

<u>John Hendricks</u> President jhendricks@buckley.org

<u>Jennifer Stanley</u> Executive Vice-President scvaexecvp@gmail.com

<u>Carolyn Kelley</u> Treasurer choralcjk@earthlink.net

<u>Lisa Lopez</u> Membership <u>llopezscvamem@hotmail.com</u>

<u>Crystal Stone</u> Secretary cstone@powayusd.com

Karen Bluel
Newsletter Editor
kbluel@cox.net

<u>Tina Peterson</u>
VP - High School Honor Choir
tpeterso@iusd.org

<u>Karen Garrett</u> VP - High School Honor Choir kgarrett@cnusd.k12.ca.us

Molly Peters
VP-JH/MS Honor Choir
mepeters79@gmail.com

<u>Jeffe Huls</u> VP - Vocal Solo Competition jhuls@smmusd.org

Mark Freedkin
Web/Barbershop Festivals
mfreedkin@yahoo.com

Nancy Ludwig VP I - Festivals nancyludwig6@gmail.com

Melva Morrison VP II - Festivals melsmusic@verizon.net

Patty Breitag
VP – Show Choir
pjbairhart@aol.com

Christine Tavares

VP-Jazz Choir

christinetavares33@gmail.com

Rodger Guerrero Past President rguerrero@hw.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John Hendricks

We are now entering the most "full" portion of the SCVA calendar. Many of our members just experienced an extraordinary day of music making, education, community, celebration, networking, and professional development at our SCVA Choral School. The SCVA festival season is imminently ahead, as is our Vocal Solo and Ensemble Competition. And yes, the SCVA honor choir "season" is upon us. Let me be clear, I love the honor choir "experience". I am perpetually thrilled watching our students make music together, find new, lifelong friendships, and achieve fresh and vivid inspiration in the choral art.

For our honor choir participants, this is a truly unique experience, unavailable anywhere else in Southern California, where committed vocalists from many schools collaborate in an artistic experience that is wholly based on community and excellence. For our educators, this has been an opportunity to focus early in the year to help our students sharpen their skills for the audition, and to come together in a spirit of service, and yes—community-- at the actual event. Our students' work in preparing for the auditions certainly helped them to become better musicians, and ultimately to strengthen our own programs, even if they didn't earn a position in the honor choirs. There was no time wasted here!

I sincerely hope that our members will utilize our participation and assistance at these events as a springboard for our own personal and professional growth. There is a great opportunity for us here in this regard, by becoming involved with the logistics of the honor choirs, by attending rehearsals and the performance to support our students, and by observing and learning from the exceptional conductors who will be present. I have seen so many directors make invaluable, vivid connections with colleagues as a result of "showing up" in a spirit of service for their students and for our association.

Let us also use the honor choir experience to help our students spur their own self-actualization in addressing their personal responsibility and success in earning a position, in acknowledging their disappointments in achieving a contrary result, and in continually working to improve their overall artistry. This year, we are returning audition score sheets to directors for the first time. I couldn't be more thrilled that the audition feedback itself can now be a transparent, tangible, and useful tool for our students' musical growth. We are, after all, an organization that exists solely to support choral music programs in schools. Thus, we must constantly examine and re-examine **ALL** of our policies and procedures to ensure that we are upholding our stated mission in every interaction with our membership and students. In our organization, we must never take for granted that what "has always worked" will always work, especially for the 21st century student. We have an obligation to question **everything**, at every event that we offer, and to proactively evolve, anticipate, and innovate when it is in the best interest of our students and members to do so.

As always, I welcome and encourage your specific feedback at <u>jhendricks@buckley.org</u>. I so look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events, especially during this, our 75th anniversary season.

2013-2014 SCVA High School Honor Choirs

Tina Glander Peterson, VPI - High School Honor Choirs



Ongratulations to the 270 members of the 2013-2014 SCVA

High School Honor Choirs and the 78 high schools that are represented this year! I want to thank Karen Garrett, VPII for High School Honor Choirs for all of her work in making the audition process such a grand success!

