

SCVA NEWS

Southern California Vocal Association September, 2014

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rodger Guerrero

Welcome (back) SCVA members! Whether you're a new or veteran teacher, welcome (back) to the choral organization whose primary purpose is to serve you. Welcome (back) to choral music magic. Welcome (back) to the meaningful experiences that you and your singers will create together. Welcome (back) to the knowledge that through choral music, you will empower your students to grow and flourish, to the fact that you will change their lives. Welcome (back) to a positive mindset of purpose and conviction. Welcome (back) to the realization that we, the selfless choral music educators of Southern California, make a life-long impact upon the lives of thousands of youth. We matter, and so do our singers. We are important to them, and they are essential to us. The educational relationship we establish with our students is a symbiotic one. Our significant work as tireless choral music educators is the nexus of an immense and fervently dedicated community of choral music lovers. We are the philosophers, the rebels, the movers and the shakers. We are the musical conscience that keeps America on the right track.

Welcome (back) to the 76th year of the Southern California Vocal Association. Ours is the only local professional organization specifically "*dedicated to the advancement of vocal music at all grade levels in the schools of Southern California.*" This year SCVA will sponsor or co-sponsor numerous invaluable events for thousands of Southern California choral students and teachers: Fall In-Service, High School/Junior High School Honor Choirs, Solo and Ensemble Festival, Young Men's Harmony Festival [with the Masters of Harmony], Diva Day Young Women's Harmony Festival [with the Harborlites Chorus], High School/Junior High School Festivals, Vocal Jazz/A Cappella Festival, and Show Choir Festival. This year SCVA will publish at least seven Newsletters, all of which will contain important information about SCVA events as well as interesting, valuable articles about the Choral Art.

In addition to the publications and comprehensive list of student-centered activities, the SCVA Website offers abundant resources for you, the choral teacher. This includes links to other choral music educational sites (including the recently adopted NAfME National Visual and Performing Arts Standards for K-12), lists of recommended choral octavos for all levels and voice parts, past SCVA Newsletters, a regularly updated calendar of SCVA events, the SCVA Membership Directory, Policies, and By Laws (available for download as PDF documents), online registration forms and payment options and more. Many of these resources are located within the friendly confines of the "Members Only" section. You must therefore register and pay for your dues before you can gain access to this cache of valuable information.

In short, the all-volunteer SCVA Executive Board consists of incredibly dedicated and caring human beings who organize every event listed above, attend every meeting, and write all of those articles. They are individually and collectively the finest people I know. This is my 11th year as a member of the Executive Board and second go-round as your President. Why have I chosen to commit so much time and energy to our phenomenal organization? There are two major reasons: 1.) Choral music has been the center of my life for nearly 40 years. It is my duty, my honor to give back; 2.) Being a member of the Executive Board is extraordinarily rewarding and honestly, a whole lot of fun. Vibrant, passionate, and meaningful discussions occur at every single meeting. No one can fathom how much your board members care about the choral art, SCVA in general and every SCVA member.

Again, welcome (back) everyone! SCVA is here to provide opportunities for you and your singers. Contact us. Communicate with us. Take advantage of our resources. Become actively involved in our activities. Be more than a silent partner in the Southern California Choral Art. Let us know how we can better serve you. Join us! Sign up online because we *are you*. Help us to improve Southern California choral music one child at a time.

SCVA High School Regional Honor Choir

Karen Garrett, Vice President, High School Honor Choirs

Crystal Stone, Vice President II, High School Honor Choirs



We are pleased to announce this year's conductors for the SCVA High School Honor Choirs:

Mixed Choir: **Dr. Geoffrey Boers, Director of Choral Activities, University of Washington at Seattle**

Women's Choir: **Dr. Arlie Langager, MiraCosta College**

Men's Choir: **John Tebay, Director of Choral Studies, Fullerton College**

Students who have participated in SCVA Honor Choirs in the past have regularly cited the experience of singing in our honor choirs as musically highly satisfying, deeply inspiring, and even life-changing. Participants will have the unique opportunity of working with some of the most distinguished conductors in our field, and prepare a concert with the most accomplished choral students from Southern California.

