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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Karen Garrett

Reflections on the Choral Art

"Isolation is the enemy of improvement"Tony Wagner, Author and Educator

THE PROBLEM

It's 5:00 p.m. and I'm still at my desk picking choral literature for the winter season. I have some ideas but have doubts that it's really an innovative concert program. As a 21 year veteran teacher it feels a bit like "been there done that" (and in fact I have done a lot of the music before). I sincerely wish I had a fellow choral teacher in my room to bounce ideas off of. Just someone to make new suggestions, convince me to take a risk or talk me off the ledge of doing that eight part divisi, atonal piece with my beginning choir. Sometimes I feel so alone. Yet, at lunch today I had 20 overly energetic students in my room laughing, eating, asking questions, copying solo music, playing the piano and in general filling my room with love and music.....loneliness in the midst of chaos. So why do I feel so isolated?....because I don't have daily access to a colleague who does what I do, someone who has the same goals, passions, challenges and everyday workload. If I feel isolated, what about our new teacher colleagues? How do they connect with the choral community?

THE SOLUTION

Since I don't have the luxury of a choral department with twelve or so fellow teachers like the math department, I have to go out to find my peeps. I have to make the extra effort to reach out, interact and attend events where my tribe congregates. Not always easy but so important to my sanity and professional growth. SCVA can help. Come to one of the events below and get re-energized and learn something new in fellowship with other choral directors:

The Fall In-Service October 20th from 8:00-4:00: Come get inspired by Josh Palkki and Stephanie Grogg, read new literature, get some tips – specifically for music – on Common Core. Bring another choir teacher in your district.

High School Honor Choir Oct. 28th rehearsal/Nov. 17 and 18th Honor Choir weekend. Volunteer so you can hang out with some of the best connected choral directors in town. While selling tickets ask for their top 10 repertoire picks or how to keep the bass section quiet while working with the sopranos.

Read the emails from SCVA President Elect Rachelle Randeen. They are inspiring, full of fresh ideas and remind us all about upcoming choral events.

So, if you want to escape from isolation and re-connect with those who "get you", seek out your SCVA tribe and take advantage of all that SCVA has to offer you.





2017-2018 SCVA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM!

Rodger Guerrero, Past President

"The harvest cannot be reaped without first planting the seeds."



It is my distinct honor and pleasure to announce the launch of the *SCVA Events Scholarship Program* for the 2017-2018 academic year. This brand new, experimental program is the result of many extensive, profound, and inspiring conversations of the SCVA Executive Board as well as its commitment to SCVA's long-standing, phenomenal purpose and objectives:

To support and encourage high standards in vocal music education, and to promote events which encourage and further choral music education at all grade levels (in the schools of Southern California)

What is the new *SCVA Events Scholarship Program* all about? It's about providing financial support for singers and schools in need of some help in order to participate in SCVA's wonderful vocal/choral music opportunities. It's about extending a hand to those with a passionate desire to participate in life-altering musical experiences. It's about giving back to a musical community that delivers beauty, culture, and continuous inspiration to American society.

"The excellence of a gift lies in its appropriateness rather than in its value." (Charles Dudley Warner)

What are the parameters and details of the new **SCVA Events Scholarship Program**? Well, honestly, we're still working these out. In fact, the parameters and details may change throughout the year as we "experience" our new program together. We do know the following:

- The application process will begin with an online SCVA website application form
- Only SCVA members in good standing can apply (either for an individual student or their school)
- SCVA members may only apply for one student/choir-per-event
 - The design is to enable as many schools/students as possible to participate
- Scholarship award decisions will be made by SCVA Events VP's and the SCVA Past President after reading all applications received by posted online deadlines
 - o Deadlines are likely to occur one month before the date of a particular event.
 - Decisions will be based on many factors, including: benefit/need as articulated by applicants, applicant pool balance, availability of funds, etc.
 - All applicant information and scholarship decisions will remain completely confidential.
- Scholarships are designated to pay only for SCVA event fees, i.e. \$100 for one choir to
 participate in an SCVA Festival, \$90 for one student to participate in the SCVA High School Honor
 Choirs, etc. All supplementary costs (busses, hotels, etc.) are the responsibility of the applicant.
- A chart specifying the number and amount of scholarships will be posted on the SCVA Website.
 "No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another." (Charles Dickens)

Will the new, fantastic *SCVA Events Scholarship Program* work? Honestly, I really do not know. But the SCVA Executive Board feels that anything it can do to better serve the Southern California schools choral community is definitely worth a try. Please take advantage of this opportunity, and continue to look to the SCVA Website for updates.

"I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service.

I served and I saw that service is joy."

