



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VOCAL ASSOCIATION**  
*OCTOBER, 2021*

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*Drew Lewis*

As Neil Gaiman once wrote, “You're always you, and that don't change, and you're always changing, and there's nothing you can do about it.” It amazes me how much our thinking, our public interactions, and our priorities have changed in the past two years. This semester I’m teaching my first in-person classes after 18 months online and I love it! However, I can tell you that my teaching experience is different than it was before. I get way more excited to drive home and see my wife (and our dog) than I had before spending nearly a year and a half at home all day. My time away from work is more important than it used to be. I would say that the things I prioritize with my students have changed as well.

What do you prioritize in your choirs and classes? Since August 2020, I have shared my classroom priorities with my students almost daily in this order: 1) Their health and safety, 2) Communication, and 3) The pursuit of the music education that they deserve. I wouldn’t say these are necessarily different than they were pre-pandemic, but the order in which I prioritize them and the way I articulate them to my students is different than it was two years ago.

My students have always known I care about them, but I am more methodical in how I approach this. Every day my classes begin by asking students to identify how they are doing (usually using pictures from pop culture or way too many pictures of my dog, Wicket). Then I give them a chance to breathe and reset before we dive into the day’s agenda. As a lifelong skeptic of “mindfulness” I must say that after two months of giving my students a chance to breathe and focus every day, it has been incredibly beneficial. After reading books by Sharon Paul, Lesley Moffat, and Scott Edgar that seemed to be encouraging me to incorporate mindfulness in my classes, I had to give it a try! And as if to prove my point, the one time I skipped over these routines in a class to jump into the “work” I thought I we needed to do, the difference in focus and attitude was palpable. Mindfulness activities that are connected with a caring and open culture that prioritizes mental health can be very beneficial. No matter the approach, any chance to check-in and ask how students are doing and offer ways to support and help can make a difference.

I’ve also always been a believer that being prepared and communicating with all stake holders well in advance minimizes the potential for future problems, but I also want to make sure the two-way communication in the classroom itself is improved. Each day students are asked to reflect upon their learning and answer a variety of questions (usually through a Google form “exit ticket”). I let them know this is just another way to keep the lines of communication open. My extroverted students may not always need to write how they feel or what they’re learning because they will vocalize it, but there are plenty of others who I wouldn’t hear from if I didn’t give them frequent opportunities to do so.

Finally, it is very important to me that students receive the music education they deserve. To be honest, I would probably have said this was priority number one two years ago, but I think COVID-19 has been a reminder not only of the trauma that so many of our students are experiencing but also of the need to address priorities 1 and 2 before they can even be receptive and open to learning! However, I believe strongly that my students deserve the best music education they can receive in my classes. I work hard at my job to make sure they are building skills that will unlock a lifetime of music making, seeing themselves reflected in the music they encounter, and experiencing opportunities that will continue to inspire them to grow as musicians and inspire others. Honor choirs, festivals, workshops, and guest clinicians are among some of the ways those opportunities can be provided outside the regular class time. I’ve always appreciated all of the events that this organization provides for teachers and students and as SCVA president I encourage you to let us know how we can continue to improve upon and add opportunities for the good of our community. Once again, I ask what are your priorities in your classes and choirs? My hope is that we will continue to work to inspire and support all of our students as we experience the challenges and celebrations this school year continues to bring!

Drew Lewis  
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Kaitlin Holt  
VP –Jazz Festival

Theresa Thomasulo  
Elementary Activities

Antone Rodich  
VP - Close Harmony Festival

Marcelo Martinez  
VP – Jr High Honor Choir

# LATE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE

## 2021 SCVA Fall In-Service

Friday, Oct. 15, 2021

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Location: Fullerton Free, 2801 N  
Brea Blvd, Fullerton, CA 92835

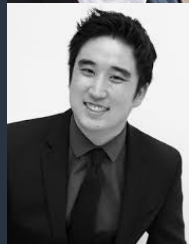


**HEADLINER:**  
**DR. JEFFREY BENSON**  
**SAN JOSE STATE**

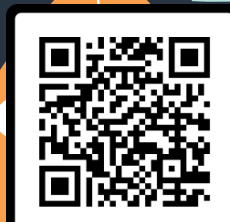
**ELEMENTARY MUSIC SESSION**  
**EMMA JOLEEN**



