



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VOCAL ASSOCIATION
MARCH, 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tammi Alderman

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expressive and knowledge.”
--Albert Einstein

The Power of Another Voice

As we head into the spring season full of festivals, musicals and concerts, I am reminded how powerful it is for our students to hear from more than just one adult about their choral singing process. Most of us live in an educational system where we are the only vocal arts educator in the building or possibly even the district. I happen to appreciate that I can adapt my curriculum each week/quarter/semester without having to run it by the other teachers in my department who teach the same course – no one teaches anything close to what I teach. However, this can also leave us in a place where evaluation of our own process may be overlooked (for better and worse).

We all want our students to have a great time and enjoy music every day. We also want our students to perform at the highest level that they possibly can. It is far too easy to get caught up in a world where everything or nothing is *good enough*. The result may be that we are not giving them enough challenges or that we are pushing them a bit too far. Possibly everything is in complete balance. In any of those cases, another set of ears and eyes in the room for a short time may be just the thing to affirm or nudge the process as needed.

That other voice can come from so many places, but I always recommend that it be someone you trust with “your kids.” This could be a conductor friend that you bring into your classroom, a collegiate professor on a recruiting tour, an adjudicator/clinician at a festival or competition, the band teacher from next door or an alumnus. Ideally it should be someone you respect and that you know will be gracious and helpful.

I recommend taking the following steps if you decide to do this for the first (or fifty-first time).

- Let your students know it is going to happen. They may not be as receptive if a stranger suddenly appears in their safe space.
- Hype up your ensemble about the guest. Talk up their skill set and what they can bring to your room.
- Ask your students to take a chance and try everything - even if it seems different or uncomfortable.
- Talk to the clinician in advance about what your focus and struggles have been. Ask if they have ideas they'd be willing to share with you and your ensemble.
- Participate in the clinic with your students. Do the vocal exercises and movements with them as well. If you are active in the process, it gives credence to what that clinician is asking of them.
- Talk about their experience in the next rehearsal. Do a long debrief. What worked? What didn't work? What would they like to try again or never again?

Chances are, your “other voice” will say many of the same things in that session that you say every day. And, for some magical reason, the students will tell you how profound it was to hear those phrases from the new person. Try to remember how the clinician used the phrase and maybe change how you teach the concept if it resonates. The best clinics are when everyone in the room learns something.

Tammi Alderman
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A Cappella Honor Choir

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VP –Jazz Festival

Alanah Maguire
Elementary Activities

Marco Rodriguez
VP - Close Harmony Festival

Erika Jackson
Membership



Vocal Solo Competition

& Small Ensemble Festival



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ROUND ONE FINALISTS

High School Classical

- Ethan Bowling
- Trinity Dela Cruz
- Jaxson Glowachi
- Isabella Grillo
- Madison Heinle
- Melanie Juniel
- Alana Merritt
- Mika Silander
- Nathan Sotelo Carrillo
- Avalina Thomas

High School Commercial/Jazz Voice

- Kalai Brockington
- Stella Cockstrum
- Andrea Ferrer
- Phebe Hancock
- Melanie Juniel
- Jiya Kumar
- Helen Martinez
- Angelina Perez
- Heidi Plueger
- Lauren Weiskopf

High School Musical Theatre

- Meliah Cook
- Celia Ippoliti
- Mackenzie Lingle
- Krysta Frankel
- Mattias Orr
- Angelina Perez
- Logan Reddick
- Mika Silander
- Shefali Sinha
- Lucy Winzenried

Middle School Division

- Elina Ghosh
- Zoe Lopez
- Adeline Wick
- Shriya Nandagiri

REPRESENTED SCHOOLS

- Saugus High School
- Rio Norte Junior High
- Verdugo Hills Women's Chorus
- Brentwood School
- Heritage Christian
- Fullerton Union High School
- Ramon C. Cortines School
for the Visual and Performing Arts
- St. John the Baptist School
- Newbury Park High School
- Venice High School
- El Dorado High School
- Providence High School
- Cate School
- Laura Jean Music Academy
- Orange View Junior High School
- Western High School
- Blaire Middle School
- Rancho Cucamonga High School
- Rio Norte Junior High School
- Chaffey High School



For More Information: www.scvachoral.org
 Questions: Marisa_Bradfield@providencehigh.org
 or Avakiagh@PierceCollege.edu



Tips To Help Prepare For Your SCVA Festival

Kenneth Haro, Festivals 1

As many choral programs are returning to full participation with festivals around our community, many students are experiencing this performance environment for the first time as a middle and high school chorister. Here are a few tips and tricks to help your students best prepare themselves for their coming SCVA performance:

- 1.) Before you arrive, have your students practice walking on and off of risers in formation. You are only allowed 3-5 minutes of practice time at your festival site. This will give your ensemble more time to evaluate the acoustical space, rather than how you appear on stage.
- 2.) Discuss the SCVA code of conduct with your students before they board the bus. Appropriate audience etiquette may be new to many students. As we want listening schools to support our performance, so do our fellow ensembles.
- 3.) To help your students stay fully engaged in each ensemble's performance, give your singers a set of questions to answer for each choir's festival sets and discuss them in your following rehearsals (see the SCVA Listening Guide for specific questions).
- 4.) Discuss the adjudication rubric with your ensemble prior to your festival. Create a recording of your festival set during your rehearsal, and have your students score themselves.
- 5.) Remind your students that SCVA festivals are not competitions. They are collaborative experiences where ensembles are meant to support one another in their journey to create music. Support their performance no matter what! A positive experience will create memories your students will talk about for months to come.
- 6.) HAVE FUN with your students as they perform! Though we are creating notable performances with our singers, the creation of music must still be fun and enjoyable.