(Kahlil Gibran)

HIGH SCHOOL REGIONAL HONOR CHOIR

CRYSTAL STONE & MATTHEW NETTO, VPS



THANK YOU

With Honor Choir auditions completed, we would like to sincerely thank all of our Audition Site Hosts and Audition Judges for their time and talents in making the auditions a positive and musically enriching experience for our students. THANK YOU!

A TIME FOR LEARNING

If your student was not selected for the 2017 Honor Choirs, please encourage them to continue their musical studies and try again in 2018. Many students, after more sight reading and musicianship training, are successful the 2nd time. All students now receive their audition forms back and it can be a great tool to discuss possible areas of improvement and growth. It may also be a good time to talk to ALL singers about good audition preparation and the feelings that come when one "doesn't make it". Relay stories about your own successes and disappointments. And, of course, don't forget to celebrate those singers who will be a part of the Honor Choirs this year!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



We are looking forward to our first rehearsal on Saturday, October 28th at Fullerton College and the Honor Choir Weekend on November 17th & 18th at the University of Redlands. We respectfully request that all directors who have students that have been accepted for the choirs sign up to volunteer.

The VolunteerSpot links are now available on the SCVA website under the Honor Choirs tab. Without your help the students do not have the support and organization that they need and deserve. Coming to the rehearsals also gives you an opportunity to see our brilliant conductors at work, gives you another way to bring fresh ideas back to your classroom and lets you connect with the choral community.

PART CHECKS



If you have students in the Honor Choir they will be doing part check testing in octets at 8:00 a.m. on Oct. 28th when they arrive at Fullerton College. Singers traditionally only have about 10 days to study before the

first rehearsal. Please give them the music IMMEDIATELY when it arrives at your school and help them to learn the music. The rehearsal tracks will be available for download on the SCVA website. A well-prepared singer is a confident singer!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER



Saturday, October 28th (8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) at Fullerton College Friday, November $17^{\rm th}$ and Nov. $18^{\rm th}$ – all day and evening at the University of Redlands



SCVA Regional High School Honor Choir Conductors 2017



Dr. Jaclyn Johnson – Women's Honor Choir

Often described as an "energetic little firecracker" on stage, Dr. Jaclyn Johnson has made it her life goal to share her passion for music with ensembles and audiences around the world. Johnson is the current Associate Director of Choral Activities at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Before completing her doctoral degree in Choral Conducting at the University of Michigan, she had a thriving career as a high school choral educator and church musician. Ensembles under her direction received numerous honors and awards, including performances at the American Choral Directors Association National Conference (2011),

Western Division Conference (2010), and Central Division Conference (2014). Her choirs have toured both domestically and internationally. Other conducting experiences include: Assistant Conductor for the Long Beach Camerata Singers, Co-Director of the Arrowbear Summer Music Choral Camp, and collegiate choral and orchestral ensembles including the University of Michigan Women's Glee Club, Orpheus Singers, Arts Chorale, and Michigan Pops orchestra. She currently resides in Knoxville, TN with her beloved husband, Ron.



Bruce Rogers – Men's Honor Choir

Professor Bruce Rogers is the Director of Choral Activities at Mt. San Antonio College, in Walnut, California. In this role, he oversees the department's various vocal and choral programs, which span the entire spectrum of music – from classical to jazz. He directs Mt. San Antonio College's award-winning *Chamber Singers* and the elite vocal jazz ensemble, *Singcopation*. Mr. Rogers' choirs have had the honor of performing at eight California State Conventions, eleven American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Regional and National Conventions as well as performing at three International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) National Conventions and a 2017 performance at the Jazz Education Network (JEN)

Conference. Mr. Rogers' most recent guest conducting ventures abroad include guest conducting the music of Franz Joseph Haydn in Vienna and Budapest and was the headline clinician and guest conductor at the "Australian National Choral Association" (ANCA) Convention in Port Macquarie, Australia. He has also guest conducted the New York Chamber Orchestra and Festival Chorus at Carnegie Hall on seven different occasions and has performed by special invitation at Lincoln Center. He has also signed with Gentry Music to publish the "Bruce Rogers Choral Series", which strives to discover challenging new choral works from throughout the world.



