

The logo for SCVA NEWS features a large, stylized blue 'O' at the top. Below it, the letters 'S.C.V.A.' are written in a blue, cursive font, with a checkmark-like flourish under the 'V'. To the right of 'S.C.V.A.', the word 'NEWS' is written in a black, cursive font.

Southern California Vocal Association

June, 2016

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A FINAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rodger Guerrero

I sincerely hope that all 355 SCVA members will read this final message from an outgoing president. I sincerely hope that all 355 SCVA members are as thankful as I am to be active participants in the historically formidable and vibrant professional organization that is the Southern California Vocal Association (77 years strong!). I sincerely hope that all 355 SCVA members are as honored as I to have been represented by the phenomenal group of volunteers who have served on the SCVA Board these past two years. I sincerely hope that all 355 SCVA members will support the 2016-2018 Board by renewing their membership and continuing to actively participate in SCVA-sponsored events for years to come.

This year, SCVA sponsored/co-sponsored eight, massive, highly successful events: **Fall In-Service, High School Honor Choirs, Vocal Solo and Ensemble Competition, Young Men's Harmony Festival** [with the Masters of Harmony], **Diva Day Young Women's Harmony Festival** [with the Harborlites Chorus], **Vocal Jazz and A Cappella Festival, Show Choir Festival, and Junior High School Honor Choir**. This year SCVA sponsored some 60 junior high and high school choral festivals (eleven included the new sight reading component) for 430 choirs and some 15,700 singers. This year, the fabulous SCVA Website (thank you Mark Freedkin!) was home to a bonanza of resources for choral teachers, including: links to other choral and music educational sites (including the state and national VAPA Standards for K-12); lists of hundreds of recommended choral octavos for all levels and voicings; sixteen years of past SCVA Newsletters; a regularly updated calendar of and information about SCVA events; and on-line registration forms and payment options. This year, SCVA, led by editor extraordinaire Karen Bluel, published seven comprehensively informative and creative newsletters. This year, SCVA, in conjunction with CMEA (and Cal State Fullerton), hosted the first-ever **California State Choral Festival** and piloted the SCVA sight reading program at CMEA Festivals in its continued efforts to create a framework for a **Coordinated System of Statewide Choral Festivals**.

In short: ***your completely volunteer SCVA Executive Board has been incredibly busy all year long.*** They do so much more than just attend compulsory meetings. They never simply sit on their hands and revel in past success. Your forward-thinking Executive Board always considers and reviews details of every facet of our fine organization in order to improve it and keep it current. Board members continually read and analyze the data from online evaluation forms, answer emails, and converse with members in order to keep a pulse on the overall state of SCVA affairs.

Why do they do this? Why do they work so hard and willingly take on so many added responsibilities? After all, they have their own choral programs and lives to manage. ***The answer is simple: they care...a lot...about you, your students, and the Choral Art.***

It has been a sincere honor and an unadulterated joy to serve as your SCVA President these past two years. I am tremendously proud of SCVA and absolutely delighted by what all of you do in your daily work to enrich the lives of your students through choral music. Our work may never be complete, but the returns we receive will always be well worth the effort.

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

Mark Henson, Past President



Have you voted yet? Be sure to visit the "Members Only" section of the SCVA webpage (www.scvachoral.org) to make your choices for the next SCVA Executive Board. A wonderful slate of candidates is available for your consideration. These educators will ensure that SCVA continues with strong leadership for the next two years. A space for write-ins is also included. The voting opened on May 8 and ends June 8, so make sure to get your vote in now! If you've not yet visited the online ballot, here is an overview of the candidates. More detailed bios are available on the webpage.

