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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Karen Garrett*

### SERVING OUR MEMBERS AND OUR VOCAL COMMUNITY

I have had the pleasure of attending just about every SCVA event this year. I am continually amazed at the outstanding work the volunteers of this organization do each year while maintaining their own thriving choral programs. The joy I saw on the faces of the honor choir singers, the pride of the solo vocal competition winners and the accomplishments the choirs felt after sight reading at festival, are inspiring beyond words. This is what we do as choral directors - provide positive musical opportunities to our students; and this is what **SCVA Membership** does – provides directors opportunities for their students.

Kathy Cobb-Woll of Santa Ana High School recognized the tremendous value SCVA provides both our members and her students when she said recently:

*“SCVA is valuable to experienced and new teachers- 1) we have the opportunity to grow and learn at the fall in-service. 2) our most dedicated students are provided the opportunity to work together with other like-minded and talented students in the honor choirs. 3) choral festivals teach our students how to listen and appreciate choral and jazz music. 4) soloists have an avenue to have their solos evaluated by experts prior to college auditions. 5) the addition of the sight singing in some of the festivals encourages all of us to continue fostering independence through a cappella sight singing.”*

And Tammi Alderman of San Marino High School adds:

*“SCVA membership has provided me and my students the opportunity to participate in enriching experiences outside of our own school program. My students have participated in honor choirs and festivals every year and have created lasting memories with friends old and new. They take pride in their successes at these events. Thank you SCVA for making these opportunities a reality.”*

### NEW OFFERING FOR OUR MEMBERS - SCVA SUMMER CHATS

Do you sometimes feel isolated and alone in your choir room? Do you wish you had colleagues to discuss your successes and challenges? Need some new ideas from others who do what you do? Come to one of the eight “SCVA Summer Chats” sponsored by SCVA. The brain child of President Elect, Rachelle Randeem, these chats are informal get-togethers around Southern California to connect our members over a cup of coffee or a glass of vino. Just email the coordinator that you are planning to stop by and head on over for some choral camaraderie. See Rachelle’s article in this newsletter for details.

### RENEWALS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER - Renew beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>

Please consider sharing with your colleagues the growing benefits of SCVA membership. This coming year you will be seeing some changes to the process of registering for SCVA events. To register for all events, you will enter your email address and member password. By using these credentials, the registration form will automatically fill with your member information. It will be important to already be a member before registering students for honor choir and all other events, so be sure to renew your membership early in the year. You don’t want to miss all that SCVA has to offer!

# SENIOR HIGH HONOR CHOIR 2017 GET READY!

## Mark your calendars:

- **MONDAY, AUGUST 21** – Online Audition Applications Open
- **FRIDAY, SEPT. 15** – Online Audition Registration Closes
- **TUESDAY, SEPT. 19** – Audition Times/Locations confirmed online
- Preliminary Audition Dates: Saturday, September 23 and Saturday, September 30 (locations TBD)
- **SATURDAY, SEPT. 23 (9am-1pm)** – Audition Option #1 **OR**  
**SATURDAY, SEPT. 30 (12pm-4pm)** – Audition Option #2
- **SATURDAY, OCT. 28 (8am-4pm)** – First Mandatory Rehearsal
- **FRIDAY, NOV. 17-SATURDAY, NOV. 18** – Honor Choir Weekend

*\*Note – check all dates including SAT/ACT tests, sporting events, school & community performing schedules, etc. BEFORE auditioning. See Honor Choir Guidelines at [www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)*

## Introducing our esteemed conductors:



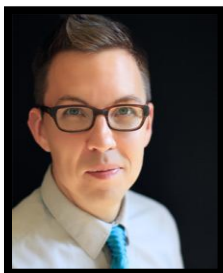
### MEN'S HONOR CHOIR

Bruce Rogers,  
Mt. San Antonio College



### WOMEN'S HONOR CHOIR

Dr. Jaclyn Johnson,  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville



### MIXED HONOR CHOIR

Dr. Joshua Palkki,  
California State University, Long Beach

POST IN YOUR  
CLASSROOM  
TODAY!

DIRECTORS MUST  
BE MEMBERS OF  
SCVA – RENEW  
TODAY!

START PREPARING  
FOR AUDITIONS  
TODAY!

DON'T MISS THIS  
GREAT  
OPPORTUNITY FOR  
MUSICAL GROWTH!

¿HAVE QUESTIONS?

