



# S.C.V.A. NEWS

Southern California Vocal Association December, 2015

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rodger Guerrero

In choral rehearsals, practice may not be perfect, but practice certainly makes permanent. The manner in which we rehearse sincerely matters (Shirlee Emmons & Constance Chase: *Prescriptions for Choral Excellence*, 2006). In fact, various scientific studies have concluded that a teacher's instructional style has a large influence upon students' independent practice habits. Furthermore, what teachers do in rehearsal is more profoundly influential than what they say (N.H. Barry: *Behind Closed Doors: what really goes on in the practice room*, 2002). So, as teaching conductors, why do we choose to talk so much? Here are some other important questions to consider: **How much time do we spend verbally instructing students during our rehearsals? Do we allow for a significant amount of student input during our rehearsals? What other, perhaps more effective, explanatory techniques can replace verbal instruction?**

Today I rehearsed four different choirs. I am frequently unconscious of the amount of time I waste talking "at the singers" as I get caught up in the euphoria of the rehearsal moment. It's not that I purposefully talk so much throughout rehearsals; it's just habitual, a computer-like default-setting reaction to what I hear and want to help the students improve upon. But I also know from experience that it takes longer for me to explain musical concepts to the singers then it does for them to actually achieve them. Those poor singers! They certainly didn't enroll in a choral class in order to spend so much time listening to me lecture. They get plenty of that in their other classes!

If this situation sounds similar to yours, try a few well-established tricks of the trade. First, use a stopwatch throughout rehearsals to time the talking-to-singing ratio for yourself (I use one from my phone). Better yet, let one of your trusted singers do it for you. Even more, make sure to inform your singers of your intent, that is, to train yourself to establish a **1:5 (or more!) talking-to-singing ratio** during choral rehearsals (for me, this usually means about 7 minutes of talking to 35 minutes of singing in each rehearsal). Tell them that you value their musical development so much that you are making every effort to give them as much singing time as possible. Do this and you will win their trust and respect forever. Do this, and you will find that your singers will start to edit their comments, questions, and rehearsal social time as well.

If this method is too public for you, video record your rehearsals. Many phones make this easy to do. I use an iPad. Then take the time to sit, compile talking-to-singing data, and analyze where you might make strategic teaching changes to alter the ratio. While this technique is time extensive, it can teach other valuable lessons as well (conducting gesture, conductor-singer interaction, etc.).

Have you ever tried to rehearse without talking at all? When I employ this methodology, I begin the class by pointing to the rehearsal literature and sequence I write on the board and use my own, personal type of "sign language" in order to indicate page and measure numbers. When I stop to demonstrate what I would like them to achieve, I do so by conducting, singing, or indicating that they should audiate as I musically conduct the pianist. After the singers re-try the phrase in question, I smile and give them a thumbs up or shake my head and motion for them to repeat it again in a pace drill kind of activity. I find that **Silent Rehearsals** can develop singers' listening skills while they simultaneously improve non-verbal communication between singers and their conductor. They are also most effective before an impending concert.

Finally, if we have to talk, we should make every effort to talk **with** and not **to** our singers. We should question, prod, and encourage them throughout every discussion. Wilbert McKeachie's **Teaching Tips** submits that studies clearly indicate that "discussion methods are far superior to lectures in student retention of information, transfer of knowledge to new situations, development of problem solving, and in motivation for further learning" (McKeachie, pp. 55-56). And remember: student retention is best at the beginning and ending of rehearsals. Therefore make sure that you are on your best teaching behavior at those junctures.

So friends, keep the talking to a minimum and let your singers have a voice in every discussion. Most importantly, stop talking! **Let them sing because that's what they come to choir to do.** Isn't choral singing what we want them to do for their entire lives?

