



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VOCAL ASSOCIATION DECEMBER, 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Drew Lewis

SCVA recently hosted our first High School Honor Choir weekend in Redlands in two years! It was beautiful to hear the voices of the students and to see how excited everyone was to have an in-person event like this again. I'm so grateful for the creative thinking and resilience of our honor choir chairs Michael Ushino, Bethany Encina, and Christine Tavares-Mocha who organized a spectacular experience for those involved. For every event that happens like this I get more and more excited about what lies ahead. Even if it feels at times like we are merely surviving, we are still moving forward.

We Are Not Alone

It's interesting to see how varied the responses and COVID-19 mitigation strategies are throughout the Southern California region. If your school is anything like my district, it seems the requirements change almost daily. I know it's challenging and can be physically draining, but we are doing what we can to show up for our students. Even if it doesn't feel that way at times, let me tell you this: you are a rock star! Thank you for bringing music and meaning into the lives of students throughout Southern California. If you feel like you are alone, remember that this is why organizations like SCVA exist. We are here to support each other and offer ways to help and inspire each other. I had many great conversations with colleagues during the recent Honor Choir weekend, and it's connections like this that keep me going. On Thursday, January 13th, SCVA will also host another Happy Hour on Zoom from 5-6 PM to continue those conversations.

We Move On

Many of us are trying to rebuild programs and recover what seems to be lost. I know I'm still trying to work with students to overcome the quiet and timid singing that became the norm after a year and a half online where they were trying to complete music assignments without bugging family and neighbors, all while being afraid of their judgement. However, I am also the guy who is always thinking ahead about the next concert during tech week. In SCVA we are thinking ahead as well. We have a busy Spring coming up with our creative versions of multiple festivals along with our middle school honor choir. We also have changes in the works that are only the beginning of where we hope to move in the future. Our Vocal Solo Competition now has added a third category for commercial music, and we are reaching out to some of our Gospel choir experts to broaden our festival experience. Be on the lookout for exciting opportunities for our elementary students in the spring as well! As we continue to look to the future, I invite you to be a part of the process whether through reaching out to me (drewlewis1977@gmail.com) or our board members to share your ideas or to consider running for a board position for the 2022-2024 term.

Take heart everyone. You've almost made it through another semester. Enjoy your holidays and use your winter break to refresh and recharge. We'll see you in the new year!

Drew Lewis
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VP - Vocal Solo Competition

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VP I - Festivals

Kristen Walton
VP II - Festivals

Dan Hawkins
VP-Festival Adjudication

Sarah Anders
VP - Show Choir

Christine Tavares-Mocha
VP-Jazz/Contemporary
A Cappella Honor Choir

Kaitlin Holt
VP - Jazz Festival

Alanah Maguire
Elementary Activities

Antone Rodich
VP - Close Harmony Festival

Marcelo Martinez
VP - Middle School Honor Choir

Fall In-Service Highlights





MIDDLE SCHOOL/9TH GRADE HONOR CHOIR

Marcelo Martínez Marroquín

Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir is May 7, 2022 at Portola High School with Dr. Joshua Palkki. Please encourage your middle school and 9th grade students to audition.

Auditions will be January 22 and 29 at various locations. Please consider volunteering to host the auditions. We will also need many judges to help us adjudicate all the students. Both hosts and judges will be compensated for their time.

Students will be required to sing *My Country Tis of Thee* or *America the Beautiful*, a cappella. They will be required to sing a major scale, major and minor triad, and an octave. In addition, they will do four tonal memory exercises and this will be followed by rhythmic and melodic sight reading.



IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 22 and 29 - Auditions at various sites.
- March 26 - Rehearsal, Spring View Middle School, Huntington Beach.
- May 7 - Honor Choir rehearsal and concert, Portola High School, Irvine.



SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR 2022

Sarah Anders, Vice President of Show Choirs

SCVA will once again host its annual Show Choir Competition LIVE on Saturday, May 7, 2022 at the Hart High School Auditorium in Santa Clarita, CA. We hope to sell out this year after two years with no live competition so register as soon as you can! Show Choir Divisions include: Middle School Treble, Middle School Mixed, Novice Treble, Novice Mixed, Intermediate Treble, Intermediate Mixed, Men (all levels), Advanced Treble, and Advanced Mixed. Registration is open now at scvachoral.org. Click on the link for Show Choir Competition to access the registration form and either pay by pay-pal or mail a school check directly to:

SCVA Show Choir Competition
Attn: Sarah Anders
18034 Ventura Blvd. #480
Encino, CA 91316

We encourage groups to attend regardless of the ability or experience of the group. Our judges have years of experience and always give positive suggestions for improvement. Trophies will be awarded to the top scoring groups in each division along with plaques for outstanding achievements in both Showmanship and Musicianship.

In Person Concert Festivals?!? Yes!!!

Nancy Ludwig, VPI Festivals

Are you ready for an in-person SCVA festival, because WE are! HUGE thanks go out to all of our members who are volunteering to host a festival this coming spring. SCVA Festivals would not be possible without the help of every single volunteer host.

Please note! There are a few festivals that are restricted to participants within their own district, so make a note of that when you are planning your calendars.

Registration deadline is March 1, 2022. Register online: <http://www.scvachoral.org/festivals.php>

High School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
Thurs	3/10	9:00 am	Chaparral HS PAC	Temecula	Open	Open	Rob Hodo
Fri	3/11	9:00 am	Beckman HS	Irvine	Open	Open	Nancy Stuck
Fri	3/11	12:30 pm	Beckman HS	Irvine	Open	Open	Nancy Stuck
Mon	3/14	10:00 am	Ramona HS RHSD ONLY	Riverside	Open	Open	Jennifer Phillips
Tues	3/15	9:30 am	Mission Viejo HS	Mission Viejo	Class I	Open	Sarah Norris
Tues	3/15	10:00 am	Bonita Center for the Arts	La Verne	Open	SA/TB voicings	Ryan Yoder
Tues	3/15	1:00 pm	Bonita Center for the Arts	La Verne	Open	Mixed	Ryan Yoder
Tues	3/15	7:00 pm	Cal Lutheran Samuelson Chapel	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	Janna Santangelo
Wed	3/16	11:30 am	Ramon C. Cortines HS LAUSD ONLY	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Drew Lewis
Thurs	3/17	10:00 am	Vista Del Lago HS	Moreno Valley	Open	Open	Jennifer Meregini
Tues	3/22	10:00 am	Baldwin Park PAC	Baldwin Park	Class III	Open	Suzanne Brookey
Tues	3/22	3:30 pm	Baldwin Park PAC	Baldwin Park	Class I	Chamber	Suzanne Brookey
Fri	3/25	4:30 pm	Venice HS *Sightreading	Los Angeles	Open	Mixed	Wendy Sarnoff
Thurs	3/31	4:30 pm	El Monte HS	El Monte	Open	Open	Joel Whisler
Thurs	3/31	5:00 pm	Walnut HS	Walnut	Open	Open	Elizabeth Lopez
Tues	4/05	8:30 am	Norco HS *Sightreading	Norco	Class III	Open	Rachelle Randeon
Thurs	4/05	9:30 am	Rancho Cucamonga HS	Rancho Cucamonga	Open	Open	Kelley Squires
Tues	4/05	11:00 am	Norco HS *Sightreading	Norco	Class I	Open	Rachelle Randeon
Thurs	4/05	6:00 pm	Rancho Cucamonga HS	Rancho Cucamonga	Open	Open	Kelley Squires
Thurs	4/07	10:00 am	Corona Del Mar HS *Sightreading	Newport Beach	Class I	Open	Andrew Ball
Thurs	4/07	1:00 pm	Desert Reign Church *Sightreading	Downey	Open	Open	Robert Peterson
Fri	4/08	9:00 am	Moreno Valley HS PAC	Moreno Valley	Open	Open	Erika Jackson
Thurs	4/14	7:00 pm	Eastside HS PAC	Palmdale	Open	Open	Daniel Martensen
Wed	4/20	1:00 pm	Los Osos HS *Sightreading	Rancho Cucamonga	Open	Open	Bethany Encina
Wed	4/20	5:00 pm	Los Osos HS *Sightreading	Rancho Cucamonga	Open	Open	Bethany Encina
Tues	5/03	7:00 pm	The Thacher School	Ojai	Open	Open	William Wagner
Wed	5/11	1:00 pm	Bellflower Civic Auditorium	Bellflower	Open	Open	Jae Shu