PRESIDENT

Karen Garrett
Santiago High School, Corona

TREASURER

Carolyn Kelley
Bellflower High School

HS HONOR CHOIR I

Crystal Stone
Westview High School, Poway

HS HONOR CHOIR II

Matthew Netto
Patriot High School, Jurupa Valley

FESTIVALS I

Nancy Ludwig
Mountain View High School, El Monte

FESTIVALS II

Melva Morrison
Jurupa Valley High School

FESTIVAL ADJUDICATION

Jennifer Stanley
Arroyo High School, El Monte

JH/MS HONOR CHOIR

Marcelo Martinez
Spring View Middle School, Huntington Beach

ELEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Jackie Remillard Gorski
Los Angeles Unified School District

VOCAL JAZZ

Christine Mocha
Valencia High School, Valencia

VOCAL SOLO COMPETITION

Marisa Rawlins-Bradfield
Providence High School, Burbank

SHOW CHOIR

Patty Breitag Sarah White
Diamond Bar HS Granada Hills Charter HS

MEMBERSHIP

Erin Girard
Capistrano Valley High School, Mission Viejo

BARBERSHOP FESTIVALS

Mark Freedkin
Masters of Harmony, Santa Fe Springs

Join or renew TODAY!

DON'T MISS OUT!

- Festivals
- Honor Choir
- Community
- Professional Development
- ...and much more!

www.scvachoral.org

On-Line SCVA Membership Renewal



SCVA

Southern California Vocal Association

SCVA Regional Honor Choir 2016

Karen Garrett & Crystal Stone – VPs, Senior High Honor Choir

Be a part of this inspiring choral experience!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

- Online Audition Registration opens: Friday, August 26
- Online Audition Registration closes: Friday, September 16
- Audition Times/Locations confirmed online: Tuesday, September 20
- Preliminary Audition Dates: Saturday, September 24 and Saturday, October 1 (locations TBD)
- First Honor Choir Rehearsal: Saturday, October 29 at Fullerton College
- Honor Choir Weekend: Friday, November 18 and Saturday, November 19 at the University of Redlands

INTRODUCING OUR 2016 CONDUCTORS...



Men's Honor Choir
Dr. Christopher Aspaas
Texas Christian University



Mixed Honor Choir
Dr. Shawna Cross Stewart
Biola University



Women's Honor Choir
Dr. Joseph Modica
University of Redlands

PREPARING YOUR STUDENTS...

1. After your Spring Concert, choose one Italian Art Song and have the whole class sing it in unison.
2. Do a couple tonal memory exercises each class period.
3. Practice a major scale, major triad, minor triad and chromatic scale each class period.
4. Practice sight singing EVERY DAY. www.sightreadingfactory.com is a great resource.
5. Host mock-auditions for interested students and give them feedback.

DOING YOUR PART...

- Tell your students about the honor choir dates and process now so they can use the summer to prepare.
- Sign up to be an honor choir audition adjudicator. Keep your eyes out for Adjudicator Applications via email and on the SCVA Website. You will be compensated for your time, plus it is a great way to get involved in the process.

Questions? Email Crystal Stone at cstone@powayusd.com

SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR 2016

SCVA sponsored its annual Show Choir Spectacular Competition on May 7, 2016 at Diamond Bar High School. Diamond Bar High School Solitaire (Girls Intermediate Division in the California Show Choir Circuit) hosted the event with the help of Marquis (Mixed Advanced Division in the California Show Choir Circuit). Our adjudicators were John Wilson (the founder of "Aztec Sing" Show Choir Competition in 1976), Roger Duffer (Riverside Community College retired Director of Choral Studies) and Michael Fenton (Esperanza High School Choral Music Teacher and Show Choir Director). Every school took home a trophy with written adjudication along with a Musicianship skills plaque and a Showmanship plaque awarded to the morning session and afternoon session high schools with the highest scores in those categories.

The morning session included the following 9 high school and middle school show choirs: Duarte "Cantabile", Kaiser HS "Show Choir", Western HS "Vocal Motion", Saugus HS "Blue Heat", Katella HS "Knight Singers", Mark Keppel HS "Esprit", Vista del Lago HS "Vista Voices", Bear Valley USD "Altitude Adrenaline" and Valley Middle School "Valley Girls".

In the afternoon we featured the following 11 groups: Golden Valley HS "Golden Gals", Granada Hills Charter HS "Here Comes Treble", Katella HS "Queen Bees", Lancaster HS "Femme Fortes", Mark Keppel HS "Aztec Singers", Granada Hills HS "Highlanders G Notes", Katella HS "Wild Cards", Golden Valley HS "Rhapsody in Gold", Troy HS "Ladies First", Redlands East Valley HS "Sweet Sensations" and Walnut HS "Men's Ensemble".

