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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Rachelle Randeem*

**“Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us. Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.” ~Oprah Winfrey**

I'm excited for 2020! For me, it's another chance to “get it right” (or work towards that direction!). The new year hits us all quickly with students choosing classes/schools/programs for the upcoming school year! We must be purposeful in the building of our programs, whether massive or miniscule, in a building mode or well established. This journey becomes treacherous due to a variety of factors. Let's talk SOLUTIONS!

*Disclaimer: I am not a school counselor or school scheduling professional. I am a choral teacher and parent who feels choral music is very important and enjoys solving problems. These are simply ideas ☺.*

### Strategies you are probably already implementing:

- Build relationships. Build relationships. Build relationships.
- Create a digital/social media presence.
- Create a district choral festival for your community.
- Sing for people inside your school building and beyond.
- Visit your feeder schools. Especially if you don't have time.
- Create an after school choral experience for feeder schools.
- Work with/clinic the students that may feed into your school.
- Perform for and with your feeder schools in a concert / musical.
- Work towards infusing the community culture to grow in its their appreciation of choral music.
- Build relationships. Build relationships. Build relationships.

### Strategies to keep choir in students' schedules during the school year:

- Encourage students to take district summer school classes.
- Encourage students to take an online course over the summer.
- Schedule a zero period or 7-8<sup>th</sup> period choir. Auditioned, perhaps?
- Check out your district's Odysseyware or Homeschooling Programs.
- Work towards making your musical group an honors course (weighted GPA).
- Help singers find school year on-campus online course options within your district or area.
- Is Dual Enrollment an option? This option opens doors with your collaborating Community College District.

### Online educational options to consider:

- Connections Academy
- University of California: UC Scout
- National University Virtual High School
- Free summer school charter school options.
- BYU online high school. About \$200 per class.
- CSUSB Online High School. About \$250 per class.
- University of Nebraska Online High School. About \$250 per class.

### Important details:

- Each student must follow state and district guidelines.
- Non-negotiables: Online courses must be “a-g” approved (and NCAA approved for athletes). WASC certified schools are “a-g”.
- Work closely with counselors to ensure students fill out correct district forms. District guidelines must be followed (certain classes cannot be taken out of grade level, some classes must be in person, etc.).

**“Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.” ~John Wooden**

*Wishing you a spectacular 2020!*

# 2020 Jr. High Honor Choir

*Amanda Benavides, Jr. High Honor Choir VP*

★ **AUDITION SIGN-UPS ARE OPEN THROUGH JANUARY 15<sup>th</sup>** ★

Audition registration - [http://scvachoral.org/junior\\_high\\_honor\\_choir.php](http://scvachoral.org/junior_high_honor_choir.php)

## **Eligibility**

6<sup>th</sup> grade – 9<sup>th</sup> grade singers & choral director must be a member of SCVA in good standing

## **Students will be judged on the following areas:**

- Sing “America”/ “My Country Tis of Thee” (a cappella, first verse only)
- Sing a major scale up and down (a cappella)
- Sing a major & minor triad (a cappella)
- Sing an octave skip (a cappella)
- Sing tonal memory patterns (five notes)
- Sight read a melodic & rhythmic example

## **JANUARY 25<sup>th</sup>**

Newport Harbor High School, Newport Beach  
McFadden Middle School, Santa Ana  
Los Osos High School, Rancho Cucamonga  
Fallbrook High School, Fallbrook  
Venice High School, Venice  
High Point Academy, Pasadena

## **FEBRUARY 1ST**

Warren High School, Downey  
Toll Middle School, Glendale  
Cathedral City High School, Cathedral City – NEW SITE!  
Mesa Robles School, Hacienda Heights  
Spring View Middle School, Huntington Beach  
Orange Lutheran Jr. High, Orange  
Dr. Augustine Ramirez Intermediate School, Eastvale

## **Ensure your students have what they need to succeed, every step of the way!**

- Talk to your groups and email families about this opportunity
- Speak with students individually that you know have the skills, but need encouragement
- Help those that are auditioning with mock auditions to build confidence
- Whether a student gets into the group or not, this is a great opportunity for growth mindset

## **PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENTS TO AUDITION FOR THIS AMAZING GROUP!**

Contact Amanda Benavides at [amandacbenavides@gmail.com](mailto:amandacbenavides@gmail.com) if you have questions.