Just a few reminders to ensure that everyone has a great honor choir experience:

- Tickets for the honor choir concert are \$10.00 and can be purchased on-line at <u>www.scvachoral.org</u> or at the door. The event often sells out, so get your tickets in advance to ensure a seat for the concert.
- We encourage you to invite <u>all</u> your students, their parents, and your community supporters to the concert. For the honor choir members, it is always more exciting to perform for a sold out audience! The honor choir conductors have picked amazing programs and the concert promises to be of the highest quality. It is a great way to inspire your students to audition next year.
- All of the honor choir rehearsals are open rehearsals. This is a great opportunity for you to see our outstanding conductors work with the honor choirs. I always learn from observing our conductors in rehearsal. Rehearsals are Friday, November 22 and Saturday, November 23 all day at Santa Monica High School.
- If you are a director of students participating in the honor choirs, we look forward
 to your participation as a volunteer at the rehearsals and at the concert at Santa
 Monica High School. A volunteer sign up will be emailed to you with volunteer
 opportunities. Thank you in advance for your assistance!
- Please encourage and help the students to PRACTICE!! It is so important that they are confident on their individual parts. Practice tracks are still available at http://www.partrecordings.com/honorchoir.php

For the Men's Honor Choir:

ID: scva13men PASSWORD: verdi47

For the Women's Honor Choir:

ID: scva13women

PASSWORD: debussy82

For the mixed Honor Choir:

ID: scva13mixed

PASSWORD: vivaldi48

We look forward to seeing you all at the 2013-2014 SCVA High School Honor Choir Concert on November 23 at 7:00 PM at Santa Monica High School Auditorium.



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 9th annual "*Diva Day*" Young Women in Harmony Festival, sponsored by the **Harborlites Chorus**, will be held on Saturday, February 8, and the 14th annual "**Young Men's Harmony Festival**" will be held on Saturday, February 15, sponsored by the **Masters of Harmony**. Both of these events will provide a unique musical opportunity for your singers and will provide 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 a hands-on demonstration 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 only \$25 per singer for applications that are submitted by November 15. After November 15, 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 realize that this is Valentine's weekend, but we wanted to avoid any conflict with the ACDA Western Division Conference in Santa Barbara.

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

Diva Day (Young Women's Festival) Karen Ridout Harborlites Chorus

Home: (714) 847-0787 Cell: (714) 319-2325

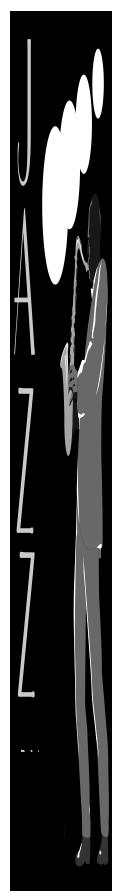
Email: kridout@socal.rr.com

Young Men's Harmony Festival

Mark Freedkin Masters of Harmony Home: (949) 559-9621

Cell: (714) 357-1187

Email: mfreedkin@yahoo.com



SCVA VOCAL JAZZ FESTIVAL MARCH 7TH, 2014

Registration has begun for our upcoming SCVA Jazz and Acapella Festival! You can now find the form to register at www.scvachoral.org. Come and learn from the top leading vocal jazz performers and college directors! Matt Falker and Fletcher Sheridan will be our adjudicators. Space is limited so don't delay!

CALIFORNIA ALL STATE VOCAL JAZZ NEWS

I am very excited to tell you that the 2014 All-State Vocal Jazz Conductor this year is **Christine Guter**! I highly encourage you to have your students audition to have this incredible opportunity to work with this exceptional performer and incredible teacher!

The All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble will be taking place at the CASMEC (California All State Music Education Conference) in Fresno. The dates are February 20-23, 2014. The students will be doing repertoire that is both challenging and leading edge, as well as working on improvisation, performance practice, and much more! It's going to be a great experience, and I encourage you to have your students submit an application.

CALIFORNIA ALL-STATE VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS

The deadline for applications is **December 2, 2013**

Please go to this link to download the application form and information: http://www.cbda.org/index.php/auditions

Please feel free to contact me regarding your needs, concerns, and information regarding the All State Vocal Jazz auditions. I look forward to serving you!

Christine Helferich Guter

Christine Helferich Guter is a jazz vocalist and studio singer in the Los Angeles area. She performs frequently in L.A. and Orange County, and has worked with many legendary musicians including Joe Williams, Rosemary Clooney, Diane Schuur, Maynard Ferguson, Mercer Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Mel Torme, Bobby McFerrin, and Darmon Meader. She has also toured internationally with the Dorsey Then and Now Orchestra. She has conducted the California, Wyoming, All-Northwest, Colorado, and North Dakota All State Jazz Choirs.

Christine is currently the Director of Vocal Jazz at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University Long Beach. She teaches private jazz and classical voice lessons, a solo jazz vocal techniques course, class jazz piano, jazz theory, and directs the university's award-winning vocal jazz ensemble, Pacific Standard Time.

