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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rachelle Randeem

Greetings from the cold & snow! Embracing the extremely important “parent hat,” I find myself at Pali Retreat Center (great venue!) chaperoning for the Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble’s Winter Retreat. The first piece rehearsed this morning was Lauridsen’s “O Magnum Mysterium,” arranged for wind ensemble. Dr. Whitmore’s attention to detail in facilitating the instrumentalist’s understanding of representing the artistry expected in this work, but without the use of the famous text, was inspiring.

Listening to this piece brings forward a strong emotional response, and as the instrumentalists learned to connect with and beautifully represent the piece, it reminded me of how music can so quickly alter emotions, minds, souls, spirits, hearts, lives and the trajectory of those future adults we see each day in our classrooms. We implicitly understand that music changes lives. Often the making of music is enough. However, many students entering our classrooms are walking through immense personal trauma, impacting their performance in all classrooms as well as have long term consequences through adulthood. Consider...

abuse (emotional, psychological, physical, sexual) | anxiety | bullying | death | disasters (natural/manmade) | divorce | deportation | neglect | terrorism | trauma (family, medical, etc.) | traumatic grief | violence (community/domestic/gun/school)

Brene Brown, in her most recent book “Dare to Lead,” reminds teachers that “...what we are ethically called to do, is create a space in our schools and classrooms where all students can walk in and, for that day or hour, take off the crushing weight of their armor, hang it on a rack, and open their heart to truly being seen. We must be guardians of a space that allows students to breathe and be curious and explore the world... We should never underestimate the benefit to a child of having a place to belong – even one – where they can take off their armor. It can and often does change the trajectory of their life.”

Please consider the potential – of what might happen through creating a sense of safety, as well as building in opportunities to develop self-regulation techniques and peer/team builder experiences while walking purposely towards the level of choral excellence desired. Here are some ideas, and please let me know what happens!

1 – Create a sense of safety... address grudges early on, admit you are fallible, build a positive atmosphere, develop non-negotiables, find time for quiet moments, focus on building community all year, follow through with consequences, give kids a chance to problem solve on their own, implement consistent schedules & teacher behaviors, make eye contact & smile often, model vulnerability, offer options, remain calm always, represent kindness and patience constantly, sit/sing/laugh with your students.

2 – Develop their ability to self-regulate by utilizing... breathing exercises, brain breaks, check-ins, SMART goals for students, discussions of potentially difficult scenarios, instilling self-awareness, isolating the desired skills and providing practice, mindfulness & meditation, movement activities, self-esteem builders, self-reflection activities, an emotions scale.

3 – Build their sense of “team.” Choral singing is, inherently, team building. Consider, however, the possibility that additional team/peer building activities might be in order. You might take advantage of games that alleviate tension, build community, encourage continuous growth, improve positivity, and/or focus on communication.

Register now for the Show Choir Spectacular!

A special thank you to the SCVA Board for their magnificent work!!

Register ASAP, Space and Time is Running Out!!!

Nancy Ludwig VPI Festivals



Most festivals are already full or are nearing capacity. Register today to ensure participation for your ensemble! Deadline to register is March 1.

Junior High/Middle School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
Fri	3/15	9:30 am	Vista Del Lago HS	Moreno Valley	Open	Open	Jennier Meregini
Thurs	3/21	10:00 am	Shivela MS	Murrieta	Open	Clinic	Lavinia Tikasingh
Fri	3/22	9:00 am	Cathedral City HS <i>Sightreading</i>	Cathedral City	Open	Clinic	Jeff Kopasz
Tues	3/26	9:00 am	Menifee Valley MS	Menifee	Open	Open	Thomas Oliver
Tues	3/26	12:30pm	Menifee Valley MS	Menifee	Open	Open	Thomas Oliver
Thurs	4/11	9:00 am	James L. Day MS	Temecula	Open	Open	Patricia Halic
Thurs	4/11	1:00 pm	James L. Day MS	Temecula	Open	Open	Patricia Halic
Tues	4/16	9:30 am	Norco HS PAC <i>Sightreading</i>	Norco	Open	Mixed	Rachelle Randeem
Tues	4/16	10:00 am	Las Flores MS	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Benefield
Tues	5/07	10:00 am	William and Jane Bristol Civic Aud. <i>Sightreading</i>	Bellflower	Open	Open	Jae Shu
Fri	5/10	8:30 am	Ramirez Intermediate	Eastvale	Novice	Clinic	Kyle Betts