Please encourage your eligible high school students to apply to audition for what promises to be an exceptional choral experience.

Below, you will find our condensed version of the Honor Choir Policies and Guidelines as well as important dates and times. Crystal Stone, VP II of Honor Choirs and I wanted to provide you with a quick, one-page "At-A-Glance" for Honor Choir. **For a complete listing of Honor Choir Policies and Guidelines please go to www.scvachoral.org.**

SCVA High School Honor Choir At-A-Glance

Important Dates 2014: (all rehearsals are mandatory)

- August 28-Sep 19th On-line Audition Application (fee \$10).
Deadline midnight 9/19/14
- Sept. 23rd Audition Times/Sites Posted and Confirmed
- Sept. 27th or Oct 4th Regional Auditions
- Oct. 9th Audition Results Posted (Honor Choir fee \$90.00
If accepted)
- Oct. 25th Rehearsal @ Fullerton College 8:00 a.m. - 4:00p.m.
- Nov. 21st and 22nd Honor Choir Weekend, Santa Monica High
School. Performance Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

Honor Choir Guidelines and Policies

(A complete listing can be found on www.scvachoral.org)



- If selected for the Honor Choir you must participate. If a student does not attend rehearsal or drops out of an SCVA Honor Choir, the student's school may not be allowed to participate in Honor Choir the following school year.**
- Calendar conflicts are **NOT** an acceptable reason for missing rehearsal or dropping Honor Choir. This includes work schedule, athletic games or practices, SAT tests, school choir or drama events, etc. We encourage every student to check the dates above before applying to audition.
- Students who must, out of extreme necessity (such as a death in the family or a serious medical problem, or other matter of an equally serious nature) drop out of Honor Choir after being accepted are required to provide a signed, written note from their parents and from their school choral director stating the reasons for the drop out.
- A student must be enrolled in his/her school's choral program in order to be eligible for participation in Honor Choir. Teacher must be a member of SCVA.
- Students are responsible for travel to and from the rehearsals and must be chaperoned by a parent or teacher if staying overnight.

The Audition (100 points)

We recommend that you review each of these skills so you are well prepared:

- **SOLO:** (40 points) Prepare an Italian song to be sung from memory. We recommend Schirmer's 24 Italian Songs and Arias or 26 Italian Songs and Arias edited by John Glenn Paton.
- **TONAL MEMORY:** (25 points) Five-note passages will be played on the piano for the singer to repeat, sung on any syllable.
- **SIGHT-READING:** (20 points) A single-line, unaccompanied melody will be supplied, sung on any syllable.
- **SCALES/TRIADS:** (15 points) Sing the following ascending and descending: major scale, major triad, minor triad, and chromatic scale, sung on any syllable.

How to Apply:

- Go to www.scvachoral.org. <Events < SCVA Regional Honor Choirs
- Select the weekend and site at which you wish to audition, your teacher's e-mail and if you wish to be considered for All State.
- Pay \$10 on the PayPal site (or major credit card) or have your teacher send a school check or money order (no personal checks accepted).
- No student will be given an audition time without payment by Sept. 19th

If you wish to be considered for All State you must be available March 26-28, 2015.
Questions? Karen Garrett - kgarrett@cnusd.k12.ca.us



SCVA Fall In-Service

Mark Henson, Past President and Rodger Guerrero, President



This year's extraordinary **SCVA Fall In-Service** will be transformative! It will take place on **Friday, October 17, 2014**, at Placentia Presbyterian Church (849 N. Bradford Ave, Placentia) and will last from **9:00am – 4:00pm**. As always, the **SCVA Fall In-Service** is designed to best accommodate the needs of SCVA members. It is a fantastic day of professional development, one in which members can also *interact, learn, network, and relax*.