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# Preliminary Performance Registration

## Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Competition

NEW!!! Classical, Jazz, and Musical Theatre

### How do I register?

Register a solo or ensemble for a festival @ [www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)

Select the performance category (Competitive, Non-Competitive, Rating or Comments)

Pay the registration fee - \$25 for solo, and \$35 for small ensembles online

SCVA applicants who earn a Superior rating will be invited to the CMEA State Solo and Small Ensemble Festival.

Online Application and Payment  
Deadline

Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
[www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)

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

### Eligibility and Guidelines

- 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 will be allowed.
- 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 solo.
- To be eligible for a rating, students must perform a solo or an ensemble piece from the classical or musical theatre genre.

### Audition Dates and Locations

Please see online application for selected competitive genre location

- Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>: Fullerton High School, Host: Scott Hedgecock  
Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>: Glendale High School, Host: Grace Sheldon-Williams  
Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>: Providence High School, Host: Marisa Bradfield  
Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>: Murrieta Mesa High School, Host: Jeffrey Kopasz  
Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>: Valencia High School, Host: Christine Tavares-Mocha



## Young Women's and Young Men's Harmony Festivals

*Mark Freedkin, VP of Barbershop Harmony Festivals*



Applications for this year's Barbershop Harmony Festivals for Young Women and Young Men are coming in, but we can still accommodate additional singers who wish to participate. Both events will be held at the Robert B. Moore Theater on the campus of Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. The 11th annual "**Diva Day**" Young Women in Harmony Festival, sponsored by the Harborlites Chorus, will be held on Saturday, February 6, and the 16th annual "**Young Men's Harmony Festival**" will be held on Saturday, February 20, sponsored by the Masters of Harmony. Both of these events will provide a unique musical opportunity for your singers and will provide a positive boost to your choral music program.

Although the early-registration deadline has passed, the application fee is still only **\$30** per singer. The sponsoring choruses will cover the remaining costs for all sheet music, practice CDs, rehearsal facilities, guest clinicians and performance costumes. Each singer will receive a commemorative t-shirt. We will also provide lunch and dinner for the singers, choral directors and any adult chaperones accompanying the singers.

Please download and print the appropriate application forms from the SCVA website. Complete and return the applications and forms, along with payment by cash, check or money order payable to **Harborlites** (for Diva Day) or **Masters of Harmony** (for the Young Men's Festival). Each event will be limited to a maximum of 250 participants, so be sure to submit your applications early. Note that these festivals are separate events, and you must send the appropriate forms and payments to the proper recipient.

We look forward to receiving your applications. Please contact us if you have any questions about our festivals.

### **SCVA 2016 Junior High/9th Grade Honor Choir auditions are now OPEN!**

*Molly Peters, VP, Junior High/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir*

Honor Choir online auditions are now open! I am very excited about this year's honor choir conductor, Ms. Lori Marie Rios. Many of you know Ms. Rios personally, and those of you who do know that she is a perfect fit for this age group. Your developing singers will enjoy her sense of humor, her passion for music making, and her expertise (she is a fabulous educator). I feel very passionately about giving our young singers exceptional educational experiences—these years are the years that shape our future high school singers and future music majors and future music teachers! Your students will have a great time singing with her, and they will also learn so much.

One of the things I am most proud of is the sight-reading components of the audition. Students must perform both a rhythmic sight-reading and a melodic sight reading. I have been very impressed with our students' performances on these elements in the past, so junior high teachers, please keep up the fabulous work on musicianship with your students. Music literacy is the BEST gift we can give our students (Yes, it is better than a trophy in my opinion :)).

For more information on the audition requirements and the online registrations, please visit the SCVA home page: [scvachoral.org](http://scvachoral.org).

## 63 opportunities to enrich the lives of your choristers!!!

*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 over 60 festival offerings! There are both middle school and high school offerings at the Novice, Open, and Advanced levels. There are 10 festivals offering a sight-singing component, and two of them are at the middle school level! Check out the online rubric to choose the sight-singing level best suited to your ensemble. Take the plunge!

