

The logo for SCVA NEWS features a large, stylized blue 'O' at the top. Below it, the letters 'S.C.V.A.' are written in a blue, cursive script. To the right of 'S.C.V.A.', the word 'NEWS' is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font.

Southern California Vocal Association February, 2016

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rodger Guerrero

Nearly six years ago, I wrote the following about the exciting beginnings of a new professional forum for choral advocacy, one that would result in **StandUp4 Music**:

In January, I represented SCVA at an eye-opening music advocacy summit sponsored by CMEA and The California Arts Project. The meeting took place during the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Convention in Anaheim. Representatives from nearly all of California's professional music educators associations were present. The subject of the gathering: ***Surfacing the Current Climate of California Music Education and Leveraging the Power of Music Education Supporters***. A key element of the discussion involved the ability of CMEA to operate as our music education political advocate in Sacramento and how organizations like SCVA could act within the umbrella of CMEA.

By the time this February Newsletter reaches you, I will have attended my sixth **StandUp4Music Coalition Convening**. I must admit, I am as excited about it now as I was six years ago. Music advocacy is hard work – a tough fight, and the results are never linear. But I do not mind the effort it takes because I believe that ***Service to a just cause rewards the worker with more real happiness and satisfaction than any other venture in life*** (Carrie Chapman Catt). There are few causes more just than ours: to ensure that every California student receives equal access to competent music education. While results from the honorable efforts of the **StandUp4Music Coalition** may not be easily apparent, the publicity it generates has produced evident influence upon California politics:

1. Last year's **SB 725**, initiated by CMEA and other members of the California 4ArtsEdOrgs Coalition, called for a process to begin the revision of current California VAPA Standards. After unanimously passing through the California Senate, SB 725's standards-based language was completely stripped in the Legislature. It was then replaced with language to solve the issue of thousands of high school students who did not pass or take the 2015 California High School Exit Exam (welcome to California politics...).
2. The 4ArtsEdOrgs Coalition then approached the California Department of Education in order to determine the CDE's priorities with regards to updating the VAPA Standards. The CDE pointed to its non-specific, all-subject area standards bill, AB 740. However, the bill's failure to provide a specific schedule of VAPA standards revision prompted a Nov. 6, 2015 **Joint Committee on the Arts Hearing**. Led by **Senator Ben Allen**, the hearing was held in order to question the CDE as to why districts did not unilaterally follow Educational Code requirements to provide courses of study in all arts four disciplines throughout grades 1-12.
3. Displeased with responses from both the State Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction at that hearing, the 4ArtsEdOrgs Coalition scheduled a Nov. 16, 2015 meeting with the Superintendent Torlakson and his team in order to discern the next steps the CDE would take to update the VAPA standards. It was made clear to the 4ArtsEdOrgs Coalition at that meeting that funding requested by CDE from the governor's July 2016 budget would be utilized for World Languages or Health standards and not VAPA standards. It was further clarified by the CDE that it perceives that there are "*some unresolved issues*" around new VAPA standards being based on the National Core Arts Standards, "*that will take public discussion before reaching consensus*." The CDE staff produced completely vague and unsatisfactory responses when pressed to clarify what the "*issues*" in question actually were.

What does all of this mean for SCVA membership? **Our just fight must continue!** The fight begins with action strategies initiated at the **January 24 StandUp4Music Coalition Convening**. However, those plans must be accompanied by our refusal to remain silent about the value of music education. Now is the time for us to **SPEAK UP** to our students, families, friends, parents, administrators, political representatives! Now is the time to make them listen to our stories about how music has changed our lives and those of the thousands of students we teach. As Martin Luther King Jr. so eloquently stated, "***Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.***"

Registration Deadline is March 1!

Nancy Ludwig and Melva Morrison, Festival VPs

Registration continues online, and spots are filling up! The following list includes all festivals that were still open as of January 15, 2016. You may access the online registration form at www.scvachoral.org.



