



Southern California Vocal Association

August 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael Ushino

Welcome back!

As we embark on a new school year together, I want to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Michael Ushino and I will be starting my 11th year as the choral director at San Juan Hills High School. I'm thrilled to serve you and our choral community as President of the Southern California Vocal Association starting this year for the 2024-2026 term. I am proud to serve alongside my colleagues on the SCVA board and I hope that I get a chance to meet you in person at an SCVA event in the future.

I've had the privilege of serving on the SCVA board for several years in different capacities and I am continually impressed by the dedication of our SCVA board members who volunteer their time to create amazing events for our students while running choral programs of their own. Please take a moment to read through this newsletter to see all the exciting events that we have planned this year, and we have more exciting projects in the works.

To be frank, no one in education understands our profession. No one understands how difficult it is to corral students to create choral music together. No one understands the long hours spent by ourselves listening to choral music catalogs and score prepping. No one understands how difficult it is to recruit singers with other activities on campus like academics, athletics, theatre, band, orchestra, dance, and clubs are vying for our students' attention. And when we finally convince some of those students to join our class, we are fighting for their attention with cell phones and social media getting in the way.

We are fighting the good fight. On many days, it can be a very thankless and emotionally draining profession. However, we do it because there is something that is undeniably fulfilling about our work that only other choral directors understand. More than ever, we must support each other, listen to each other, share with one another, and grow with everyone as we adapt to a new generation of students entering our rehearsal halls.

I am proud of the work that we've accomplished as a field through the challenges endured from pandemic-era education and the years of recovery. I am even more excited for the work that we will accomplish together moving forward. My hope is for all of us is to feel a little more connected, supported, and empowered to help students grow to become the best versions of themselves. Please feel free to reach out to me at miushino@capousd.org as I would love to connect with all of you. Wishing you good luck and success this year. Let's do this!

*"We are what we repeatedly do, therefore, excellence is not an act, but a habit."
- Aristotle*

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VP - Close Harmony Festival

[Erika Jackson](#)
Membership



SCVA

2024 FALL

IN-SERVICE

A day filled with practical information, repertoire, and skills that directors of any experience level can use in the classroom tomorrow.



Lori Marie Rios
College of the Canyons

GUEST PRESENTERS



Na Young Shin
VAPA TOSA
Garden Grove USD



Karen Garrett
Conductor, Educator
Cal Baptist University



Kim Nason
Elementary Specialist
CSU Fullerton

Sessions

- ✓ Music Literacy with a Dash of Fun
- ✓ Finding Music, How???
- ✓ Real Talk from Your Collaborative Pianist
- ✓ How to Build an Effective Relationship with your Administrators
- ✓ So, You Teach Elementary Music Now - tips, tricks and things to try
- ✓ A Nested Hierarchy for Teaching the Voice
- ✓ Score Study... What??? (Score Study for When You Have No Time)



September 20, 2024 | 9-3:30

St. Mark Presbyterian
2200 San Joaquin Hills Rd
Newport Beach, CA

Early Registration: \$75 (deadline September 10)

Late Registration: \$85 (after September 10)

Student Registration: \$20 (includes 1 year student membership)

REGISTER AT: scvachoral.org/fall_inservice.php

Festivals

REGISTER TO HOST A FESTIVAL

Why should you host a festival?

- You can choose your own festival date!
- No need to worry about transportation!
- No need to worry about field trip transportation forms!
- You are given one free ensemble registration for every festival that you host!
- SCVA provides all the adjudicators for you!
- Hosting is FREE!

**DON'T FORGET ABOUT
SIGHT-READING**



We need more sight-reading hosts!

The procedure:

After your performance, your ensemble will be escorted into a different room to be challenged privately to a sight-reading level based on the directors choosing.

These levels range from basic unison through advanced four-part level reading.

The experience is extremely supportive!

IMPORTANT DATES!

October 1st

Festival registration closes

October 14th

Festival registration opens to SCVA community



High School HONOR CHOIR!

