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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Drew Lewis

When you receive this article, I will have just attended the 11th annual Stand Up 4 Music meeting that convened during the NAMM “Believe in Music” week. Representatives from organizations from all over California have been brought together through Stand up 4 Music to unite in the work of music advocacy for our state. One of the big topics of the meeting will be the current pandemic and its impact. We know that in the coming months, we will have even more work to do in order to advocate for school music programs as school districts deal with the budget implications of school closures and economic hardships.

As Jennifer Barnes once said, “the world needs beauty and art to be present.” I believe in the importance of music, and this period of quarantine and distance/hybrid learning has been one where many people have turned to the arts to find beauty and hope through their hardships. Music educators ARE stronger together and I am so grateful for those who have worked to bring together this large coalition to advocate for music education for the past eleven years. I’m excited for the meeting and the work to be done. Please be on the lookout for ways you can participate in this year’s Stand Up 4 Music advocacy day in order to continue to make sure music educators are valued in helping students achieve a comprehensive education.

In the meantime, SCVA continues to offer creative and inspiring events for you and your students. In this newsletter, you will read about the Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Competition chaired by Erika Jackson. Submissions are due by February 20th in three categories (classical, vocal jazz, and musical theater) for middle school to high school singers/small ensembles. You can also learn about the exciting Virtual Choral Festivals for choirs (or observers) of all levels dreamed up by the amazing festivals team of Nancy Ludwig, Kristen Walton, and Dan Hawkins. They will be held in ensemble “flights” on two Saturdays – February 27 and April 24. Our Contemporary A Cappella/Vocal Jazz Festival on March 12-13 hosted by Kaitlin Holt will offer opportunities for school ensembles and soloists to learn from incredible adjudicators and to hear a performance by the Grammy nominated jazz vocalist, Kate McGarry. Our show choir VP, Sarah Anders will be hosting the SCVA Show Choir Spectacular on May 29, which promises to be a fantastic way to end the show choir season for ensembles of all levels. And finally, join us on the second Thursday of each month to help connect with choral colleagues during our monthly SCVA Happy Hours.

My hope is that you and your singers will be able take advantage of the opportunities SCVA is offering this semester. Check out the information in this newsletter and let us know how we can continue to support you in offering a comprehensive music education to your students.

SCVA Vocal Solo Competition/ Small Ensemble Festival

Erika Jackson VP

The New Year is Finally Here! Goodbye 2020 and Hello 2021! This new year is starting with high Covid-19 Numbers and more restrictions statewide. We have now reached that critical time in planning in which we have a need to change to Plan B for the SCVA Vocal Solo Competition. It will consist of 2 rounds. The preliminary round and finals round will both be virtual, both with a requirement for accompanied video recording submissions. Adjudicators will review video submissions and provide written feedback for round 1 privately and results will then be emailed to directors. The final round will be a “live” zoom performance. Students will attend the zoom session and view prerecorded round 2 submissions that the judges will then provide immediate feedback for in the zoom session. At the end of the meeting winners will be announced. All awards and winnings will be sent out by mail.

Important Dates:

1. Application and Submission deadline: Feb 20th, 2021
2. Results for finalists announced March 6th, 2021
3. Submission Deadline Round 2: April 20th 2021
3. Spring Live Virtual Finals Round Via Zoom: on May 8th, 2021

Awards and Winnings: Each category has a first, second, and third place winner. \$300, \$200, \$100. Plus, one Jr. High Winner \$100. A total of \$1300 in scholarships.

Participation Fees: \$25 for a solo performance, \$30 for duet, trio, quartet, or small ensemble. All applications will need to be paid through PayPal. All application fees are non-refundable.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Can a Singer apply for Multiple Categories? - The answer is yes they can submit an application for more than one category. Classical, Musical Theater, or Jazz Standard solo.
- Can a student sing without accompaniment? - The answer is no all performances must be accompanied.
- Can a student use an MP3 accompaniment track? - Yes! We understand that not all students have access to an accompanist, but we do prefer an MP3 piano accompaniment

Application is now live on the SCVA website and all information will be updated as soon as possible. If you have any questions feel free to contact me. ejackson@mvsd.net

Virtual Choir Festival Clinics: Registration Opening Soon!

Nancy Ludwig, Festivals VPI



Happy New Year from your SCVA Festivals Team! We appreciate your patience during these strange and interesting times as we, like many of you, have been in 'wait and see' mode to develop some type of festival experience to offer you and your students. We are proud to announce that SCVA will hold two days of Virtual Choral Festival Clinics, and we are excited to present this opportunity!

Participating choirs will experience an online choral exchange with up to 4 ensembles and a clinician in which they will submit videos or recordings ahead of time, no live performances will take place online. Clinicians will offer feedback after each video/recording is played with a focus on the process of recording and overcoming the challenges of working together in an online format. Clinicians may also choose to address historical and educational aspects of the music chosen by each ensemble or other aspects appropriate to this format. We hope to promote interaction and connection between the students of each choir, and build an extended community through this exchange at a time when it is very much needed.

