



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VOCAL ASSOCIATION
JUNE, 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tammi Alderman

Finish, Pause, Celebrate!

I am feeling an assortment of emotions in the quiet, empty space of my classroom at the end of this school year. Feelings of excitement, exhaustion, joy, anxiety, peace, and relief are all equally present. I am glad to finally wrap up another year and begin a well-deserved summer break, and yet some sadness fills my thoughts as I remember each student, the family we built, the successes, and the challenges.

The Importance of Pausing

This year, we, as choral music teachers, handled multiple tasks simultaneously. We supported students as they reflected on their accomplishments. We created fantastic spring concerts. We provided students with the skills they need to move on to whatever their next step might be. We valiantly waded through the rigorous pace and endless tasks of the final weeks. Now, we need to take the time to pause, hit the reset button, be more present, fully acknowledge the moments, thoughts, and emotions that are an important part of the end of the school year.

The Importance of Celebrating

During the final weeks of school, we devote time to planning concerts, activities, reflections, and celebrations with students to maintain the sense of choral family. Creating, guiding, and nurturing a community of learners through a school year is an incredible accomplishment that we can sometimes forget is also worth celebrating! We need to take the time to celebrate our own successes and connect with colleagues to support our adult community. What are some of the moments of the school year that stand out? What are some of the challenges that yielded success? Celebrating the successes of the year helps end the year on a positive note. Here are just a few ways to consider:

- Set aside time to connect with school colleagues to celebrate the year you've had together.
- Go to an SCVA Summer Chat and share your successes with other choral music teachers.
- Save all the positive cards and emails in a "Go Team" folder. Read them as you start programming for the next year.
- Find a conference or seminar (in-person or virtual) to find new repertoire or re-energize your teaching "bag of tricks."
- Do those things with your family and friends that never happen because rehearsals and performances seem to get in the way.

Taking time to pause for reflection and celebrate the successes of the year helps ensure that you can end the year, enjoy your summer, and start the fall in a more refreshed mental and emotional state.

Edited from "The End of the School Year: A Time to Pause and Celebrate Successes," by Jane Cofie, June 2019.

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Membership

SAVE *the* DATE

OCTOBER 27, 2023 - SCVA FALL IN-SERVICE
GLENDALE CITY CHURCH

Headline Clinician - Maria A. Ellis
"Girl Conductor"



Sessions include a reading session with Dr. Zanaida Robles and Reena Esmail, and elementary music sessions.

Congratulations to Our SCVA Future Choral Educators!



Emily Bouvet

Vista Murrieta High
School
\$1000 Scholarship
University of Redlands



Maria Mendoza

Orange Vista High
School
\$1000 Scholarship
Riverside City College



Samantha Castro

Garden Grove High
School
\$1000 Scholarship
Fullerton City College

2023 SCVA FESTIVAL ADJUDICATION WRAP-UP & SUMMARY

Alan Garcia, VP of Festival Adjudication

It has been a tremendous honor completing my first year as the VP of Festival Adjudication! I want to thank the festivals team, Kenneth Haro and Dan Martensen for all their work in organizing our festivals, as well as Mark Freedkin for all his work as webmaster. I also want to thank all of the festival hosts and adjudicators who dedicated their time and service to our festivals! We look forward to working with all of you next year!

Festival Ratings	2023		2022		2019	
	Amt	%	Amt	%	Amt	%
Superior	127	55%	166	57%	242	58%
Excellent	70	30%	101	34%	167	40%
Good/Participant	3	1%	15	5%	11	2%
Total	231		293		420	

SR Ratings	2023		2022		2019	
	Amt	%	Amt	%	Amt	%
Superior	55	77%	48	74%	89	66%
Excellent	6	8%	12	18%	39	29%
Good/Participant	4	5%	4	8%	7	5%
Total	71		65		135	

UPCOMING DEADLINES FOR 2023-2024

PROSPECTIVE FESTIVAL HOSTS

Festival Host Registration will *open* on July 1st, 2023!
Festival Registration will *close* on October 1st, 2023!