Dr. Joshua Palkki – Mixed Honor Choir

Joshua Palkki serves on faculty of the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach as Assistant Professor of Vocal/Choral Music Education. At CSULB, he leads the University Choir, teaches courses in music education, interfaces with the College of Education, and mentors graduate students in music education. Joshua received his Ph.D. in music education from Michigan State University, where his dissertation explored the experiences of three transgender students in high school choral programs. At MSU, he studied conducting with Dr. Sandra Snow, Dr. Jonathan Reed, and Dr. David Rayl and received a university-wide award for his work on LGBTQ inclusion in choral music education. Dr. Palkki has presented at several national events including the 2015 and 2017 National ACDA Conferences,

NAfME National Conference, and the Society for Music Teacher Education Symposium. Dr. Palkki was a finalist in the graduate division of the 2011 ACDA national conducting competition while earning a master's degree in choral conducting at Northern Arizona University, and holds and an undergraduate degree in vocal/general music education from Ball State University.

For complete conductor biographies, please visit http://scvachoral.org/honor_choir.php#

Spring Festival Season – The Choice is Yours!!

Melva Morrison – Festival Team

So......the school year is underway, you are getting acquainted with your choir members, you are getting used to not having enough sleep (or not!!!), your administration is realizing that choir is here to stay, and your calendar for the year is filling up quickly. One of the strongest facets of SCVA is our festival season and we want you to be a part of the process.

Festivals!!!!! Who needs them? You do, your choir members do, your singer's parents do, and your administrators do. We are bombarded by all the educational speak concerning standards, student achievement, cross-curriculum articulation, etc. What better way to address these areas than to prepare for festival performances with your choirs, teaching them the terms used in adjudications, and guiding their improvement daily in the areas that will be measured when performing. (Not to mention giving them that memorable musical moment which can't be measured).

One of the easiest ways to have the "festival" experience is to volunteer to host a festival at your site. The process is online and easy for you to schedule. **Remember** that this year you must become a member of SCVA (including payment of your dues) before registering to host a festival. Secondly, you will need to have a second date ready if the date you have selected already has several festivals. **Lastly, the deadline to sign up to host is November 1**st. Get on board and prepare to enjoy our festival season.



CMEA State Choral Festival Deadline is Nov. 1!

Nancy Ludwig, CMEA State Choral Festival Chairperson

CMEA is still accepting applications for the Choral State Festival to be held on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at the Musco Center for the Arts on the beautiful campus of Chapman University at One University Drive, Orange, CA 92866 (muscocenter.org). However, the deadline is approaching quickly, so submit those materials ASAP!!!

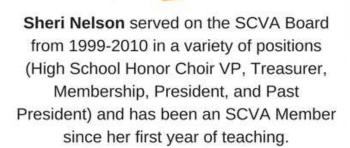
Application materials are now available through the CMEA website at: http://www.calmusiced.com/index.php/cmea/state-festivals

Is your high school or middle school ensemble state festival bound?!? Find out by downloading the application materials NOW!

The deadline to apply is November 1, 2017.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SCVA Member, 25 Years SHERI NELSON





What SCVA events do you/your students participate in?

Fall In-service, Honor Choir, and Festivals

Which is your favorite, and why?

It is hard to select a favorite since they each offer something unique. I enjoy the Fall In-service since it allows me to continue to grow as a teacher, the Honor Choirs is a great opportunity for my students to challenge themselves and work at a higher level, and the Festivals allow the greatest number of students to gain the rewards of the adjudicators feedback on what they have accomplished and how they can continue to improve.

Don't forget
to reach out
to your
District Colleagues
about joining
SCVA
this School Year!

REMINDER

To participate in any SCVA event you will need to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP by filling out the Membership Application on the website AND SUBMITTING PAYMENT. If you need to pay by check, please remember to email bethany.encina@cjuhsd.net to request an extension on your application.

Young Women's and Young Men's Harmony Festivals

Mark Freedkin, VP of Barbershop Harmony Festivals

We are pleased to invite you to this year's Barbershop Harmony Festivals for Young Women and Young Men. Both events will be held at the Robert B. Moore Theater on the campus of Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. The 13th annual "*Diva Day*" Young Women in Harmony Festival, sponsored by the Harborlites Chorus, will be held on Saturday, February 3, and the 18th annual "Young Men's Harmony Festival" will be held on Saturday, February 10, sponsored by the Masters of Harmony. Both of these events will provide a unique musical opportunity for your singers and a positive boost to your choral music program.



Each event will consist of morning and afternoon clinics and rehearsals, followed by a public performance in the evening with the respective adult choruses. There will also be a clinic for music educators who would like to participate in discussion of how the barbershop style is taught and how it can be used to attract more young men and women into your program.

The early application fee is \$25 per singer for applications that are submitted by Friday, November 10. After November 10, the application is fee \$30 per singer. The sponsoring choruses will cover the remaining costs for all sheet music, practice CDs, rehearsal facilities, guest clinicians and performance costumes. Each singer will receive a commemorative t-shirt. We will also provide lunch and dinner for the singers, choral directors and any adult chaperones accompanying the singers.