This year's **SCVA Fall In-Service** headliner is **Dr. Joseph Modica** who is Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Redlands. Dr. Modica previously taught at Chapman and the University of South Carolina and currently leads the Idyllwild Summer Arts Festival Choir. He conducted high school choirs for ten years and also directed the 2012 SCVA Junior High Honor Choir. Dr. Modica is an experienced, student-first educator and is thus quite adept at working with youth of all ages. He is incredibly patient and compassionate, and his approach to teaching is fresh, vibrant, and thoughtful. His comprehensive presentation will address: *Repertoire Selection; Auditions, Ensemble Categories, & Matriculation; Empowering Non-Pitch Matchers; Building Choral Tone* and more! As an added bonus, the phenomenal University of Redlands Bel Canto will join Dr. Modica in leading us through a variety of junior high/middle school and high school choral literature.

Desiree LaVertu, Director of Choral Music at Occidental College, will begin the **SCVA Fall In-Service** with a substantial presentation on *Vocal Warm-Ups for All Ages*. Ms. LaVertu previously served as the Director of Glee Clubs at Caltech and on the Vocal Faculties at Chapman University and California State University, Los Angeles. An incredibly experienced voice teacher, Ms. LaVertu is amazingly quick-witted, genuine, and a first-rate, practical problem-solver. She possesses an extraordinary understanding of the human voice and enables all who study with her to sing with freedom, resonance and awareness. Her private studio predominantly consists of high school singers from a variety of experience and musical aptitude levels.

The **SCVA Fall In-Service** will conclude with sessions covering topics such as: *Choral Music and the Common Core; SCVA Festivals History and Overview; Festival Sight Singing Strategies and Resources; What the NAfME National Music Standards Signify for Choral Educators*, and more!

Please register for the **SCVA Fall In-Service** as soon as possible. The Early Registration deadline is **September 29, 2014**. Anyone who enrolls after that date cannot be guaranteed a music packet. All participants must already be or must become SCVA members. College/university choral music students may register at a significantly reduced rate which includes SCVA membership as a bonus.

The **SCVA Fall In-Service** will officially begin at 9:00am, but participants should arrive at least 30 minutes early in order to check-in and enjoy the coffee-juice-pastry social time. All are encouraged to invite a college/university music major, new teacher, or a colleague who has not previously attended SCVA events to come and spend the day with us. All are sure to be inspired by Dr. Modica and Ms. LaVertu. All are guaranteed opportunities to *interact, learn, network, and relax*. See you there!

Register today for the SCVA Fall In-Service:

www.scvachoral.org

\$50 Early Registration (**Deadline: September 29th**)

\$65 Late/Walk-on Registration (**music packet cannot be guaranteed**)

\$20 Collegiate Membership Registration





Looking For A Few Good Men And Women! Your SCVA Festival Organization Needs You!

*Nancy Ludwig, VP I Festivals
Melva Morrison, VP II Festivals*

Well, the school year is off and running for many of us! How does it happen that the summer seems to get shorter every year? As you are planning and organizing your choir season, we invite you to consider hosting an SCVA Choral Festival as an important part of your calendar. SCVA served thousands of choral musicians at over 50 festivals this last year and that is only possible with your generous assistance.

For those of you who have hosted festivals in the past, we hope you will once again consider hosting. Please submit your online application as soon as you are able. To those of you out there who are hesitating to host, let us reassure you that you will receive all kinds of support. There are many great reasons to host a festival including:

Festival hosts receive free festival registration for one choir for each festival you host. You can't beat that deal!!!

You don't have to travel – save that transportation budget for other opportunities. (I don't know your situation, but our \$1,000 transportation allotment is woefully inadequate!)

Your choir will perform in their own venue, which can aid in their comfort level (especially if it is your beginning choir).

You are in charge of choosing the best date for your school calendar, your choir season, and your administration, which helps eliminate conflicts.

You will receive support from SCVA – all forms and plaques, adjudicators scheduled for you, and contact information for all the directors who have signed up to participate.

Hosting a festival gives you an excellent opportunity to meet and network with other directors and our fine adjudicators; however, the bottom line is that you are providing an opportunity for choirs to perform for one another, hear quality repertoire, and receive feedback from qualified adjudicators which is an important part in the growth of our young choir members.