CRYSTAL STONE &  
MATTHEW NETTO

Senior High Honor Choir, VPs

[cstone@powayusd.com](mailto:cstone@powayusd.com)

[matthew\\_netto@jUSD.k12.ca.us](mailto:matthew_netto@jUSD.k12.ca.us)

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

## Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Competition Concert of Finalists

The 2016-2017 SCVA Charles Hirt-Howard Swan Memorial Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Competition was held on Saturday, March 18th at Valencia High School in Santa Clarita, California. It was an inspiring season! Our adjudicators heard over ninety-five vocalists during the preliminary rounds and accepted over forty participants to compete in the finals. It was truly a positive and enlightening experience for these young musicians. We were also delighted to hear from one of our superior ensembles, "Glasses Half Full", directed by Mr. David Montoya. What a treat! Please look for the 2017-2018 Vocal Solo & Small Ensemble announcements in our upcoming SCVA September newsletter. Get involved! Encourage your students to take part in a fantastic performance opportunity! Host a preliminary site and have your students attend a professional master class.

SCVA would like to thank Dr. Zanaida Robles, Lillian Sengpiehl, Dr. Garineh Avakian- Akkus, & Fletcher Sheridan for your wonderful adjudications. See you next year!

"This was my daughter's first SCVA Vocal Solo Competition. It was a wonderful experience! She especially appreciated the feedback from the adjudicators at the preliminary round and in the finals. She also found value in the opportunity to interact with so many wonderful and talented students. Thank you for all your work in making this event a success!"

- Proud Parent

### Congratulations to the Following Students

#### Junior High School Division

\*Kennedy Percival, 1st Place\*  
Top Billing Entertainment School of Music

#### High School Classical Division

\*Elyse Johnson, 1st Place\*  
Orange Co. HS of the Arts

\*Andrew Pringle, 2nd Place\*  
Santa Monica High School

\*Samuel Derro, 3rd Place\*  
Fullerton Union HS  
Academy of the Arts

#### High School Musical Theatre & Vocal Jazz Division

\*Lauren Nesor, 1st Place\*  
Woodbridge High School

\*Alan Rodriguez, 2nd Place\*  
Fullerton Union HS  
Academy of the Arts

\*Jaden Lewis, 3rd Place\*  
Valencia HS



### Schools, Directors and Voice studios represented in the concert of Finalists

Bell Gardens High School, Anne Cherchian  
Carol Tingle Voice Studio  
Fullerton Union High School Academy of the Arts, Scott Hedgecock  
Ladera Vista Junior High School of the Arts, Andrea Calvo  
La Habra High School, David Montoya  
Los Robles Children's Choir, Edward Rouse  
Marisa Rawlins Vocal Studio  
Newbury Park High School, John Sargent  
Orange County High School of the Arts, Sarah Drabant  
Providence High School, Marisa Bradfield  
Santa Monica High School, Jeffe Huls  
Santiago High School, Karen Garrett  
Savanna High School, Leslie Benjamin  
Top Billing Entertainment School of Music, Kristina Keener Ivy  
Valencia High School, Christine Tavares-Mocha  
Westchester Secondary Charter School, Kimberly Gallagher  
West Ranch High School, Molly Peters  
Woodbridge High School, Rob Blaney

### Special Thanks to our Site Hosts

Christine Tavares-Mocha, Valencia High School  
Grace Sheldon-Williams, Glendale High School  
John Sargent, Newbury Park High School  
Scott Hedgecock, Fullerton Union High School Academy of the Arts  
Marisa Bradfield, Providence High School

# 2017 SCVA SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR!

*Patty Breitag, VP - Show Choirs*



SCVA Spectacular returned to Rosemead High School this year and found the Auditorium and Theatre Staff warm and welcoming. The schools, groups and students that participated were treated to fair adjudication by our three distinguished judges: John Wilson, Rollie Maxson and Michael Fenton. My appreciation and thanks goes out to the staff and crew at Rosemead High School and the El Monte City School District, the Advanced Women's Choir/Showchoir from Diamond Bar High School who were the hosts, and the parent volunteers and SCVA Board member who greeted and sold tickets with a warm SCVA welcome! Congratulations to all participants for a job well done!