PROSPECTIVE FESTIVAL ADJUDICATORS

SCVA is seeking talented individuals to serve as sight-reading adjudicators, festival adjudicators, and festival clinicians. If you are passionate about serving as an adjudicator, consider joining our team!

We are looking for adjudicators who are able to fulfill the following job description:

1. Provide choral adjudications (written and spoken) to school choirs at all levels in a fast, clear, and encouraging manner.
2. Adjudications will provide positive, meaningful feedback in all categories of the adjudication form.
3. Make specific and encouraging comments focused on promoting the choir's improvement.
4. Complete adjudications professionally, promptly, and as directed.

Applicants will be evaluated based on the achievement of these objectives. **To serve as an adjudicator for Spring 2024, applications should be submitted by November 30th, 2023.**

The application process can be accessed via the following link: http://scvachoral.org/festival_adjudicator_reg.php

If you know of any colleagues to recommend as a potential adjudicator, please e-mail their name and contact information to Alan Garcia at garcia_al@auhsd.us.

PROSPECTIVE FESTIVAL REGISTRANTS

Registration for festivals will *open* on October 15th, 2023!

2023 Most Frequently Performed Repertoire

In the order of most frequently performed

Yo Le Canto Todo El Dia - David L. Brunner
Homeward Bound - Jay Althouse
Sisi Ni Moja - Jacob Narverud
Johnny Said No! - Vijay Singh
If Ye Love Me - Thomas Tallis
Witness - Jack Halloran
Hotaru Koi - Ro Ogura
Esto Les Digo - Kinley Lange
Dirait-On - Morten Lauridsen
Oh! What a Beautiful City - Rollo Dilworth
J'entends Le Moulin - arr. Emily Crocker
Vox - Greg Gilpin
Twa Tanbou - Sydney Guillaume
Non Nobis Domine - Rosephanye Powell
Battle of Jericho - arr. Moses Hogan
Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel? - Arr. Greg Gilpin
Bonse Aba - Andrew Fischer
Tarekita - Reena Esmail
Lightning! - Greg Gilpin
Daemon Irreplit Callidus - Gyorgy Orban
Shoshone Love Song - Roger Emerson
No Time - Susan Brumfield
Cantate Domino - Hans Leo Hassler
Fa Una Canoza - Orazio Vecchi arr. Parker and Shaw
Ubi Caritas - Ola Gjeilo
My Soul's Been Anchored In The Lord - arr. Moses Hogan
O Magnum Mysterium - Evan Ramos
Laudate Dominum - Dan Davison
Salmo 150 - Ernani Aguiar
Where The Light Begins - arr. Susan LaBarr
Bring Me Little Water, Silvy - arr. Moira Smiley
Elijah Rock - arr. Moses Hogan



High School
HONOR CHOIR
2023

Audition Adjudicators Needed!

Help facilitate positive audition experiences for our region's students!

Receive a \$150 stipend, or the ability to waive a Festival Participation Fee in 2024.

[Apply to Adjudicate at scvachoral.org/honor_choir.php](https://scvachoral.org/honor_choir.php)

Audition Sites:

Sept 30, 9am-1pm

Citrus Valley HS
Warren HS
Vista Murrietta HS
Fullerton Union HS

Fallbrook HS
California Baptist Univ.
The Bishop's School
Los Osos HS
Portola HS

Oct 7, 12pm-4pm

San Juan Hills HS
Knight HS
Troy HS
Canyon HS (Santa Clarita, Not Anaheim)
Temple City HS

SCVAHONORCHOIR@GMAIL.COM

High School HONOR CHOIR 2023

Bethany Encina, Kristen Walton
HS Honor Choir VPs

2023 Conductors:

John Byun (TTBB)

Dr. Joseph Modica (SSAA)

Dr. Jace Saplan (SATB)

Anyone who knows me knows that I am passionate about Honor Choir. My students know that if they're selected to sing with our advanced choirs, I expect them to audition, and that I will hassle them about it relentlessly if they drag their feet filling out an audition application.