**"SOUNDS OF OUR WORLD"**  
**READING SESSION**  
**DR. JEFFREY BENSON**  
**DR. CRISTIAN GRASES**  
**MICHAEL USHINO**



**REGISTER AT [SCVACHORAL.ORG](https://scvachoral.org)**



**SCAN ME**



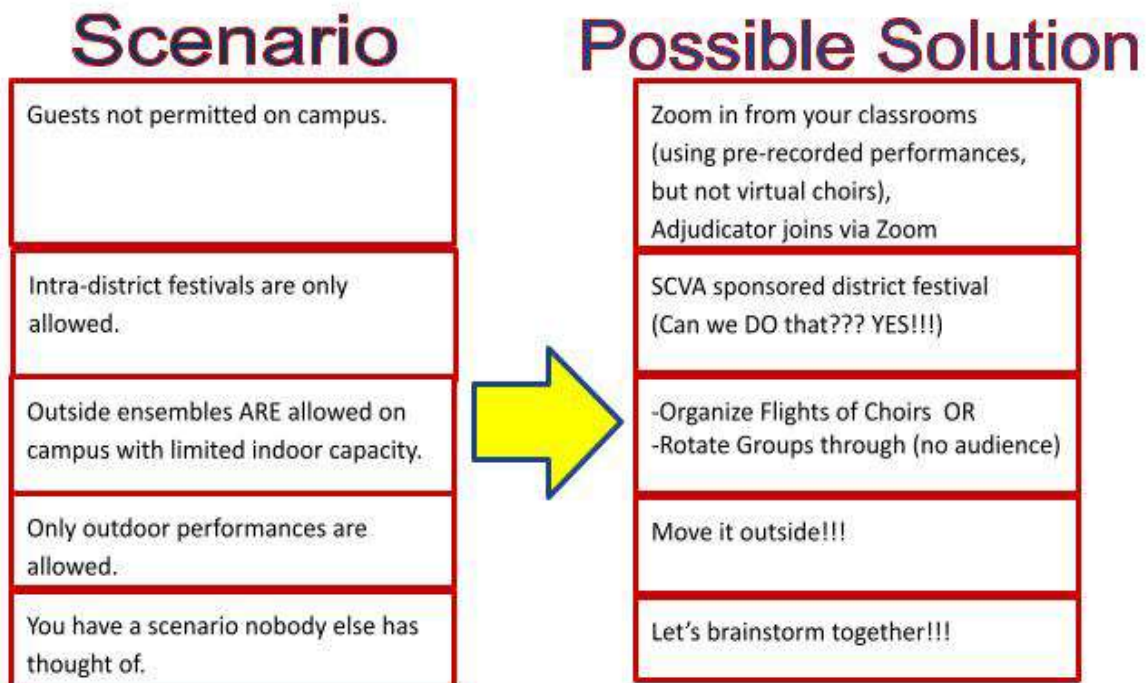
## Performing Restrictions Call for Creative Solutions!

*Nancy Ludwig, Festivals VPI*

Are you interested in hosting an SCVA Festival but aren't sure what your district is going to allow this year? You are not alone! With the school year underway and most of us faced with rebuilding our choral programs, hosting or even attending a festival might seem like an impossible task.

SCVA's highest priority is in serving the needs of our members as well as the choral students of Southern California! If hosting a traditional festival is not going to be allowed in your district, we want to work with you to build a festival experience that WILL work for you.

In anticipation of several different scenarios, SCVA Festivals will potentially look very different...again. For example:



These solutions are not the ideal SCVA experience, however they can provide opportunities for our students while following district guidelines and keeping everyone safe. We want to help provide solutions to these roadblocks, but first we need willing hosts to just take that first step and put a festival on the books.

Host Registration  
Deadline Extended to  
Nov. 1st!!!  
[scvachoral.org](http://scvachoral.org)

Help us rebuild Choral Music Education in Southern California by volunteering to host a festival this spring!  
Let's find creative solutions together!