**November 7th-9th at Univ. of Redlands*

**Don't miss your
opportunity to
sing outstanding
music with our
phenomenal
line-up of guest
conductors!**



*Dr. Jonathan
Talberg*
SATB Honor Choir



*Dr. Lynne
Gackle*
SSAA Honor Choir



*Dr. Ángel
Vázquez-Ramos*
TTBB Honor Choir

Audition Includes:

- Prepared Italian, French, German or Spanish Art Song
- Major Scale, Major Triad, Minor Triad, Chromatic Scale
- Tonal Memory
- Sight Reading

**See complete audition guidelines at scvachoral.org.*

Coordinators

Kristen Walton, VP1
Miranda Ford, VP2
scvahonorchoir@gmail.com

***Audition Registration
Now Open!***

scvachoral.org

***Auditions
Sept 21 & Sept 28***



SCVA VOCAL JAZZ & CONTEMPORARY A CAPELLA FESTIVAL



Save the Date!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025
SAUGUS HIGH SCHOOL, SANTA CLARITA

Clinicians:

Teryn Carter (Cal State Fullerton)

Kris Ornelas (College of the Canyons)

Performer:

JANE MONHEIT



AFTER MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS,
TWELVE STUDIO ALBUMS AND
COUNTLESS RECORDED GUEST
APPEARANCES, JANE HAS CONTINUED
TO TOUR THE WORLD NEARLY
NONSTOP, INCLUDING PLAYING ICONIC
VENUES SUCH AS CARNEGIE HALL, THE
HOLLYWOOD BOWL, AND HEADLINING
AT NEARLY EVERY LEGENDARY JAZZ
CLUB ON THE PLANET

www.janemonheitonline.com/about

You CAN host an SCVA Sight Reading Festival

Hosting a festival for the first time can seem overwhelming, and the added space and logistics of hosting a sightreading festival are understandably off-putting to some. But hosting is a wonderful way to get involved in our choral community, educate your administrators about the culture of choral music and (importantly) exercise your **STUDENT LEADERS!**

You do not need to have a fully-formed Student Leadership team to get your students involved in the running of an event on your campus. Our teens *desire* responsibility and contribution, and giving them well-prepared instructions and structure will allow them to flex their developing leadership muscles.

Please feel free to use these **Festival Hosting Resources**, developed during my time at Los Osos High School. Many thanks to the many directors I gleaned this wisdom from over the years by attending their fantastic festivals, in particular Rachele Randeem. Happy Hosting!

Bethany Encina
President Elect

WEBSITE UPDATE

Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster

Your E-mail Address Matters

When you registered or renewed your annual SCVA Membership, you specified your work or personal e-mail address, both of which are unique to you. In some cases, you might have multiple e-mail address aliases for your school, but you must always standardize on the one that you used for your SCVA Membership.

When your students register to participate in an SCVA event, they should use the same e-mail address that you used when you created or renewed your Annual SCVA Membership. The system validates your e-mail address and verifies that your SCVA Membership Dues have been paid. Our systems will reject any student applications (such as Honor Choirs or Vocal Solo Competition) that don't use your primary e-mail address.

When that happens, the application is discarded and there is nothing that we can do to recover it. Instead, it is your responsibility to ensure that your singers use **ONLY** your primary e-mail address that is associated with your SCVA membership. In addition, when we have application deadlines, we cannot accept a claim that a student used the wrong e-mail address or if they had some Internet connectivity problems. It is as if they had not submitted any application at all. This is another great reason to teach your students that waiting until the last minute to submit their applications is not a very good idea.

On a related note, when your students use that primary email address for their audition applications, you can view all of the applications for your students by logging in to the Members-Only area of the website. You can also view all of your Festival Registrations on that page once we open the Festival Registration process.



Introducing the SCVA 2024 Vocal Jazz Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir Director: Jamie Shew!

**AUDITIONS GO
LIVE:
AUGUST 19TH,
2024**

**AUDITION
DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 15TH,
2024 AT 11:59 PM**



**HONOR CHOIR
WEEKEND:
NOVEMBER
14TH-15TH, 2024**



JAMIE SHEW IS AN ACCOMPLISHED VOCALIST, RECORDING ARTIST, EDUCATOR, PIANIST, COMPOSER, AND ARRANGER. IN ADDITION TO A RICH PERFORMANCE CAREER, JAMIE IS ALSO IN HER 22ND YEAR AS COORDINATOR OF VOCAL JAZZ STUDIES AT FULLERTON COLLEGE IN FULLERTON, CA. SHE IS ALSO AN IN-DEMAND ADJUDICATOR AND CLINICIAN FOR JAZZ FESTIVALS THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE, HAS SERVED AS THE PAST SCVA VOCAL JAZZ CHAIR, AND HAS DIRECTED BOTH THE CALIFORNIA AND WASHINGTON ALL-STATE VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLES.