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION RESULTS**

3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE Bear Valley Unified - *ALTITUDE ADRENALINE*

2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE Valley Middle School - *VALLEY GIRLS*

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE Travis Ranch Middle School - *UP TOWN GIRLS*

**MUSICIANSHIP AND SHOWMANSHIP PLAQUES:** Travis Ranch Middle School - *UPTOWN GIRLS*

## **NOVICE MIXED HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION RESULTS**

2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE Apple Valley High School - *SUNSATIONS*

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE Duarte High School - *CANTABILE*

**MUSICIANSHIP PLAQUE:** Duarte High School - *CANTABILE*

**SHOWMANSHIP PLAQUE:** Apple Valley High School - *SUNSATIONS*

## **INTERMEDIATE WOMEN HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION RESULTS:**

4<sup>TH</sup> PLACE Canyon Springs High School - *TREBLE CHOIR*

3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE Redlands East Valley High School - *SWEET SENSATIONS*

2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE Granada Hills Charter High School - *HERE COMES TREBLE*

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE Troy High School - *LADIES FIRST*

## **INTERMEDIATE MIXED HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION RESULTS:**

4<sup>TH</sup> PLACE Rowland High School - *INFUSION*

3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE Chaparral High School - *PLATINUM FX*

2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE Martin Luther King High School - *SHOW CHOIR*

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE Granada Hills Charter High School - *G-NOTES*

**MUSICIANSHIP AND SHOWMANSHIP PLAQUES –** Granada Hills Charter High School - *G-NOTES*

**Other participants included:** Rowland High School "Charisma", Chaparral High School "Dynamics" and Vista del Lago High School "Vista Voices".

The success of this competition depends on the participation of schools that have teacher memberships in SCVA. Each year many of the same schools support this endeavor and to those directors and students, we thank you! If you are at all interested in starting a show choir or already have a show choir and are looking for a competition that doesn't cost your choir program a fortune; a competition where the competition is equal and competitive, where your students receive a positive and encouraging reception and where adjudication is done by SO-CAL former or present show choir teachers who understand Southern California Show Choir expectations, then please consider our event next spring in 2018!

## Junior High/Middle School/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir

*Marcelo Martínez Marroquín, VP-Junior High/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir*

Thank you to everyone who helped out in any way with the Junior High/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Choir. It was a fun day at Los Alamito High School with students and guest conductor Dr. John St. Marie and accompanist Christopher Luthi. Students showed up eager to learn and have a good time. They were not disappointed! From the moment students arrived to the time they went home, it was a high-energy, fun, music-filled day. 104 students participated, and 23 schools were represented from throughout the Southern California area.



The choir performed some challenging pieces like Paul Halley's "Soldier Won't You Marry Me?" and Renee Clausen's "O My Luve's like a Red, Red Rose." The concert closed with the rousing spiritual "Witness" by Jack Halloran. They also performed Cristian Grases' "Canto de Pilon," Stephen Chatman's "Skidegate Love Song," and W. A. Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus." As students left I heard every song mentioned as a favorite, indicating a well selected and balanced program.

The Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA) Vocal Ensemble opened for the Honor Choir. They performed works by Bernstein and Emma Lou Diemer amongst others, and also did a Broadway set to the student's delight.



It was an honor and joy for me to work with all of your students this year - thank you. The hard work that everyone put forward from teachers, to students, to parents, to our guest conductor and accompanist, were all well worth it. I look forward to working with all of your students next year.

## Vocal Jazz and A-Cappella News

*Christine Tavares-Mocha, VP – Vocal Jazz*

The ***Southern California Vocal Jazz & A Cappella Festival*** was an enormous success this year! Our adjudicators were Christopher Harrison and Fletcher Sheridan. We had 11 schools represented and 15 groups perform. Our headline artists, ***True North*** did an exceptional performance and had an amazing audience of singers and music appreciators!

**Thank you to all the schools who attended!**

Los Angeles University High School  
Encore High School of the Performing Arts  
Royal High School  
Santa Susana High School  
Bellflower High School  
Valencia High School  
Warren High School  
Santa Clarita United Methodist Messengers  
Warren High School  
McAuliffe Middle School  
Legacy Visual and Performing Arts High School



**See you next year!**



# Barbershop Harmony Festivals

*Mark Freedkin, VP of Barbershop Harmony Festivals*

## Young Men's Harmony Festival

The **Masters of Harmony** held their 17th Annual **Young Men's Harmony Festival** on Saturday, February 11 at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. We had 193 young men from 26 schools throughout Southern California in attendance, including several first-time schools. The feedback from students, parents and choral directors has been extremely positive. The evening show was fantastic, and it featured the young men's chorus; quartets, small ensembles and soloists from ten different schools; guest quartet The Newfangled Four; and the Masters of Harmony, culminating with a combined finale with around 280 singers on stage. This year's event brings our 17-year total to nearly 3,500 students who have participated in one or more of our festivals.