# Preliminary Performance Registration

## Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Competition

### Audition Dates & Locations

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>: Fullerton Union High School, Host: Stacey Kikkawa/ Adjudicator: Dr. Zanaida Robles

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>: Newbury Park High School, Host: John Sargent/ Adjudicator: Charlie Kim

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>: Irvine High School, Host: Tina Peterson/ Adjudicator: Aram Barsamian

Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>: Providence High School, Host: Marisa Bradfield/ Adjudicator: Dr. Garineh Avakian

Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>: Rancho Cucamonga, Host: Kelley Squires/ Adjudicator: Jennifer Sparks

#### Step 1:

Register your Performance

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

#### Step 2:

Select Performance

Category

#### Step 3

Pay the Registration Fee

### 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 will be 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.

All participants must select repertoire from the classical, musical theatre, or jazz genre.

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)

### Online Application & Payment Deadline

Friday, January 3, 2020

\$30 Solo Performance

\$35 Small Ensemble

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

Contact: Marisa Rawlins-Bradfield, VP-Vocal Solo Competition

[Marisa.Bradfield@Providencehigh.org](mailto:Marisa.Bradfield@Providencehigh.org)

# Close Harmony Festival – Tenor/Bass Edition

*Antone Rodich, VP - Close Harmony*

Hello Choral Educators!

SCVA has some very exciting news! On **Saturday, February 8, 2020**, SCVA will be hosting its second Close Harmony Festival. This festival encompasses students from middle school through high school, learning songs in the barbershop style and also some a-cappella music.

The festival will be held at West High School in Torrance, CA in their Performing Arts Center. There will a public performance at 5:15pm with special performances by the ***Masters of Harmony*** and the ***Westminster Chorus***.

If you have a high school barbershop quartet 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 (Tenor, Lead (Tenor 2), Baritone, Bass). Registration and paperwork is available on the SCVA website. Paperwork can be scanned and emailed to me. You can also pay for the registration online through PayPal. Registration is only \$30, which includes a t-shirt, music, and lunch. Deadline to register is January 11, 2020. Every student must have a registration filled out individually. Each student must fill out a parent consent form as well.

**Registration is OPEN NOW!**

**Registration DEADLINE is January 11, 2020**

Here is the tentative schedule:

8:00 - 9:00 : Registration (name tags and T-shirts)

9:00 - 9:30 : Introductions, warm-up and demonstration of the barbershop style

9:30 - 11:15 : Rehearsal

11:15 - 12:00 : Lunch

12:00 - 1:30 : Sectional rehearsals

1:30 - 1:45 : Break

1:45 - 2:45 : Barbershop Quartet Workshop

2:45 - 3:00 : Break

3:00 - 4:30 : Final rehearsal

4:30 - 5:00 : Snack foods/get ready for the show

5:00 : Performing Arts Center doors open

5:15 - 6:15 : Showtime

If you have any questions about this amazing event, feel free to email me.

**rodich.antone@tUSD.org**



# CMEA / CCDA / SCVA Choral Leadership Academy

California All-State Music Education Conference

Fresno Convention Center, Fresno, CA

February 21-22, 2020

*For students interested in the choral music profession.*

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## Event Overview

The Choral Leadership Academy (CLA) brings together students who demonstrate an interest in the music profession for two days of musical and educational activities. These activities will teach musicianship skills, inspire confidence, & build camaraderie among musicians of the next generation.

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## Headliner

Dr. Alyssa Cossey, Assistant Professor of Choral Music and Music Education at the U of Arizona

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## CLA Faculty

Dr. Angel Vazquez-Ramos (CSU Bakersfield) | Professor Lori Marie Rios (College of the Canyons)  
Professor John Sorber (College of the Sequoias) | Mr. Ryan Clippinger (Arvin High School).

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*This amazing event is limited to 75 students! Register by December 15!*  
<http://calmusiced.com/index.php/casmec-conference/44-choral-leadership-academy>

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## **Festival Season Fast Approaching...Let's Keep First Things First** *Melva Morrison; Festivals*

Second semester is upon us - are you ready for festival season?