I have my reasons - High School Honor Choir was the first SCVA Event I ever experienced as a brand new teacher. I showed up, ready to help in any way I could, with no idea what was going on, and was instantly roped into hosting the SSAA Choir, Directed by Dr. Arlie Langager. I then proceeded to be inspired for two days straight, and to have my understanding of the capabilities of teenagers basically quadrupled. And I ultimately spent the next nine years as close to the event as I could be.



I know that if I'd had the opportunity to participate in SCVA Honor Choir when I was 15 or 16, I would have immediately known what I wanted to do for a living. I want my students to have that opportunity. I want them to see what they're capable of, and I want them to be inspired by the amazing conductors we're able to introduce them to.

Over the years I've seen how this experience can impact *all* of my choirs. Honor Choir students often return to our school inspired to step it up a level. Their enthusiasm is contagious and their new vision for how things could be manifests itself in good habits, which they pass on to their peers. Below are some of my thoughts on preparing my students for Honor Choir auditions. I hope you find them helpful and are encouraged to send your students to audition in 2023!



Application: I fill out my students' applications for them. Many of them find the online process intimidating so, after ensuring that both they and their adults at home understand the expectations for applying, I collect the information I need from them and fill it out for them. This is a bit of a pain, and of course I want them to be independent, but it's worth doing for them the first time. I usually find that after a student has participated once, they see the value in doing the legwork to apply without my help.



Adjudicating: I have learned so much from serving as an adjudicator. Watching audition after audition, you tend to pick up on common pitfalls and bits of wisdom you can pass along to your students. You also learn the flow of the audition process and can accustom your students to it easily so they know what to expect. Please consider joining our team of adjudicators this year!

Art Song: Each of my choirs learns an art song together in unison. I offer them the sheet music and accompaniment recordings in both high and low keys so they can practice in their preferred range at home, but I find that for many of the simpler art songs with limited range, the lower key is

comfortable for most young singers. My favorite quick-learn pieces are *Nel cor piu non mi sento*, *Nina*, *An die Musik*, *Du bist wie eine Blume*, *Dolce Scherza* and *Tu lo sai*. But there are so many others out there if you're willing to do a quick Google search or reach out to an online community for suggestions! All of these offer great opportunities for honing technique, which is so helpful and appropriate at the beginning of the year. Added bonus: at the end of four years, my seniors have four art songs prepared for college auditions!

Music Theory: This one's easy. It takes 5 minutes to sing through the Major Scale, Major Triad, Minor Triad, Chromatic Scale, and do 4 tonal memory examples together. We just do it every day in the Fall as part of our warm up. My more confident singers will volunteer to sing a tonal memory phrase as soloists for an added challenge. Their willingness to possibly get it wrong is priceless.

Sight Reading: I cannot recommend Sight Reading Factory enough. If you can afford student accounts, buy them (your administrators might be interested in the opportunity to help you supply an assessment tool that integrates technology into choir so well). I never assign mandatory solo sight reading, but the assignment option allows me to provide feedback to students who want it, and it really helps me make choices about how I teach sight reading to the class in general. Even the free option is well worth using, so I recommend spending the five minutes it takes to introduce to them (sightreadingfactory.com)!

Volunteer! We always need hands on deck during Honor Choir weekend, especially for octet testing on Thursday morning. Please plan to sign up for a volunteer position so you can learn from our brilliant slate of conductors, provide a great experience for your own students, and get connected with other fantastic music educators from around our region. We hope to see you there!

Bethany Encina

High School Honor Choir VPI
scvahonorchoir@gmail.com



All photos: Sydni Randeem.

