least 120 SCVA festivals during that time. My experiences have been overwhelmingly positive – my choirs have had the opportunity to “strut their stuff”, listen to many fine ensembles, have valuable feedback from adjudicators, enjoy the results of administrators who recognize our singers’ work, decorate a choir room with an impressive display of plaques (for that “tangible” evidence some people look for), and bask in the sense of accomplishment, pride, and camaraderie following a festival experience. Many of us learn about great choral literature through the festival experience. How many times have you and your students sat in astonishment listening to very fine ensembles having moments of near perfection on stage? It is a joyful experience to watch our choir members’ reaction as they hear a piece of music from another ensemble that they have recently sung or desire to work on in the future. It is always interesting to hear the same piece performed by different ensembles and notice the variations in interpretation, tempi, dynamics, and tone.

Our SCVA festivals provide opportunities for any level of ensemble to participate. It is an entirely different experience to take your top ensemble to perform – usually directors and singers alike are relaxed and confident. It can be a very different matter to take our novice choirs to festival; however, many hosts provide a novice festival experience, or an open festival type which is a great learning experience. I choose to have my two beginning level choirs each host a festival at our home site which lends them (and their director!) a degree of comfort.

To remain at the “top of our game” as choral conductors we need to make sure that we are not getting our feedback just from the unbroken loop that is our own perception of our choirs’ sound, the reactions of our parents who love us, and our loyal support of choir alumni. We need to get ourselves and our students out to hear groups from other communities, in other venues, and expand our corporate frame of reference for understanding and appreciating this wonderful choral art in which we are privileged to be a part.

Be sure that you have checked all of the details with school calendar, transportation, repertoire choices, accompanists’ schedule, and most importantly, REGISTER NOW for your choirs to attend an SCVA festival this spring. Deadline to register is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013! It’s an easy process online, thanks to all of the hard work of our SCVA officers!



# 2012 Festival Scores and Repertoire

*Jennifer Stanley, Executive VP*

Following is a summary of the data collected from the 2012 SCVA Festivals. It includes data on festival participation, scores, and repertoire.

## ***FESTIVAL REGISTRATION SUMMARY***

<b>2012 Festival Participation</b>	
Number of Festivals	50
Number of Directors	184
Number of Choirs	354
Number of Students	12918

Online festival registration continues to work well for the SCVA membership. A majority of our membership (54%) attended an SCVA festival in 2012. We should all take great pride in the fact that over 12,000 students were served by SCVA festivals in 2012!

## ***FESTIVAL RATING SUMMARY***

<b>Rating</b>	<b>No. of Groups</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Score Range</b>
Superior	132	50	3.65 - 4.0
Excellent	127	48	3.0 - 3.64
Good	6	2	2.0 - 2.99
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>100</b>	

There were 354 choirs that registered for festivals, but score sheets were returned for only 265 choirs.

***The average score was 3.585.***

## ***MOST FREQUENTLY PERFORMED FESTIVAL REPERTOIRE***

<b>Title</b>	<b>Composer</b>
1. Yo le Canto Todo el Dia *	Brunner
2. Ave Verum Corpus *	Mozart
3. Reuben, Reuben *	Singh
4. Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel *	Emerson
5. Al Shlosha D'Varim *	Naplan
6. Cantate Domino	Cobb
7. Caro mio ben	Giordani
8. Danza, danza, fanciulla gentile	Durante
9. For the Beauty of the Earth	Rutter
10. I Am Not Yours *	Childs
11. Il est bel et bon	Passereau
12. La Lluvia	Hatfield
13. Tshotsholozza	Ames

Festival repertoire is an interesting area that has not been previously investigated. When the data for all festival repertoire was compiled, the list had over 800 titles. The most frequently performed pieces are listed on the left. There is a great breadth and depth of choral literature performed at SCVA festivals, as there were also over 500 titles that were only performed once.

\* These pieces are on the SCVA Recommended Festival Repertoire List.

<b>Title</b>
Shenandoah
Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho
Homeward Bound
Wade in the Water

The titles on the left also would have been on the most frequently performed list, but there were multiple composers/arrangers of these titles.

Comments or questions? Please email me at [scvaexecvp@gmail.com](mailto:scvaexecvp@gmail.com)

Special thanks to Charlene Pham and Derian Espinosa for the data entry that made this analysis possible!

# Online Festival Registration is as Easy as Ever!

*Nancy Ludwig and Melva Morrison, Festival VPs*

Registration to participate in festivals is now open online and we are excited to announce that we have 60 festival offerings! This means even more fantastic opportunities for your choirs to attend an SCVA festival throughout the Southern California Region! There are both middle school and high school offerings at the Novice, Open, and Advanced levels.