Festivals registered for.....CHECK

Festival registrations paid for.....CHECK

Busses ordered and .....TRIPLE CHECKED

administration on board, choir member uniforms ready, permission slips signed and returned, accompanist confirmed, chaperones arranged, but **WAIT!!!!!!!!!!!!**

***What literature is your choir preparing to sing?*** Sometimes we forget to let first things be first. Our responsibility as directors is to select suitable repertoire for each choir; making certain that music is challenging and yet not overwhelming; that music represents a variety of styles, tempi, keys, languages, and historical periods; that range and voicing is appropriate; that choir members have spent an adequate amount of time learning the music so that musicality and interpretation are developed, and provide choir members, director, and accompanist the opportunity to work towards making the music on the page come alive in performance.

**Let's keep first things first and ENJOY the First Art!!!**

# SCVA 2019 Honor Choir Spotlight!



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## 2019 Honor Choir Conductors and Accompanists

*Left to right: Joe Miller, Lori Marie Rios, Christopher Peterson – Joseph Schubert, J. Miller, L.M. Rios, C. Peterson, Christopher Luthi – Not Pictured; Sara Shaklyan*

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2019 SSAA Honor Choir



2019 TTBB Honor Choir



2019 SATB Honor Choir





# CONGRATULATIONS

2019 SCVA Vocal Jazz Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir!



# Looking For Vocal Jazz or Contemporary A Cappella Music?

*Christine Tavares-Mocha, VP – Jazz Choir*

Do you have a vocal jazz ensemble, or are you looking for a vocal jazz piece for your upcoming concert? Even if you have limited to no knowledge in the field of jazz, there are many pieces that are easy to learn and can have your students getting that swing feel in no time! If you have no idea where to begin, there are a couple sites that are extremely helpful as they provide listening examples and charts for perusal.

## Here are a few links to find music.

Here are a few sites that I have found to be great resources other than [www.jwpepper.com](http://www.jwpepper.com)

Singers Sheet music resource [www.singers.com](http://www.singers.com)

Sound Music Publications [www.smpjazz.com](http://www.smpjazz.com)

UNC Jazz Press [www.uncjazzpress.com](http://www.uncjazzpress.com)

Jennifer Barnes [www.jenniferbarnesmusic.com](http://www.jenniferbarnesmusic.com)

Rosana Eckert [www.rosanaeckert.com](http://www.rosanaeckert.com)

Jeremy Fox [www.jeremyfox.net](http://www.jeremyfox.net)

Kerry Marsh [www.kerrymarsh.com](http://www.kerrymarsh.com)

Matt Falker [www.matfalmusic.com](http://www.matfalmusic.com)

Michele Weir [www.micheleweir.com](http://www.micheleweir.com)

## Vocal Jazz / Contemporary A Cappella – other places to find music

[www.jameyray.net](http://www.jameyray.net) (arrangements for Winter/Christmas, Disney Themed, etc. sung by Voctave) o


[www.aroratheband.com](http://www.aroratheband.com) (Pop songs such as Wicked Game, I Want You Back, Toxic, etc.) –Great use of pedals/loopers/layering and vocal percussion.

<https://www.m-pact.com/sheet-music> (the ever evolving MPACT has tons of sheet music available for groups that are wanting to perform POP, R and B, Jazz, and all styles of music – walking bass / vocal percussion / and lots of lead/solo opportunities to feature students.

<http://www.thefilharmonic.com> (As featured in Pitch Perfect 2, and the Late Late Show with James Corden, this group is an expert at medley / mash up arrangements that get the audience going in any concert. Contact them directly for their arrangements).

[www.Ptxofficial.com](http://www.Ptxofficial.com) While Pentatonix offers music directly from their site, arrangements can be found everywhere for this group. Pentatonix is famous for their YouTube medley videos, which inspired high school students everywhere to create and emulate their own YouTube performances. Jacob Collier and Bon Iver arrangements can also be found on YouTube.