Please download and print the appropriate application forms from the SCVA website. Complete and return the applications and forms, along with payment by cash, check or money order payable to **Harborlites** (for Diva Day) or **Masters of Harmony** (for the Young Men's Festival). Each event is limited to 250 participants, so be sure to submit your applications early. Note that these festivals are completely separate events, and you must send the appropriate forms and payments to the proper recipient.

Young Women's Festival Only:

In order to accommodate more schools, we are limiting the number of singers per school to twelve (12). Ideally we suggest 1-2 tenors, 3-4 leads, 2-3 baritones and 3-4 basses. This will allow you to perform the music as a group and use this group to help your other students learn the joy of singing four-part harmony, barbershop style. Send applications for all students you wish to participate, indicating those students beyond the initial 12 that you wish to put on the waiting list. We will try to accommodate as many as we can.

Young Men's Festival Only:

There is no limit to the number of singers from your school that wish to participate, but please submit your applications early to ensure that all of your singers can be accommodated.

We look forward to receiving your applications. Please contact us if you have any questions about our festivals.

Diva Day (Young Women's Festival)

Sheree Mills
Harborlites Chorus
Home: (310) 200-8530
Email: shereeinrpv@cox.net

Young Men's Harmony Festival

Mark Freedkin Masters of Harmony Mobile: (714) 357-1187

Email: mfreedkin@yahoo.com



Show Choir Spectacular 2017! May 5, 2018 at Diamond Bar High School

Patty Breitag, Vice President of Show Choirs

SCVA uses adjudicators who are well-known in the California Show Choir Circuit. We do not bring adjudicators from other parts of the country who are unfamiliar with our criteria. Our venues are in various parts of the Southern California area so many high schools and middle/junior high schools do not always have to travel a great distance. But we welcome any school from Southern California who is a member of SCVA.

Spectacular is a traditional show choir competition with trophies given to the schools with the highest scores, along with plaques for special achievement in musicianship and/or showmanship.

Assessment is based on the principles of correct choral technique. The emphasis is always on correct singing! Students develop skills necessary to be able to sing a cappella, sing with a group, and sing and dance simultaneously. These skills will help students who are interested to pursue careers in the entertainment world as members of a Musical Theater cast, Variety Shows and other options for singers and dancers who make a living as an entertainer.

Show Choir competitions allow students to appreciate and respect each other's abilities and they learn from what they hear and see. They develop lasting friendships and fierce competitors.

Consider bringing your show choir of any level to our annual competition held on May 5, 2018. More information will be shared as the school year progresses. For more information, go to the SCVA website and find the show choir link. **We would love to have you join us this year!**





Career Technical Education

Have you considered incorporating CTE course curriculum into your course listings? Below you will find a sampling of courses school districts around the country are offering. Talk to your principal/CTE Admin about the potential of enhancing your course load with a CTE offering. Creation and approval of the course is required. The potential of CTE certification might be another wise subject of conversation with your administrators.

- 1. California CTE Standards: checkout pages 23-24 for the Production & Managerial Arts Pathway: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/sf/documents/artsmedia.pdf
- 2. MusicTechnology Course: http://www.coastlinerop.net/course-music-technology.asp
- 3. Theater Technology Course: http://www.coastlinerop.net/course-theater-technology.asp
- 4. Music Industry Studies Junior College: http://www.norcocollege.edu/cte/Documents/2016-17-
 Prog-Flyers/Music-Industries/Audio-Production-FALL-2016.pdf
- 5. Music Production & Engineering: http://cte.sdmiramar.edu/programs/graphicarts/music
- Audio Recording: http://dsapresents.org/staff/jonathan-howard/files/2011/08/Audio-Production-Syllabus-2015-16.pdf
- 7. Audio/Visual Production: https://www.caboces.org/cte/programs/audio-visual-production
- 8. Music & Sound: http://jelcc.com/hs-courses/communications/music-and-sound-production/



Christine Tavares Mocha, VP – Jazz/A Cappella

Now accepting novice-advanced junior-high and a cappella high school ensembles. To apply, visit SCVACHORAL.ORG (under events)

About the Festival

- This festival will consist of 10-15 groups performing throughout the day.
- ♣ Each group performs 2-4 pieces on stage, followed by an onstage learning clinic by our adjudicators Jamie Shew and VJ Rosales.
- Onstage time is 30 minutes with performance and clinic with a prior 30 minute off stage warm up.
- ♣ If groups opt. for performing Vocal Jazz with accompaniment, instrumentalists can be provided for an additional cost.
- Up to 18 dynamic microphones are available for each group to use.
- Each group will perform in a flight of 4 groups. Students will watch at least two groups before or after their warm up and performance/clinic while other schools watch in support.
- ♣ Though directors may choose to be scored privately or just adjudicated, this is a friendly learning festival and not a competition (no placements will be announced).
- SCVA Plaques will be awarded privately as Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, or participant if desired by director.