**The deadline to register for a festival is March 1, 2013**, but early registration is encouraged. Since opening the list on November 9 we've had over 150 groups register for festivals and already three festivals are closed as of November 15. Register as soon as you can to insure attendance at the festival location that works best for you. **Late registrations will not be accepted.**

**The cost per choir for each festival is \$85**, and you may access the online registration form at <http://www.scvachoral.org/festivals.php>. Your registration is not complete until payment has been received. Any registrations that are not paid within 30 days from the initial date of submission will be cancelled. In addition, we cannot process your registration unless you are a current member of SCVA. If your membership is not current please purchase it online or add \$45 to your check amount.

Questions? Contact Nancy Ludwig at: [nancy ludwig6@gmail.com](mailto:nancy ludwig6@gmail.com), or Melva Morrison at: [melsmusic@verizon.net](mailto:melsmusic@verizon.net). You may also visit the FAQ page at: [http://www.scvachoral.org/festival\\_faq.html](http://www.scvachoral.org/festival_faq.html).

## Junior High/Middle School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
Tues	3/19/13	9:00am	Menifee Valley MS	Menifee	Open	Open	Tom Oliver
Tues	3/19/13	12:00pm	Menifee Valley MS	Menifee	Open	Open	Tom Oliver
Wed	3/27/13	10:00am	Baldwin Park PAC	Baldwin Park	Open	Open	Suzanne Brookey
Wed	3/27/13	10:00am	David Starr Jordan MS	Burbank	Open	Open	Christine DeMore
Thurs	4/04/13	10:00am	Las Flores MS	Mission Viejo	Open	Open	Elena Benefield
Tues	4/09/13	9:30am	Oaks Christian School	Westlake Village	Open	Open	Edward Rouse
Tues	4/16/13	9:00am	James L. Day MS	Temecula	Open	Open	Patricia Halic
Tues	4/16/13	1:00pm	James L. Day MS	Temecula	Open	Open	Patricia Halic
Wed	4/17/13	5:00pm	Monrovia HS	Monrovia	Open	Open	William Moore
Tues	4/23/13	10:00am	Las Flores MS	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Benefield
Thurs	5/09/13	10:00am	Glendale Adv. Academy	Glendale	Open	Open	Brenda Mohr
Fri	5/10/13	8:00am	Ramirez Intermediate	Eastvale	Open	Open	Jill Geist
Fri	5/10/13	11:00am	Manhattan Beach MS	Manhattan Beach	Adv	Open	Heather Gold
Fri	5/10/13	12:30pm	Ramirez Intermediate	Eastvale	Open	Open	Jill Geist
Thurs	5/16/13	10:00am	Bernardo Yorba MS	Yorba Linda	Open	Open	Linda Nason
Fri	5/17/13	9:30am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	W/M	Greg Ellis
Fri	5/17/13	1:00pm	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Mixed	Greg Ellis
Thurs	5/23/13	9:30am	Bellflower Civic Aud.	Bellflower	Open	Open	Carolyn Kelley
Thurs	5/23/13	9:30am	Oak Middle School	Los Alamitos	Open	Open	Rachelle Randeem
Fri	5/24/13	9:30am	Oak Middle School	Los Alamitos	Open	Open	Rachelle Randeem