**Submit your festival host registration at SCVACHORAL.ORG
Deadline is November 1, 2014.**

If you have any questions or concerns about hosting a festival, OR if you would be willing to host an elementary festival, please email Nancy Ludwig or Melva Morrison right away. Thank you for your interest in assisting our excellent festival program through SCVA!

2014 SCVA Festival Adjudication Summary

by Jennifer Stanley, Executive Vice President

Number of SCVA Festivals in 2014	54
Number of Directors Attending Festivals	196
Number of Choirs Attending Festivals	372
Number of Students Attending Festivals	14,552
Percentage of SCVA Membership Attending Festivals	60%

Thank you to the directors who attended festivals, the festival hosts, and the festival judges who all worked together to make SCVA festivals so successful! Special thanks to Nancy Ludwig, Melva Morrison, and Mark Freedkin for their tireless work in coordinating festivals!

The average score earned by choirs at SCVA Festivals was **3.655** on a 4.0 scale (the minimum score for Superior is 3.65). Adjudication forms were returned for 358 choirs. On the right is a breakdown of the scores they earned:

2014	# of Groups	% of Total
SUPERIOR	220	62%
EXCELLENT	135	37%
GOOD	3	1%
TOTAL	358	100%

There were 107 online festival evaluations submitted by directors. The results are on the right and below:

RESULTS OF 2014 FESTIVAL EVALUATIONS	YES	NO
The adjudicator gave ratings that were too high.	4	210
The adjudicator gave ratings that were too low.	18	196
The adjudicator gave ratings that were fair/accurate.	202	12
Comments for improvement were constructive and helpful.	210	4
Was the facility appropriate for this event?	105	2
Would you attend this festival again or recommend it to others?	101	6

Regarding audio recording of judge's comments, choose one of the following:	Number of Responses	% of Total
I attended a BYORD (Bring Your Own Recording Device) festival, and I brought a recording device.	55	51%
I attended a BYORD festival, but I elected not to bring a recording device and received two written adjudications.	21	20%
I attended a festival where the host provided digital recording, and I received an audible recording before I left the festival.	17	16%
I attended a festival where the host provided digital recording, but I did not receive a recording before I left the festival.	13	12%
I attended a festival where the host provided digital recording, but the recording was inaudible.	1	1%

The Most Frequently Performed Festival Literature of 2014

Ain't That Good News by Moses Hogan
 Alleluia! Jubilate! by Pergolesi, arr. Liebergen
 Ave Verum Corpus by Mozart
 Benedictus by Audrey Snyder
 Boats Sail on the Rivers by Mary Lynn Lightfoot
 Cantate Domino by Nancy Hill Cobb
 Cantate Hodie! by Mary Lynn Lightfoot
 Canto De Pilón by Christian Grases
 Come To Me, O My Love by Allan Petker
 Danza, Danza Fanciulla Gentile by Francesco Durante
 Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel by Roger Emerson
 Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel by Moses Hogan
 Dirait-on by Morten Lauridsen
 Earth Song by Frank Ticheli
 El Vito by Emily Crocker
 Esto Les Digo by Kinley Lange
 Exsultate Justi In Domino by Brant Adams
 Festival Sanctus by John Leavitt
 For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter
 A Girl's Garden by Randall Thompson

Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi
 He Never Failed Me Yet by Robert Ray
 Hisakata No by Ruth Morris Gray
 Homeward Bound by Marta Keen, arr. Althouse
 How Can I Keep From Singing? (gospel arr.) by Greg Gilpin
 Hark, I Hear The Harps Eternal by Alice Parker
 It Takes A Village by Joan Szymko
 Je Le Vous Dirai by Pierre Certon
 Laudate Dominum by Dan Davison
 Lift Thine Eyes by Felix Mendelssohn
 Lightning! by Greg Gilpin
 Requiem by Craig Hella Johnson, text by Eliza Gilkyson
 Rhythm Of Life by Cy Coleman, arr. Richard Barnes
 Riversong by Andy Beck
 Sally Gardens by Benjamin Britten
 Salmo 150 by Ernani Aguiar
 The Seal Lullaby by Eric Whitacre
 Three Madrigals by Emma Lou Diemer
 Yonder Come Day by Judith Cook Tucker
 Zion's Walls by Aaron Copland

Special thanks to Elizabeth Luna, Ana Morales, and Christopher Samaniego for their assistance with festival data entry.