High School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
Thurs	2/28	4:00 pm	El Monte HS	El Monte	Open	Open	Joel Whisler
Tues	3/12	1:00 pm	Lanterman Auditorium	La Canada	Adv	Open	Jeff Brookey
Tues	3/26	10:00 am	Fallbrook HS <i>Sightreading</i>	Fallbrook	Open	Clinic	Heather Smith
Wed	4/03	1:00 pm	Corona del Mar HS <i>Sightreading</i>	Newport Beach	Adv	Open	Andrew Ball
Tues	4/09	6:00 pm	Eastside HS <i>Sightreading</i>	Lancaster	Open	Open	Daniel Martensen
Wed	4/17	10:00 am	Redlands East Valley HS <i>Sightreading</i>	Redlands	Open	Open	Ramon Cardenas
Thurs	4/25	1:00 pm	Gabreline HS	San Gabriel	Adv	Open	David Pitts
Tues	4/30	7:00 pm	The Thacher School <i>Sightreading</i>	Ojai	Open	Open	William Wagner
Thurs	5/02	1:00 pm	First Baptist Church of Downey <i>Sightreading</i>	Downey	Open	Open	Robert Peterson
Tues	5/07	1:00 pm	William and Jane Bristol Civic Aud <i>Sightreading</i>	Bellflower	Open	Open	Carolyn Kelley
Thurs	5/23	6:30 pm	Redondo Union HS <i>Sightreading</i>	Redondo Beach	Open	Open	Kelly Self

Festival registration can be accessed online. Registration deadline is March 1, 2019. Register online at: <http://www.scvachoral.org/festivals.php>.

SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR 2019

Patty Breitag, Vice President of Show Choirs

SCVA will be hosting its annual Show Choir Competition in the spring of 2019. The confirmed date is Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Citrus College Performing Arts Center. This venue has a large audience capacity and all groups will have the opportunity to attend all divisions if that is your preference. We hope to sell out this year so register as soon as you can. Each year SCVA hosts the Show Choir Spectacular at different venues in our Southern California area. If you are interesting in hosting this event in the future, please contact Patty Breitag at pibairhart@aol.com for information. Last year's competition was a successful one with 21 groups competing in various divisions. This event has been a yearly event for many years and we hope to continue the trend. Thanks to all schools who regularly attend and to new ones who will join us in 2019.

Show Choir Divisions include: Novice Women, Novice Mixed, Intermediate Women, Boys Open, Intermediate Mixed, Advanced Women and Advanced Mixed. We will be closing the registration in March so register on the SCVAChoral.org Website, click on the link for Show Choir Competition, fill out the appropriate information for registering and pay by pay-pal or mail a school check directly to:

SCVA Show Choir Competition
Attn: Patricia Breitag,
Vice President of Show Choirs
229 No. Irena Ave.
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

You will then be added to the appropriate division.

We encourage groups to attend regardless of the ability or experience of the group. Students really enjoy the competitive atmosphere and to share and support other school show choir programs and to appreciate the music and choreography other schools have worked so hard to master. The judges have years of experience and always give positive assessment for improvement. Trophies are awarded to the top scoring groups in each division along with plaques for outstanding achievements in Showmanship and Musicianship. So come and experience this popular choir genre on April 27. You may also buy tickets to attend as audience members even if you do not perform. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be bought in advance or at the door. Hope to see you in April!

SCVA CONTEMPORARY A CAPPELLA VOCAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

March 13th, 2019

10AM-6:30PM School Showcases / On Stage Clinics (FESTIVAL FULL)

Valencia Theater (27801 N. Dickason Dr. Valencia, Ca. 91355)

7:30pm \$10

To purchase tickets go to brownpapertickets.com "SCVA"

Featured Performer: m-pact



Hailed "one of the best pop-jazz vocal groups in the world" by the San Francisco Chronicle, m-pact is respected worldwide as a cutting-edge trailblazer in the realm of vocal music. Emerging from an age of auto-tune and overproduction, this Los Angeles-based ensemble has cultivated a new generation of ears hungry for the fresh, raw power of nature's "first instrument" - the human voice. From the beginning, the "pact" of these well-studied masters has been to stay true to Music, regardless of style or genre. Their sophisticated sound and accessible appeal have garnered vast accolades, from Vocal Group of the Year (the LA Music Awards), an Indie nomination (the Independent Grammy), and Artist of the Year (Seattle Music Awards), to Grand National Champs of

m-pact featured artists continued...

the Harmony Sweepstakes competition. Touring renowned fine arts halls and jazz festivals across four continents, m-pact has performed with pop superstars Sheryl Crow, Boyz II Men, Natasha Bedingfield, and Ray Charles to name a few; as well as with jazz legends Natalie Cole, Bobby McFerrin, the Woody Herman Orchestra, the Maynard Ferguson Big Band, and many others. Over the last 2 decades, their signature sound has been used in both TV themes and animated Disney feature films, and is enjoyed on jazz and pop radio worldwide.