SCVA Festival Registration Opens Nov. 15!

Nancy Ludwig, VP1-Festivals and Melva Morrison, VPII-Festivals

The deadline to register to host a festival has passed, and registration to participate in festivals will be available soon! There are many fantastic opportunities for your choirs to attend an SCVA festival throughout the Southern California Region! There are both middle school and

high school offerings at the Novice, Open, and Advanced levels. This is a wonderful performing opportunity for all our choirs, in addition to the incredibly helpful adjudications they receive.

Due to increased costs, the cost per choir for each festival is now \$100 and your membership must be current in order for your choir to participate. Beginning November 15, you will be able to access the list of festivals and the online registration form at http://www.scvachoral.org/festivals.php

If you have any questions about attending a festival, please feel free to email Nancy Ludwig or Melva Morrison. Our FAQ page at http://www.scvachoral.org/festival_faq.html has all the standard and pertinent information about what you need to know about attending a festival. SCVA wants to help support you in your efforts to host a successful festival!

Let's fill these festivals with great choirs!!!

Website Update

Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster

It's been almost 14 years since we launched the SCVA website, and we have continued to add new automated capabilities to help manage our activities more efficiently. For the most part, most of the processing happens automatically, but there are a few areas in which our members can help us be even more efficient.

High School Honor Choir

More than 540 high school singers submitted their Honor Choir audition applications online. In addition, all of the Audition Site hosts were able to enter the audition scores quickly, so that the results could be posted within a few days after completing all of the audition. Everything worked very smoothly, although there were a few students who didn't enter their director's or their own e-mail address accurately, and all of those applications had to be routed to me for manual correction. There were also a few directors whose students used more than one e-mail address for their director, which also required some manual intervention by me. Using a single e-mail address will allow you to see a complete list of all your singers on the Approve/Reject page. These guidelines also apply to the Jr. High Honor Choir.

Festival Registrations

When you register for a festival, be sure to use the same e-mail address that you used for your SCVA Membership Renewal. That way, you'll be able to see all of your festival registrations when you login to the Members-Only page. If you use a different e-mail address, your festival registrations won't appear on your Members Only page. Remember that when a festival becomes full, no other directors can register for it. Therefore, if you incorrectly register for a festival or you find that you are unable to attend, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can delete your registration and re-open the festival for other participants.

Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions about how to make our website more effective.

Host a Solo/Small Ensemble Festival!!

Jeffe Huls, VP-Vocal Solo Competition

Last year's pilot year was a great success. We had record numbers of students participating in both the solo competition and the small ensemble categories. We are hoping to continue the growth of this excellent educational experience. You too, could host a Solo/Small Ensemble Festival. The great news is that you don't need a large performance hall for this festival. In fact, most schools host this event in their or band room. All you need is a piano for the accompanist, a table for the adjudicator, and a willingness to give it a go. It is my hope that we will have 4-5 sites available from which students can choose to participate. Please email me at jhuls@smmusd.org to indicate that you would like to host a solo/small ensemble festival.

Students may still elect to participate in a variety of ways:

- Prepare a small ensemble performance (for rating, or comments only)
 This could be a Barbershop ensemble, a madrigal, a classical or musical theatre duet, etc. The sky is the limit. The only requirement is that there is no more than one person per part.
- Prepare a classical solo (for rating/competition, or comments only)
 Twenty-four Italian art songs, German lied, an aria, and some high-quality folk song arrangments. etc.
- Prepare a musical theatre solo (for rating, or comments only)

The festival fee is \$25 per soloist and \$35 per ensemble (duet, trio, sextet, etc). Registration and payment for each festival must be completed online. Performers will request a preferred block of time during registration. Students may be moved to an alternate site if there are not enough registrants at their first choice. Registration will open in early December. Festivals will take place throughout the winter and spring.

The classical solo vocal competition is part of the solo/small ensemble festival. The competition is open to all middle school and high school age students performing a classical solo. Depending on the number of applicants and number of finalists selected, there may be two rounds of finals to be held in late spring.

I look forward to hearing your students sing and hope you will not only consider incorporating small ensemble and solo singing into your curriculum, but you might also consider hosting a festival.

Eligibility

Any director/voice teacher with a current membership in SCVA is eligible to send students to the competition and/or festival. Eligible students must be in grades 6-12 for the classical vocal solo competition. Eligible students must be in grades 3-12 for small ensemble festival.