## Upcoming Honor Choir Dates

**Regional Auditions:**  
September 25 or October 2, 2021

**Audition Results posted at [scvachoral.org](http://scvachoral.org)**  
October 16, 2021

**Honor Choir Weekend & Performance at University of Redlands:**

November 18, 19 and 20  
8:00am - 9:30pm all three days,  
Culminating Concert at 7:00pm

We need your help!  
Volunteer to help at Honor Choir by visiting:  
**[bit.ly/scvahhelp](http://bit.ly/scvahhelp)**  
Remember that directors who have at least two students participating in Honor Choir are expected to help.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KNOW YOUR CHORAL COMMUNITY

Anabel Martinez Pauline is currently in her 5th year at Los Amigos High School in Fountain Valley, CA, and 6th year of teaching music. In these years, she has had the opportunity to work with students of all grade levels, and guide them to be their best selves through courses such as Choir, General Music, Show Choir, Inclusion Choir, Vocal Jazz, Mariachi, History of Rock and Roll, and Life After High School. Through these experiences, she has learned the importance of positioning herself as a collaborator of the learning experience alongside the students. When students are empowered by the value they bring to the table, they step into their rightful roles as the gatekeepers of meaningful access to their education. Through valuing student agency and applying the principles of Universal Design for Learning and Reality Pedagogy, the learners in her classroom have found their versions of success as a collective and as individuals through their musical endeavors year after year. In the spirit of inclusion, equity, and representation, Anabel plans to continue her journey in co-creating inclusive spaces with students in music education through teaching, learning, and advocating for the communities she serves. You can follow her teaching journey on Instagram @shapinghumans



**ANABEL MARTÍNEZ PAULINE**  
LOS AMIGOS HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA

# Close Harmony Festival – SATB Edition

*Antone Rodich – VP of Close Harmony*

Hello Choral Educators!

SCVA has some very exciting news! On **Saturday, February 5, 2022**, SCVA and the Association of International Champions (AIC) will be hosting the SCVA Close Harmony Festival in collaboration. This festival encompasses students from middle school thru high school, learning songs in the barbershop style, and also some a-cappella music. **The location of the Close Harmony Festival will be announced shortly!**



If you would like to have a **gold medal winning quartet** come out for an outreach performance at your school, please fill out this form:  
<https://tinyurl.com/SCVAFallOutreach>

This Google Form will be due **Friday, October 1, 2021**. There are only a few spots left!

If you have a high school barbershop quartet (SATB, SSAA, TTBB) that would like to be a part of the Barbershop Quartet Workshop (more info to come), and possibly sing in the evening performance, please email me separately.

You can bring as many students as you desire (SATB). Registration, paperwork and other information will be available on the SCVA website and sent through the SCVA email database in September, and in the next SCVA newsletter. Stay tuned!



Here is the tentative schedule for Saturday, February 5, 2022:

- 9:00 - 10:00 : Registration (name tags and T-shirts) Bring your music!
- 10:00 - 10:30 : Introductions, warm-up and demonstration of the barbershop style
- 10:30 - 12:00 : Rehearsal
- 12:00 - 12:45 : Lunch
- 12:45 - 2:30 : Sectional rehearsals
- 2:30 - 2:45 : Break
- 2:45 - 3:30 : Barbershop Quartet Workshop
- 3:30 - 3:45 : Break
- 3:45 - 5:30 : Final rehearsal
- 5:30 - 6:15 : Serving Dinner/get ready for the show
- 6:30 : Performing Arts Center doors open
- 7:00 : Showtime



If you have any questions about this amazing event, feel free to email Antone Rodich (VP of Close Harmony).

**antonerodich87@gmail.com**

# SCVA Vocal Solo Competition/ Small Ensemble Festival

*Erika Jackson VP*

Hello everyone, Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We are excited to be preparing for this event again this year. We have learned some things and have made some permanent changes with round 1 being virtual and round 2 being live. We believe it provides better access and equity and will allow more students to participate. We have also added a new category this year so that we can offer more scholarships. You can find all new and important information on our website. Again, we are excited to be working with you and your fine students this year and we will keep you updated as we go.

## Important Dates:

\* Application and Round 1 Submission Deadline: Friday February 25, 2022

\* Finalists Results Posted: March 4, 2022

\* Round 2 Submission Deadline: May 7, 2022

\* Live Finals Concert: May 21, 2022 MVHS PAC

\* Judges: TBD

More Info: Visit [scvachoral.org](http://scvachoral.org)

Questions: [ejackson@mvusd.net](mailto:ejackson@mvusd.net)



## Middle School/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir

*Marcelo Martínez M.*

I am excited to announce that this year's Middle School/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir conductor will be Dr. Joshua Palkki, from



CSULB. The honor choir performance will be held at Portola High School in Irvine on May 7, 2022. They have a beautiful auditorium and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.

