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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Rachelle Randeem*

*“Raise your words, not voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder.” ~Rumi*

*“Raise your words, not voice....”*

What an interesting phrase. What a challenge! As a human, woman, spouse, parent, musician, educator, professional, volunteer, I am flummoxed....are my words more dynamic than my voice’s volume? As an adult, I tend to now naturally move towards the “not raising your voice” consideration. This consideration is constantly on my radar. “Raise your words”....that is something I will need to “ruminate” on for a long time. Please join me on the journey of considering what those words might mean for the future of our choral community and our individual classrooms.

*“...It is the rain that grows flowers, not thunder.”*

As the rain has been falling last night and today, much thankfulness is flourishing in my heart. I’m so thankful for....

- the “rain” of professional development that “fell” at the remarkable Fall In-Service Karen Garrett designed. So many colleagues were provided encouragement and additional skills and an opportunity to connect and share! Angel, Kim, Steve & Keith – your sessions were inspiring and remarkable! Thank you!
- the growth of new opportunities for the vocal/choral students here in Southern California through the newly formed SCVA Vocal Jazz / Contemporary A-Cappella Honor Choir. Thank you, Christine Mocha for your innovative leadership!
- Matthew Netto & Michael Ushino’s amazing ability to build a spectacular SCVA Honor Choir experience AND get the lists out a day early!
- a rather remarkable group of choral educators who volunteer their “extra” time to be part of the SCVA executive board!
- a “quiet” day at home (keep in mind that I have three kids...”quiet” is a relative term), to ~~bake some pumpkin bread~~ (totally lying...no time for that) cuddle up with a blanket and my MacBook to contemplate life and write this article!
- the mentors who are part of our JumpStart program, working to support new and aspiring teachers during their first years of teaching!

Wishing you an amazing season of achievement within your classrooms and instructional community, and the opportunity to consider all we have to be thankful for this November of 2018.

# HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIR INFORMATION

*Matthew Netto, VP I - High School Honor Choir*

*Michael Ushino, VP II - High School Honor Choir*

**Congratulations to the 270 members of the 2018 SCVA Regional Honor Choirs.** We auditioned 557 students this year. Thank you to the record number of audition site hosts and sites @13 schools with 56 outstanding adjudicators. They provided both a personally enriching and educational experience as students learned the rigors of a live audition. The honor choir process possesses integrity and value due to our members, judges and site hosts. SCVA sincerely appreciates the educational expertise, commitment to excellence, and willingness to volunteer which our members exhibited in preparing their students to audition.



**Honor Choir weekend is November 15, 16, and 17 at the University of Redlands.** Please arrive to registration at 8:00am with your **music, in the folder we provided, ready for part tests and a copy of your registration receipt from PayPal.** The final concert is on November 17 at 7:00pm in Memorial Chapel at the University of Redlands. Please show students where to purchase tickets for family and friends. Both registration payments (\$90.00) and tickets (\$10 for general seating) may be purchased online at <http://scvachoral.org/payments.php>. Tickets will also be available at honor choir rehearsals or at the door.



## REMINDERS:

- Students must attend all rehearsals, in their entirety, or be subject to removal from the honor choir. If a selected student does not attend all rehearsals, their home school may be suspended from SCVA Honor Choir participation for one year.
- All honor choir rehearsals are **OPEN REHEARSALS**. SCVA Members should take this opportunity to watch the outstanding guest conductors at work to learn useful techniques and inspiring rehearsal ideas for us in their ensembles. Rehearsals are all day on November 15, 16, and 17. Our esteemed conductors are Prof. Désirée La Vertu (Women's Choir), Dr. Trey Davis (Mixed Choir) and Dr. John Russell (Men's Choir).
- **We count on you**, directors of participating singers, with two or more singers to volunteer. Please find the SignUpGenius link at [www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org) on the Honor Choir Event page. You can choose among tasks such t-shirt distribution, registration, ushering, clean-up, etc....
- Please prepare your students to sing with a strong sense of independence. We have prepared part tracks which will be available for digital download. Do not assume practice is occurring at home. Have them be accountable to you BEFORE honor choir weekend.



# M·PACT

WONDERFUL WORLD

SCVA

Vocal Jazz &  
Contemporary

A Cappella

Festival

*Wed. March, 13, 2019*

***With MPACT!***

Valencia High School 27801  
N. Dickason Drive,  
Valencia, CA 91355



Adjudicators: **Jeff Smith (MPACT)** and **Cindy Bourquin Dicken (Mt. San Antonio)**

**~~ M P A C T Concert 7 : 3 0 P M ~ VHS THEATER ~~**

Registration now open, visit [http://www.scvachoral.org/jazz\\_festival.php](http://www.scvachoral.org/jazz_festival.php)  
- Spots fill up fast, be sure to sign up early. Tickets at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) ~

↓ **MARK YOUR CALENDERS** ↓

The VERY FIRST SCVA

**Vocal Jazz /  
Contemporary A  
Cappella**

**Honor Choir**  
Under the direction of  
**Kerry Marsh**

CONCERT FRIDAY NOVEMBER 16, 7PM  
University of Redlands Chapel



Kerry Marsh at the SCVA Fall Inservice – Roundtable

## Jr. High Honor Choir

*Rhonda Lynn Bauer – VP Junior High Honor Choir*

Many of us are well underway into this school year and our Winter and Holiday programs are being rehearsed. During this busy time of the year remember that the Jr. High Honor Choir Auditions are right around the corner. Registration opens **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Encourage each and everyone of your proficient and advanced 6,7,8, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders to prepare to audition for the Honor Choir. (See Oct newsletter for audition details.)

