



# Southern California Vocal Association

March 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Tammi Alderman*

As we turn the corner from the temporary lull that January and February provides, into the busiest season of our year, I often cling to the words of people who have spent more decades in this business than most of us. The message below is from the interview "John Rutter: The Importance of Choral Music."

Choral music is not one of life's frills. It's something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community, and our souls. You express, when you sing, your soul in song. And when you get together with a group of other singers, it becomes more than the sum of the parts. All of those people are pouring out their hearts and souls in perfect harmony, which is kind of an emblem for what we need in this world, when so much of the world is at odds with itself...that just to express, in symbolic terms, what it's like when human beings are in harmony. That's a lesson for our times and for all time. I profoundly believe that.

And musical excellence is, of course, at the heart of it. But, even if a choir is not the greatest in the world, the fact that they are meeting together has a social value. It has a communal value. And I always say that a church or a school without a choir is like a body without a soul. We have to have a soul in our lives. And everybody tells me, who has sung in a choir, that they feel better for doing it. That whatever the cares of the day, if they maybe meet after a long day's school or work, that somehow you leave your troubles at the door. And when you're sitting there, making music for a couple hours at the end of the day, that's the only thing that matters at that moment. And you walk away refreshed. You walk away renewed. And that's a value that goes just beyond the music itself.

Of course, as a musician, I put the music at the heart of it, but all of these other values just stand out as a beacon. I think our politicians need to take note...my gosh do they ever! [laughs], and our educators, those who decide education budgets, church budgets, just need to remember it's not a frill. It's like a great oak that rises up from the center of the human race and spreads its branches everywhere. That's what music does for us. And choral music must stand as one of the supreme examples of it.

As I tried to craft a message today about the healing powers of music, I realized that my own words paled in comparison to those who came before. Thank you to John Rutter for expressing my thoughts so beautifully. So to all of you (from me): May you find joy in creating a space for others to find their soul.

Tammi Alderman  
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# Festivals

## TIPS TO HELP PREPARE FOR YOUR FESTIVAL

- **Before your arrive, have your students practice walking on and off the risers in formation.**
- **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 performers, so do our fellow ensembles.**
- **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 set and discuss them in your following rehearsals (see the SCVA Listening Guide for specific question).**
- **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 them.**
- **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.**
- **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 A SIGHT-READING FESTIVAL?

- **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.**
- **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.**
- **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.**
- **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.**



# 2024 HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIRS

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## IMPORTANT DATE CHANGES

Due to the date changes for CASMEC and All-State Honor Choirs, all regional honor choirs are moving up for the 2024 school year. Please look at the dates below as you begin prepping students and arranging your calendars for next year.

**August 2-** Application Opens

**September 6-** Application Deadline

**September 11-** Audition times posted

**September 21 and 28-** Auditions

**November 7-9** Honor Choir Weekend @ University of Redlands

We will be announcing our wonderful slate of conductors soon! Keep an eye on our social media for more!





# SCVA VOCAL JAZZ & CONTEMPORARY A CAPELLA FESTIVAL



Thank you for joining us for another incredible festival this year!  
Join us next year:  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025 @ SAUGUS HS, SANTA CLARITA**





**VOCAL SOLO  
SMALL ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL  
2023-2024**



**DEADLINE**

**EXTENDED**



## Important Dates

- ★ **Friday, MARCH 1ST**  
Audition Application & Round One Submission Deadline
- ★ **Friday, March 8th**  
Results of Finalists Announced
- ★ **Friday, May 3rd**  
Final Submission Deadline
- ★ **Sunday, May 19th**  
Live Finals Round @ 2:00pm  
Northridge United Methodist Church 9650 Reseda Blvd.  
Northridge, CA 91324

**Judicators**  
*Professional  
Performing Artists*

**Charlie  
Kim  
&  
Baraka  
May**



**AWARDS AND  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
AVAILABLE**

**For More Information:** [www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)  
**Questions:**  
[Marisa.Bradfield@providencehigh.org](mailto:Marisa.Bradfield@providencehigh.org)  
or [Avakiagk@PierceCollege.edu](mailto:Avakiagk@PierceCollege.edu)



SCVA SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR

**MAY** | **18<sup>TH</sup>** | **2024**

JOHN A. ROWLAND HIGH SCHOOL  
2000 OTTERBEIN AVE ROWLAND HEIGHTS CA 91748



## **Divisions:**

Middle School & High School  
Novice | Intermediate | Advanced  
Mixed | Treble | Tenor/Bass

**Registration Closes April 12!**





# Orange County Kids All Sing!

**Join us April 6, 2024 at  
Costa Mesa High School  
Performing Arts Center!**

**Open to any child age 8-12**

No experience or audition required! Come enjoy a day of singing, performing, and making new friends

**Vocal Workshop 8:30AM - 3:30PM  
Celebration Concert 3:30-4:00PM**

Free concert open to families and friends!

