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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Drew Lewis*

Happy New Year SCVA Members! My hope is that this winter break is refreshing and beneficial to you and your family's mental health. My fall semester was busy in so many new ways, so I am very grateful for the break!

My students and I were able to create some virtual performances in the fall which took a LOT of time to mix and edit, but was a meaningful experience for the context of my students and school community. The process also led me to experience on a small scale the variety of feelings that were the emotional whirlwind of 2020. I experienced disappointment over the fact I was unable to help one student learn to match pitch through the semester of remote learning. But then I was overjoyed to hear how far two of my senior basses have come since not being able to match pitch when they joined choir three years ago. This was immediately followed by sadness over the fact that they wouldn't be getting the choral experience they deserve after all their hard work in my class these past few years. I also experienced frustration over the students who refused to turn in any work this semester. And that was followed by inspiration coming from those few students who went above and beyond and were excited to learn and submit as many videos and recordings as they could. We are all getting by in our own contexts as choral directors/vocal teachers during a pandemic, however I'm pretty certain we all experienced a wider array of emotions than usual as we tried to navigate through this past year. And all of our feelings and experiences are valid.

We are all working our best to create meaningful and educational opportunities for our students so that when we return to "normal" our singers will still want to be in choir. However, we can't compare ourselves to what others are doing in their schools because our situations are not all the same. I appreciate that so many directors in the SCVA community and beyond have been there to encourage each other more than ever throughout 2020. I believe this collaborative spirit shows our community at its best. Please continue to share ideas to inspire each other and be ready to help fight for those programs that need our advocacy to continue in the future.

Your SCVA board is continuing to come up with creative ideas which we hope will be engaging for your students and help them remain connected to the choral community in 2021. For many of you working with singers through solo singing, I hope that our **SCVA Vocal Solo Competition** for students in grades 6-12 will be a way to help them grow as musicians and performers. I'm also excited for you to hear about the creative ideas our Festivals team is cooking up for the spring semester! We also will have online festivals for our Vocal Jazz/Contemporary A Cappella and Show Choir programs and a Jr. High/Middle School Honor Choir experience. If you want to brainstorm together about ideas for the spring semester and hear more details about what SCVA is offering to help create these educational and inspiring events for you and your students please come to our monthly **SCVA Happy Hour on January 14<sup>th</sup> from 5-6 PM**. I look forward to seeing you there. Thank you everyone for your commitment to your singers and passion for the choral art!

# **Jr. High/Middle School Honor Choir**

*Amanda Benavides, VP - JH/MS Honor Choir*

It is time to get the 2021 Jr. High/Middle School Choir up and going!

Lots of information, here we go:

**\*\*\*Sign-ups to audition for the 2021 Honor Choir open  
Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and close on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> \*\*\***

Audition times will be sent to directors and students on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Auditions will be taking place via Zoom on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

## **What do students need to do for their audition?**

1. Sing the song "Good Morning to You" (Key of C or F for changed voices)  
*Lyrics:* Good morning to you, good morning to you, good morning,  
good morning, good morning to you!
2. Sing a major scale (Key of C or F for changed voices)
3. Repeat a vocalise

## **How to sign-up for an audition**

A link will be emailed to all directors on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Please forward it to your students!

*For students that made the 2020 Honor Choir:* All they need to do is register on the audition sign-up page. THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO AUDITION OR PAY THE AUDITION FEE!

**Final list of who is in the 2021 Honor Choir will be sent out no later than February 12<sup>th</sup>!**

## **Cost:**

\$10 for the audition

\$45 if the student gets into the group. This will cover the costs of the music and practice tracks, session with the conductor, instructional videos for student recordings, a t-shirt to wear when recording, and the virtual choir editing service.

## **Time Commitment:**

- Zoom audition on February 6<sup>th</sup>
- One sectional rehearsal via Zoom with the guest conductor (TBA very soon!)
- Practicing their pieces (tracks will be available)
- Recording their pieces (instructions will be given)

**The final virtual performance will be presented on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

As with everything, we will need to be flexible as our situation constantly changes. Please feel free to email [amandacbenavides@gmail.com](mailto:amandacbenavides@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



# SCVA Vocal Solo Competition/ Small Ensemble Festival

*Erika Jackson, VP- Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Festival*

Hello to you all, here is the latest in information for the SCVA Vocal Solo Competition. It will consist of 2 rounds. The preliminary round will be virtual, with a requirement for accompanied video recording submissions. Adjudicators will review video submissions and provide written feedback. The final round will be a live concert and is tentatively scheduled to be face to face in a performance venue in late spring, providing restrictions and guidelines permit. We will adjust this plan as needed in late January early February. There is a date change for applications to allow you more time to apply and submit videos.

