

Karen Garrett
President
kgarrett@cnusd.k12.ca.us

Rachelle Randeem
President Elect
rrandeem@gmail.com

Carolyn Kelley
Treasurer
choralcjk@earthlink.net

Michael Fenton
Membership
mfenton@pylusd.org

Molly Peters
Secretary
mpeters@hartdistrict.org

Karen Bluel
Newsletter Editor
kbluel@cox.net

Jennifer Stanley
VP-Festival Adjudication
scvaexecvp@gmail.com

Crystal Stone
VPI-High School Honor Choir
cstone@powayusd.com

Matthew Netto
VP II - High School Honor Choir
matthew_netto@jUSD.k12.ca.us

Marcelo Martinez
VP-JH/MS Honor Choir
timekp@hotmail.com

Marisa Rawlins-Bradfield
VP - Vocal Solo Competition
marisa_bradfield@providencehigh.org

Mark Freedkin
Web/Barbershop Festivals
mfreedkin@yahoo.com

Nancy Ludwig
VP I - Festivals
nancy ludwig6@gmail.com

Melva Morrison
VP II - Festivals
melsmusic@verizon.net

Patty Breitag
VP - Show Choir
pjbairhart@aol.com

Christine Tavares-Mocha
VP-Jazz Choir
christinetavares33@gmail.com

Rodger Guerrero
Past President
rguerrero@pasadena.edu



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Karen Garrett

Reflections on the Choral Art

I love January and February - and not just because of the Valentine candy! With festival performances a few months away I feel I can focus on - dare I say - teaching! I am addicted to those moments when the students and I have some time to breathe and delve into the form of a new repertoire piece or take the time to explore some new vocal technique that brings that "ah-hah" moment in their singing. It's these moments that keep me energized and coming back to the choral classroom year after year.

This time of year also allows me to re-focus on the aural skills, sight reading and musicianship skills that each student needs. Just like up-coming performances drive our rehearsals, signing up for an SCVA Sight-Reading Festival can drive your musicianship curriculum. Haven't decided whether to sign up for a Sight-Reading Festival yet? As of this newsletter there are a number of High School and Middle School Sight-Reading Festivals still open. The deadline to register is March 1st. If you are on the fence, here are some great tips for diving in:

EXPLORE THE FESTIVAL SIGHT-READING MATERIAL ON THE SCVA WEBSITE at www.scvachoral.org

Begin with perusing the Rubric for Middle School (levels 1-4) or High School (levels 1-6). Take a look at the progression of skills from one level to another. Get a feel for the level where your students may currently be. Then, click on the 2013 or 2014 Sight Reading examples. These examples will show you exactly what your students will be asked to sing and clap at the festival for adjudication. You can use these examples to have your students read through and see what comes easily to them and what skills they still need to build.

MEET YOUR STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE

Make a decision on which level you will sing at adjudication based on how your students did on singing and clapping the examples given. Perhaps the choir can sing and clap most patterns of level II High School but are struggling singing barred eighth note patterns and don't consistently clap the dotted quarter eighth note pattern correctly. You may have 8 weeks before the festival, so it's time to get planning! Map out the rehearsals available and scaffold in the skills and drills needed to acquire the necessary skills for success. Be sure to add plenty of aural patterning and find similar patterns in your repertoire for students to read that make the connection to literature. A few weeks before the festival, go through the rules and policies with your students and practice in "adjudication style" with past examples so your students won't be surprised on the day of the festival.

DON'T STOP THERE! KEEP MOVING YOUR STUDENTS' MUSICIANSHIP FORWARD

The greatest joy I have found in signing my students up for a sight-reading festival is seeing how far they have progressed in their reading skills. My advanced group sang at level III two years ago and will be singing level V this year. My students have never sight-read so well, and our repertoire rehearsals are more effective and musical. In addition, they feel a great deal of satisfaction in their accomplishment. So use these wet winter months to take a deep breath and do what you do best, TEACH!

Ideas about Festival Sight-Reading? E-mail me at kgarrett@cnusd.k12.ca.us

Registration deadline is headed our way.....

Nancy Ludwig VPI Festivals



The following festivals are still available as of Jan. 15. Registration deadline is March 1.

