



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VOCAL ASSOCIATION**  
**JANUARY, 2022**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*Drew Lewis*

Lately I've been thinking about an educational concept that was coined by Emily Style at the National SEED Project. She states that our classroom should be both a window and a mirror for our students. In many of our choirs, the music we choose is the core of what we teach. The musical concepts and the cultural context around which it was written can help foster a well-balanced curriculum in which students are given a window to explore the world around them and a mirror through which they can see themselves reflected in what they learn.

**Music Curriculum As A Window**

While teaching online in May 2020 I remember adapting a project that many people had talked about in Facebook groups – creating choir memes. There were many entertaining memes created by my students, but one that stands out was created by one rather observant student. She created “Mr. Lewis as a pie chart.” And while I was given 30% for coffee and coffee mugs and 10% for the puns I tell in class, there was one category she assigned that was very telling about my *actual* teaching. She listed 5% for providing a “backstory to every song we sing.” I believe this is an example of one way we can provide those windows for students. When we choose music, most of the time it is an invitation to learn about something outside of our students’ normal experience. Whether music comes from a different generation or a different culture, there’s a lot students can learn through the stories of how music was created. I probably stole this from someone, but I frequently tell my students that music helps teach us what it means to be human. The empathy we can gain by looking through these “windows” is much needed in the world today. What are the windows students are looking through in your choir?

**Music Curriculum As A Mirror**

Emily Style states that a balanced education is one where students gain “knowledge of both self and others” and “clarification of the known and illumination of the unknown.” Both elements are needed, but I’m afraid that too often classes have been all “window” for those who historically have been marginalized. How do our students see themselves reflected back in our music classes? A few years back, I took my students to a jazz festival where I had an experience that opened my eyes to some of my blind spots. After the festival, I asked students to write short reflections on their experience and one student observed that everybody on the stage at the festival (clinicians, guest artists, etc.) was white. As a white male teacher, I had not noticed it at the time, but for this Black female student it was glaringly obvious. Since then, I have become more aware and have proactively worked to create every opportunity I can for my students to see themselves in what we do. Whether it’s the arrangers and composers of our music or the clinicians we hire and the festival experiences we prioritize, I want to make sure students are able to see themselves reflected somehow in their study of music. I don’t write this as someone who has it all figured out. I know I’ve made mistakes in this area already and I’ve come to terms with the fact that I will most likely make more mistakes as I take risks to create more equity, diversity, inclusion, access, and belonging in my classrooms. I want all my students to see that the world of music is accessible to them.

As more and more opportunities open up in our classes in the new year, I think we would do well to keep these ideas in front of us as we plan our curriculum. How can we encourage each other to provide those windows and mirrors through our classroom? I’ll gladly share with you the ways I’m trying to do so in my classes and I would love to hear your ideas of how we can do better in our classes and in SCVA as an organization.

Drew Lewis  
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A Cappella Honor Choir

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Elementary Activities

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VP - Close Harmony Festival

Marcelo Martinez  
VP – Middle School Honor Choir

# MIDDLE SCHOOL/9TH GRADE HONOR CHOIR

Marcelo Martínez Marroquín

## Audition Requirements

Singers must be able to demonstrate that they can perform the following:

1. Sing a major scale up and down (a cappella)
2. Sing a major triad and a minor triad (a cappella)
3. Sing an octave (a cappella)
4. Sight read one melodic and one rhythmic example
5. Sing tonal memory patterns
6. Sing "America"/"My Country 'Tis of Thee" (a-cappella, first verse only)

## Fees

Audition Fee: \$10.00 per singer  
Participation Fee (if accepted into the Honor Choir): \$65.00 per singer

Guest Clinician: Dr. Joshua Palkki

Accompanist: Dr. Gukhui Han

Ticket Cost: \$10.00 general admission (available at the door)

Contact: Marcelo Martinez, [mmartinez@ovsd.org](mailto:mmartinez@ovsd.org)

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- On-Line Application & Payment Due: Monday, January 17, 2022
- 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.



# SCVA HAPPY HOUR

Start the new semester with your colleagues at SCVA for an online Happy Hour. Let's encourage and inspire each other as the new year begins!