Inclusion of Sightreading at SCVA Festivals

Directors who attended SCVA festivals and SCVA festival adjudicators were asked to answer this question.

Regarding the inclusion of sightreading at SCVA festivals, choose one of the following:	% of Directors	% of Adjudicators
I do not want sightreading included at any SCVA festivals.	26%	24%
I want sightreading included only at selected SCVA festivals.	57%	68%
I want sightreading included at all SCVA festivals for comments only.	11%	8%
I want sightreading included at all SCVA festivals with the sightreading score used in the overall rating calculation for each choir.	6%	0%

The following comments and questions were submitted by directors through online festival evaluations.

ARGUMENTS PRO

It would be a great addition to the festival as students could really test their skills under pressure...I think it would be highly motivating!

Great idea! Keeps [directors] accountable to truly teaching their students independent musicianship.

I believe that sightreading must be included. This prevents rote teaching which [does not] promote critical thinking...Critical thinking is a major part of the Common Core which will hopefully benefit music educators everywhere.

Introducing a sight singing component at selected festivals is a good avenue to validate the teaching of sight singing and musicianship in the choral classroom.

My groups are developing. I wouldn't mind a non-adjudicated [sightreading] portion of the festival. In a clinic setting it could be good to have a judge work a little on this.

[This would be] helpful, especially since [sightreading] is a requirement for honor choir auditions.

Sight reading should first be introduced only at advanced festivals for comments only, then later made part of the scoring.

ARGUMENTS CON

Adding sightreading to the festivals would discriminate against schools in districts that do not have proper music education in elementary and middle schools.

There are already many choirs that do not attend SCVA festivals for various reasons. If a director is reluctant to enroll in a festival, and sightreading is a required component of the festival, I think that director will choose not to enroll.

Don't add more pressure to what is currently a great festival that feels accessible to all directors.

It only takes one strong sightreader in a choir (or one per section) to make it appear that the whole choir is good at sightreading.

The most valuable aspect of festival is seeing the performances of the other groups, and leaving the performance venue for sightreading would detract from that.

I will not attend a festival where sight reading is a requirement.

I have an emerging choral program and my students already feel inferior at festivals; [sightreading] would simply make them more nervous.

QUESTIONS

Would sightreading occur in a separate room? Or do you mean to begin with sightreading in the same room? I'm so conditioned to 6 to 8 schools listening to and respecting each other's work as the current set up allows, that either way feels uncomfortable.

What does SCVA hope to accomplish by adding sightreading to their festivals? Has SCVA come up with any preliminary guidelines for teachers to develop and modify their curriculum? If a choir sings beautifully but doesn't sightread brilliantly...will that negate their [performance]?

Do all the SCVA festival sites have adequate facilities to include sightreading?

[How would we] select sightreading literature of the appropriate level of difficulty?

I have such raw beginners in my choirs that if you included sightsinging it would have to be at a very simplistic level.

I need a recommended sightreading book or program, I have tried many and am not satisfied with the results.

Do we use movable-Do? La-based minor? Would we sing on solfege or would the sightsinging example have a text?