Junior High/Middle School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
Wed	3/08	10:30 am	Ladera Vista Junior High School of the Arts	Fullerton	Open	Open	Andrea Calvo
Fri	3/10	10:00 am	Shivela MS	Murrieta	Open	Clinic	Lavinia Tikasingh
Thurs	3/16	10:00 am	Las Flores MS	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Benefield
Tues	3/21	9:00 am	Santa Fe Christian School Chapel	Solana Beach	Open	Mixed	Rhonda Fleming
Wed	3/22	10:00 am	Rancho Starbuck Intermediate School	Whittier	Open	Open	Jeremy Fletcher
Tues	3/28	12:00 pm	Menifee Valley MS	Menifee	Open	Open	Tom Oliver
Fri	3/31	9:00 am	Central MS	Riverside	Open	Open	Jennifer Meregini
Thurs	4/13	10:00 am	Oak MS Sightreading	Los Alamitos	Open	Open	Rachelle Randeon
Thurs	4/13	1:00 pm	Oak MS Sightreading	Los Alamitos	Open	Open	Rachelle Randeon
Tues	4/18	1:00 pm	James L. Day MS	Temecula	Open	Open	Patricia Halic
Thurs	4/20	10:00 am	Las Flores MS	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Benefield
Wed	4/26	10:00 am	Hughes MS	Long Beach	Open	Open	Steven Clausen
Fri	4/28	10:00 am	Spring View MS Sightreading	Huntington Beach	Open	Open	Marcelo Martinez
Fri	4/28	12:00 pm	Cathedral City HS Sightreading	Cathedral City	Open	Clinic	Jeffrey Kopasz
Fri	5/12	1:00 pm	Ramirez Intermediate	Eastvale	Novice	Clinic	Kyle Betts

High School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
Mon	3/06	6:00 pm	Montebello HS	Montebello	Adv	Open	Jessie Flasschoen
Thurs	3/09	10:00 am	Bloomington HS	Bloomington	Open	Open	Ryan Duckworth
Fri	3/17	9:00 am	Murrieta Mesa HS Sightreading	Murrieta	Open	Clinic	Brad Allen
Fri	3/17	12:00 pm	Murrieta Mesa HS Sightreading	Murrieta	Adv	Clinic	Brad Allen
Mon	4/03	6:00 pm	Eastside HS	Lancaster	Open	Open	Dan Martensen
Tues	4/04	9:00 am	Santa Fe Christian School Chapel	Solana Beach	Open	Mixed	Rhonda Fleming
Wed	4/19	9:00 am	Gabrielino HS	San Gabriel	Adv	Mixed	David Pitts
Fri	4/21	7:00 pm	Canyon HS	Canyon Country	Adv	Mixed	Mary Purdy
Fri	4/28	10:00 am	Hamilton HS Sightreading	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Wendy Walsh
Fri	4/28	3:30 pm	Cathedral City HS Sightreading	Cathedral City	Open	Clinic	May LeRoy
Tues	5/02	6:00 pm	Mark Keppel HS	Alhambra	Open	Open	Maurice Azeltine
Thurs	5/04	4:00 pm	El Monte HS	El Monte	Open	Open	Joel Whisler
Fri	5/05	2:00 pm	St. Edward's Catholic Church	Dana Point	Adv	Open	Brian Dehn

SCVA SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR 2017

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 Rosemead High School (9063 Mission Drive) on **Saturday, May 6!**

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!

Complete details will be sent to participants, but please consider the following as you prepare:

Performance Guidelines:

- Maximum performance time is 20 minutes.
- A drum set and piano are provided.
- Live or recorded accompaniment may be used.
- Special effects must be cleared in advance.
- 5 microphones and general lighting are provided.

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*)



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. Join us for this exciting event!

Vocal Jazz and A-Cappella News


Christine Tavares-Mocha, VP – Vocal Jazz

Announcing the 2017 CASMEC 2017 California All State Jazz Choir February 18, 2017 8pm at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts

Sophia Bellefeuille	Valencia High School	Valencia, Ca.
Natasha Monnett	Valencia High School	Valencia, Ca.
Denisse Alvarado	Downey High School	Downey, Ca.
Samantha Henson	Warren High School	Downey, Ca.
Sara Runyan	Folsom High School	Folsom, Ca.
Hannah Wacholtz	Valencia High School	Valencia, Ca.
Melodie Borja	Valencia High School	Valencia, Ca.
Cameron Harris	Manteca High School	Manteca, Ca.
Eric Hatch	Long Beach Poly High School	Long Beach, Ca.
Matthew Ahn	Valencia High School	Valencia, Ca.
Benjamin Nicholas	Kingsburg High School	Kingsburg, Ca.
James Evans	Valencia High School	Valencia, Ca.
Jeremy Adler	Palos Verdes High School	Palos Verdes, Ca.
Cole Rademacher	Valencia High School	Valencia, Ca.
Anders Swanson	Folsom High School	Folsom, Ca.
Quinlan Weaver	Rodriguez High School	Fairfield, Ca.