Are Your Students Preparing For Their Sight-Reading?

- 7.) Sight-Reading takes time and patience. The sooner you begin reading with your students, the more confident and relaxed they will be as their festival approaches.
- 8.) Introduce the process and rules with your students as early as possible. Become familiar with how much time you are given for study, practice, and performance evaluation.
- 9.) Remember - The director is not allowed to use Curwen hand signs during your two-minute study period. However, that does not mean your students cannot...
- 10.) Prepare a formation within your ensemble that best supports your sections for reading success. Place your strong readers where they can be heard by their whole section.

Make sure to visit the SCVA Festivals Information page for more tips, rules, and procedures to review with your ensembles!

MIDDLE SCHOOL/9TH GRADE HONOR CHOIR

MARCELO MARTÍNEZ MARROQUÍN



IMPORTANT DATES

- Mandatory rehearsal: Saturday, March 25 at Mark Keppel High School, 501 E. Hellman Ave. Alhambra, CA 91801. 9:30am-1:00pm. Students should come to this rehearsal with a pencil, water, and snacks. No meals will be provided this day.
- Final rehearsal and concert will be May 6 at Portola High School, 1001 Cadence, Irvine, CA 92618, United States. Please use the Chinon entrance. Dinner will be provided. Tickets will be \$10

FACTS ABOUT HONOR CHOIR

- Total number singers registered: 99
- Total number accepted 74
- Number of audition site: 4
- Number of schools represented: 24
 - Los Angeles County: 10
 - Orange County: 6
 - San Bernardino County: 3
 - Riverside County: 4
 - San Diego County: 1



HONOR CHOIR CONDUCTOR: DR
ÁNGEL VÁZQUEZ RAMOS



**SCVA PRESENTS:
ALL FEMALE A CAPPELLA GROUP**

ANGELES

9 MARCH, 2023

**FOLLOWING THE VOCAL JAZZ
& CONTEMPORARY
A CAPPELLA FESTIVAL**

6pm in The Forum at Saugus High School

*Tickets are \$5 for students, \$10 for adults
& can be purchased at the door or by using
the link below:*

<https://www.scvachoral.org/pay>

[HTTPS://WWW.SCVACHORAL.ORG/PAYMENTS.PHP](https://www.scvachoral.org/payments.php)

Show Choir Spectacular

Meet the Judges



VJ Rosales

VJ Rosales is a singer/songwriter from the greater Los Angeles area. Graduating with a degree in Choral Vocal Education and Jazz Studies Performance from CSU Long Beach, VJ works as a professional singer, songwriter/arranger, & educator in the music world. VJ Rosales sings as part of a 5 member, all-Filipino-American group called The Filharmonic. Formed together to compete on the hit television a cappella show, NBC's the Sing Off in 2013, they continue to have many great opportunities in the world of a cappella. Together they have starred in Pitch Perfect 2 and are currently the in-house a cappella group for the Late Late Show w James Corden. As music director of the group, VJ has arranged and directed 8 Late Late Show riff offs- some of which include Anna Kendrick, Shawn Mendes, Lizzo, John Legend and more! As the world of a cappella evolves, VJ continues to write/arrange, teach, and create music globally.

Marqell Edward

Marqell Edward Clayton is an African American Actor, Singer, and Dancer who has performed across North America. He's a California native, CSUF Alum, and a passionate performer and educator. A few of his favorite credits include: the pre-Broadway tour of Ain't Too Proud the Life and Times of the Temptations, Complexity short film with America's Got Talent Winner Brandon Leake, singing background for the Grammy Nominated K-pop group BTS, and Conan on TBS! For more info visit marqelledwardclayton.com



Macarena Gandarillas

Macarena Gandarillas professional career spanned for over 25 years, she performed on the silver screen, television, national Broadway tours and Las Vegas stages. She's made more than 200 television appearances, including dancing on The Academy Awards, People's Choice Awards, Solid Gold and as a series regular on "The Love Boat." She's danced alongside dozens of major artists, including Chita Rivera, Debbie Allen, Janet Jackson, Michael Jackson, Donald O'Connor and Lionel Richie. She founded Visions Dance Theatre in 2010 and has received numerous awards for her choreography. It wasn't until 1997 that she shifted to teaching full-time and found a home on faculty at CSUFullerton. She teaches all the Jazz classes and Dance for Musical Theatre classes. In addition she choreographs for the university's Dance Concerts. Over the years, her students have danced with The Limón Dance Company and been featured in countless Broadway shows, including Hamilton, Mean Girls and Wicked. Five of her students have been Broadway dance captains. She continues to inspire her students with a focus on strong technique and emotional availability. In 2019 she was awarded Teacher of the year by Dance Magazine.