CONGRATULATIONS to following first place winners: **Saugus "Blue Heat"** in the **Novice Mixed Division I**, **Vista del Lago "Vista Voices"** in the **Novice Mixed Division II**, and **Valley Middle School "Valley Girls"** in the **Jr. High/Middle School Division**.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following first place winners: **Lancaster "Femme Fortes"** in the **Novice Women Division**, **Granada Hills HS "Highlander G Notes"** in the **Intermediate Mixed Division**, **Troy HS "Ladies First"** in the **Intermediate Women's Division** and **Walnut HS "Men's Ensemble"** in the **Men's Division**.

Musicianship Plaques were awarded to Duarte High School and Granada Hills High School. **Showmanship Plaques** were awarded to Saugus High School and Golden Valley High School.

Diamond Bar HS "Solitaire" and "Marquis" performed (non-competitors) to close out the competition. A big SCVA thank you to all participating high schools and their fabulous show choirs.

Patty Breitag

SCVA Show Choir Vice President

Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Competition Concert of Finalists

Congratulations to the Following Students

Junior High School Division

Ava Verhoeven, 1st Place
Ramona Middle School

High School Classical Division

Elyse Johnson, 1st Place
Orange Co. HS of the Arts

Grace Bernard, 2nd Place
Los Angeles Co. HS of the Arts

Josiah Haugen, 3rd Place
Fullerton Union HS
Academy of the Arts

High School Musical Theatre & Vocal Jazz Division

Zoe-Jordan Oketch, 1st Place
Valencia HS

Tanner Ming, 2nd Place
Valencia HS

James Meske, 3rd Place
Valencia HS

The 2015-2016 Charles Hirt-Howard Swan Memorial Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Competition was held on Sunday, April 24th at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Granada Hills. We had vocalists from Orange County to Ventura County represented in this event. Once again, we cannot provide these opportunities without the support and grit from our music educators. Thank you to all who were involved and encouraged their students to participate. We added our new Musical Theatre & Vocal Jazz Division that brought extra attention and increased the number of applicants this year! Please look for the 2016-2017 Vocal Solo & Small Ensemble announcements in our SCVA September newsletter. Get involved! Encourage your students to take part in a fantastic performance opportunity! Host a preliminary site and have your students attend a professional master class. SCVA would like to thank Dr. Zanaida Robles, Lillian Sengpiehl, Babatunde Akinboboye, & Nayanna Holley for your wonderful adjudications. See you next year!

Special Thanks to the Preliminary Round Site Hosts

Christine Tavares-Mocha, Valencia High School
Grace Sheldon-Williams, Glendale High School
Scott Hedgecock, Fullerton Union High School Academy of the Arts
Marisa Bradfield, Providence High School

Schools, Directors and Voice Studios Represented in the Final Round

Canyon High School, Mary Purdy
Carol Tingle Voice Studio
The Episcopal School of Los Angeles, Jay Johnson
Fullerton Union High School Academy of the Arts, Scott Hedgecock
Granada Hills Charter High School, Sarah White
Harvard-Westlake School, Rodger Guerrero
La Canada High School, Jeff Brookey
Marisa Rawlins Vocal Studio
Marina High School, Eric Graham
Orange County High School of the Arts, Sarah Drabant
Parks Junior High School, Melissa Martinez
Providence High School, Marisa Bradfield
Ramona Middle School, Caitlin Shaw
Rouse Music Studio, Dana Rouse
Santa Monica High School, Jeffe Hulls
Shutts Music Studio, Dayln Shutts
Top Billing Entertainment School of Music, Kristina Keener Ivy
Valencia High School, Christine Tavares-Mocha
Walnut High School, Lisa Lopez

Junior High/9th Grade Honor Choir—another successful year!

Molly Peters, VP-Junior High/9th Grade Honor Choir

The 2016 SCVA Junior High/9th Grade Honor Choir is in the history books! Students truly enjoyed worked with Professor Lori Marie Rios, our guest conductor (for those of you who know her, there is no surprise there!). The choir had a wonderful selection of repertoire, including the Irish Folksong “Mairi’s Wedding,” the African “Bonse Aba,” and Rollo Dilworth’s amazing arrangement of “Climbin’ Up the Mountain Children.” Ms. Rios was not only a fun and entertaining conductor, but she also took the day to educate the students about proper tone, blend, and good choral sound, as well as the history of the repertoire (which is such a vital part of performance!). The concert also featured the College of the Canyons Chamber Choir.