The deadline to register for a festival is March 1, 2016, but early registration is encouraged. 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 regular festival is \$100, and festivals with sight-singing are \$130. 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 or Melva Morrison. 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

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Host</i>
Fri	3/18	10:00 am	Baldwin Park PAC	Baldwin Park	Open	Open	Suzanne Brookey
Tues	3/22	10:00 am	Oaks Christian School	Westlake Village	Open	Open	Edward Rouse
Tues	3/22	7:00 pm	Cal Lutheran University	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	Janna Santangelo
Thurs	3/24	10:00 am	Las Flores MS	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Benefield
Thurs	3/24	2:00 pm	Las Flores MS	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Benefield
Thurs	4/07	9:00 am	James L. Day MS	Temecula	Open	Open	Patricia Halic
Thurs	4/07	1:00 pm	James L. Day MS	Temecula	Open	Open	Patricia Halic
Tues	4/12	9:00 am	Menifee Valley MS	Menifee	Open	Open	Tom Oliver
Tues	4/12	12:30 pm	Menifee Valley MS	Menifee	Open	Open	Tom Oliver
Wed	4/13	10:00 am	David Starr Jordan MS	Burbank	Open	Open	Christine DeMore
Thurs	4/14	10:00 am	Shivela MS	Murrieta	Open	Clinic	Lavinia Tikasingh
Wed	4/20	1:00 pm	Marshall Fundamental School	Pasadena	Novice	Open	David Pitts
Thurs	4/21	10:00 am	Oak MS <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Los Alamitos	Open	Open	Rachelle Randeem
Thurs	4/21	10:00 am	TeWinkle MS	Costa Mesa	Novice	Mixed	Tim McFadden
Fri	4/22	10:00 am	Oak MS <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Los Alamitos	Open	Open	Rachelle Randeem
Thurs	4/28	10:30 am	Ladera Vista JHS	Fullerton	Open	Mixed	Andrea Calvo
Fri	5/06	8:30 am	Ramirez Intermediate School	Eastvale	Novice	Clinic	Dathan Jones
Fri	5/06	11:00 am	Manhattan Beach MS	Manhattan Beach	Adv	Open	Heather Gold-Pollak
Fri	5/06	1:00 pm	Ramirez Intermediate School	Eastvale	Novice	Clinic	Kyle Betts
Fri	5/13	9:30 am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Open	Greg Ellis
Fri	5/13	1:00 pm	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Open	Greg Ellis
Tues	5/17	10:30 am	Venice HS	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Wendy Sarnoff