It is still early in the year but I wanted to take some time to encourage all middle school and 9<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to start telling your students to prepare for the Middle School/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir auditions. Auditions will be in early 2022. Please consider hosting auditions when the time comes. As a reminder to High School teachers, the Middle School/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir is open to all 9<sup>th</sup> graders also. If you have students that did not make it into the High School Honor choir this year or were not quite ready for the audition in September, this is a great opportunity for them. They will still be able to say they did honor choir all 4 years in High School. More information is soon to come.



## **WEBSITE UPDATE**

*Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster*



The SCVA website was launched nearly **22** years ago, with a major face-lift about five years ago. The website has continued to grow and evolve with valuable information, resources and automation to help us be more productive and efficient and serve our members more effectively.

### **E-mail Broadcast Messages**

A number of automated e-mail confirmation and broadcast messages are frequently sent from our website to choral directors for various events. Please check with your school district's network administrators to ensure that your e-mail system can accept incoming messages from "**admin@scvachoral.org**" to prevent those messages from being rejected as suspected SPAM (unsolicited e-mail). In addition, students who are registering for SCVA events (such as Honor Choirs) should only use e-mail addresses that can receive e-mail messages that originate from outside of their school district.

### **More About Your E-mail Address**

When you or your students register for an SCVA event, always use the same e-mail address that you used when you created or renewed your Annual SCVA Membership. The system validates your e-mail address and verifies that your SCVA Membership Dues have been paid. Some of you might have multiple versions of your e-mail address, but our system only allows one primary e-mail address, or it will reject any student applications (such as Honor Choirs or Vocal Solo Competition). When that happens, the application is ignored and there is nothing for me to fix. Instead, it is your responsibility to ensure that your singers use **ONLY** your primary e-mail address that is associated with your SCVA membership. In addition, when we have application deadlines, we cannot accept a claim that a student used the wrong e-mail address. It is the same as them not submitting any application at all.

On a related note, when your students use that primary email address for their audition applications, you can view all of the applications for your students by logging in to the Members-Only area of the website.

### **Automated E-mail Broadcast Messages**

A number of automated e-mail confirmation and broadcast messages are routinely sent from our website to choral directors for various events. Please ensure that your e-mail system can accept incoming messages from "**admin@scvachoral.org**", so you can receive all of those messages. In some cases, you may need to contact your school district's network administrators to prevent those messages from being incorrectly rejected as SPAM (unsolicited junk e-mail).

Please also be aware that if you simply reply to any of those automated broadcast messages, your response will be sent to me (as webmaster), and I must then forward your message the originator. For more efficient communication, please do not reply directly to any of those messages. Instead, please send your e-mail response directly to the original sender's e-mail address.

### **Hints for Using PayPal and Saving Money**

When using PayPal to pay the application or participation fees for multiple students or multiple Festival Registration fees, you can add the desired item to your Shopping Cart only one time, and then specify a quantity for that one item. You should not add the same item to your Shopping Cart multiple times, since that will result in a much larger processing fee added to you total transaction.

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**.

## Southern California Vocal Association

2450 W Ball Road, Anaheim, CA 92804

[www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org) / email: [info@scvachoral.org](mailto:info@scvachoral.org)



### IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

	<u>2021</u>
SCVA Fall In-Service	Oct 15
Festival Scholarship Applications Opens	Oct 15
High School Honor Choir Audition Results Posted	Oct 16
Festival Host Registration Deadline	Nov 1
Show Choir Spectacular Registration Opens	Nov 2
Registration for Festivals Opens	Nov 15
High School Honor Choir Weekend	Nov 18-20
Vocal Jazz Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir Performance	Nov 19
	<u>2022</u>
Close Harmony Festival	Feb 5
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Round 1 Application Deadline	Feb 25
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Finalist Results Posted	March 4
Vocal Jazz, Gospel & Contemporary Acapella Festival	March 11 & 12
Middle School/9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir	May 7
Show Choir Spectacular	May 7
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Round 2 Application Deadline	May 7
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Live Concert Performance	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.*