I have truly enjoyed my tenure as Junior High/9th Grade Honor Choir VP. I am proud of the changes we have made and I know that as I pass this wonderful event onto my successor, it will continue to be an important and life-changing event for our developing singers as well as our guest conductors. Hooking singers at this important age is what feeds our high school programs and honor choirs—students’ love of singing starts way before they step into their first freshman choir rehearsal! We are already looking forward to next year. If you have any thoughts, please e-mail our next SCVA Junior High/9th grade honor choir VP, Marcelo Martinez: mmartinez@ovsd.org.

WEBSITE UPDATE *Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster*

This year marks the 16th anniversary of the launch of the SCVA website in early 2000. Over the years, the functionality has grown significantly and provided more real-time automation for Honor Choir Auditions, Festival Registrations, Members-Only features, on-line voting, etc., all of which have provided value to the organization. We also recently migrated our website to a dedicated virtual web-server, which provides faster and more efficient processing, without any negative impacts from other websites that were also hosted on the previous shared server. However, the cosmetic look-and-feel of the website hasn’t kept up with current standards for website design. We are looking into refreshing the website’s appearance over the coming months.

Annual SCVA Membership Renewals

According to the SCVA By-Laws, the membership year shall be from August 1 to June 30. To take advantage of the early renewal dues, please wait until July 1 before renewing your membership dues for the 2015-16 school year.

Why Is Your E-mail Address So Important?

All of our on-line registration systems use your e-mail address to associate the singers with their choral director. Therefore, please encourage your students to use a single consistent e-mail address for you when they submit their on-line applications for Honor Choirs and Vocal Solo Competitions. Similarly, you should use a single consistent e-mail address for your Festival Host Applications and your Festival Registrations, so that your free Festival Registration can be applied properly. In addition, your SCVA membership should also use that same e-mail address, so that your event registrations can appear when you login to the Members-Only page. This is particularly important if your school district uses multiple e-mail address formats (such as **xxx.k12.ca.us** and **xxxusd.org**). Please select one e-mail address, and use it for all SCVA on-line registrations.

Don’t Reply Directly to E-mail Broadcast Messages

For more efficient communication, please send your response to the sender's e-mail address.

Barbershop Harmony Festivals

Mark Freedkin, VP of Barbershop Harmony Festivals

Young Men's Harmony Festival

The **Masters of Harmony** held their 14th Annual Young Men's Harmony Festival on Saturday, February 20 at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. We had 206 young men from 30 schools throughout Southern California in attendance, including several first-time schools. The feedback from students, parents and choral directors has been overwhelmingly positive. The evening show was nothing less than stellar, and it featured the young men's chorus; quartets or small ensembles from nine different schools; guest quartet **The Newfangled Four**; and the Masters of Harmony, culminating with a combined finale with nearly 280 singers on stage. This year's event brings our 16-year total to just over 3,300 students who have participated in one or more of our festivals.

While the young men were in sectional rehearsals, Dr. Chris Peterson (Professor of Choral Studies at CSU Fullerton, and Masters of Harmony member) gave an in-depth presentation about how to use the barbershop style to attract more young men into choral music programs. He also presented some barbershop "tags" in Latin (you had to be there to fully appreciate that).

As a special treat, a dozen young men had the opportunity to "Sing with the Champs", by taking the place of one of the members of **Masterpiece** (2013 International Quartet Champion). It was a real "*Professor Harold Hill*" moment for those young men.

We greatly appreciate the support from all of the choral directors who attended with their young men during the entire event. Everyone was extremely impressed with how well the young men sang and how very well-behaved they were throughout the day.

Plans are already underway for next year's festival, which is tentatively planned for Saturday, February 18, 2017, also at Orange Coast College. Please watch the SCVA website for more information as it becomes available.