## High School Festivals

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Host</i>
Tues	3/12/13	7:30pm	Harvard-Westlake School	Studio City	Adv	Chamber	Rodger Guerrero
Fri	3/15/13	2:30pm	Garden Grove HS	Garden Grove	Open	Open	Samuel Nunez
Mon	3/18/13	9:30am	Chaparral HS	Temecula	Open	Open	Rob Hodo
Tues	3/19/13	9:30am	Chaparral HS	Temecula	Open	Open	Rob Hodo
Tues	3/19/13	4:00pm	Golden Valley HS	Temecula	Open	Open	Kerry Riccio Aguero
Wed	3/20/13	10:00am	Murrieta Mesa HS	Murrieta	Open	Clinic	Jeffrey Kopasz
Thurs	3/21/13	9:00am	Pacific HS	San Bernardino	Open	Mixed	Diane Trotter
Tues	3/26/13	10:00am	Baldwin Park PAC	Baldwin Park	Novice	Open	Suzanne Brookey
Tues	3/26/13	3:00pm	Baldwin Park PAC	Baldwin Park	Adv	Chamber	Suzanne Brookey
Wed	3/27/13	10:00am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Chamber	Mark Henson
Thurs	3/28/13	10:00am	Beckman HS	Irvine	Open	Mixed	Nancy Stuck
Thurs	3/28/13	1:00pm	Beckman HS	Irvine	Open	Mixed	Nancy Stuck
Wed	4/03/13	9:00am	Fullerton Union HS	Fullerton	Open	W/M	Scott Hedgecock
Wed	4/03/13	1:00pm	Fullerton Union HS	Fullerton	Adv	Open	Scott Hedgecock
Fri	4/05/13	9:00am	Jurupa Valley HS	Mira Loma	Open	Open	Melva Morrison
Fri	4/05/13	1:00pm	Jurupa Valley HS	Mira Loma	Open	Women	Melva Morrison
Tues	4/09/13	10:00am	Jurupa Hills HS	Fontana	Novice	Open	Darrin Schuck
Tues	4/09/13	7:00pm	Cal Lutheran Univ.	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	Janna Wilhelm
Tue	4/09/13	7:00pm	Eastlake HS	Chula Vista	Open	Open	Joseph DeMers
Thurs	4/11/13	9:30am	Redlands East Valley HS	Redlands	Open	Open	Rita Stevens
Fri	4/12/13	10:00am	Arlington HS	Riverside	Open	Open	Tim Lutz
Fri	4/12/13	1:00pm	Arlington HS	Riverside	Open	Open	Tim Lutz
Tues	4/16/13	10:00am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Men	Mark Henson
Tues	4/16/13	2:00pm	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Mixed	Mark Henson
Wed	4/17/13	10:00am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Novice	Women	Mark Henson
Wed	4/17/13	2:00pm	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Adv	Women	Mark Henson
Fri	4/19/13	10:00am	Beaumont HS	Beaumont	Novice	Open	John Fieldhouse
Tues	4/23/13	6:00pm	Mark Keppel HS	Alhambra	Open	Open	Tony Azeltine
Wed	4/24/13	5:00pm	Monrovia HS	Monrovia	Open	Open	William Moore
Wed	4/24/13	6:00pm	New Hope Church	El Monte	Open	Open	Jennifer Stanley
Thurs	4/25/13	6:00pm	First Christian Church	Downey	Open	Open	Robert Petersen
Fri	4/26/13	7:00pm	First Christian Church	Downey	Open	Open	Robert Petersen
Tues	4/30/13	7:00pm	Thacher School	Ojai	Open	Open	Bill Wagner
Thurs	5/09/13	2:00pm	Glendale Adv. Academy	Glendale	Open	Open	Brenda Mohr
Thurs	5/09/13	4:00pm	Corona HS	Corona	Open	W/M	Amy Salazar Basilan
Thurs	5/09/13	7:00pm	Glendale Adv. Academy	Glendale	Adv	Mixed	Brenda Mohr
Wed	5/22/13	2:00pm	Montebello HS	Montebello	Open	Open	Nancy Schwartz
Wed	5/22/13	7:00pm	Montebello HS	Montebello	Adv	Open	Nancy Schwartz
Thurs	5/23/13	1:00pm	Bellflower Civic Aud.	Bellflower	Open	Open	Carolyn Kelley
Thurs	5/30/13	9:00am	Marshall Fundamental	Pasadena	Open	Open	David Pitts

**BYORD (Bring Your Own Recording Device):** We will continue with BYORD for the 2012 SCVA Festivals. While we did experience a few “technical difficulties” last year, 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 you do not bring a recording device to your festival, you will receive two written adjudications. Some festival hosts may choose to provide digital recordings of adjudicator comments, but if your festival host does not, then plan to bring your own recording device. There are MANY devices that can serve this purpose. Please email us if you need more information.

# Concentrated Teaching: The Power of “Warm-up” (Vocalization)

*Jeff Huls, Vocal Solo Competition*

## Part 1: Body

Do you “vocalize” or do you “warm-up?” I admit, as I begin to reflect upon my teaching for a new semester I realize that there are times I have fallen prey to the habit of singing a few quick exercises and I am off and away to “the good stuff” (repertoire). I’m fairly certain this has happened to all of us many more times than we want to admit. We (at least theoretically) know that this is the place where we train the voice to do all the necessary acrobatics that the repertoire requires, but do we really do our best to make those opening moments of class meaningful, educational, and voice-building? As you continue into this semester consider revamping your vocalization routine. It may be just the ticket to helping your choir(s) reach their optimum potential. Over the remainder of this year I will write about some of my ideas (all stolen of course) about the vocalization process. Perhaps, some of it will spark some new ideas from you.

I have a particular order/method that I use which I took from Joe Miller in graduate school. It is preprinted on all my lesson plans so that it is always in my mind as I sit down to plan: **B B R I** (Body, Breath, Resonance, Intonation). I keep a binder of all the exercises I know and new ones I have learned. I have yet to attend an ACDA, SCVA, Choristers Guild, or CMEA event where the headliner didn’t hand out a series of vocalizations, so... three-hole punch and in the binder they go. However you do it, try to develop your own anthology of exercises. And yes, write them down somewhere. Time is precious and you need quick reference materials.