**EMAIL BRITTNEY@WESCAMILLO.COM OR VISIT
SCVACHORAL.ORG/VOCAL_JAZZ_HONOR_CHOIR.PHP**



MIDDLE SCHOOL/9TH GRADE HONOR CHOIR 2024-2025

Important Dates

✦ **Saturday January 25th**
Audition Weekend #1
Locations TBD

✦ **Saturday February 1st**
Audition Weekend #2
Locations TBD

✦ **Saturday March 15th**
Regional Rehearsal
Dr. Augustine Ramirez Intermediate School
Eastvale, CA

✦ **Saturday May 3rd**
Rehearsal Day and Final Concert
Portola High School
Irvine, CA

AUDITION
HOSTS
NEEDED!

Kim Nason
Conductor



OPEN TO ALL
6TH-9TH
GRADERS!

Close Harmony Festival 2025



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday February 22, 2025

Contact

https://www.scvachoral.org/close_harmony_festival.php

marcoantoniorodriguezjr@gmail.com



Fun Fact

The music originated in the late 1800s in African American communities of the South, with deep ties to jazz musical techniques. (And yes, it really was sung in barbershops!) First meeting of the Society: April 11, 1938 at the Roof Garden of the Tulsa Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Important Dates & Deadlines

Event

Festival Host Registration Opens
HS Honor Choir Registration Opens
VJ Contemporary a Capella Honor Choir Registration Opens
HS Honor Choir Registration Closes
HS Honor Choir Audition Times Posted
VJ Contemporary a Capella Honor Choir Auditions Close
SCVA Fall In-Service
HS Honor Choir Audition Dates &
Festival Host Registration Closes &
Festival Registration Opens &
HS Honor Choir Weekend &
HS Honor Choir Performance
VJ Contemporary a Capella Honor Choir Weekend
VJ Contemporary a Capella Honor Choir Performance
Adjudicator Application Deadline

Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Audition #1
Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Audition #2
VJ & Contemporary a Capella Festival
Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Rehearsal
Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Concert

2024

July 1
August 12
August 19
September 6
September 11
September 15
September 15
September 21 & 28
October 1
October 14
November 7-9
November 9
November 14-15
November 15
November 30

2025

Jan 25
February 1
February 8
March 15
May 3

Shannon Wallace teaches at McAuliffe Middle School. She is currently in her 25th year of teaching and her 19th at McAuliffe.

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

We have 5 choirs, Sixth Sense is 6th grade girls, Sound Waves is intermediate 7th and 8th grade girls, Studio Singers is advanced 7th and 8th grade girls, Soul Men is 6th-8th boys, and Sound Check is a mixed A Capella group of 7th and 8th grade advanced students. Because the high school we feed is all show choir, we spend much of the year preparing the students for that next level. However, we also do musicals or Broadway shows, and for our final concert we sing festival music and make music videos. Students get a chance to record their vocals and learn about mixing and the unique challenges of working in a studio setting.

What about your program are you most proud of:

I am particularly proud of the A Capella group Sound Check. We are one of the few middle schools that has a group like this and the music is very challenging. Everything has to be custom arranged to make it accessible for the students and work with our unique voicings. The students are also able to learn harmony skills, arranging, and music theory at a deeper level than most of their peers.

Favorite repertoire you have recently programmed:

***Superstition by Stevie Wonder arr. Paul Langford - Shawnee Press**
Is one of my all-time favorites. It's very accessible for younger groups, sounds really cool, and you can add beat boxing with it for that extra element.
Dance!

***Robert T. Gibson - Alfred Music Publishing**

This one was introduced to us last year at the Fall Conference and it was a huge hit at our Spring Concert. We do a community chorus where parents, alumni, and community members come to evening rehearsals and learn a couple songs to sing with the students. This song was really fun to do and the harmonies build on each other so again, very accessible. The step percussion that goes with it was also really fun to do for both parents and students.

***Louboutins by Aubrey Logan**

My advanced girls performed this in a show choir set last year and it was really cool. Aubrey gave us her charts and allowed us to make a custom arrangement of the song. Her drummer was also in our competition combo so he was able to share the performance with Aubrey and a couple of us went to her concert. It was a great experience for the girls to sing something in the contemporary jazz genre and learn different singing techniques.

Tell us about your life outside the classroom:

Outside of class I am mainly a wife and mother. Although I am literally a mom at school as well. My daughter just entered high school after singing in my choirs for 3 years, and my son is now singing with me through middle school. I lead the choir at my church once a month and sing with the praise band a couple times a month as well. I love crafting, painting, and gardening especially in the summer when I have time. Most of our family vacations are spent in Kansas with both me and my husband's extended family. But my husband and I love to travel together as time and money allow. I love being a part of SCVA and always get such great inspiration from my colleagues here.

MEMBER
Spotlight



SHANNON WALLACE