- ❖ Registration will be available: **December 1, 2018 through January 11, 2019**

Auditions will be hosted at the following sites:

### Saturday, January 19, 2019

Orange Lutheran High School, Orange (host: Megan Carvale)  
Lincoln Middle School, Santa Monica (host: Vanessa Counte)  
Travis Ranch Middle School, Yorba Linda (host: Jessica Schlenz)  
Hughes Middle School, Long Beach (host: Steven Clausen)  
Los Osos High School, Rancho Cucamonga (host: Bethany Encina)

### Saturday, January 26, 2019

McFadden Intermediate School, Santa Ana (host: Greg Ellis)  
Mesa Robles Middle School, Hacienda Heights (host: Amanda Benavides)  
Warren High School, Downey (host: Robert Peterson)  
Raymond Cree Middle School, Palm Springs (host: Jeff Kopasz)  
Fallbrook High School, Fallbrook (North San Diego) (host: Heather Smith)

- ❖ Please consider signing up as an adjudicator for one or both Saturdays, a fantastic way to earn a few bucks and support SCVA!

Regional rehearsal: **Saturday, March 9, 2019**--Mesa Robles Middle School, Hacienda Heights

Performance Date: **Saturday, April 13, 2019**-- Portola High School, Irvine

This year's Jr. High Honor Choir Conductor will be Dr. Kellori Dower! You won't want to miss this event!

Jr. High  
Honor  
Choir



# Preliminary Performance Registration

## Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Competition

### Audition Dates and Locations



- January 12:** Fullerton Union High School (*Host: Scott Hedgecock*)  
**January 19:** Providence High School (*Host: Marisa Bradfield*)  
**January 26:** Newbury Park High School (*Host: John Sargent*)  
**February 9:** Irvine High School (*Host: Tina Peterson*)  
**February 9:** Rancho Cucamonga High School (*Host: Kelley Squires*)

### Performance Guidelines - Quick Tips

- All registrations must have director approval.
- Directors or voice teachers must be current SCVA members.
- When performing in an ensemble, only one vocalist per part is allowed.
- Ensemble participants can have a group size of three to eight vocalists.
- All solo performances must be accompanied.
- All performers must supply their own accompanist.
- All solo performances must be memorized. Ensemble performances may choose to perform with scores.
- To be eligible for the Vocal Solo competition, students must perform a Classical, Musical Theatre, or Jazz standard solo. A selection from the 26 Italian Art Song book or equivalent is recommended.

Online Application & Payment Deadline

**Monday, January 5, 2019**

[www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)

For further questions and information, please email  
[marisa.bradfield@providencehigh.org](mailto:marisa.bradfield@providencehigh.org)

### How Do I Register?

#### Step 1:

#### Register your Performance

[www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)

#### Step 2:

#### Select the Performance Category

\*Classical or  
Musical Theatre / Jazz

\*Competitive, Non-Competitive,  
Rating or Comments only

#### Step 3

#### Pay the Registration Fee

\$30 for soloists  
\$35 for small ensembles



SCVA applicants who earn a superior rating will automatically qualify to participate in the CMEA State Solo and Small Ensemble Finals Competition.

For more information, please visit:

[www.calmusiced.com](http://www.calmusiced.com)

# SCVA Festival Registration Opens Nov. 15

*Nancy Ludwig, VPI Festivals*

The deadline to register to host a festival has passed, and registration to participate in festivals will be available as of November 15! There are many fantastic opportunities for your choirs to attend an SCVA festival throughout the Southern California Region! Explore these options on our website ([scvachoral.org](http://scvachoral.org)) at your earliest convenience to grab a spot.

## **Scholarships.....What ?!?!?**

SCVA is in its second year of offering the Festival Fee Scholarship in an effort to defray costs for needy choral programs. Through an application process, SCVA is able to award 10 scholarships of \$100 each to programs in need of assistance. This scholarship can be used for any SCVA festival in the current academic year.

### **How do I apply?!?!?!?**

1. Register for the festival you want to attend at <http://scvachoral.org/festivals.php>
2. See scholarship details, process, and application at: [http://scvachoral.org/festival\\_scholarship\\_reg.php](http://scvachoral.org/festival_scholarship_reg.php)
3. The scholarship committee will review all applications and notify you regarding acceptance.



Scholarships are based on financial need and circumstance. It is our hope that this will provide a festival opportunity to choirs who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend due to financial constraints.