First things first:

**Body** - I used to always begin my routine with stretches until I realized that I always did them in the same order, in the same way, and at the same pace every day. My students performed them more like choreography than as movements to engage the body. In fact, when I asked a student to lead stretches one day, it was like watching myself. She used my exact order, my exact words (which I didn’t know I repeated daily) and the timing was perfect. I knew then that things had to change. For me, **Body** means the mind as well as the physiological structure. I vary my exercises to keep my students (and myself) on their toes. Here are some ideas:

**Standard Stretching** - make sure you are really getting the musculature alive and awake and insist that your singers actually stretch and not just put their hands in the air.

**Cross over jumping jacks** - two regular jumping jacks, then touch right hand to left foot in front and left hand to left foot in back and in the opposite order on the other side. This also works from a seated position for those of limited mobility (students chant: jump, jump, in-out, out-in) You can even yell “reverse” about halfway through.

**Counting the alphabet** - making an ictus with one hand and then the other, state letters of the alphabet with one ictus and count numbers with the other (A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4, etc) Reverse order and reverse hands. Also try solfegge (DO-1, RE-2, MI-3) it’s a great way to lead into interval identification.

**Monday Massage** - I do this nearly every Monday (hence the title) to get out those weekend muscle kinks. Warning: always consider classes for which this might not be appropriate, and make it OK for students to “opt out.” Don’t forget: chop, pat, rub, scratch, write a dynamic symbol for your partner to guess.

**Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes** - yes, the song! I learned the basic chord structure and then sing it faster and faster and going up by half steps. (Don’t forget the hand motions)

**Body Canons** - begin by touching your head with both hands, then shoulders, then waist, then knees. Do it two times, then have one hand start and the other hand follow one placement behind. You can even change to “cannon at the second (two placements ahead), third, fourth?”

**Tai Chi** - Learn the first 5 moves of Tai Chi (ask John Byun), teach it to your class and repeat it a few times. Don’t forget to download a minute or two of “Tai Chi workout music” on iTunes, Spotify, Pandora.

**Friday Dance Party** - Never underestimate the power of the Macarena. Do the dance 5 or 6 times and then do it “double-time” (twice as fast) or twice as slow. Great for teaching tempo/rhythm ration basics, alla breve, centering the pulse. I use Cotton-eye Joe, the Hustle (Electric Slide), Cha-Cha slide (annoying but it works), Footloose. All of these have their own line-dance moves. Ask a student to teach you or pay careful attention at the next wedding reception you attend.

**Hokey Pokey** - Sing the song, do the motions, add your own, go up by half steps, sing each verse at a different dynamic level. Don’t forget to “shake it all about!”

**Prom Wallflower**- have students mimic you in a basic step-touch pattern (make it as hokey as you want but keep a steady beat) then add rhythmic pulses on [s], [f], [p], [t], [k], etc. Also, consider using the arms, neck, finger snaps, shoulder pats, etc in awkward dance moves for the students to mirror.

**Yoga** - learn a couple great yoga stretches. The internet is full of them. Be safe and realistic.

**Elbows together** - Call out random numbers followed by elbows, shoulders, hands, knees, feet etc. Students move around the room and form groups velcro-ing that body part together based on those numbers. For instance, if you said “5-feet” students would move into groups of 5 and stick their feet together. Change the numbers enough so that groups are always having to reform.

**Boot-camp** - Jog in place with a wide stance and high knees ala running through tires at boot-camp. Call out “tunnel” and students continue running but crouch low, call out “turtle” and students have to jump over it, “curve left, curve right” etc.

**Limbo** - Find some fun music, a broom handle, and go crazy!

**Skipping** - Skip around the room (or in place) to the beat of the music, change the music and tempo, hop on one foot, etc

**Simon sez** - Basic stretch with a “Simon sez” element

Body warm-ups are unique and must always fit your personality. The bottom line is if your students have looks on their faces that read “OMG what is (s)he going to have us do today?” you are doing the right thing. I am hoping to publish all of these ideas on the SCVA website so keep your eyes peeled for that to go up. Email me your ideas for Body Warm-ups and we will add that to our anthology ([jeffe.huls@gmail.com](mailto:jeffe.huls@gmail.com)). At the end of the series we should have quite a collection for you to reference.

Next month: **Breath!**

## Southern California Vocal Association

c/o The Buckley School

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### IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Diva Day	February 2, 2013
Junior High Honor Choir Auditions	February 2, 2013
Young Men's Harmony Festival	February 16, 2013
SCVA Festival Registration Deadline	March 1, 2013
Jazz Festival	March 8, 2013
Junior High Honor Choir Regional Rehearsal	March 9, 2013
Junior High Honor Choir Regional Rehearsal	March 16, 2013
California All-State High School Honor Choirs	March 21 - 23, 2013
Junior High Honor Choir Concert	April 27, 2013
Show Choir Spectacular	May 4, 2013