Junior High/Middle School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
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	12:30 pm	Menifee Valley MS	Menifee	Open	Open	Tom Oliver
Thurs	4/14	10:00 am	Shivela MS	Murrieta	Open	Clinic	Lavinia Tikasingh
Thurs	4/21	10:00 am	Oak MS SIGHTREADING	Los Alamitos	Open	Open	Rachelle Randeem
Thurs	4/21	10:00 am	TeWinkle MS	Costa Mesa	Novice	Mixed	Tim McFadden
Fri	5/06	11:00 am	Manhattan Beach MS	Manhattan Beach	Adv	Open	Heather Gold-Pollak
Tues	5/17	10:30 am	Venice HS	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Wendy Sarnoff

High School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
Mon	2/29	4:00pm	Del Norte HS	San Diego	Open	Open	Keith Sattely
Wed	3/09	6:00 pm	Montebello HS	Montebello	Adv	Open	Jessie Flasschoen
Tues	3/15	10:00 am	Rio Hondo College	Whittier	Open	Open	Kellori Dower
Tues	3/15	7:30 pm	Harvard-Westlake School SIGHTREADING	Studio City	Adv	Open	Rodger Guerrero
Wed	3/23	4:00 pm	Golden Valley HS	Santa Clarita	Open	Open	Kerry Riccio-Aguero
Wed	3/30	10:00 am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Adv	Mixed	Grace Han
Tues	4/05	7:00 pm	Cal Lutheran University	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	Janna Santangelo
Wed	4/06	9:00 am	CSU San Bernardino SIGHTREADING	San Bernardino	Adv	Open	John Russell
Thurs	4/07	9:00 am	Mission Viejo HS	Mission Viejo	Open	Women's	Sarah Norris
Fri	4/08	9:00 am	Jarupa Valley HS	Mira Loma	Open	Women's	Melva Morrison
Tues	4/12	9:00 am	Westridge School	Pasadena	Open	Open	Paul Stephenson
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
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
Mon	5/23	6:00 pm	West HS	Torrance	Adv	Mixed	Antone Rodich

JUST FOR SHOW CHOIRS

Patty Breitag, VP - Show Choir



Registration has begun! Mark your calendars and register your groups for the annual SCVA Show Choir Spectacular set to take place at Diamond Bar High School on **Saturday, May 7!**

As in past years, the event will include multiple sessions for show choirs at all levels. Middle School show choirs will compete in the morning session. The afternoon session will feature Novice and Intermediate level High School groups, and the Advanced High School show choirs will perform in the evening session. Choirs will be adjudicated by an experienced panel of show choir experts, and awards will be presented in all divisions.

This is the perfect year-end event for your show choir as well as a chance for developing groups to see and hear what other schools are doing, and to receive a positive and helpful adjudication. Please spread the word to colleagues who may have show choirs as part of their choral programs but may not yet be members of SCVA. We can't wait for them to discover all that our organization has to offer!

To register your group(s) for the Show Choir Spectacular, visit www.scvachoral.org and click on "events." Entry fee is \$200 per choir. Once registered, you will be contacted with performance times and other details.

Please contact me with any questions you may have. Please join us for this exciting event!

Areas of Adjudication:

Intonation (*Tuning of intervals, chords, etc.*)

Accuracy (*Attacks, releases, pitches*)

Blend (*Within sections and the ensemble*)

Balance (*Choral balance, accompaniment*)

Diction (*Clarity, vowel uniformity, appropriateness*)

Dynamics (*Musicality, contrast, suitability*)

Interpretation (*Style, tempo, tone, phrasing*)

Choreography (*Suitability, variety, execution*)

Visual Effect (*Appearance, presence, transitions*)

Presentation (*Pacing, variety, programming*)

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

Mark Henson, Past President



Are you thinking about becoming involved in the leadership of SCVA? Elections are just around the corner for the next term of SCVA Executive Board Members.