We also recognize that many of us are unable to record *anything* with our ensembles this year, but would still benefit from a clinic experience. Therefore, each clinic will have space for two non-performing ensembles to attend as observation-only members! You and your students can attend the clinic, hear the ensembles, see other students' faces, AND benefit from hearing feedback from an experienced clinician! Who knows, maybe it will inspire them to be courageous in their online music making?!?!

Ready to sign up? See below for details, and please know that the SCVA Festivals team is missing you this year.

Virtual Choir Festival Clinic Information

General Information

- *Virtual choral festival exchange with a clinician
- *Comments only, no ratings or scoring
- *Each group will receive a participation plaque to display at their school
- *Ensembles will be grouped in flights by SCVA Festivals Ensemble Classification Levels
- *Non-performing choirs may register to observe the clinic as virtual audience members!

Registration Details

Session 1

Saturday, February 27, 2021
Registration Opens: January 25th

Session 2

Saturday, April 24, 2021
Registration Opens: March 1st

Flight Times

9:00-10:30 am 10:45 am-12:15 pm 1:00-2:30 pm 2:45-4:15 pm

Registration Session Levels

(each Flight Time will have a session at each level)

MS Level III and II MS Level I/HS Level III HS Level II and I

Observing Choirs

Limited availability at all sessions and flights.

register at: scvachoral.org

Ensemble Guidelines

- *Only one choir from one school can participate in each flight.
- *Ensembles will submit virtual videos/recordings ahead of time (limit 5-7 minutes).
- *Song selections should reflect festival repertoire standards however SCVA recognizes the limitations of virtual performance and preparation.
- *Consider quality of product and repertoire over level of difficulty.

Cost Per Ensemble

- *Participating Choirs: \$55
- *Observing Choirs: \$20

Objectives

- *Choral Community Outreach
- *Encouragement/Support
- *Student Connections
- *Motivation
- *Clinician Focus: Recorded product, process, and repertoire

Questions?

nancy ludwig6@gmail.com
kwalton@riversideunified.org
scva.vpfestadj@gmail.com



SCVA

VIRTUAL A CAPPELLA & VOCAL JAZZ FESTIVAL



**ONLINE
REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**



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12&13
LIVE ON
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**INCLUDES LIVESTREAM PERFORMANCE FROM
KATE MCGARRY & KEITH GANZ**

**Adjudicated by Grammy Nominated Jazz
Vocalist Kate McGarry (New England
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& Critically Acclaimed Vocalist Jamond
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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT SCVACHORAL.ORG/JAZZ_FESTIVAL
OR CONTACT KHOLT@HARTDISTRICT.ORG

SCVA SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR 2021

Sarah Anders, VP-Show Choir



This year SCVA will be joining forces with Burroughs High School, Oceanside High School, and Hart High School to put on an exciting four-event virtual competition series called *The SoCal Show Choir Series 2021!*

The first three events of the series will be held by the aforementioned high schools, respectively. The “finale” to the series will be our very own **SCVA Show Choir Spectacular 2021!** The event will give schools from around Southern California (and potentially beyond this year since no one has to TRAVEL!) the chance to showcase the hard work and dedication of both their students and directors! Because of the virtual format of this event, directors will submit pre-recorded and edited audio/visual projects rather than live performances. In the spirit of showing off talent, dedication, and hard work in this challenging time of distance learning, we have eliminated rankings and placements and, instead, will offer adjudicator feedback and caption awards galore! (Think “best” awards... choreography, costumes, facial expressions, editing!)

The date(s) for this event will be May 28-29, 2021!

While I am aware that the SCVA Show Choir Spectacular is historically a one day event, we have the potential to stretch this over a two day period depending on the number of schools who register. The final decision will be made once registration closes on March 15, 2021. If it indeed can be done in one day, that day/date will be Saturday, May 29, 2021. Time TBA!

REGISTRATION:

Because of the different nature of this season and the combined efforts of the high school programs coordinating along with SCVA, registration for this event can be done online at www.showchoir.org. Here you will have the opportunity to register for the entire show choir series or the SCVA Show Choir Spectacular individually. Registration for the series as a whole is \$500 (for four events) or \$200 per choir for the SCVA event alone. I encourage you to participate in as many as possible, if not all!

We hope to see you this year on May 28-29, 2021 for what promises to be a truly SPECTACULAR event! :)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

K N O W Y O U R C H O R A L C O M M U N I T Y

Brandon is currently in his fifth year of conducting the choirs at John A Rowland High School in the city of Rowland Heights. Brandon has a total of six ensembles which include a Beginning Tenor/Bass Ensemble, a Beginning Treble Ensemble, an Intermediate Mixed Ensemble, an Advanced Treble Ensemble that doubles as a Treble Show Choir, an Advanced Mixed Ensemble that doubles as a Mixed Show Choir, and a Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Brandon received his Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from California State University, Fullerton and is currently finishing his Master of Music in Vocal Chamber Music from the University of Redlands.