Diva Day (Young Women's Festival)

How exciting it was for the **Harborlites** to welcome 24 high schools and over 200 high school aged young women to our 11th Annual Young Women in Harmony "**Diva Day**" Festival. We were excited to have five new schools join us (Canyon, Excelsior Charter, Laguna Hills, Los Osos and Schurr). We also welcomed a few new directors from high schools who have been with us in the past. We are grateful they are carrying on the tradition of participation in Diva Day.

"Diva Day" starts early and is a 12-hour marathon that includes chorus rehearsals, section rehearsals, and choreography. Under the direction of clinician Jennifer Perry, the participants learned the skills and joys of singing and performing four-part harmony, barbershop style. To help with the day, Jennifer brought her quartet "Swingline" who served as section leaders for the day. There was plenty of fun, food, and fellowship throughout the day. Several schools brought small groups to participate in our High School Quartet Showcase, giving them an opportunity to perform for their peers. Another surprise appearance was a women's quartet from Vanguard University brought to us by former Woodbridge director Ron Soderwall who performed for the Divas right after lunch.

The highlight of the day was our evening show that was attended by a sell-out crowd of family and friends. They enjoyed watching not only the Diva Day Chorus perform but also enjoyed various chapter quartets and the award winning Harborlites Chorus. We find singing with our Diva Day chorus on the finale a uplifting and rewarding experience after a fun filled day of harmony.

Each year is exciting as we bring these young people together and give them the opportunity to try out this musical art form. We are blessed to have great support from many of our area schools, many of which have been with us since the inception of "Diva Day" in 2006. We are very proud of the relationship we have built over the years with the SCVA and its member schools.

SCVA Vocal Jazz and A Cappella Festival in March A Success!! *Christine Tavares-Mocha- VP, Vocal Jazz and A-Cappella*

Thank you to Granada Hills Charter High School, Santa Susana High School, Royal High School, University High School, McAuliffe High School, Millikan High School, Verdugo Hills High School, Walnut High School, Marina High School, Downey High School, Bellflower High School, and Valencia High School for a wonderful Vocal Jazz and A Cappella Festival! Beautiful Music was made, followed by an amazing performance by Cal State Long Beach's amazing group Pacific Standard Time

These wonderful adjudicators, Dr. Jeremy Fox and Christine Guter, made it a fun, inspiring, and enriching day! Looking forward to next year!



New Apps to teach Vocal Jazz – Solos and improvisation!

Christine Tavares-Mocha- VP, Vocal Jazz and A-Cappella

There is a new app that is a GREAT tool for students to practice with if they are starting to work on singing jazz solos. It is called ***irealpro***. *irealpro* is an application that acts as an actual rhythm section of the Real book charts. Singers have the ability to change the style the song is in (swing, latin, ballad, blues), the tempo, even the key with the touch of a button. Students can choose to access the chart, or even have the rhythm section play the chart through. Many singers are starting to use this on gigs as it is an easy way to have background accompaniment without hiring a band. For vocal jazz teachers, it is a great tool to use for practice on phrasing and for vocal scatting and improvisation. Check it out and let me know what you think of the program as a teacher or performer! Email me at christinetavares33@gmail.com

Summer Enrichment for teachers!

If you are looking for a way to better your education/expertise/experience as a teacher this Summer, please consider enrolling in the many professional development courses designed for teachers who would like to learn more about a cappella and Vocal Jazz Education. This summer many reading sessions, one day clinics, and week-long intensive bootcamps are offered. For a list of enrichment options or if you would like more information, contact me at christinetavares33@gmail.com

Save the Dates: 2017 California All State Vocal Jazz

Feb. 15th – Feb. 18th , 2017 CASMEC Convention San Jose, Ca

The California All State Vocal Jazz Ensemble will take place Feb. 15-Feb. 18th, 2017. The California All State Conductor will be **Roger Treece**. Roger Treece has composed for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The United Arab Emirates Ministry of Culture, Danish Radio Symphony and Choir, Los Angeles Master Chorale and Chicago Children's Choir. His film and television credits include music for the Discovery Channel, Disneyworld, Microsoft, McDonalds, ABC and The United Way, and he is author and singer of hundreds of commercials. He has been nominated for 5 Grammy Awards as an arranger, producer, singer, and engineer, and has won 14 DOWNBEAT awards as a soloist, ensemble member, director and arranger. In 2010 his arrangement of "Baby" (VOCABuLarieS) was nominated for "Best Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocals", the first time in the history of the Grammy Awards that an a cappella arrangement has been nominated for an instrumental arranging award. **Deadline to apply is December 1st, 2017. For audition details, visit CBDA.ORG.**

Inaugural CMEA State Choral Festival a SUCCESS!

