



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VOCAL ASSOCIATION**  
**MARCH, 2022**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*Drew Lewis*

A couple weeks ago I experienced a heartwarming “first” in my sixth year of teaching at my school. The bell rang for lunch and my intermediate Treble Choir insisted that we had to finish singing the song we were working on before they left. This was in the middle of the omicron surge, and something in my students’ attitude reminded me of the line in Frank Tichelli’s *Earth Song* which says “But music and singing have been my refuge.” This has not been an easy year (or almost three years!) to be a teacher or a student, but I have certainly seen a change in my students’ reaction to their music classes. After so much time online, my students are so grateful to be making music together in person. And I am grateful to work with them in person as well. Our performances so far this year may not have been the most polished, but I must say they have been some of the most special performances in all of my career after all we’ve been through.

As we continue to deal with the challenges of COVID-19 and look to a future with no more “surges” or mitigation strategies needed in our schools, I continue to hold on to hope. While I know that so many of us are understandably still in survival mode, I do believe we have brighter days ahead as the Spring arrives. I also believe that SCVA can be a resource to help our programs at whatever stage we are experiencing. We are headed into an exciting festival season this March through May. It is exciting because our Festival Team has worked hard to put together IN PERSON Concert Festivals throughout Southern California for the first time since 2019! Our Vocal Jazz/Gospel/A Cappella Festival on March 24<sup>th</sup> will also be the first in person festival of its kind since 2018! In May we also have our Show Choir Spectacular and Close Harmony Festivals retuning in person as well, and we are co-sponsoring the first ever Elementary Choir Workshop and Concert. There are many wonderful opportunities to help you and your students grow this Spring and I encourage you to get involved however you can!

Sometimes we need something other than student events to keep us going. We need inspiration and a chance to decompress (and also commiserate!) I had a wonderful time connecting with colleagues at the recent CASMEC Conference in Fresno, and I am looking forward to seeing many more of you at the ACDA Western Division Conference in Long Beach. Come by our SCVA booth in the exhibit hall to say hello and pick up some swag. Please tell your colleagues who are not SCVA members to stop by the booth as well – first time members will receive a free membership if they register at the conference. We will also be hosting a reception for SCVA members that weekend so be on the lookout for information!

Finally, in order to get our programs to where they can thrive at the best level they can, it is important that we have the funding arts and music education needs in the state. Check out the website <https://voteartsandminds.org> for information on how you can help get the California Arts Initiative on the ballot so we see an increase in funding for arts and music education programs in California public schools to help our programs in the future.

Keep up the amazing work you are all doing, and let us know how we can help support you.

Drew Lewis  
President

Rachelle Randeon  
Past President

Tammi Alderman  
President Elect

Carolyn Kelley  
Treasurer

Alan Garcia  
Membership

Ken Haro  
Secretary

Karen Bluel  
Newsletter Editor

Mark Freedkin  
Web Communications

Emilio Sandoval  
Social Media

Michael Ushino  
VPI - High School Honor Choir

Bethany Encina  
VP II - High School Honor Choir

Erika Jackson  
VP - Vocal Solo Competition

Nancy Ludwig  
VP I - Festivals

Kristen Walton  
VP II - Festivals

Dan Hawkins  
VP-Festival Adjudication

Sarah Anders  
VP – Show Choir

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

Kaitlin Holt  
VP –Jazz Festival

Alanah Maguire  
Elementary Activities

Antone Rodich  
VP - Close Harmony Festival

Marcelo Martinez  
VP – Middle School Honor Choir

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KNOW YOUR CHORAL COMMUNITY

**Bekka Knauer** is in her 6th year of teaching, and her 3rd year at Martin Luther King High School where she is lucky enough to teach 6 choral ensembles, including Chamber Singers, Show Choir, and Vocal Jazz. She loves creating a sacred and brave space for students to learn, and participates in her MLKHS's Equity through Education committee, while also collaborating with campus groups like Black Student Union, Women's Empowerment Club, and Multicultural Council to throw outdoor lunchtime performances. Her teaching philosophy centers around the importance of student connection, and she is passionate about breaking out of the Western Classical music tradition to reach students through any musical means. She is a recipient of the Crystal Apple Award, and adores working in Riverside Unified where she firmly believes she has the best choral colleagues. When not teaching, she is performing and arranging for her female quartet "Angeles", or exploring new restaurants with her very Tenor husband and their puppy, Porter.