Investigations are already underway for next year's festival, which is tentatively planned for Saturday, February 10, 2018. Please watch the SCVA website for more information as it becomes available.

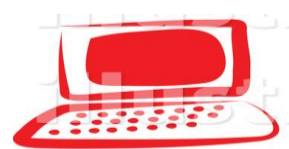
## Diva Day (Young Women's Festival)

On February 4th at Orange Coast College, the **Harborlites Chorus** welcomed over 200 high school-aged young women from 24 schools to our 12th Annual Young Women in Harmony "**Diva Day**" Festival. We are grateful for the many returning schools that are carrying on the tradition of participation in our Festival.

The girls participated in a full day of fun and fellowship where they learned the joys of singing and performing four-part harmony, barbershop style. Under the direction of clinician Jennifer Cooke, the singers spent the day in chorus and section rehearsals, and learned choreography to three songs. One of the highlights of the day was our High School Quartet Showcase; six quartets performed for their peers, and two of those quartets were chosen to appear on the evening show.

The Festival's show was well attended by family and friends. They enjoyed the performances of the "Diva Day" chorus, various chapter quartets, and the Harborlites Chorus. The best part of the show is always the finale, where our Divas join the Harborlites Chorus on stage for our final song – a rewarding experience after a fun-filled day of harmony.

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## WEBSITE UPDATE

*Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster*

The first year of our new website design has been an overwhelming success, and we appreciate all of the great feedback we received from everyone. We will continue making improvements to the SCVA website so it can keep providing valuable information and services to our members.

Some very exciting things will be happening over the summer months that will help improve the efficiency of registering for several SCVA activities. In particular, the on-line application forms for Festival Hosts, Festival Registrations, Show Choir and Vocal Jazz Festival will use your Members Only credentials (e-mail address and your customized password) to automatically pre-populate all of your information directly from our Membership database. This will streamline the process of submitting on-line applications for those activities, since you won't need to re-enter information that you already provided when you renewed your SCVA membership. It will also solve the numerous problems that we've had when directors use multiple e-mail address. Of course, this means that you will need to renew your SCVA membership and pay your annual membership dues prior to using those on-line applications. Similarly, all Honor Choir and Vocal Solo audition applications will also require a current SCVA membership and dues payment from the singer's choral director before the applications can be submitted.

We will also be implementing an automatic Wait-List feature for Festival Registrations, which will allow more singers to participate in our festivals as any cancellations occur during the November-to-March timeframe.

# Jazz and A Cappella Resources

## Planning your retreat calendar

*Christine Tavares-Mocha*

It's Summer Time! After you take a few weeks to recharge and it's time to plan your school calendar for the next year, consider looking into non-competitive jazz festivals in the Southern California Area. These festivals have options of being non-graded, followed by a clinic, which always helps your students learn. It also allows your students time to bond. I always build a retreat into these weekends when I choose to take my students. After experiencing first hand the below non-competitive, non-placed festivals, here is more information on each as you consider what would be appropriate/ a "good-fit" for your group.

❖ **Cuesta Vocal Jazz Festival** – Non-competitive with great sound (solo and choir microphones available) Students have a 20 minute clinic with college directors and encourage growth within the group. This year's featured performer will be Cal State Long Beach Pacific Standard Time Vocal Jazz Ensemble. A rhythm section is available for live accompaniment (piano, bass, drums) if requested in advance. (Fall, 2017)

❖ **SCVA Vocal Jazz / A Cappella Festival** – A Cappella and Vocal Jazz groups alike from novice to advanced are showcased on wireless microphones. An "in-house" clinic follows on stage in front of other groups within the audience so that all groups can learn in the room. Adjudicators are encouraging and help novice to advance students reach their best sound. A rhythm section is available for live accompaniment (piano, bass, drums) if requested in advance. Featured performers will be announced in August 2018. (Late Winter, 2018)

❖ **Oceanside Jazz Festival** – A unique festival that starts on a Thursday night with a improvisation / standard singing "jam" – very encouraging to new and advanced singers alike. Students participate in bringing charts or improvising over 12 bar blues with a college led rhythm section. Friday and Saturday, students perform on wireless microphones with great sound, sound engineer, and a half hour private clinic following the performance. A rhythm section is available for live accompaniment (piano, bass, drums) if requested in advance. And, the New York Voices will be the featured performers!!! (Spring, 2018)

Want more information, or have another non-competitive festival to suggest? Email me, Christine Tavares-Mocha at [cmocha@hartdistrict.org](mailto:cmocha@hartdistrict.org)

Happy Restful Summer Vacation, see you in the Fall!