## High School Festivals

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Host</b>
Mon	2/29	4:00pm	Del Norte HS	San Diego	Open	Open	Keith Sattely
Wed	3/09	2:00 pm	Montebello HS	Montebello	Open	Open	Jessie Flasschoen
Wed	3/09	6:00 pm	Montebello HS	Montebello	Adv	Open	Jessie Flasschoen
Tues	3/15	9:00 am	Chaparral HS	Temecula	Open	Open	Rob Hodo
Tues	3/15	10:00 am	Rio Hondo College	Whittier	Open	Open	Kellori Dower
Tues	3/15	7:30 pm	Harvard-Westlake School <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Studio City	Adv	Open	Rodger Guerrero
Thurs	3/17	10:00 am	Baldwin Park PAC	Baldwin Park	Novice	Open	Suzanne Brookey
Thurs	3/17	2:00 pm	Glendale HS	Glendale	Open	Open	Grace Sheldon-Williams
Thurs	3/17	3:30 pm	Baldwin Park PAC	Baldwin Park	Adv	Chamber	Suzanne Brookey
Wed	3/23	9:00 am	Fallbrook HS <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Fallbrook	Open	Open	Heather Smith
Wed	3/23	4:00 pm	Golden Valley HS	Santa Clarita	Open	Open	Kerry Riccio-Aguero
Wed	3/23	5:00 pm	Walnut HS	Walnut	Open	Open	Elizabeth Lopez
Wed	3/30	10:00 am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Adv	Mixed	Grace Han
Thurs	3/31	10:00 am	Fontana HS	Fontana	Open	Open	Jennifer Esquivel
Tues	4/05	6:00 pm	First Baptist Church of Downey <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Downey	Open	Open	Robert Peterson
Tues	4/05	7:00 pm	Cal Lutheran University	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	Janna Santangelo
Wed	4/06	9:00 am	CSU San Bernardino <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	San Bernardino	Adv	Open	John Russell
Thurs	4/07	9:00 am	Mission Viejo HS	Mission Viejo	Open	Women's	Sarah Norris
Thurs	4/07	10:00 am	Bloomington HS	Bloomington	Open	Open	Ryan Duckworth
Fri	4/08	9:00 am	Jarupa Valley HS	Mira Loma	Open	Women's	Melva Morrison
Fri	4/08	12:30 pm	Jarupa Valley HS	Mira Loma	Open	Open	Melva Morrison
Tues	4/12	9:00 am	Westridge School	Pasadena	Open	Open	Paul Stephenson
Tues	4/12	10:00 am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Women's	Grace Han
Tues	4/12	6:00 pm	Pete Knight HS	Palmdale	Open	Mixed	Suzanne McGarraugh
Wed	4/13	10:00 am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Men's	Grace Han
Thurs	4/14	9:00 am	Fullerton Union HS <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Fullerton	Open	Women's Men's	Scott Hedgecock
Thurs	4/14	10:00 am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Mixed	Grace Han
Thurs	4/14	1:00 pm	Fullerton Union HS <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Fullerton	Adv	Open	Scott Hedgecock
Wed	4/20	9:30 am	Marshall Fundamental School	Pasadena	Open	Open	David Pitts
Wed	4/20	10:00 am	Placentia Yorba Linda USD PAC	Placentia	Open	Women's Men's	Michael Fenton
Wed	4/20	1:00 pm	Placentia Yorba Linda USD PAC	Placentia	Open	Mixed	Michael Fenton
Fri	4/22	9:00 am	Murrieta Mesa HS <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Murrieta	Open	Clinic	Jeffrey Kopasz
Fri	4/22	12:30 pm	Murrieta Mesa HS <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Murrieta	Adv	Clinic	Jeffrey Kopasz
Tues	4/26	6:00 pm	Mark Keppel HS	Alhambra	Open	Open	Tony Azeltine
Thurs	4/28	10:00 am	Hamilton HS	Los Angeles	Adv	Open	Kelci Hahn
Tues	5/03	7:00 pm	The Thacher School	Ojai	Open	Open	Bill Wagner
Wed	5/04	4:00 pm	El Monte HS	El Monte	Open	Open	Joel Whisler
Wed	5/18	1:00 pm	William and Jane Bristol Civic Auditorium	Bellflower	Open	Open	Carolyn Kelley
Thurs	5/19	6:30 pm	Venice HS	Los Angeles	Novice	Mixed	Wendy Sarnoff
Mon	5/23	6:00 pm	West HS	Torrance	Adv	Mixed	Antone Rodich

*BYORD (Bring Your Own Recording Device):* We will continue with BYORD for the 2016 SCVA Festivals. 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 your festival host does not provide recordings for you, then plan to bring your own recording device, or plan on receiving two written adjudications. Please email us if you need more information.

# Sightreading at 10 SCVA Festivals in 2016!

*Jennifer Stanley, Executive Vice President*

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Eight high school festivals and two middle school festivals will be offering sightreading in 2016. We had a very positive response from directors who participated in sightreading festivals in 2015, and we are working to streamline the sightreading process for 2016.

There is **NEW** information (see graphic at right) at [scvachoral.org/festivals.php](http://scvachoral.org/festivals.php) to assist you in preparing your choirs for both high school and middle school sightreading festivals. Information has been divided into Middle School and High School sections, and there are reproducible examples available for each level.