Nancy Ludwig, CMEA State Choral Festival Chairperson

The first ever, CMEA State Choral Festival took place on Friday, April 1, 2016, and was a total success! It was hosted by California State University, Fullerton School of Music, College of the Arts, and largely sponsored by World Projects. Adjudicators Charlene Archibeque, William Hatcher, and Christopher Peterson were well received and did an outstanding job of setting a precedence and expectation for true excellence at this festival. The seven participating choirs were extremely well prepared, and all represented their respective schools in the most positive way.

Participating choirs came from all over the state, represented middle school and high school choirs, as well as men's, women's, and mixed gender choirs. In addition, groups from different sized choral programs and all community types were represented from the very rural to affluent areas. This festival was a true representation of choral excellence regardless of situation, and all choirs and their conductors are to be commended for their outstanding work and dedication to this goal.

Announcements for the 2017 CMEA State Choral Festival date and location will be announced soon! As the SCVA Festival season comes to a close, please keep in mind that any group who earned a superior rating from both adjudicators at the festival they attended is eligible to apply for next year's state festival. Remember to keep your adjudication sheets in order to submit them with your application.

Until then, have a restful summer. It's been a very busy year and we all deserve it!!!

FESTIVAL SEASON – A ROUSING SUCCESS!

Melva Morrison – VP II, Festivals

Congratulations are in order for another successful season of spring festivals! 60 festivals (10 including SIGHTREADING) involved 430 choirs, 15, 691 singers, hundreds of choral directors and accompanists, site hosts, adjudicators, student helpers, site administrators, parent helpers, chaperones, bus drivers, custodians, plaque makers, and 3 tired festival chairpersons! All of us need to take time to congratulate each other and express appreciation for all of the great work that continues to enable our students to experience "the first art" through such a well-structured and user-friendly system. SCVA is committed to supporting our members in their endeavors to promote choral excellence throughout southern California.

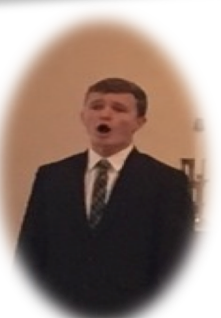
Why do we invest all of this time and effort in providing festivals? Why do we, as conductors, take care of all of the details required to attend a festival? Why do our adjudicators spend the hours necessary to provide such valuable feedback? The answer lies in our choir members' faces as they experience the joy of performing music that they have prepared; the excitement seen in their eyes when they recognize repertoire in the program that they have performed; the amazement expressed in their comments as they later discuss that amazing piece of music or text or choir or soloist; and the pride they exude as they return to school and share their festival experience with parents, faculty, staff, and peers. We wouldn't want to miss that for the world.

So, we continue to enjoy the music through the festival process – thank you, SCVA!

BARBERSHOP FESTIVALS



STATE CHORAL FESTIVAL



VOCAL SOLO COMPETITION



Southern California Vocal Association

Harvard-West-Lake Upper School

3700 Coldwater Canyon, North Hollywood, CA 91604

www.scvachoral.org / email: scvamail@aol.com



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

SCVA Executive Board Online Voting Closes	June 8, 2016
HS Honor Choir Online Registration Opens	August 26, 2016
HS Honor Choir Online Registration Closes	September 16, 2016
HS Honor Choir Audition Times Posted Online	September 20, 2016
HS Honor Choir Audition Date-Variou Sites	September 24, 2016
HS Honor Choir Audition Date- Various Sites	October 1, 2016
HS Honor Choir Rehearsal @ Fullerton College	October 29, 2016
HS Honor Choir Weekend @ University of Redlands	November 18-19, 2016
Young Men's Harmony Festival	February 18, 2017
California All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble	February 15-18, 2017