Junior High/Middle School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
Wed	3/16	9:00 am	Ramon C. Cortines HS LAUSD ONLY	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Drew Lewis
Wed	3/23	10:30 am	Baldwin Park PAC	Baldwin Park	Open	Open	Suzanne Brookey
Thurs	3/24	10:30 am	Las Flores MS	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Mariano-Benefield
Fri	4/08	10:00 am	Spring View MS *Sightreading	Huntington Beach	Open	Open	Marcelo Martinez
Fri	4/15	10:00 am	Vista Del Lago HS	Moreno Valley	Open	Open	Jennifer Meregini
Fri	4/15	10:00 am	Murrieta Mesa HS PAC	Murrieta	Open	Open	Rosaleigh Taylor
Tues	4/19	10:00 am	Las Flores MS	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Mariano-Benefield
Wed	5/04	9:00 am	Raymond Cree MS *Sightreading	Palm Springs	Open	Clinic	Jeff Kopasz
Thurs	5/05	8:30 am	Norco HS	Norco	Open	Clinic	Kyle Betts
Thurs	5/05	1:00 pm	Norco HS *Sightreading	Norco	Open	Clinic	Kyle Betts
Wed	5/11	10:00 am	Bellflower Civic Center	Bellflower	Open	Open	Sergio Montes

SCVA Vocal Solo Competition/ Small Ensemble Festival

Erika Jackson VP

Hello everyone, we hope your school year is progressing nicely and that this busy season will be filled with positivity and joy! Just by way of reminder, we 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. Again, you can find all new and important information on our website under The Events Tab. We are excited to be working with you and your fine students this year and we will keep you updated as we go. Lastly, we are happy to report that our Judges *Clarissa Shan* and *Charlie Kim* will be joining us again this year and are so excited to see live performances in Round 2. Round 1 is just around the corner so please continue preparing some amazing submissions with your students.

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: Clarissa Shan & Charlie Kim

More Info: Visit scvachoral.org / Questions: ejackson@mvusd.net

2021 Southern California Vocal Association Vocal Jazz Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir

Director, Shams Ahmed

Change The World – Eric Clapton – arranged by Shams Ahmed

Soloist: Khara Bigham

The Bones - Morris, Robbins, Veltz - arranged by Ben Bram, Shams Ahmed

Soloists: Aarya Shah, Elizabeth Scheffer, Tomi Lessis, Khara Bigham, Madison Cheramie, Emma Henao, Elizabeth Scheffer

The End of Love – Florence + The Machine, arranged by Elliot Von Wendt and Shams Ahmed

If You're Out There – John Legend – arranged by Shams Ahmed

Soloists: Rhea Madhogarhia, Mallory Snyder, Tomi Lessis, Azarine Rushenas, Elizabeth Scheffer, Khara Bigham

SCVA VJCA Honor Choir Vocalists

Charlie Doris - Baritone
Elizabeth Scheffe - Soprano
Mallory Snyder – Mezzo Soprano
Emma Henao – Alto / Tenor
Lucas Santos - Tenor
Khara Bigham – Mezzo Soprano
Marcus Espinosa - Bass

Ariane Villanueva - Alto
Tomi Lessis – Tenor / Baritone
Azarine Rushenas - Alto
Madison Cheramie - Soprano
Griffen Beebe - Tenor
Sophia Sooter – Soprano
Aarya Shah – Mezzo Soprano

Miles Rojo - Baritone
Ethan Bowling - Bass
Rhea Madhogarhia
Matt King - Bass
Alex Homani – Guest Beatboxer



Congratulations to our directors listed & the following schoolson such a fantastic performance!