JANUARY 13TH - 5:30-6:30 PM  
ZOOM CODES WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### KNOW YOUR CHORAL COMMUNITY

**Suzanne Brookey** is in her 24<sup>th</sup> year of teaching high school choral music, this being her 17<sup>th</sup> year at Sierra Vista High School in Baldwin Park. She began her teaching career in Porterville, CA, opening the new (at the time) Granite Hills High School before relocating to Southern California. Choirs from both schools were honored to be selected as featured performing choirs at the CMEA State Conference in Sacramento, 2004 and 2008. The choral music program at Sierra Vista consists of a beginner level Treble Choir, Intermediate Concert Choir, and Advanced Vocal Ensemble, all of which annually participate in local SCVA festivals and state CMEA festivals with high honors. In addition to the choral music classes, Mrs. Brookey also directs a piano studies program, serving students at all levels. Suzanne has been recognized by the SVHS Staff and BPUSD District with the honored award of "Teacher of the Year" in 2014 and 2021.

**Teaching:** I never wanted to be a teacher – at least, I never *thought* I wanted to be a teacher, until I started observing classes and forming *lots* of opinions about music instruction. During my undergrad, I spent time volunteering with my old high school choir program, offering private voice lessons for practice, and became immediately *hooked*. I love the diversity of students I'm privileged to get to know. I feel that as adults we often limit our social circle to those we *choose* to spend time with – but the really cool thing about being *the teacher*, is that you are there for *every* student - you get to know and spend time with all students and are not limited by your choice. As the teacher, you are faced (forced) with the opportunity to live in the uncomfortable state of getting to know others you wouldn't normally interact with. I feel I have learned and grown *so much* through my 20+ years teaching in public schools – I know without a doubt, that I am a better person because of my students – they give me a reason to want to better myself – better my craft - and broaden my vision. I very much feel the trust my students place in me, and take my role very seriously to provide them meaningful experiences through choral music study and performance. I hesitate to say that "music *makes* people better people" – I like to think of it more as *music provides us with a reason to bring out the good that's already there*.

#### Education

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree in Music Education & Vocal Performance, Fresno Pacific University, Class of 1996  
Master of Music Education (M.M.) Degree with Choral Music Emphasis, Azusa Pacific University, Class of 2017

After 20 years of teaching I found it *enthralling* to be a student again as I began my MM program at APU! I could have never imagined the soul-searching journey it would be to study the historical roots of music education in our schools and our American culture, but it was the best thing I've ever done for myself and my students.

Suzanne lives in Altadena, CA with her husband Jeff, son Jaxon, and best-girl-pooch "Penny."

#### Website

<https://sites.google.com/bpusd.net/svchoral-brookey/home>



**SUZANNE BROOKEY**

SIERRA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL  
BALDWIN PARK, CA

Southern California Vocal Association



*in collaboration with*



Southern Border Section



SAVE THE DATE! *San Diego Kids All Sing* is a unique opportunity for children to come together and work with guest clinicians Melissa Trevino Keylock and Melva Morrison on a range of repertoire that will challenge and enthuse our young singers. The day will be spent perfecting choral pieces and enjoying the company of other singers from the San Diego region, culminating in a concert showcase. **This event is open to all children in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 (ages 8-12). To register, visit [scvachoral.org](http://scvachoral.org)**

**For more information, email: [sdkidsallsing@gmail.com](mailto:sdkidsallsing@gmail.com)**



# Vocal Solo

COMPETITION  
&  
SMALL ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

**Important Dates:**

**February 25, 2022** – Audition Application & Round 1 Submission  
Deadline

**March 4, 2022** – Results for Finalists Announced

**May 7, 2022** – Final Submission Deadline

**May 21, 2022** – Spring Live Finals Round @MVHS PAC

**Judges:** Clarissa Shan & Charlie Kim

**For more info:** Visit [www.sevachoral.org](http://www.sevachoral.org)

**Questions:** [ejackson@mvusd.net](mailto:ejackson@mvusd.net)

*We Look Forward To  
Hearing your  
Submissions Soon!!*

Southern California Vocal Association



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!

Deadline to register: Jan 14, 2022

**TO REGISTER, VISIT [SCVACHORAL.ORG](http://SCVACHORAL.ORG) OR SCAN THIS QR CODE**

Email [antonerodich87@gmail.com](mailto:antonerodich87@gmail.com) for more information



## Concert Festivals

### *Nancy Ludwig - VPI, Festivals*

Registration is filling up for SCVA Concert Festival participation for Spring 2022. Listed below are the festivals that are currently still open. However, you may register for a full festival and be placed on the Waitlist in the event that a group cancels their attendance.