# SCVA Summer Chats

## **Saturday, June 10, 2017 - 9:30 am**

Host - Rachele Randeem, rrandeen@gmail.com

Topic - What worked this year!

Panera @ The Crossings

2580 Tuscany Street, Corona, CA 92881

<https://www.panerabread.com/en-us/home.html>

## **Wednesday, June 14, 2017 - 4 pm**

Host - Matt Netto, matthew\_netto@jUSD.k12.ca.us

Topic - What worked this year!

Twisted Vine

127 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton, CA 92832

<http://www.twistedvinewines.com/>

## **Saturday, June 17, 2017 - 2 pm**

Host - Molly Peters, mepeters79@gmail.com

Topic - What worked this year!

Venice Ale House

2 Rose Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

<http://www.venicealehouse.com/>

## **Saturday, July 8, 2017 - 2pm**

Host - Molly Peters, mepeters79@gmail.com

Topic - Goals and more.

Golden Road Brewery

5410 W San Fernando Rd, Los Angeles, CA 90039

<http://goldenroad.la/>

## **Tuesday, July 11, 2017 - 1 pm**

Host - Rachele Randeem, rrandeen@gmail.com

Topic - Goals and more.

Wilson Creek Winery

35960 Rancho California Road, Temecula, CA 92591

<http://www.wilsoncreekwinery.com/>

Bring cheese / crackers to share. We will meet in the seating area across the bridge in the grassy area with tables.

## **Saturday, August 12, 2017 - 2 pm**

Host - Molly Peters, mepeters79@gmail.com

Topic - Repertoire, or TBD

Venice Ale House

2 Rose Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

<http://www.venicealehouse.com/>

## **Thursday, August 10, 2017 - 3 pm**

Host - Rachele Randeem, rrandeen@gmail.com

Topic - Repertoire

Stone Church Brewing

2785 Cabot Drive, Suite 160, Corona, CA 92881

<http://www.stonechurchbrewing.com/>

## **Tuesday, August 15, 2017 - 4 pm**

Host - Matt Netto, matthew\_netto@jUSD.k12.ca.us

Topic - Repertoire

Twisted Vine

127 W Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton, CA 92832

<http://www.twistedvinewines.co>



Created by MJ



## **Festival Season Exploding at the Seams!**

*Melva Morrison – Festivals II*



SCVA has developed such a fantastic festival season that we are experiencing “growing pains”! We had **437** festival registrations representing **15,245** singers this year. **12** festivals offered a sight reading component (middle and high school levels). A variety of choices in types of festivals/clinics was offered in a variety of places. It is amazing to watch how quickly our festivals fill up when the timeline opens for registrations and astonishing how many wonderful choir directors step up to host!

We are continuing our efforts to make festivals accessible. Directors now can change sight reading level and voicing choices up to 14 days prior to their festival (**thank you, Mark!**). We are working on the possibility of a waitlist for closed festivals and adding a change of festival request form (**thank you, Nancy!**). We need your input to help resolve some of our “growing pain” consequences as in; a limit on the number of festivals occurring in one region and a limit on the number of festivals that can occur in one day (**thank you Jennifer!**).

**Be prepared for a couple of changes for next year.** We may request that festival hosts provide a second choice of date to assist in scheduling and SCVA membership dues must be paid BEFORE registering for festivals. There are SO many details to attend to that we want to make the whole process as smooth as possible for all concerned. Our festival organization is highly regarded by other regions and groups. **Let’s continue to hone the process together as we expand this vital element of our SCVA organization!**

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## Southern California Vocal Association

Santiago High School Attn: Karen Garrett

1395 Foothill Parkway, Corona, CA 92881

[www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org) / email: [scvemail@yahoo.com](mailto:scvemail@yahoo.com)



### IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

HS Honor Choir Online Registration Opens	August 21, 2017
HS Honor Choir Online Registration Closes	September 15, 2017
HS Honor Choir Audition Times/Locations Posted Online	September 19, 2017
HS Honor Choir Audition Date - Various Sites	September 23, 2017
HS Honor Choir Audition Date - Various Sites	September 30, 2017
HS Honor Choir Rehearsal	October 28, 2017
HS Honor Choir Weekend @ University of Redlands	November 17-18, 2017
Young Men's Harmony Festival	February 10, 2018