Some A Cappella Festivals and Vocal Jazz Festivals to consider

Thinking of taking your students to a Contemporary A Cappella Festival or Vocal Jazz Festival? Here are a few dates and festival names that are great learning environments for your students...Some include clinics, workshops, and definitely critique / comments to help your performance!

Jan 25-26	2019 Folsom Jazz Festival
Feb. 8-10	LA A Cappella Academy Festival
March 8	Mount San Antonio Choir Festival
March 13	SCVA Contemporary A Cappella Vocal Jazz Festival
March 15-16	Santa Cruz Jazz Festival
April 11-13	2019 Oceanside Jazz Festival
April 12	Fullerton Jazz Festival
April 13	Harmony Sweeps A Cappella Festival
June 27-July 7	A Cappella Academy

Things to consider this Summer – for student and personal growth as a director

SWCC Jazz Theory / Harmony Retreat – Jeremy Fox and John Knutsen
University of North Texas Teacher Retreat– Jennifer Barnes
Long Beach Vocal Jazz Academy – Christine Guter and Matt Falker

CASMEC / CAJ All State Vocal Jazz Choir under the direction of Greg Jasperse

SAVE THE DATE *February 15th, 2019*

FRESNO, CASMEC Feb. 14-17th

Jr. High Honor Choir

Rhonda Lynn Bauer

Mandatory Regional Rehearsal

Saturday, March 9, 2019 from 9:00am-1:00pm

Mesa Robles Middle School, Hacienda Heights

Mandatory Rehearsal and Concert

Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 9:00 am- 7:00pm

Portola High School, Irvine

Concert Begins at 6:00 pm

Tickets will be \$10 and sold at the door

Jr. High
Honor
Choir



Coffee and Choral Music

Drew Lewis – President-Elect

As a prolific coffee drinker I will be one of the first to let you know that Finnish people drink more coffee per capita than anyone in the world. However, coffee aside, they also have a strong body of choral works that are worth considering for your choirs. A few years ago, I had the privilege of traveling to Finland to meet a few of their choral musicians and composers. If you want to hear more about Finnish music in depth, I would be glad to share with you over a cuppa. For now, here are a few composers and pieces I discovered on my trip.

Jean Sibelius has two short accessible pieces for your intermediate choirs that can help explore rich Romantic sonorities. *Saarella Palaa* and *Sydämeni Laulu* are two of my favorites for mixed or tenor-bass choirs. *Auringon Noustessa* by **Toivo Kuula** is absolutely gorgeous for choirs with enough singers to pull off the 8-part divisi. **Pekka Kostianen** is considered the Finnish “Tormis” with his folk inspired works such as *Noita Laulan*. His Latin piece *Spes Est!* is an interesting composition for treble choirs. **Einojuhani Rautavaara’s** *Lapsimessu (A Children’s Mass)* is somewhat challenging, but doable for your SSA treble choirs. **Bengt Johansson** wrote his *Examine Me* for advanced treble choirs and *Ione, Dead the Long Year* is a beautiful and accessible polytonal piece in six parts for your mixed choirs. If you’re looking for interesting and rhythmic songs, you can’t beat the music of **Mia Makaroff**. Not only is *Butterfly* stunning, but *You Can’t Stop Me!* and *Mita Kaikatavat Kivonen* are great fun as well. Lastly, if you need help with Finnish pronunciation, **Jaakko Mäntyjärvi** wrote *Sing it in Finnish: a practical pronunciation guide for singers and choral directors* published by Sulasol. He also has some great choral pieces as well!

I could go on for pages about this subject (I did write a Master’s thesis on Finnish choral music a while ago), but I hope this piques your interest in exploring the culture of Finland through music. Let me know if you decide to perform any of these pieces with your choirs or if you want to meet up for that coffee and discussion.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KNOW YOUR CHORAL COMMUNITY

What would you say are your strengths as a teacher?