## Dates:

1. Application and Submission deadline: Feb 20th, 2021
2. Results for finalists announced March 6th, 2021
3. Spring Live Event (TBD MVHS PAC) on May 8th, 2021

**Participation Fees:** \$25 for a solo performance, \$30 for duet, trio, quartet, or small ensemble. All applications will need to be paid through PayPal. All application fees are non-refundable.

Application is Live on the SCVA website and all information can be found there in detail but if you have any questions feel free to contact me. [ejackson@mvusd.net](mailto:ejackson@mvusd.net)



**REPLAY!** DR. DERRICK FOX

Monday, January 18, 2021  
10 am

**Dr. Derrick Fox**  
Honoring Diversity  
Fall Inservice  
Keynote Speaker

**BE INSPIRED...**  
...to move towards the next right  
thing in your classroom.  
Zoom link sent via member email.

## Festival Opportunities in 2021

*Nancy Ludwig, Dan Hawkins, and Kristen Walton – Festivals VPs*



**P**articipating in an adjudicated SCVA festival is an integral part of many of choral programs throughout Southern California. Your Festivals Team has been hard at work designing a way to give you and your students an educational experience to work towards this semester, despite the challenges we find ourselves in this year. More specific details will be coming via the SCVA website, email and social media, but for now we want to let you know what we are working towards.

### **Virtual Choir Festival Clinics: Saturday, February 27 and Saturday, April 24**

- Choirs will register for Zoom “flights” of four choirs every 90 minutes by level.
- Each choir will present a virtual performance or performances (video or audio only) of 5 – 7 minutes followed by a clinic with an SCVA clinician. Clinicians will focus on the process of creating the performance and the educational aspects of the repertoire. We hope to promote interaction and connection between the students of each choir.
- No ratings or adjudications, but each performing choir will receive a plaque.
- Two additional choirs per “flight” can register as an “Observation Only” choir to share in the festival experience and learn from the clinic.
- On-line registration for February 27 will open on **Jan 25**, and registration for April 24 will open **March 1**.

## **A Time to Encourage, Enlighten and Appreciate**

*Tammi Alderman, President Elect*

**W**e’ve now completed a semester of online/hybrid/new/different/scary/difficult/unprecedented teaching. There are a few out there who think that we are a lazy/lucky/greedy/whiny group of people. They make us feel outraged/questioned/hurt/disappointed/saddened/disposable. But they are the few/bored/disconnected and they have no idea.

As we enter 2021, I would like to commend all of you on finding your way through a sea of new expectations. I encourage you to look back on Fall 2020 and make a mental list of all the skills you’ve learned. Many of them, perhaps were previously categorized as “Things I never want to have to learn” or “Why would I ever need to know how to do THAT?” Some will be useful in the future. Other may, with any luck, soon become unnecessary. Either way, you’re learning, and that’s a good thing.

You’ve had days that made you explore other career paths and days that made you feel as if you might actually be getting through to the grid of muted avatars. Wherever you are, it is where you are supposed to be. Your numbers are dwindling. The phrase “Choir just isn’t the same any more” makes you cry actual tears for your students, your peers, and yourself. But at least one of those squares on the screen needs you and your class more than they ever did before.



So, this January, be resilient/caring/strong/open/loving/understanding/proud. You are appreciated, teachers/friends/colleagues/family!

# Welcome! Watch our 2020 SCVA VJCA Honor Choir Concert

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



Thank you to all who came and participated with us in live chat!  
You can watch the SCVA VJCA Honor Choir performance at SCVAChoral.org or <http://rebrand.ly/scvavjca>

## 2020 SCVA VJCA Honor Choir, under the direction of Jamie Shew

### Sopranos

Nadia Maciejewski, Isabella Henao, Mallory Snyder, Bailey Glaspell

### Altos

Samantha Anderson, Chloe Brown, Emma Henao, Keila Viray

### Tenors

Nathan Egami, Jericho Domingo, Raymond Ortiz

### Basses

Marcus Espinosa, Ethan Bowling, Luke Haslam

Thank you again to the following SCVA Directors and Schools!  
Congratulations!