**BEKKA KNAUER**  
MARTIN LUTHER KING HIGH SCHOOL  
RIVERSIDE, CA

## MIDDLE SCHOOL/9TH GRADE HONOR CHOIR

Marcelo Martínez Marroquín

**Thank you so much to everyone who trained, encouraged, and/or transported students to audition, hosted, adjudicated, or was in any way involved with the auditions over three different weekends. Our Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir is 79 student this year. Sign-ups to help with the rehearsal and the concert will be going out soon.**

**It will doubtlessly be a stellar event with our Conductor, Dr. Josh Palkki, who has put together a great program. The concert will also feature a CSULB choir as the opening act. Hope to see many of you there.**

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**March 26 -**  
Rehearsal  
9:00am-  
1:00pm  
Spring View  
Middle  
School.  
Huntington  
Beach.

**May 7 -**  
HonorChoir  
rehearsal  
9:00am-  
5:00pm and  
concert



# 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.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)

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

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

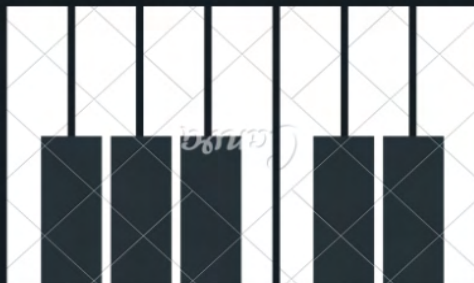


SCVA

**VOCAL JAZZ, GOSPEL &  
CONTEMPORARY A CAPELLA  
FESTIVAL**

ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT!  
REGISTER ON  
[WWW.SCVACHORAL.ORG/JAZZ\\_FESTIVAL.PHP](http://WWW.SCVACHORAL.ORG/JAZZ_FESTIVAL.PHP)  
DEADLINE MARCH 11TH

**THURSDAY • MARCH 24 • SAUGUS HS  
CLINICIANS MARTY AUSTIN LAMAR &  
RAHCEL ST. MARSEILLE  
CONCERT WITH HONEY WHISKEY TRIO**



# SCVA SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR 2022

*Sarah Anders, VP-Show Choir*



## SCVA SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR!

### **Come one, Come All!**

There is still time to register for the Show Choir competition!

**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 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)



# San Diego Kids All Sing! Choir Workshop and Concert

**Date:** Saturday, May 7, 2022  
9:00am to 3:00pm: Choir Workshop  
3:30pm: Choir Concert

**Location:** San Diego area  
(COVID permitting)

**Registration: \$25**  
[https://scvachoral.org/elementary\\_workshop.php](https://scvachoral.org/elementary_workshop.php)

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

**NEW  
DATE!!**

**San Diego Kids All Sing Workshop and Concert** is a unique opportunity for children to come together and sing with guest clinician **Melva Morrison**.

Children will spend the day learning, practicing and preparing songs 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 through 12). No audition needed.



**Melva Morrison**

Melva Morrison is an accomplished pianist and choral director. She graduated from Point Loma College with a double major in Piano Performance and Music Education. Melva holds a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Cal-State Fullerton where she was student director of University Singers.

She recently retired from a career of thirty-six years as a public school choral teacher, associate director and accompanist for the Inland Master Chorale and choir director at Ontario First Church of the Nazarene. Melva is in demand as a clinician, conductor (children's choir through adult), and accompanist.

She is grateful for the Lord's blessings in life and happy to be serving as a collaborative artist at PLNU.

Southern California Vocal Association



*in collaboration with*



# CLOSE HARMONY FESTIVAL

## SATURDAY MAY 14, 2022

- PERFORMANCE AND COACHING FROM SIGNATURE QUARTET
- A FULL DAY OF HARMONY YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

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

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

**Deadline to Register is April 1, 2022**



Signature

2019 International Quartet Champion



## 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

Festival Registration Deadline	March 1
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Finalist Results Posted	March 4
Vocal Jazz, Gospel & Contemporary Acapella Festival	March 24
Middle School/9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir Rehearsal	March 26
<b>San Diego Kids All Sing</b>	<b>May 7 *</b>
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
<b>Close Harmony Festival</b>	<b>May 14 *</b>
Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Live Concert Performance	May 21

**\* Indicates New Date**

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