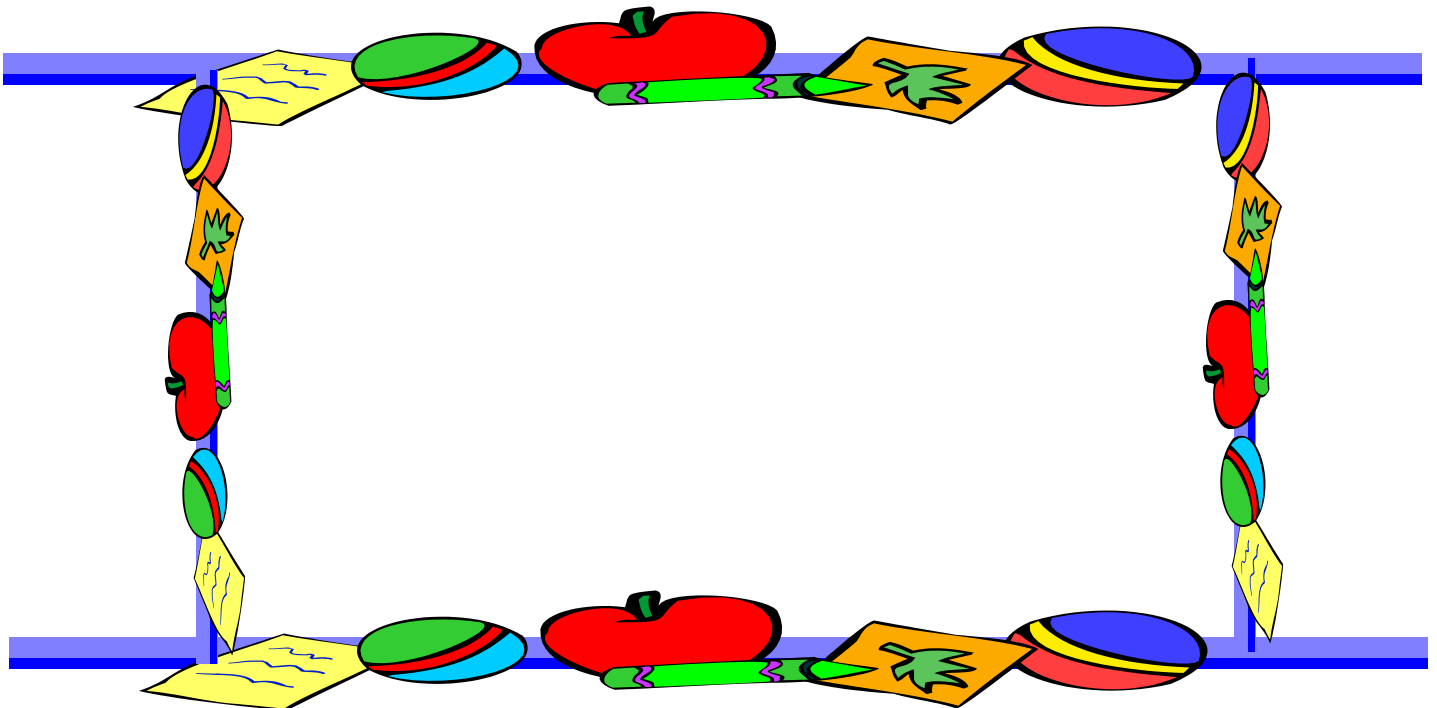
SCVA is focused on proceeding in a thoughtful manner that meets the needs of our membership. We will address the issues of sightreading at festivals during the Fall Inservice on Friday, October 17. Please attend the Fall Inservice to be a part of this important discussion. Register to attend online at scvachoral.org

Southern California Vocal Association

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IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

High School Honor Choir Registration Window	Aug 28 – Sep 19, 2014
High School Honor Choir Audition Times/Sites Posted	September 23, 2014
High School Honor Choir Auditions	September 27, 2014 October 4, 2014
SCVA Fall In-Service Early Registration Deadline	September 29, 2014
High School Honor Choir Audition Results Posted	October 9, 2014
SCVA Fall In-Service	October 17, 2014
High School Honor Choir Rehearsal	October 25, 2014
Festival Host Application Deadline	November 1, 2014
High School Honor Choir Weekend	November 21-22, 2014
Diva Day	February 7, 2015
Young Men's Harmony Festival	February 21, 2015
ACDA National Conference	February 25 – 28, 2015
SCVA Vocal Jazz Festival	March 13, 2015
California All-State High School Honor Choirs	March 26 - 28, 2015