For more information, email cmocha@hartdistrict.org

FRIDAY MARCH 9, 2018

Adjudicators and
Clinicians Jamie Shew
(Fullerton College)
and VJ Rosales (TenorFilharmonic) will join us!
Featuring our headline
performers
The Filharmonic
as seen on the hit TV
show "The Sing Off" and
"Pitch Perfect 2"

http://www.thefilharmon ic.com/

The Filharmonic is a
Filipino-American vocal
group, unique in their
musical
talent and cultural
diversity.
The group consists of five
members: Vocalists VJ
Rosales, Joe Caigoy,
Trace Gaynor, Vocal Bass
Jules Cruz, & Beatboxer
Niko Del Rey. Their
melodic vocal style
exemplifies an
urbanesque hip hop

Concert – 7:30pm Tickets - \$6

Contemporary A Cappella Programming

Christine Tavares Mocha, VP – Jazz/a Cappella

Welcome back everyone! As each of us teachers return to the classroom, many of us will try something new or challenging for our students that we hadn't considered the year before.

As our music curriculum shifts to include more technology and contemporary music, teachers are trying to keep up with the changing landscape to fully educate and expose their students to new techniques and music. What are some new things you might consider in your teaching? Perhaps, consider incorporating more contemporary a cappella into your curriculum.

This is not your mother's doo wop group or your father's barbershop quartet. While many groups throw in the occasional barbershop piece or a cappella arrangement as a lighter part of their programming for concerts, there is a growing popularity of a certain type of group – the contemporary a cappella group. This group sometimes utilizes new apps or technology in their performance. These groups often include vocal percussion, body percussion, octave pedals, harmonizers, loopers, and pedal stations with all kinds of effects. The groups of Pentatonix, Voctave, MPACT, Filharmonic, ARORA (Formerly known as SONOS) and even artists / arrangers such as Imogen Heap, Bon Iver and Jacob Collier are the new trailblazers in this new sound. Many arrangements can now be heard on YouTube as these artists link directly to their webpages with their own arrangements.

Where do you start? Start with the music. You can go directly to the source to find music by these groups. Voctave who has become famous for their Disney Fly Medley, arranged by Jamey Ray has written great new a cappella medleys, Disney themed and jazz standards as well. MPACT and ARORA also offer their arrangements on their websites and Pentatonix for a while was releasing almost every other month a free piece of a cappella music that you could download from their website.

Here are a few links to find music.

- www.jameyray.net (arrangements for Winter/Christmas, Disney Themed, etc. sung by Voctave)
- www.aroratheband.com (Pop songs such as Wicked Game, I Want You Back, Toxic, etc.)
 Great use of pedals/loopers/layering and vocal percussion.
- https://www.m-pact.com/sheet-music (the ever evolving MPACT has tons of sheet music available for groups that are wanting to perform POP, R and B, Jazz, and all styles of music – walking bass / vocal percussion / and lots of lead/solo opportunities to feature students.
- http://www.thefilharmonic.com (As featured in Pitch Perfect 2, and the Late Late Show with James Corden, this group is an expert at medley / mash up arrangements that get the audience going in any concert. Contact them directly for their arrangements).
- www.Ptxofficial.com While Pentatonix offers music directly from their site, arrangements can be found everywhere for this group. Pentatonix is famous for their YouTube medley videos, which inspired high school students everywhere to create and emulate their own YouTube performances. Jacob Collier and Bon Iver arrangements can also be found on YouTube.

Southern California Vocal Association

21111 Avenida Magnifica, Lake Forest, CA 92630 www.scvachoral.org / email: scvamail@yahoo.com



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Fall In-Service
HS Honor Choir Rehearsal at Fullerton College
Festival Host Registration Closes
CMEA State Choral Festival Deadline to Apply
Young Men's Harmony Festival Early Fee Deadline
HS Honor Choir Weekend at University of Redlands
Young Men's Harmony Festival
California All-State Honor Choirs
CMEA State Choral Festival
Vocal Jazz & A Cappella Festival/Clinic
Show Choir Spectacular

October 20, 2017 October 28, 2017 November 1, 2017 November 1, 2017 November 11, 2017 November 17-18, 2017 February 10, 2018 February 15-17, 2018 March 8, 2018 March 9, 2018 May 5, 2018