Brandon's music education philosophy is rooted in excellence in musicianship, individual vocal development, and understanding/performing music of various cultures. Brandon takes his responsibility as an educator seriously and realizes that he has the opportunity and a charge to provide a space where diversity can be at the forefront. Taking from his own experiences as a person of color and his experiences conducting and performing various genres, Brandon makes sure his students know that they are able to freely express their cultures. He does this by making a point to program pieces that represent the diversity within his choir program, while doing the research to keep it culturally appropriate. He also makes it a point to educate the students on various musical cultures, as he wants his students to know that all cultures are important in choral music.

During this pandemic, Brandon has worked on elevating his skills in recording, audio editing and video editing. Since April 2020, Brandon has been able to collaborate with his students and created 20 virtual choirs, including an entire 28-song virtual concert in which he did all the recording, audio editing, and video editing. This was all a part of his mission to ensure that the students were able to still have ample performance opportunities, even during virtual learning. Brandon attributes a great deal of his passion and success to his cultural roots in Gospel music as well as the superior education he received from CSUF under the direction of Dr. Robert Istad, Dr. Christopher Peterson, and his vocal instructor Dr. Mark Goodrich and the education he is currently receiving from the University of Redlands under Professor Christopher Gabbitas.



SCVA Website Update

Mark Freedkin, Webmaster



An On-Going Adventure

The first version of the SCVA website was launched in January of 2000 – that was 21 years ago. It has continued to grow and evolve into a comprehensive information base and set of automated tools to help support our organization. In late 2016, we deployed a significant face-lift to give it a more contemporary look-and-feel, using more modern user-interaction techniques. Due to COVID-19, we also added the capability to upload Video Audition files for some of our key events. I am very proud to have served this organization for more than 21 years.

Just like Disneyland, any good website is never completely “finished”. It continues to expand with new features and refinements. Please let us know any comments or suggestions you may have about our website, and we will do our best to accommodate those requests.

Helpful Members-Only Resources

A number of valuable resources are available in the “**Members-Only**” area of the SCVA website. When you created or renewed your SCVA membership, you specified your own personal password to the Members-Only area. You use that custom password along with your e-mail address to access the private area that is only available to active SCVA members.

One such resource is the **W-9 Taxpayer Identification Form** that is required by many school districts before they can pay for various SCVA events, such as Festival Registration Fees. If you need a copy of our current W-9 form in electronic (Adobe Acrobat) PDF format, simply login to the Members Only area, click on the link for that document, and print your very own copy.

You can also view your current Festival Host applications (if you are hosting any festivals) and your current Festival Registrations (if you are attending any festivals), including the payment status (such as “**Free**”, “**PayPal**”, “**Check**”, “**Pending**” or “**Cancel**”). And if you need an invoice for a Festival Registration fee, there is a link for that next to each Festival Registration. Simply click on the link next to each Festival Registration and print the customized invoice quickly and effortlessly.

Student Audition Applications

As part of the on-line audition application for any High School Honor Choir, Junior High Honor Choir or Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Competition, singers need to enter their choral director’s e-mail address. But their application can only be accepted if they specify the exact same e-mail address that you used for your SCVA Membership. This is how we validate that the choral director is a member of SCVA and that their Annual Membership Dues are current.

Some school districts allow you to use one or more alias e-mail addresses that simulate your primary e-mail address. You can receive your incoming messages using any valid e-mail address. However, our on-line audition applications will only recognize the actual and exact e-mail address that you specified for your SCVA membership. Any on-line audition application that uses a different e-mail address will be rejected, even if you have paid your membership dues. To avoid this situation, please ensure that your students who wish to audition for those events use the exact e-mail address that is associated with your SCVA membership account.

Similarly, all on-line Festival Registrations, Jazz Festival Registrations and Show Choir Applications also require a current SCVA membership and dues payment from the choral director, and the e-mail address that you specify must exactly match our membership records. This helps to ensure that all participants in SCVA events are represented by members in good standing.

Southern California Vocal Association

2450 W Ball Road, Anaheim, CA 92804

www.scvachoral.org / email: info@scvachoral.org



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

	2021
Audition Times sent to Directors and Students	Feb 2
Auditions on Zoom	Feb 6
Jr. High/Middle School Honor Choir List Sent out	Feb 12
Vocal Solo Competition Application and Submission Deadline	Feb 20
Virtual Choir Festival Clinic	Feb 27
<i>Online Registration Opens</i>	<i>Jan 25</i>
Virtual Vocal Jazz Application Deadline	March 1
Vocal Solo Competition Finalist and Results Posted	March 6
Virtual Vocal Jazz & Contemporary A Cappella Festival	March 12 & 13
Show Choir Spectacular Registration Closes	March 15
Virtual Choir Festival Clinic	April 24
<i>Online Registration Opens</i>	<i>March 1</i>
Virtual Jr. High/Middle School Honor Choir Performance	May 1
Vocal Solo Competition Finalists Round	May 8
Show Choir Spectacular	May 28 - 29

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