MIDDLE SCHOOL / 9TH GRADE HONOR CHOIR

Sammy Salvador



On Saturday, May 6th, 2023, 74 students performed a beautiful concert program at Portola High School dedicated to a message of unity under the direction of Dr. Ángel Vázquez-Ramos. The students had a wonderful time through an engaging and thought-provoking rehearsal experience! This program also featured the incredible Portola Singers, under the direction of the incredible Mr. Adrian Rangel-Sanchez.

This transformative experience could not have been possible without the help of several people! First and foremost, I'd like to thank Mr. Marcelo Martinez, who put in countless hours into this event prior to stepping away for his health. This event would not be possible without your guidance and leadership. I would also like to thank all the directors that encouraged and prepared their students to audition and helped them throughout the learning process. I'd like to thank Kevin Jeffries-Phan and Patrick Williams for their work on piano and French horn, as well as the volunteers who graciously gave of their time to help at both the regional rehearsal and concert. This event would also not be possible without the incredible generosity of Mr. Adrian Rangel-Sanchez and Portola High School for offering their beautiful facility and for their help throughout the day! And of course, a huge thank you to Dr. Ángel Vázquez-Ramos for sharing his gifts with our students. Each student sang at such a high caliber that was only possible under your artistic direction. Thank you so much!



Summer Chats!



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**BE SURE TO  
REGISTER ON  
SCVACHORAL.ORG**  
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June 24, 2023 @ 6pm
Island Brewing Company
5049 6th St. Carpinteria, CA 93013
Host: Gabriel Di Gennaro

July 13, 2023 @ 5pm
Glendora Public Market
905 E. Arrow HWY, Glendora, CA 91740
Host: Jared Pugh

July 18, 2023 @ 5pm
A Hidden Vine
27772 Vista Del Lago Suite B-15, Mission Viejo, CA 92691
Host: Michael Ushino

July 28, 2023 @ 5pm
Punch Bowl Social at Victoria Gardens
12635 N Mainstreet, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739
Host: Bethany Encina

August 5, 2023 @ 5pm
Leininger Residence
6162 Lake Lindero Drive, Agoura Hills, CA 91301
Host: Laura Leininger
Wear Blue For International Blues Day & Bring an
Appetizer!



Happy RETIREMENT

Please join SCVA in congratulating our 2023 retirees!



Lisa Friedrichs

**31 Years of Service
Rancho Bernardo High School**



Karen Garrett

**26 Years of Service
Santiago High School**



Craig Gahnz

Palm Desert High School



Marti Martinez

Mt. Carmel High School



Laura Taylor

**37 Years of Service
Griffiths Middle School**



Grace Sheldon-Williams

**36 Years of Service
Glendale High School**



Michael Short

**44 Years of Service
Orange High School**



Wendy Stokes

**35 Years of Service
Lorbeer Middle School**

**Dr. Hanan Yaqub
43 years of Service
Trinity Presbyterian Church
of Santa Ana**

**Diana Vandergriff
16 Years of Service
Jurupa Hills High School
2022 Retiree**



Vocal Solo Competition 2023 Winners



CONGRATULATIONS!

Middle School Division

- Zoe Lopez
- Karla Sandhu

High School Classical

- Jaxson Glowachi, 1st Place
- Trinity Dela Cruz, 2nd Place
- Mika Silander, 3rd Place

High School Commercial/Jazz Voice

- Helen Martinez, 1st Place
- Andrea Ferrer, 2nd Place
- Stella Cockstrum, 3rd Place

High School Musical Theatre

- Lucy Winzenried, 1st Place
- Mackenzie Lingle, 2nd Place
- Logan Reddick, 3rd Place

SCHOOLS, DIRECTORS, AND VOICE STUDIOS REPRESENTED IN THE FINAL ROUND

Blair Middle and High School, Monica Benson
Brentwood School, Charlie Kim
Chaffey High School, Nathaniel Brown
El Dorado High School, Katie Villarreal
Fullerton Union High School Academy of the
Arts, Stacey Kikkawa
Heritage Christian School, Karen Lee
Laura Jean Music Academy, Laura Saggars
Newbury Park High School, John Sargent
Providence High School, Marisa Bradfield
Ramon C. Cortines School for the Visual and
Performing Arts, Drew Lewis
Rio Norte Junior High, Jeffrey Gilbert
Saugus High School, Kaitlin Holt
Verdugo Hills Women's Chorus, California
Women's Chorus, Ki Park
Vista Heights Middle School, Fahimeh
Mehrabkhani