**SCVA  
Board  
Elections  
2020-2022**

**Contact Karen Garrett, Past President, by Feb. 1st  
at [kgarrett@cnusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:kgarrett@cnusd.k12.ca.us)  
if you are interested in joining our vibrant and  
service oriented team**

## **WEBSITE UPDATE**

*Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster*

The SCVA website helps us to improve the efficiency of registering for all SCVA activities, especially Choral Festivals. We are very fortunate to have so many choral festivals for which directors like you can register.

Because our festivals are so popular, we want to ensure that every choral director who wants to register for a festival is able to do so. For us to accomplish this, we require directors to pay the Festival Registration Fee in a timely manner (within 30 days of submitting the Festival Registration). Paying the registration fee guarantees your registration at your desired festival.

Our website enforces this policy by sending weekly payment reminder messages to all directors who have not yet paid their registration fees 30 days after submitting their registration. **If the registration fee remains unpaid two additional weeks after the initial 30-day limit has expired, your festival registration will be DELETED and any wait-listed registration will take its place.** As a result, it may not be possible for your ensemble to attend that festival. If you already paid, no further action is needed.

We strongly encourage directors to use PayPal to pay the registration fees immediately after you submit the registration application. However, we realize that some school districts preclude you from paying for these activities and requesting reimbursement. We also know that it can take longer than 30 days to process a check request. That's not a problem – you simply need to **NOTIFY** us that a check request is being processed, and we will set the payment status of your Festival Registration to **PENDING**, which will prevent your registration from being deleted due to non-payment.

If you need an invoice as part of your check request, you can login to the Members-Only area of the SCVA website and scroll down near the bottom of the page to view all of your Festival Registrations and payment status. There you will find a link for an invoice that you can download and print. If your school district requires our I-9 Form, you can also find a link to that document in the Members-Only area.



## **The SCVA Show Choir Spectacular**

*Patty Breitag, Vice President of Show  
Choirs*



The SCVA Competition will be held on April 4, 2020 at Walnut High School in Walnut, CA. The online application for this event is available on the SCVA website. We hope that your school will join us in 2020!

This event features show choirs from high schools and middle schools in the Southern California areas.

Divisions featured include: Middle School novice, intermediate and advanced mixed, and single gender groups, High School novice, intermediate, advanced mixed and single gender groups. We encourage groups to attend regardless of the ability or experience of the group. Students really enjoy the competitive atmosphere and the opportunity to share their music and choreography with the other schools. Teachers can get new ideas for choreography, set designs and music choices while attending. The three judges have years of experience as educators and clinicians and always give positive assessment for improvement. This event is usually the last show choir competition of the year so come and experience this event on April 4, 2020.

There is no audition necessary to participate. We welcome all schools to register. Each group will receive written and aural adjudication from the judges and the top three groups of each division will also receive a trophy. Adjudication categories include Musicianship and Performance Skills that include accuracy of pitch, accuracy of rhythms, tone quality, music expression, interpretation, dance skills, costumes, and choreography among others. 200 points are possible for each performance.

Registration should be made on the SCVA Website before March 21, 2020. Click on the link for Show Choir Competition and fill out the paperwork. The application fee is \$225.00, which can be paid through PayPal or with a school check made out to SCVA.

Mail all checks to:

SCVA  
Attn: Patricia Breitag,  
229 N. Irena Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

If show choir is new to you, consider bringing your students to pay for a seat in the audience and see, hear and experience what all the excitement is about! Show choir could be another exciting genre to add to your school choir program. Come join the fun!

If you are interesting in attending any of the other Southern California show choir competitions held throughout the spring competitive circuit between February and April, please feel free to email me for more information or go online to Show Choir.com for more information. Southern California is privileged to have many National Show Choir Champions, so come and support these amazing groups by attending Show Choir Competitions in your area.

Patty Breitag

SCVA Show Choir Vice President – 2019-2020 [pjbairhart@aol.com](mailto:pjbairhart@aol.com)



## Karen Garrett

Karen Garrett currently serves as Past President on the SCVA Board. She directs the choirs and teaches AP Music Theory at Santiago High School, in addition to directing the Advanced Women's Chorale and teaching Choral Methods at CA Baptist University.