Please note! There are a few festivals who 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
Fri	3/11	9:00 am	Beckman HS	Irvine	Open	Open	Nancy Stuck
Mon	3/14	10:00 am	Ramona HS <b>RHSD ONLY</b>	Riverside	Open	Open	Jennifer Phillips
Tues	3/15	9:30 am	Mission Viejo HS	Mission Viejo	Class I	Open	Sarah Norris
Wed	3/16	11:30 am	Ramon C. Cortines HS <b>LAUSD ONLY</b>	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Drew Lewis
Fri	3/25	4:30 pm	Venice HS <b>*Sightreading</b>	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 <b>*Sightreading</b>	Norco	Class III	Open	Rachelle Randeem
Tues	4/05	6:00 pm	Rancho Cucamonga HS	Rancho Cucamonga	Open	Open	Kelley Squires
Thurs	4/07	1:00 pm	Desert Reign Church <b>*Sightreading</b>	Downey	Open	Open	Robert Peterson
Thurs	4/14	7:00	Eastside HS PAC	Palmdale	Open	Open	Daniel Martenson
Wed	4/20	5:00 pm	Los Osos HS <b>*Sightreading</b>	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. Cortinez HS <b>LAUSD ONLY</b>	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Drew Lewis
Fri	4/15	10:00 am	Vista Del Lago MS	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 <b>*Sightreading</b>	Palm Spring	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 <b>*Sightreading</b>	Norco	Open	Clinic	Kyle Betts
Wed	5/11	10:00 am	Bellflower Civic Center	Bellflower	Open	Open	Sergio Montes

THE SCVA 2022

# VOCAL JAZZ, GOSPEL & A CAPELLA FESTIVAL

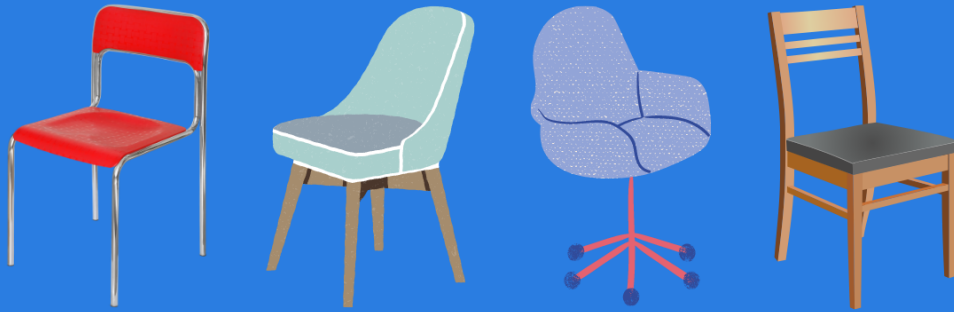
SAUGUS HIGH SCHOOL  
SANTA CLARITA, CA

**THURSDAY, MARCH  
24TH 2022**

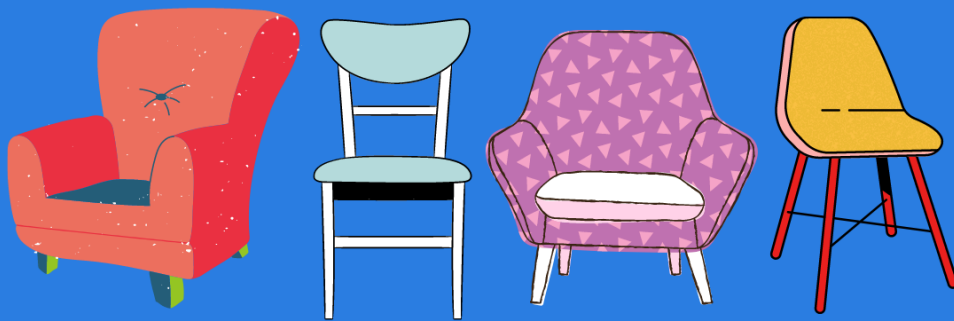
REGISTRATION OPENS IN  
JANUARY:  
[HTTPS://WWW.SCVACHORAL.ORG/  
JAZZ\\_FESTIVAL.PHP](https://www.scvachoral.org/jazz_festival.php)







# WE'VE GOT SOME SEATS TO FILL



Would you like to invest time professionally with colleagues who are...