## **Writing in the Choral Classroom**

*Drew Lewis, President-Elect*

***At the beginning of each summer I like to reflect upon my teaching and determine elements that I could improve upon for the coming school year. This year, five of my goals were:***

1. Incorporate the incoming 10<sup>th</sup> graders more fully into the intermediate choirs.
2. Improve my gradebook system to better keep track of the grades and behaviors of my 200+ students.
3. Improve my teaching of classroom routines and help students understand the concepts of being a chorister more fully (including how to use pencils, practice, etc.).
4. Work on continuing to raise the bar of commitment for students and identify those who are not committed to the ensemble early in the year.
5. Incorporate weekly writing assignments.

The weekly writing assignments I chose to include were written reflections on various aspect of their rehearsals and music learning. By having the students write each week, I have noticed that this is helping me make progress towards reaching all of the goals listed above. At the end of each reflection, I ask students to write a compliment or notate something positive they've noticed another choir member do. This helped the 10<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as other students, feel early on in the year that they are a valued member of the community. I also enjoy that I can prompt my students to think about behavior and procedures as well as obtain their feedback on questions I choose for the reflections. I can also gauge their commitment, have them reflect upon the music they are learning, and identify areas in which they need help. I am certain many of you already do writing assignments in your choirs consistently, but if you have not tried utilizing them, I promise that they are a helpful tool in keeping the lines of communication open with your students and also knowing how to adjust your teaching to the needs of all students.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KNOW YOUR CHORAL COMMUNITY

## How have you coped with the stressful times during your career?

Musical activities outside of teaching were always helpful to me. Participating with the Inland Master Chorale and my Church Choir provided respite during stressful times. Family support is also very important.

## What words of wisdom do you have for directors starting out?

In the midst of all of the wonderful things we're doing - music theory, ear training, sight reading, wonderful literature, etc. - we still need to just be able to do something every day in every rehearsal that helps our students find joy in singing and connection to other humans.

## Which of your choral colleagues deserves a shout-out?

To my Choral Colleagues in Jurupa Unified School District who continue the tradition of great choral music: Jeff Lin at RHS, Matt Netto at PHS and Cassie Faust at JVHS, Karen Kimmel at MLMS, Jamie Lewison at MMS and Lyla Lewis at JMS.



## Melva Morrison

taught Jr. High Choir and Elementary music from 1976 to 1979 in Kansas City, KN and Elementary Music in Jurupa Unified District from 1983 to 1989. She then taught from 1989 to 2016 at Jurupa Valley High School. She has been an SCVA member since 1989 and serves on the SCVA Board as our Festival Chairperson II.



## Website Update

*Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster*

Our new website design was launched just over two years ago, and everything is working better than we expected. The new design is more aesthetically pleasing than the old design that was created way back in early 2000. It is also much easier for me to maintain and add new capabilities. We also increased the level of automation and data validation to help improve the accuracy and efficiency of the system, and streamline the user-interaction with our members.

A few friendly reminders will help keep everything running smoothly:

- When filling-in one of the on-line forms, please don't enter all of your information in **ALL UPPER CASE LETTERS**. It sounds like you're yelling. Similarly, please remember that all proper names require appropriate capitalization. It might be easy to type everything in all lower-case letters on mobile devices, but that doesn't make it right. Please teach your students to do the same.
- PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE (yes, I'm yelling) DO NOT REPLY DIRECTLY TO BROADCAST E-MAIL MESSAGES THAT ARE SENT FROM "**admin@scvachoral.org**". Those replies get delivered to me (as webmaster), and then I need to manually forward them to whoever sent the original message.
- When there is an application deadline for an event (such as Honor Choir), please remember that the payment for that activity is also due by the deadline date. We realize that sometimes it takes longer to request a District check, so just drop us a note that you have submitted the request, and we will mark your payment as "Pending". That way, we don't need to send you an overwhelming number reminder e-mail messages while we are waiting for the check to arrive.
- Did you know that you can download and print an Invoice for your Festival Registration Fees by logging in to the Members Only page? There is also a bunch of other valuable information there, as well.

## **Southern California Vocal Association**

Bethany Encina - Los Osos High School, 6001 Milliken Ave, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91737

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



### **IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES**

Festival Host Registration Closes	November 1, 2018
Festival Registration Opens	November 15, 2018
Acappella and Vocal Jazz Honor Choir Rehearsal	November 15-16, 2018
Acappella and Vocal Jazz Honor Choir Performance	November 16, 2018
High School Honor Choir Weekend	November 15-17, 2018
High School Honor Choir Performance	November 17, 2018
Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Auditions (Fullerton Union HS)	January 12, 2019
Jr High Honor Choir Auditions	January 19, 2019
Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Auditions (Providence HS)	January 19, 2019
Jr High Honor Choir Auditions	January 26, 2019
Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Auditions (Newbury Park HS)	January 26, 2019
Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Auditions (Irvine HS)	February 9, 2019
Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Auditions (Rancho Cucamonga HS)	February 9, 2019
Jr High Honor Choir Regional Rehearsal	March 9, 2019
Vocal Jazz & A Cappella Festival/Clinic	March 13, 2019
CMEA State Choral Festival	March 20, 2019
Jr High Honor Choir Performance	April 13, 2019
Show Choir Spectacular	April 27, 2019