## Rachelle Randeem

Rachelle Randeem serves as President on the SCVA Board. She is currently in her third year as Vocal Music Director at Norco High School. Other main jobs include wife to Joe, mom to three young adults, and volunteer work with a couple other non-profits.



## Drew Lewis

Drew Lewis currently serves as President Elect on the SCVA Board. He teaches at Ramon C. Cortines School of the Visual and Performing Arts in DTLA, where he teaches Choir, Vocal Jazz, Vocal Techniques, and Music Theory.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KNOW YOUR CHORAL COMMUNITY

### What is one tool you use in your own life to work toward balance?

**Karen Garrett:** I try to stay on schedule (lots of lists!) but when I'm home I try to turn off. No email or phone unless absolutely necessary.

**Rachelle Randeem:** I am failing in the work-life balance during the school year, primarily because of being a choir director AND having actively musical offspring. However, as an introvert (at home), time not teaching is primarily spent at home hiding. Oops, I mean recharging. However, I've found when not teaching music in school, I tend to end up down in the dumps because of the musical and emotional part of my spirit being recharged. So figuring out the work-life balance is a work in process! One thing I have figured out...if I read books or watch movies that allow me to step into someone else's emotional story, I do end up feeling more rested. The downside...each break I spend the first few days inhaling like 10 novels and/or 30 hours of movies/historical novel series, and my family knows I am completely useless until I come out on the other side.

**Drew Lewis:** The use of routines is one thing that helps me balance my time. I have times set aside for work and time set aside for play. It helps me try to keep a balance between time for work and life.

### What has been the most rewarding aspect of volunteering your time for SCVA?

**Karen Garrett:** I have loved seeing the organization grow to include serving our directors with more events to connect to one another. We are so isolated as it is. Coming to our "Summer Chats" is a highlight for me.

**Rachelle Randeem:** Volunteering in SCVA has resulted in so many amazing, uplifting and inspiring conversations with other educators! We are better together! We can glean from others' insights, perspectives and ideas so as to reach even more of the student musicians in our rehearsals. The more I volunteer, observe and listen to others; hear others' groups; and receive feedback, the greater sense of "there is so much more to learn and incorporate" in order to continue building the next generation. The amazing friendships built along the way have been such a blessing to me.

**Drew Lewis:** The sense of community that has grown with my fellow educators in Southern California.

### What is one of your hopes/visions for the future of SCVA?

**Karen Garrett:** It is so important to keep growing and changing. Culture changes and the way we interact with our membership must change. I'm so proud of our board members who are willing to think outside the box and make changes that better serve the choral community. I foresee more events and outreach to the needs of our conductors and not just the students. I also see changes that are steering our conductors to be the very best they can be on the podium and in the classroom, all while supporting them and providing the resources they need. It is truly an exciting time!

**Rachelle Randeem:** This is outlined so nicely in our mission statement....I agree wholeheartedly with continuing moving forward in this manner: To define standards of effective vocal music education; To promote projects and events which encourage and further choral music education for all students at all grade levels; To support choral music educators through professional development and networking opportunities; To support legislation at all levels of government which will improve vocal music education; To communicate accomplishment of these objectives to the profession and public. In addition, our current tagline represents our current overarching focus during this season...I love it!! Empowering voices of today | Cultivating leaders of tomorrow!

**Drew Lewis:** One hope I have is for SCVA to continue to find ways to connect with and reach every choral program in Southern California, from new choral programs working to get off the ground to the most established programs that have been around for decades.

## Southern California Vocal Association

B. 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

	<b>2020</b>
Close Harmony Festival Registration Deadline	January 10
Jr. High Honor Choir Auditions	January 25
Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Auditions	January 25
Jr. High Honor Choir Auditions	February 1
Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Auditions	February 1
Close Harmony Festival	February 8
Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Auditions	February 8
California All-State Honor Choir	February 20-22
SCVA Vocal Jazz / Contemporary A Cappella Festival	March 13
Jr. High Honor Choir Rehearsal	March 21
Show Choir Spectacular	April 4
CMEA State Choral Festival at Sonoma State University	April 9
Jr. High Honor Choir Performance	May 2