**Registration is open!**

Participation fee is \$25 per student and includes all activities, an event t-shirt, and folder with sheet music. Sign up at [scvachoral.org](http://scvachoral.org)

**Want to bring your choir?  
Interested in volunteering?  
Need more information?**

Email [ockidsallsing@gmail.com](mailto:ockidsallsing@gmail.com)



**Dr. Joni Y. Prado**  
Guest Conductor

Dr. Joni Y. Prado, conductor and associate professor of vocal studies at California State University, Fullerton earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in vocal arts at the University of Southern California where her areas of specialty included vocal performance, choral music, music education and jazz studies. In addition to teaching and performing, Dr. Prado is also in demand as an adjudicator, choral clinician and vocal coach for local school programs and festivals. Dr. Prado has also assisted on several recording projects as a vocal coach and vocal producer at Skywalker Ranch and Sony Pictures Studios and continues to connect with singers and educators across the country through various singing and speaking engagements. She is excited to be here with OC Kids All Sing encouraging these young singers in their pursuit of music

THIS IS A COLLABORATIVE EVENT WITH  
NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY FULLERTON SCHOOL OF MUSIC



# MIDDLE SCHOOL/9TH GRADE HONOR CHOIR 2023-2024

## Important Dates

### ★ Saturday January 20th

Audition Weekend 1

Temple City High School ~ Temple City  
Martin Luther King High School ~ Riverside  
Fullerton Union High School ~ Fullerton

### ★ Saturday January 27th

Audition Weekend 2

Dr. Augustine Ramirez Intermediate School ~ Eastvale  
Cate School ~ Carpinteria  
Beacon Park K-8 School ~ Irvine  
Griffiths Middle School ~ Downey

### ★ Saturday March 23rd

Regional Rehearsal

Dr. Augustine Ramirez Intermediate School  
Eastvale, CA

### ★ Saturday May 4th

Rehearsal Day and Final Concert  
Portola High School  
Irvine, CA

AUDITION  
ADJUDICATORS  
NEEDED!

## Tina Peterson *Conductor*



OPEN TO ALL  
6TH-9TH  
GRADERS!

**For More Information:** [www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)  
**Questions:** [Sammy.Salvador@cnusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Sammy.Salvador@cnusd.k12.ca.us)



# Important Dates & Deadlines

Vocal Solo Small Ensemble Results of Finalists Announced	March 18
Orange County Kids All Sing	April 6
Vocal Solo Small Ensemble Final Submission Deadline	May 3
Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir	May 4
Show Choir Spectacular	May 18
Vocal Solo Small Ensemble Live Finals Round	May 19
SCVA HS Honor Choir Registration Opens	August 2
SCVA HS Honor Choir Registration Closes	September 6
SCVA HS Honor Choir Audition Results Posted	September 11
SCVA HS Honor Choir Audition Dates	September 21 & 28
SCVA HS Honor Choir Weekend	November 7-9
SCVA HS Honor Choir Performance	November 9



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

### Amanda Suttle

Hillcrest High School



- Tell us about yourself:**  
My name is Amanda Suttle. This is my eighth year teaching in the Alvard Unified School District in Riverside. I currently serve as the Choir Director at Hillcrest High School.
- Describe the structure of your program: (size, schedule, ensemble voicings):**  
I am currently teaching three periods of Choir and two periods of Beginning Piano from 9–12th grade.
  - Vocal Ensemble (Auditioned) – SATB
  - Concert Choir – SAB
  - Treble Ensemble – SSA (Brand new offering this school year)
- What about your program are you most proud of:**  
I have had the privilege of teaching some of my students since they were in 3rd grade! It is always so rewarding to see how they grow in their musicianship, leadership, and confidence and how they apply these skills in other aspects in their lives. I also love the community that we have created in and outside of our classroom. My program is a huge melting pot of students from all over campus – ASB, Athletics, Drama, Tutoring, Clubs, etc. and I am so proud that they find choir to be a safe space where they can unapologetically be themselves and not be judged.
- Favorite repertoire you have recently programed:**
  - I Am Not Yours arr. David Childs
  - Sing Alleluia Clap Your Hands arr. Sally K. Albrecht
  - Time arr. Jennifer Lucy Cook
- Tell us about your life outside the classroom:**  
I love spending time with my family. We love going to Disneyland, concerts, and musicals. My husband and I have a rule that we must attend at least one concert or musical a year..