**Kaitlin Holt**, *Saugus High School Choir*

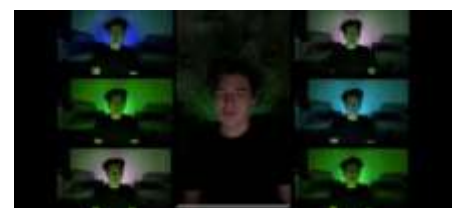
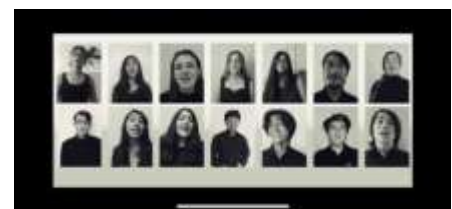
**Berean Haddad**, *Golden Valley High School Choir*

**Christine Mocha**, *Valencia High School Choir*

**Bethany Encina**, *Los Osos High School*

**Cory Olariu**, *Downey High School*

**Kelley Squires**, *Rancho Cucamonga High School*



**Close Harmony Festival**  
**Postponed to February 2022**  
*Antone Rodich – VP Close Harmony*



**Stay tuned for some exciting news in 2021!**

SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 12TH & 13TH

2021 SCVA  
Virtual Vocal Jazz  
& Acapella Festival

With Clinicians Kate McGarry & Jamond McCoy  
Live stream performance from Kate McGarry & Keith Ganz  
Application Deadline March 1st

\*Application available soon on SCVA website.

Festival will accept performances in the form of virtual choir videos, audio only recordings, and audio/video footage from last year's ensembles. Solo clinic will also be an option for this festival.



## **In Memoriam**

*Kenneth Tuttle (July 28, 1952 – December 11, 2020)*

*By Renee Bondi & Linda Hammontree*

It is with deep sadness SCVA announces the passing of our dear colleague, Kenneth Gardner Tuttle.

Kenneth Tuttle studied choral and instrumental music conducting with Robert Shaw, William D. Hall, Paul Salamunovich, David Thorsen and sang professionally with Helmuth Rilling at the Oregon Bach Festival for ten seasons. While at the University of Nevada Reno, Ken was awarded the first Master of Music Degree in Choral Conducting Performance. His Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education was earned at Chapman University.

In addition to his work as a professional conductor, including directing a professional chorus singing with Paul Anka and Barry Manilow in Las Vegas, and his 22 years in church music, Ken's legacy shines bright after 37 years as a public school music educator. He taught in Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada and in Anaheim, California and spent his last 24 years directing at Redlands High School in the Redlands Unified School District. In addition to choral music, Tuttle taught piano and music theory classes, special education music and was music director of countless theater department productions.

Ken was awarded the 2012 Outstanding California Choral Music Educator by the California Music Educators Association. In 2016, he was named a "Hero of the Arts" by the Redlands Community Music Association. Kenneth served as President and Past President of SCVA, Co-Chair of SCVA Honor Choir, and for over 20 years hosted his SCVA Women's Festival at Redlands University.

As a frequent guest clinician for Honor Choirs and All-State Choirs around the western United States, Tuttle worked tirelessly to provide outstanding, life-changing choral experiences for young people throughout our region.

Upon retirement, Ken found deep joy in giving back to his community by establishing the Redlands Festival Singers, a community-based choral ensemble based in his hometown of Redlands.

Kenneth will be deeply missed in his beloved choral music world. He is survived by an overwhelming extended family of students, colleagues, and friends who will miss his quick wit, resonant laugh and basso profundo.

***Our lives are better because of your presence, Ken. May you rest in Paradise directing the heavenly choir of angels. We love you.***

# 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

	<b>2021</b>
Jr. High/Middle School Honor Choir Audition Sign Ups Open	Jan 4
SCVA Happy Hour 5 – 6pm	Jan 14
Replay! Dr. Derrick Fox – Honoring Diversity 10am via Zoom	Jan 18
Jr. High/Middle School Honor Choir Audition Sign Ups Close	Jan 29
Audition Times sent to Directors and Students	Feb 2
Auditions on Zoom	Feb 6
Jr. High/Middle School Honor Choir List Sent out	Feb 12
Vocal Solo Competition Application and Submission Deadline	Feb 20
Virtual Choir Festival Clinic	Feb 27
<i>Online Registration Opens</i>	<i>Jan 25</i>
Virtual Vocal Jazz Application Deadline	March 1
Vocal Solo Competition Finalist and Results Posted	March 6
Virtual Vocal Jazz & Contemporary A Cappella Festival	March 12& 13
Virtual Choir Festival Clinic	April 24
<i>Online Registration Opens</i>	<i>March 1</i>
Virtual Jr. High/Middle School Honor Choir Performance	May 1
Vocal Solo Competition Finalists Round	May 8
Show Choir Spectacular	May 29

*Please follow our social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) for updates on upcoming events that will be finalized prior to our next newsletter publication.*