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GENEROUS	INNOVATIVE	AUTHENTIC
COLLABORATIVE	INTENTIONAL	PROFESSIONAL
COMMUNITY-MINDED	COURAGEOUS	SERVANT-LEADERS

Email your inquiry to Rachelle at [Rachelle.Randeen@cnusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Rachelle.Randeen@cnusd.k12.ca.us).

# SCVA SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR 2022

*Sarah Anders, VP-Show Choir*



Registration is open for the **SCVA SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR!**

**WHEN:** Saturday May 7, 2022

**WHERE:** Hart High School Auditorium, Santa Clarita CA

**WHAT:** SCVA Show Choir Spectacular

**WHO:** Anyone and Everyone who has a choir that sings and dances

**Divisions will likely include:**

- Middle School Treble & Mixed
- High School Novice Treble & Mixed
- High School Intermediate Treble & Mixed
- High School Advanced Treble, Bass Voices, and Mixed

You can access the registration form by going to [www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org).

Click on the link for Show Choir Competition and pay either by pay-pal or mail a school check 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.

**Questions?** Email Sarah Anders: [scvashowchoir@gmail.com](mailto:scvashowchoir@gmail.com)

# A Message from the President-Elect

*Tammi Alderman*

It has been a year of ups and downs for us all. Many of us are working through significant struggles in our school choral programs. Class enrollments are lower, students are missing more school, regular rehearsal and concert venues have changed, and we are all trying to program in a way that makes our students sound and feel their best. Our repertoire choices, text and music, can make all the difference to the learning, healing, and growing process. Below are some of my favorite pieces for working with non-traditional mixes of voice parts.



## **The Dream Keeper - Rollo Dilworth - 2-Part**

This is a piece with a thought-provoking text by Langston Hughes. Cover notes that give a bit of background on the poet and the meaning of the text. The 2-Part version of this piece works well with any iteration of voice parts. I have performed it as a T/B, ST/AB and S/A work. Take the time to dig into the text with your students, they'll love the message and possibly relate to the experiences of the poet.

## **Cantaré - Jesús Echevarría - Unison + solos**

Cantaré is a mariachi-inspired song that lends itself to being used in any setting. The secular Spanish text is about sharing one's music and voice with others. As written, the piece is primarily for unison chorus with 2 soloists. However, you could easily split the choir to take the two "solo" parts. You could also highlight several students as soloists. The accompaniment is written for easy guitar, but also works well on piano. Cantaré is available at [vemusicpress.com](http://vemusicpress.com)

## **Morning Song - arr. James E. Greene - SATB (but not really) + duet**

While "Morning Song (Cherokee "Amazing Grace")" is written as an SATB piece, it is actually mostly in unison and has a singular harmony part in one section. The melodic line is split into a round at two separate points, and these can be done with any voice parts. A duet on the 3rd verse can be done by any voice parts. The piece combines an ancient text in Teehahnahmah and a verse (for the duet) in Cherokee. If you have a flute or recorder, it is lovely to add that to the mix.

## **Justice Choir Songbook - ed. Abbie Betinis, Ahmed Anzaldúa & Tesfa Wondemagegnehu**

This FREE book has 43 different songs by composers of many different backgrounds. This is a perfect resource for programs dealing with fluctuating singer numbers and financial deficits. The songbook is available at [www.justicechoir.org](http://www.justicechoir.org). Because the editors said it best, I will quote their comments regarding how to use this book here.

1. Make these songs your own. You have permission to make changes. In fact, we encourage you to bring your own creativity to this songbook.
2. Make this songbook work for you.
3. Make the story come alive. This is the most important thing. For it to be inclusive, it has to be flexible. We want you to feel free to adapt it to different situations.

Happy New Year and Happy Programming!

## 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)



### 2022 IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Middle School/9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir Payments & Applications Due	Jan 17
Middle School/9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir Auditions	Jan 22
Middle School/9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir Auditions	Jan 29
Close Harmony Festival	Feb 5
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Round 1 Application & Submission Deadline	Feb 25
Festival Registration Deadline	March 1
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Finalist Results Posted	March 4
San Diego Kids All Sing	March 12
Vocal Jazz, Gospel & Contemporary Acapella Festival	March 24
Middle School/9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir Rehearsal	March 26
Middle School/9 <sup>th</sup> 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.*