SCVA Vocal Jazz & Contemporary A Capella

Festival

2023

*Thank you for attending the
festival and making it great!*

Next years festival will take place in February or
March. Registration will open January of 2024 at
https://www.scvachoral.org/jazz_festival.php
Details will be updated at that link by August 2023





**Congrats to all the choirs,
directors, choreographers
and judges on an amazing
Show Choir Competition !**



**SCVA SHOW CHOIR
SPECTACULAR 2023**

2023

CLOSE HARMONY FESTIVAL

Thank you
Teachers!!



MARCO RODRIGUEZ

VP Close Harmony Festival



ZACHARY LINDQUIST

Guest Director

thank you everyone!

SEE YOU | NEXT | YEAR!!



Tips for auditioning for the Vocal Jazz Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir 2023:

- 1) Practice singing your major and minor triads
- 2) Practice singing your chromatic and blues scale
- 3) Select a jazz standard that best showcases your voice and practice singing it a cappella
- 4) Learn your designated voice part for "Easy Love"

Audition portal opens: August 21st, 2023

Audition deadline: September 17th, 2023 at 11:59 PM



All of the updated audition information can be found on our
website:

scvachoral.org/vocal_jazz_honor_choir.php

We look forward to hearing your audition submissions in August!

Please email Mrs. Logsdon with any questions:
saralogsdon12@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

	2023
Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir Audition Portal Opens	August 21
High School Honor Choir Applications Open Online	August 18
High School Honor Choir Applications Close	September 15
Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir Audition Deadline	September 17
High School Honor Choir Auditions	September 30 (am)
High School Honor Choir Auditions	October 7 (pm)
SCVA Fall In-Service	October 27
High School Honor Choir Weekend	November 16 – 18
Adjudicator Application Deadline for Submission	November 30

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



**Juan-Jose
Garcia II**
Jordan High School



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

▶ Tell us about yourself:

My name is Juan-Jose Garcia II and I teach at Jordan High School (JHS). I am currently in my 8th year as the Director of Guitar & Choral Activities.

▶ Describe the structure of your program: (size, schedule, ensemble voicings):

- 3 Choral Ensembles
- Concert Choir- SAB/ Three-Part Mixed
- Chamber Singers- SSAA
- Vocal Jazz Ensemble- SAB/ Three-Part Mixed

▶ What about your program are you most proud of:

I am most proud of my students. They bring the best energy and are always willing to learn something new. They continue to inspire me to be better because they keep on trying to better people themselves. We have worked hard to keep the ensemble a safe, healthy environment and everyone does their part to make sure everyone feels supported and loved.

▶ Favorite repertoire you have recently programed:

- "Jamba"- Teddy Kalanda Harrison & Jacob Naverud | "Shout Glory"- Byron J. Smith |
- "J'entend Le Moulin"- Emily Crocker | "Si Tu Suenas"- Francisco J. Nunez & Jim Papoullis |
- "Hold Fast To Dreams"- Susan LaBarr | "This Is Me"- Mac Huff | "The Road Home"- Stephen Paulus

▶ Tell us about your life outside the classroom:

Full Time Dad, part time gamer. I spend as much time with my wife and two daughters as possible. We try to take the girls everywhere we can for them to experience all that life has to offer. From Drive-in Movies to Disneyland, traveling across the states, and so much more, we try to keep these girls busy and having fun along the way. I am also the High School/ Middle School Event Coordinator for the Long Beach Camerata Singers in Long Beach, CA. It has been a great opportunity as I am able to reach out to our greater Long Beach community and create experiences that affect the students across LBUSD.