Sara Greenberg, Chaminade College Prep High School, Christine Mocha, Valencia High School

Zanaida Robles, Harvard Westlake High School, Kelly Squires, Rancho Cucamonga High School

Kaitlin Holt, Saugus High School, Bethany Encina, Los Osos High School, Sandy Sooter, Excelsior Charter High School

SCVA VJCA Honor Choir Chair/Coordinator: Christine Mocha, SCVA VJCA Honor Choir Manager: Sara Greenberg



in collaboration with



CLOSE HARMONY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022

- PERFORMANCE AND COACHING FROM SIGNATURE QUARTET
- EVENT CLINICIAN CHRISTOPHER PETERSON
- A FULL DAY OF HARMONY YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

TO REGISTER, VISIT SCVACHORAL.ORG OR SCAN THIS QR CODE



Signature

2019 International Quartet Champion



2021 Regional Honor Choirs

Event Wrap-Up



SCVA celebrated a triumphant return to in-person performance with a successful 2021 Regional Honor Choir weekend! 189 students from 54 High Schools from throughout the region came together to create an outstanding musical experience.

A sincere thank you to our conductors, **Dr. T.J. Harper**, **Julie Dana** and **Dr. Gene Peterson**, and our collaborative pianists **Dr. Sara Shakliyan**, **Christopher Luthi** and **Dr. Joseph Schubert** for their exemplary work, as well as to our choir hosts, **Miranda Ford**, **Jennifer Phillips** and **Kristen Walton** for their massive efforts in keeping the event running smoothly. A special thank you as well to composer **Shawn Kirchner** for sharing his presence and wisdom with our students!

We are also grateful to **Dr. Joe Modica** and the University of Redlands, as always, for their hospitality and the use of their beautiful facility.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KNOW YOUR CHORAL COMMUNITY

Rose Taylor is currently in her 3rd year at Dorothy McElhinney Middle School in Murrieta, CA. Rose teaches 6th/7th Grade Choir, Concert Choir, semester-long Beginner Choir, Guitar, and Music Appreciation. She loves educating 11-15 year olds about their physical vocal development (what's a pharynx?) and how to accept their instrument as it grows. DMMS students learn a holistic approach to vocal arts that include body mapping and mindfulness meditation. When students can accept the physical space in which they exist, they can engage more authentically with their music and each other. Rose's favorite Choir tradition is during the Winter Concert, when the audience sings "Let it Snow" and "Silver Bells" along with the students on stage.



ROSE TAYLOR
DOROTHY MCELHINNEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
MURRIETA, CA



Southern California Vocal Association

2021 Regional Honor Choirs



SSAA Honor Choir

Dr. T.J. Harper, Conductor

Dr. Sara Shakliyan, Collaborative Pianist



TTBB Honor Choir

Julie Dana, Conductor

Christopher Luthi, Collaborative Pianist



SATB Honor Choir

Dr. Gene Peterson, Conductor

Dr. Joseph Schubert, Collaborative Pianist

Southern California Vocal Association

2450 W Ball Road, Anaheim, CA 92804

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



2022 IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Middle School/9 th Grade Honor Choir Auditions	Jan 22
Middle School/9 th Grade Honor Choir Auditions	Jan 29
Close Harmony Festival	Feb 5
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Round 1 Application & Submission Deadline	Feb 25
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Finalist Results Posted	March 4
Vocal Jazz, Gospel & Contemporary Acapella Festival	March 24
Middle School/9 th Grade Honor Choir Rehearsal	March 26
Middle School/9 th Grade Honor Choir Rehearsal & Concert	May 7
Show Choir Spectacular	May 7
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Round 2 Submission 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.