Marco Rodriguez - SCVA Close Harmony Festival Chair

Here are some awesome moments from the 2023 Close Harmony Festival!

See you all next year!



Introducing the SCVA 2023 Vocal Jazz Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir Director: MATT FALKER

**AUDITIONS GO LIVE:
AUGUST 21ST, 2023**

**AUDITION DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 17TH,
2023 AT 11:59 PM**



MATT FALKER IS A JAZZ AND GOSPEL PIANIST, VOCALIST, ARRANGER AND CLINICIAN. AS A FULL-TIME PROFESSOR AT MIRACOSTA COLLEGE, MATT DIRECTS THE DOWNBEAT AWARD-WINNING FREQUENCY VOCAL JAZZ PROGRAM, AND IS FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF THE OCEANSIDE JAZZ FESTIVAL, A NON-COMPETITIVE VOCAL JAZZ FESTIVAL HOSTED AT MIRACOSTA AS A PROMINENT VOCAL JAZZ ARRANGER, MATT NOW DISTRIBUTES HIS MUSIC THROUGH HIS PUBLISHING COMPANY, ANCHOR MUSIC PUBLICATIONS (FORMERLY SOUND MUSIC PUBLICATIONS FOUNDED BY FRANK DEMIERO IN 1988), AS WELL AS THE MUSIC OF DOZENS OF OTHER ARRANGERS AND COMPOSERS IN THE VOCAL JAZZ COMMUNITY.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE THIS SPRING FOR MORE
AUDITION INFORMATION:**

SCVACHORAL.ORG/VOCAL_JAZZ_HONOR_CHOIR.PHP



High School **HONOR CHOIR** 2023



Aug 18 - Sept 15

Audition Applications Open

Sept 30

Morning Auditions

Oct 7

Afternoon Auditions

Nov 16-18

Honor Choir Weekend

Audition Site Hosts Needed!

Help facilitate quality audition experiences for students in your area by volunteering your facility as an audition site. Site hosts receive a \$150 stipend or can opt to have a choir's Spring 2024 festival fee covered in exchange for service!

Email before May 1st to claim your spot as a site host.

SCVAHONORCHOIR@GMAIL.COM

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Show Choir Spectacular	April 29
Vocal Solo Final Submission Deadline	May 5
Junior High Honor Choir Concert	May 6
Vocal Solo Live Finals Round	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.



**Karen Lee
Ornelas**

Heritage Christian School



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

- Tell us about yourself:**
My name is Karen Lee Ornelas and I teach at Heritage Christian School (HCS). I am currently in my 7th year as the elementary/middle school choir director and 3rd year as the high school choir director.
- Describe the structure of your program: (size, schedule, ensemble voicings):**
I have the privilege of teaching choir to ages 8 to 18. I have one elementary choir that meets by grade level twice a week for 40 minutes. I have 30 3rd graders, 27 4th graders, and 30 5th graders. They learn the same 2-pt repertoire and perform as one large ensemble. I have 1 middle school choir of 43 students that are on a block schedule. This year they are singing in 3-pt mixed voices. I have 1 high school SATB Concert Choir of 42 students that is also on a block schedule.
- What about your program are you most proud of:**
I love that I have taught and seen my students grow in the last 7 years. Students in elementary choir are taught solfege and basic notations for sight reading. When they head into middle school, I help them expand their changing voices and challenge them to lean on their sight reading in the repertoire. By the time they are in high school concert choir, the students are capable of holding sectional rehearsals on their own. It's truly a joy to guide them on their musical journey. Last year was a rebuilding year. Even so, my middle and high school choirs won 1st place With Superior Ratings in the Worldstrides Choral festival. My middle school choir also won Outstanding Choir with an Invitation to the Festival of Gold. My high school soloists each won the soloist award. Seeing these kids persevere and thrive after Covid was a very emotional moment for me.
- Favorite repertoire you have recently programmed:**
Some of my favorite pieces that I've programmed are "Let Everything that Hath Breath" by Jeffery Ames - "Tipitín" arr. Raul Dominguez - "Ad Astra" by Jacob Naverud - "O Magnum Mysterium" by Evan Ramos - "Solfege Symphony" by Christi Cary Miller - "Wishing Star" arr. Laura Farnell
- Tell us about your life outside the classroom:**
I've been in a cover band (The G3 Band) for almost 9 years. We gig around the LA area playing at various events. They're great musicians and friends so we always have fun wherever we go. I am currently in the middle of planning my wedding which is exciting! I plan on finishing my master's in choral conducting from Cal State LA this summer.