I would say that among my dedication to selecting the appropriate level of choral literature for all of my groups and my initial studies as a piano major, one other strength that has served me well in all of the different programs I have directed is my firm belief that singing, and especially singing in choir, is uplifting emotionally, and builds character through its emphasis on teamwork and full participation, no matter the level of the group.

What is one of your favorite activities with your students?

Meeting my students on their first day of choir and seeing their faces as they hear how great they sound as a group. For many, my class is the first time anyone has really showed them how their voice can be an instrument.

What are some of your favorite, go-to pieces for your choris?

Yonder Come Day, arr. Judith Cook Tucker; The Water is Wide with Bring me a Little Water, Sylvie, arr. Rollo Dilworth; Jubilate Deo, arr. Doreen Rao; Dodi Li, 2-part, arr. Doreen Rao; Fifty Nifty United States, 2-part, Ray Charles; Blackbird, John Lennon and Paul McCartney, 2-part arr. Audrey Snyder; Si Cantemo-Round; Shake the Papaya Down-arr. Ruth Dwyer and Judith Waller-3 part

Give a shout out to a choral colleague who inspires you.

I am inspired by all of my choral colleagues in SMMUSD. But I am particularly inspired by my elementary choral colleague, Susan Justin. She is a master at reaching as many of her young (4th-5th grade) singers as possible through age-appropriate literature, and fun approaches to both technique and literacy. Her incorporation of general music concepts makes scaffolding her choral techniques easier for the young singers, and she is a very talented collaborative pianist as well!

Jessi Spike Gravelle

attended Michigan State University, where she was a member of the State Singers and the prestigious University Chorale, under the direction of Charles K. Smith. She completed her BA at UCLA and earned an MA in English from CSU Northridge, during which time she and her husband opened the Santa Monica Academy of Music. For the past 16 years she has been teaching elementary choral and middle school choir for Santa Monica-Malibu USD. She also co-directs the all-district honor choir and is the Director of Elemental Choir, the choral component of a local non-profit organization, Elemental Music.

Website Questions & Answers

Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster



Q: What information is available in the Members-Only area of the SCVA website?

A: Here's a partial list of the really cool things you can do:

- View all of your Festival Host Registrations
- View all of your Festival Participant Registrations and their payment status
- Print an invoice for a Festival Registration
- Change the Sight-Reading Level and/or Voicing for a Festival (up to 2 weeks prior to the festival)
- Download and view the presentations from Fall In-Service sessions over the last few years

Q: How can I save money when using **PayPal** to pay for multiple items?

A: If you are adding the same kind of payment for multiple students, don't add one line-item to your shopping cart for each student. Instead, add a single line-item and then set the quantity to the number of students (and enter all singers' names together). This will save you a whopping \$0.30 off the second and subsequent singers. It all adds up.

Q: How can I update my membership information or change my e-mail address if I change schools?

A: Simply pretend you are renewing your membership by clicking on the "**Join/Renew**" link in the upper-right corner of the website, and then update whatever information you need, including changing your e-mail address if necessary. If you have already paid your current year membership dues, you can ignore the second page that allows you to pay on-line through PayPal.

Q: If I reply directly to a broadcast message that comes from **admin@scvachoral.org**, will the original sender of that message receive it?

A: Seriously?!? Have you not been reading my articles in previous newsletters? Have you overlooked the sentence in those messages that states "**do not reply to this message**"? The answer is a resounding **NO**. If you continue to reply directly to those messages, I will remotely infect your computer speakers so they can only play "*Dancing Queen*" from ABBA over and over again.

Southern California Vocal Association

Bethany Encina - Los Osos High School, 6001 Milliken Ave, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91737

www.scvachoral.org / email: info@scvachoral.org



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Close Harmony Festival (West High School)	February 9, 2019
Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Auditions (Irvine HS)	February 9, 2019
Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Auditions (Rancho Cucamonga HS)	February 9, 2019
Jr High Honor Choir Regional Rehearsal (Mesa Robles Middle School)	March 9, 2019
Vocal Jazz & A Cappella Festival/Clinic (Valencia High School)	March 13, 2019
CA All-State Honor Choirs (San Jose, CA)	March 14-16
CMEA State Choral Festival (Musco Center for the Arts)	March 20, 2019
Jr High Honor Choir Performance (Portola High School)	April 13, 2019
Show Choir Spectacular (Citrus College)	April 27, 2019