There are **MANY** different levels and voicings available for both middle school and high school. While the number of available choices may seem overwhelming, the purpose is so that you can find exactly the right level and voicing for **YOUR** ensemble. Please read the Rubric of Levels carefully to see what will be encountered in the sightreading. Note that High School Level 1 and Middle School Levels 1 and 2 are for **UNISON** voices. Register for a sightreading festival today!

**Festival Sightreading Info**

[Procedures & Rules, and Sightreading Adjudication Form](#)

**HIGH SCHOOL**

[Rubric of High School Levels 1-6](#)

[Available High School Voicings and Ranges](#)

[2013 High School Sightreading Examples](#)

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

[Rubric of Middle School Levels 1-4](#)

[Available Middle School Voicings and Ranges](#)

[2014 Middle School Sightreading Examples](#)

[Buy Reproducible Sightreading Materials from Masterworks Press](#)

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL 1 SIGHTREADING EXAMPLE**



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## **Save the Date!**

### **CMEA State Choral Festival to be held April 1, 2016**

*Nancy Ludwig, CMEA State Choral Festival Chairperson*

For the past three years, CMEA has held Band and Orchestra festivals at the state level to promote statewide standards of excellence in music education. Finally, CMEA is proud to announce that the inaugural CMEA State Choral Festival will be taking place on April 1, 2016....this coming spring! CSU Fullerton has graciously agreed to host this landmark event in fabulous Meng Concert Hall.

If you have a high school or middle school ensemble that achieved a unanimous superior rating from a CMEA or SCVA festival during the spring 2015 season, that group is eligible to apply!

Application materials will be available soon, but for those of you interested in being prepared, you will be asked to provide the following information:

Application filled out and completed

Provide ratings from Spring 2015 CMEA or SCVA festivals

A recording of the ensemble which includes two contrasting selections.

Final details will be available soon including pricing, eligibility and full application requirements. Look for future emails and publications on how to obtain application materials.

# 2016 Choral Leadership Academy

California All-State Music Education Conference  
**2016 All State Choral Leadership Academy**  
San Jose, California February 12-13, 2016  
CLA is sponsored by ACDA ~ CMEA ~ SCVA

The Fifth Annual CMEA/ACDA/SCVA sponsored Choral Leadership Academy will return to the California All State Music Educators Conference (CASMEC) in the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, California and will be held February 12-13, 2016. The CLA is an intense two-day event for high school, community college, and university students who are interested in pursuing a career in the choral profession. This outstanding event will impart musicianship skills, inspire confidence, and build camaraderie among musicians of the next generation. The students in the CLA will:

- Sing new literature
- Work on their musicianship
- Listen to and learn from veterans in the field
- Develop friendships that will support them as they begin their careers

Students that attend the CLA will gain a better understanding of our professional organizations, will attend the choral interest sessions at CASMEC, and will perform as a choir for an informal concert at the end of the Academy. **Leading the CLA faculty will be Dr. Elizabeth Schauer (University of Arizona), assisted by Christopher Peterson (CSU Fullerton), Jeffrey Benson (San Jose State University), Angel Vázquez-Ramos (CSU Bakersfield), and Willow Manspeaker (Stevenson School).**

We are accepting the first 50 applicants who can provide us with a balanced choir and a balance of high school, college and university students. Please get your applications in right away! In the event that we have an overage of applicants in any one voice area (S, A, T, or B) or age area, we will cap off that section until the appropriate balance has been received within the other areas. Applicants will be kept informed via email as to their status.