Any member of SCVA may run for a position on the Executive Board. Officers serve for a two-year term and attend monthly meetings to plan and execute the business and events of our organization.

If you've been thinking about a leadership role in SCVA and would like your name to be on the upcoming ballot, please let me know via email (scvemail@yahoo.com) by **March 1st**. Elections will take place in April, and those elected for the 2016-2018 term will begin to serve in August.

For your convenience, an outline of officer duties is available in our "Policies" document located in the "Members Only" section of the SCVA webpage. (www.scvachoral.org) I will be happy to answer any questions you might have about specific board positions, the election process, etc.

Serving on the SCVA Board has been a rewarding experience both personally and professionally. If you are interested in being part of SCVA's future growth, and if you are wanting to become more actively involved in our wonderful profession, I urge you to consider running for a position on the SCVA Executive Board.

SCVA Executive Board positions:

President

President Elect

VP High School Honor Choir

VP Junior High Honor Choir

VP Elementary Activities

VP Festivals

VP Festival Adjudication

VP Vocal Solo Competition

VP Show Choirs

VP Jazz Choirs

VP Membership

Treasurer

Secretary

(Outgoing President assumes the role of Past President.)

Preliminary Performance Registration Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Competition

NEW!!! Classical, Jazz, and Musical Theatre

Preliminary Round Adjudicators

Dr. Garineh Avakian-Akkus
Dr. Zanaida Robles
Lillian Sengpiehl

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

For more information please contact: Marisa Bradfield
Marisa.bradfield@providencehigh.org

Important Reminders

- 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

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

Elementary Vocal Music at SCVA: A New Resource for You

Jackie Remillard-Gorski, Elementary Activities



SCVA is adding a vital and new component to its offerings -- an elementary-level clinic at the fall in-service along with recommendations of resources of the highest quality. My name is Jackie Remillard Gorski, and I serve on the Executive Board with a focus on Elementary Music activities. This is a new position to SCVA, which we will create together, with your input and support.

Here is a little more about me: I hold a clear California teaching credential in music education, Level 4 certification in Kodály music education, and a Master's degree in music education from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. I have worked as a public school music teacher (both elementary and high school level) for over twelve years, a Master Teacher for five student teachers, and a Kindermusik teacher. In 2014, I was selected as one of twenty-one LAUSD Teachers of the Year. I currently teach music at an elementary magnet school in Northridge, CA.

Zoltan Kodály, composer, ethnomusicologist, and pedagogue urged music educators: "Let us take our children seriously! Everything else follows from this... only the best is good enough for a child." Following this pronouncement, please allow me to make some resource suggestions that will enhance your classroom experience and support what you are doing to develop the children's voices:

"First, We Sing: Songs and Games for the Music Class" Songbook 1 and Songbook 2 by Susan Brumfield are helpful and fun resources that your students will enjoy. They even include CDs that provide a wonderful vocal model of young children that you could play for the class. I've used many of the songs and games this year and the children LOVED them! Dr. Brumfield includes a brief explanation of the Kodály approach, a suggested sequence of concepts and elements, and many helpful suggestions and recommendations for further study. For example, last week I was able to teach a children's game in Farsi that came from Afghanistan or Iran. We talked about ethnomusicology and the origin of songs, and how there was some debate about the origin of the tune. We also sang in Farsi, to the delight of my Persian students! That same week, I taught an African-American ring game and played the original field recording for the children from the Library of Congress website. This provided context, experience, and depth of interest and understanding that might not have been there had we just played the game.

Please check out Dr. Brumfield's books from Hal Leonard. I look forward to sharing more resources with you..... *Jackie Remillard Gorski*

2016 California All State High School Vocal Jazz Choir

Christine Tavares-Mocha, VP- Vocal Jazz

Attention Choral Educators: SCVA, CAJ, & CASMEC cordially invite you to the performance of the California All State Jazz Choir: Friday February 12th, 2016, 8pm in the San Jose Performing Arts Center

On Feb. 10-13th 2016, Students will be in session for this year's California All State Vocal Jazz Choir. Dr. Kate Reid, Vocal Jazz Director at University of Miami will be directing this year's choir at the 2016 CASMEC Convention. (Rehearsals are open for observation).