Participation Fees

\$25 for a solo performance \$35 for duet, trio, quartet, small ensemble

Guidelines and Rules

- To be eligible for the vocal solo competition, students must perform a classical music solo. A selection from the 26 Italian art song book, or equivalent is recommended. For the competition, selections from the musical theatre genre are **not** acceptable.
- To be eligible for a rating, students must perform a solo or an ensemble piece from the classical or musical theatre genre.
- Ensemble pieces may be performed with no more than one person per part. (i.e. a five part madrigal will have 5 singers)
- Adjudicators will be provided with original copies of the selection with all measures clearly numbered or a rating will not be given.
- •The use of illegally photocopied material will disqualify the soloist from the competition or prevent the ensemble from receiving a rating. The performance may take place for "comments only."
- •All performers must provide their own skilled accompanist.
- All solo performances must be accompanied by a piano.
- When performing music requiring accompaniment, recorded accompaniment is not acceptable. Only in the circumstance of performing modern or avant-garde music in which the use of recorded accompaniment was the composer's intent, will an exception to this rule be appropriate.
- All solo performances must be memorized. Ensemble performances may choose to perform with scores.
- No rating or comments will be provided to soloists or ensembles who have not met the eligibility requirements.
- All performances will be allowed a total of 10 minutes, including exit and entrance to the performance space as well as oral comments from the adjudicator.
- Registrations to participate will only be accepted online.
- Ensemble performances and musical theatre performances will receive oral and written comments, as well as a rating based upon the performance rubric.
- Soloists and ensembles may choose to participate for "comments only" and not be rated or considered for the competition.





Junior High Honor Choir

Molly Peters, VP-JH/MS Honor Choir



Welcome back, everyone! I hope your year is going as smoothly as mine! I am loving my students and my job so much this year. I know I am very fortunate.

SCVA has very exciting news for the 2014 Junior High/9th Grade Honor Choir! We are pleased to announce that Ms. Desiree Fowler from Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts will be our guest conductor. Ms. Fowler has a lot of experience working with junior high singers and honor groups, so this year's honor choir is one that your students won't want to miss!

As professional musicians, we all know that auditions are part of the musical process. They can be big obstacles, both mentally and physically for young singers. By going through the audition process at grades 6, 7, 8, and 9, we are really preparing our students and getting them comfortable with the audition experience, and that makes stronger musicians and singers for your choirs at school. Really!

The audition will require students to:

- 1. Sing a major scale up and down (a cappella)
- 2. Sing a major triad and a minor triad (a cappella)
- 3. Sing an octave (a cappella)
- 4. Sight read one melodic and one rhythmic example
- 5. Sing tonal memory patterns
- 6. Sing "America"/"My Country 'Tis of Thee" (a cappella)

Our Honor Choir performance date (and all-day rehearsal) is Saturday, April 26th at John Adams Middle School in Santa Monica. Honor choir also requires one morning rehearsal on either Saturday, March 15th at JAMS, or on March 22nd at Mesa Robles Middle School. Students only need to attend ONE of the March rehearsals. Please make sure any students who audition are available all day on the 26th and for one of the March rehearsal dates before they sign up for an audition time.

We all know the value of participating in honor choirs, but I wanted to share with you some comments from last year's singers. Please share these with your students and their parents as a testament to what a fabulous experience it is:

- -"The SCVA Junior High Honor Choir was a great experience. I loved the songs we sang and it was a great group of people!" Rose
- -"SCVA was so amazing. It was great to be surrounded by some of the best middle school singers in Southern California. I love SCVA Honor Choir!" Rachel
- -"I had such an amazing experience. Dr. Peterson was the best conductor! I hope I can be in the SCVA Honor Choir for years to come. Thank you for such an excellent educational experience." Lauryn
- -"It was a really cool experience to be with kids who love to sing as much as I do."- Tessa
- -"Honor choir is fun and amazing. You get to meet so many other incredible singers! Well, other than you!" -Kyu

My final request is that you encourage your male singers to audition for honor choir, especially those whose voices have changed so honor choir has a lovely mixed voice sound. If you have any other questions, or are available to judge at one of our audition sites in January, please e-mail me at mpeters@hartdistrict.org. See you at the honor choir!



Rodger Guerrero, Past President

Executive Board always looks to and plans for the future. For the current board members, this means taking stock of personal and professional priorities in order to determine if they can continue serving you for another term. This is the SCVA Executive Board's most significant duty: *to serve you*. And having worked closely with these phenomenal human beings for quite some time, I can assure you that no group of elected volunteers works harder at it than they do.