Registration is now open! For more information, important dates, and for an application, please visit: <http://calmusiced.com/index.php/cmea-conference/44-choral-leadership-academy>

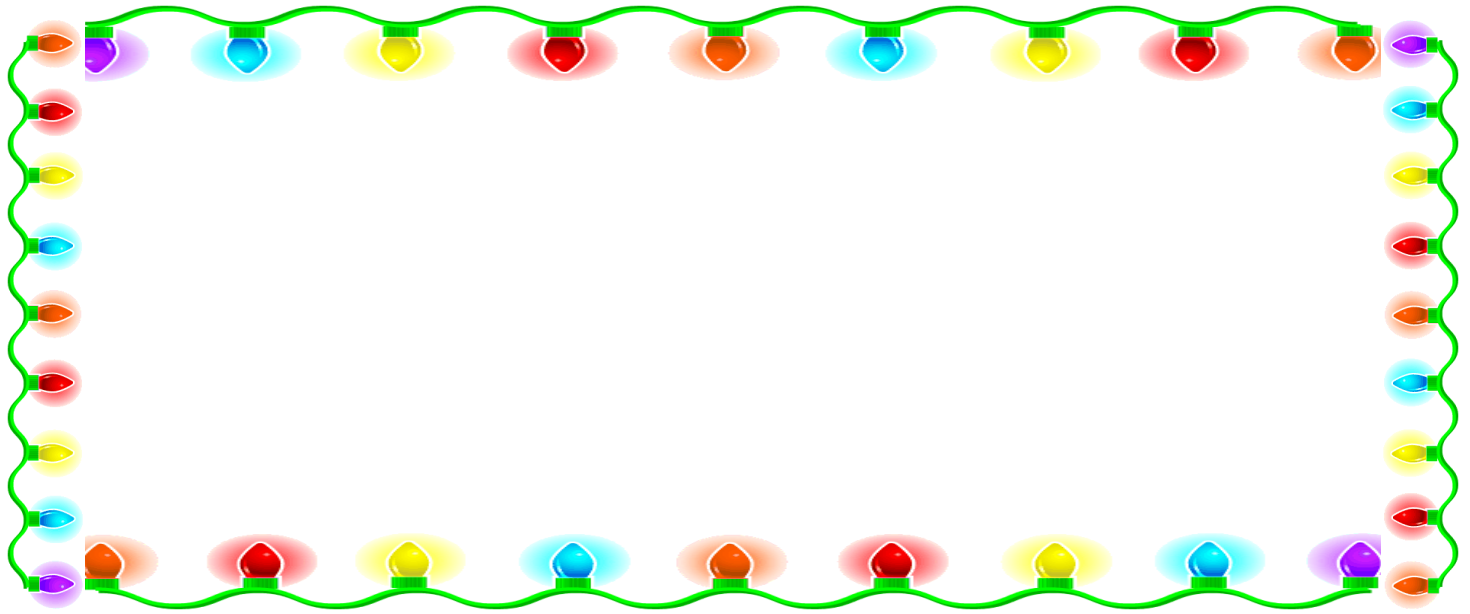
Please contact Willow Manspeaker, CLA Co-Chair, with any questions:  
wmanspeaker@stevensonschool.org

## Southern California Vocal Association

Harvard-West-Lake Upper School

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### IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Choral Leadership Academy Applications Due	Ongoing
Jr. High/9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir Auditions	January 16, 2016
Jr. High/9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir Auditions	January 23, 2016
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Auditions	January 23, 2016
Diva Day	February 6, 2016
California All-State High School Honor Choirs	February 11 - 13, 2016
2016 All-State Choral Leadership Academy	February 12-13, 2016
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Auditions	February 20, 2016
Young Men's Harmony Festival	February 20, 2016
SCVA Festival Registration Deadline	March 1, 2016
Jr. High/9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir Regional Rehearsal	March 12, 2016
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Auditions	March 12, 2016
SCVA Vocal Jazz & A Cappella Festival	March 18, 2016
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Auditions	March 19, 2016
Jr. High/9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir Regional Rehearsal	March 26, 2016
CMEA State Choral Festival	April 1, 2016
Junior High/9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir Concert	May 7, 2016