The CASMEC conference and 2017 All State Jazz Choir will be in San Jose, CA beginning on Wednesday, February 15 through Saturday February 18. Rehearsals are open to all attending the CASMEC Conference. Teachers are encouraged to come and watch the open rehearsals with Roger Treece, 2017 CASMEC Ca All State Vocal Jazz Director. For more information on rehearsal times and schedules, go to www.casmec.org



SCVA A-Cappella and Vocal Jazz Festival Just Around the Corner! Headline Performers: True North

The 2017 SCVA A Cappella & Vocal Jazz Festival on Friday March 10, 2017 at Valencia High School in Valencia, CA. is just around the corner! We are now accepting sign-ups for what will be an amazing educational festival with our great clinicians Kerry Marsh and Chris Harrison! The festival will run from 11am-6:30pm. Each ensemble will be given 30 minutes on stage for performance and clinic. It is suggested students sing 2-4 pieces, depending on how much time they would like to work with the clinicians. SCVA does provide an “in-house” rhythm section for hire if needed (\$30 each player). The festival will end with a Headline Performance by the incredible group “True North” (members Matt Falker, Fletcher Sheridan, Sharmila G. Lash, and Katie Campbell) www.truenorthquartet.com. The festival has 2 spots left until full. To sign up, go to scvachoral.org. To learn more about our adjudicators/clinicians, see below...

Kerry Marsh is a composer and arranger specializing in contemporary music for vocal jazz ensembles. Kerry publishes over 180 compositions and arrangements at KerryMarsh.com, and also has published arrangements through UNC Jazz Press and Sound Music Publications. Kerry is a proud member of the jazz studies faculty at The University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, where he directs two advanced vocal jazz ensembles and teaches applied jazz voice. Under his direction, his groups have won numerous Down Beat Magazine Awards. Marsh has also worked with Ben Folds as a vocal arranger and background singers director in numerous performances with major symphony orchestras, including the Boston Pops, The Washington National Symphony and The LA Philharmonic in performances at The Hollywood Bowl. Marsh is busy year-round as an adjudicator and clinician for jazz festivals and workshops.

Christopher Harrison is one of the founding members of ARORA formerly known as Sonos. Special appearances include live radio sessions on NPR's *Weekend Edition*, KCRW, BBC Americana, Studio 360 and Sirius XM Radio; performances at South by Southwest 2011, Sundance Film Festival 2010, Celtic Connections, ASCAP Awards and L.A. Ovation Awards. In further collaborations, Sonos performed with Sara Bareilles at the Orpheum Theatre in Los Angeles and sang on an *Ozomatli* remix as part of their *Ozomatli vs. KCRW Soundclash* EP. In 2013, Sonos changed their name to "ARORA" and released their album, 'Bioluminescence'. ARORA takes the album to the stage using nothing except their 5 voices and their rig of live looping and effects pedals.

Junior High/Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir

Marcelo Martínez, VP-JH/MS Honor Choir



We had over 200 singers sign up to audition for the Middle School Honor Choir this year, more than a 10% increase from last year. It is exciting to see this event grow. By the time you read this, auditions will be over and the list of the Honor Choir participants will likely already be up on the SCVA website. Thank you to our site hosts and judges that helped make this

possible. Thank you also to all directors that encouraged your students to audition.

Dr. John St. Marie is excited to work with your students and has already begun to choose the repertoire for the choir. In addition to hearing the wonderful honor choir sing great music, the concert will also feature the LACHSA Vocal Ensemble under the direction of our clinician Dr. St. Marie. At the piano we will have the wonderfully talented Christopher Luthi, staff accompanist at Fullerton College.

Regional Rehearsal: Saturday, March 26th at Mesa Robles MS in Hacienda Heights
Final Rehearsal/Concert: Saturday, April 29 at the Los Alamitos Performing Arts Center in Los Alamitos.

Hints for Using the SCVA Website

Mark Freedkin, Webmaster



A number of valuable resources are available in the “Members-Only” area of the SCVA website. When you created or renewed your SCVA membership, you specified your own personal password to the Members-Only area. You use that custom password along with your e-mail address to access the private area that is only available to active SCVA members.

One such resource is the **W-9 Taxpayer Identification Form** that is required by many school districts before they can pay for SCVA events, such as Festival Registration Fees. If you need a copy of our current W-9 form in electronic (Adobe Acrobat) PDF format, simply login to the Members Only area, click on the link for that document, and print your very own copy.