Congratulations to the following students, their teachers, and their schools!

Jeremy Adler - Palos Verdes HS Shellie Parkinson

Matthew Ahn - Valencia High School - Christine Tavares-Mocha

Aly Burke - Enterprise High School - Alissa Aune

Kyle Gabriel - Valencia High School (Placentia) - Megan Arthurton

Alondra Gonzalez - Folsom High School - Curtis Gaesser

Sam Hale - Long Beach Poly High School - Brian Dokko

Eric Hatch - Long Beach Poly High School - Brian Dokko

Shanti Herzog - Enterprise High School - Alissa Aune

Joy Hwang - Piedmont Hills High School- Myles Ellis

Matt Latta - Santa Susanna High School - Bevin Abbe

Tanner Ming - Valencia High School - Christine Tavares - Mocha

Maricela Navarro - Downey High School - Cory Olariu

Zoe-Jordan Oketch - Valencia High School - Christine Tavares- Mocha

Ella Papouchado - Vistamar High School - Jason Garner

Hailey Patrick - Bear River High School - David Gahrens

Anders Swanson - Folsom High School - Curtis Gaesser

SCVA Vocal Jazz and A-Cappella Festival

Friday, March 18th, 2016

With Adjudicators:

Christine Guter, CSULB PST Vocal Jazz Director

Jeremy Fox, Grammy Nominated Vocal Jazz Arranger/Educator

SCVA is extremely excited to welcome back adjudicators Jeremy Fox and Christine Guter to the SCVA Vocal Jazz / A-Cappella Festival! Each ensemble will get 30 minutes of performance / clinic time on stage with our adjudicators and the opportunity to use SCVA's rhythm section. The evening performance will be by the amazing Cole Conservatory "Pacific Standard Time" Vocal jazz Ensemble, directed by Christine Guter, Vocal Jazz Director at Cal State University of Long Beach. The Concert is at 8pm and tickets are \$5. For more information or to sign up, visit www.scvachoral.org



Want more A-Cappella / Vocal Jazz Festival experience?

Upcoming Southern California Spring Vocal Jazz / A-Cappella Festivals

March 18th, 2016 SCVA Vocal Jazz and A-Cappella Festival – Valencia High School

This festival will feature 30-minute performance/clinic time and CSULB's award winning Vocal Jazz Ensemble "Pacific Standard Time!" For more information, contact Christine Tavares Mocha at cmocha@hartdistrict.org or visit www.scvachoral.org

March 19th, 2016 Point Loma Nazarene Vocal Jazz Festival – San Diego, CA

For more information, contact KeithPedersen@pointloma.edu

April 14-16th, 2016 Oceanside Jazz Festival (MiraCosta College) - Oceanside, CA

This festival features a "flight schedule" of 3-4 schools performing at a time followed by a 30-minute private clinic. The featured performer this year is the Vocal Group "Take 6"! For more information, visit www.oceansidejazzfestival.com

April 22nd, 2016– Fullerton College Jazz and A-Cappella Festival - Fullerton, CA

(This festival also offers a Vocal Jazz/A-Cappella Solo division).

Fullerton College's premier and award winning vocal jazz choir "J Train" will be featured with many more artists. For more information, visit

<http://jazzfestival.fullcoll.edu/index.asp>

Southern California Vocal Association

Harvard-West-Lake Upper School

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IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

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 th 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 th Grade Honor Choir Regional Rehearsal	March 26, 2016
CMEA State Choral Festival	April 1, 2016
Junior High/9 th Grade Honor Choir Concert	May 7, 2016
Show Choir Spectacular	May 7, 2016