You can also view your current Festival Host applications (if you are hosting any festivals) and your current Festival Registrations (if you are attending any festivals), including the payment status (such as “Free”, “PayPal”, “Check”, “Pending” or “Cancel”). And if you need an invoice for a Festival Registration fee, there is a link for that next to each Festival Registration. Simply click on the link next to each Festival Registration and print the customized invoice quickly and effortlessly.

However, the Festival Host and Festival Registration information will **only** appear if you used the same e-mail address for your membership renewal and all of your festivals. Otherwise, the system will not be able to associate your Festival information with your Members-Only credentials. For this reason, we encourage everyone to standardize on using a single e-mail address for all of your SCVA activities.

If you discover that you used a different e-mail address for your Festival information, simply contact me and I will update the information so that everything displays as expected.

Inspiration for many of us comes from hearing about the amazing work our vocal music community colleagues are working towards. Our hope is that you will be inspired hearing about their **goals for 2017!**



My long term goal is to increase music literacy and to dedicate an amount of time during each and every rehearsal to sight-reading. It can be as a warm up activity at the beginning of class or the students writing solfege into their musical scores of a piece of music we are working on, but we read every day at the junior high and the high school!
~Molly Peters

A major goal for this year is to facilitate collaboration between all levels of age and musical ability, from my elementary school feeder ensembles to my top mixed ensembles, in order to provide a more contiguous musical experience.
~ Andrew Ball

One of my teaching goals this year is to incorporate more peer tutoring and specific student focused interaction during rehearsal (i.e. giving each other musical feedback on how they just performed a sightreading example or choral music segment). Also, I have been working to integrate more technology into my lessons utilizing my Smartboard and iPad apps for theory lessons and recording and analyzing student work.
~ Cecile Blanchard

Collaborating with other choral professionals is my goal - planning to get myself to CASMEC this spring and the ACDA ECCO in the summer. For the next two months, my goal is to focus on recruiting! Make a plan, live a plan.
~Karen Garrett

My goal for the year is help students improve their listening skills, because across the curriculum students scored lower in this area on their state tests. We work on listening within rhythmic and melodic dictation, chord tuning, and giving directions verbally. We are, of course, always working on things like blend and balance which also help this skill. ~ Shannon Wallace

It is important to ensure that students 1) fluently read music notation through daily drilling; 2) grow in their aural skills (identifying major/minor intervals, major/minor, augmented/diminished triads); 3) identify major key signatures and their relative minors; 4) sing major and chromatic scales in solfege'. ~ F May LeRoy

Personally, my goal is to figure out how to balance being a good wife to my husband, mother to my young children, and also be a good teacher. Professionally, my goal (in addition to teaching sight reading, theory, utilizing effective warm ups and teaching quality repertoire) is to provide my students with the most positive experience possible, showing them that being in a choir is FUN.
~ Nancy Ludwig

My goals are to continue to seek out opportunities for growth as a teacher and musician by staying active in my professional communities as well as continue to foster a cooperative working relationship with the other teachers at my school.
~ Marcelo Martinez

This year I'm hoping to implement the Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory (EMT) on the web successfully, provide more outreach opportunities, invite more clinicians to teach during class periods and continue collaboration with other departments, as well as balancing professional and personal life better. ~ Crystal Stone



If you want a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or objects.
~ ***Albert Einstein***

In order to keep my students more focused this year, my goal is to fill up classroom transitions with beneficial vocal exercises on which they will be tested (major / minor scales, the chromatic scale, interval exercises, etc) so that choir members find themselves more frequently immersed in music theory instruction and hopefully stay *more* focused.
~ Rachele Randeon

Southern California Vocal Association

Santiago High School Attn: Karen Garrett

1395 Foothill Parkway, Corona, CA 92881

www.scvachoral.org / email: scvemail@yahoo.com



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Diva Day	February 4, 2017
Vocal Jazz/A-cappella Festival Application Deadline	February 11, 2017
Young Men's Harmony Festival	February 11, 2017
California All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble	February 15-18, 2017
California All-State Honor Choir Concert	February 18, 2017
Vocal Jazz & Contemporary A Cappella Festival	March 10, 2017
Vocal Solo Competition Final Round	March 18, 2017
JH Honor Choir Rehearsal	March 25, 2017
JH Honor Choir Rehearsal / Concert	April 29, 2017
Show Choir Spectacular	May 6, 2017