Unfortunately, the current Executive Board's term of office legally ends July 31, 2014. This means that you, the SCVA membership, must elect a new board to lead our substantial, 75-year organization from August 1, 2014 – July 31, 2016. The SCVA electoral procedures will officially begin on February 1, 2014. As the current Past President, it is my job to organize and supervise this process. According to stipulations laid out in Article VII of the SCVA By-Laws, the timeline will be as follows:

- On or before February 1, 2014: Candidates for Executive Board vacancies will be sought by the Past President.
- May 1, 2014 (prior to the final Executive Board Meeting): A proposed slate of candidates containing at least one name per office will be presented to the board (via email) for approval.
- *May 2, 2014:* Approved ballots shall be *emailed* to current membership. SCVA members in good standing will have 30 days in order to vote online.
- *June 2, 2014:* Results will be posted on the SCVA website. Elected Executive Board members will officially take office on or before August 1, 2014.

In order to establish a qualified slate of candidates, I will first communicate with current Executive Board members and produce a list of those who wish to return. Some may want to seek re-election to their current offices. Others may wish to pursue a different position on the board. Next, I will contact former Executive Board members who have expressed a desire to re-join the board. Then I will converse with any active SCVA member who requests (via phone or email) to be considered for an office. The minimum qualifications for any active SCVA member who wishes to serve on the Executive Board are as follows:

- *President:* Active membership plus one full term (2 years) experience on the Executive Board in an elected position.
- Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and all Vice Presidents: Active membership.

In previous elections it has been rare for more than one candidate to appear on the slate for each elected office. The reasons for this are likely varied and impossible to verify. But the realities are these: Serving on the SCVA Executive Board is a noble, rewarding, exciting, and joyous endeavor. Serving on the SCVA Executive Board is enlightening and fulfilling. Serving on the Executive Board builds strong, lifelong friendships. Serving on the SCVA Executive Board is an excellent mode of contributing to our incredible profession as well as the greater choral community of Southern California.

Do you want to become a valuable part of the amazing, 75-year legacy of SCVA? Are you ready to share your time, energy, creative thinking, and dedication with a valuable organization that serves hundreds of schools and thousands of young singers? *Are you ready to serve?* Call me. Email me. I'm ready and eager to sign you up. ©

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MUSIC AND THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

by Russ Sperling, CMEA President

As CMEA President, I receive many requests from members requesting information on a variety of topics in our profession. One topic that I have been receiving quite a few requests for clarification is regarding the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Given the start of a new school year, I feel that this might be a good time to send a message to our membership regarding CCSS and its relation to our teaching of music. Therefore, I have prepared this message that has been vetted by the leadership of The California Arts Project (TCAP, one of CMEA's very strong partners and experts in arts curriculum in California) for your information.

I stated in the fall 2012 CMEA magazine article, "My hope is that we as music educators do not run away from the Common Core, but welcome these standards as an opportunity to show others the depth of student learning that takes place in our classrooms!" Supporting students in developing strong literacy competencies in music is the central role of the California music educator. The Common Core Standards in Literacy in Technical Subjects asks music educators to overlay literacy standards with California's specific music content standards to prepare students for college and career.

In California, music teachers should still be teaching to our state's Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) standards contained in the framework that you can find here: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/documents/vpaframewrk.pdf

New national arts standards (including music) are currently being written and could be adopted by our state board of education. Until that time, we should use our existing state standards. You can follow the development of these new national standards here: http://nccas.wikispaces.com

The Common Core in English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects, include the arts, music, visual arts, dance and theatre, as "technical subjects" and, as stated earlier, are designed to work in tandem with the existing California VAPA standards. What is a "technical subject" within the Common Core initiative? You might be asked this question. Go here: http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_A.pdf On page 43 you find: Technical subjects - A course devoted to a practical study, such as engineering, technology, design, business, or other workforce-related subject; a technical aspect of a wider field of study, such as art or music. The arts continue to also be considered an "academic" course of study, as in all arts classes it is the combination of the academic and the technical learning that creates powerful learning for students.

All music teachers should read the Common Core State Standards in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects. To find them, go here http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/elaresources.asp and click on the first document listed. For the technical subjects, go to page 73 and there you'll find the 9 pages or so that apply to music and the arts. Again, these can help inform your instruction. When well applied, they can enhance your students' musical literacy, which will make them better musicians, prepare them for college and career. CCSS should not be considered the only standards that you teach from as a music teacher, but an additional literacy overlay to the music content standards.

At the California All State Music Education Conference (CASMEC) in Fresno this February, there will be some sessions offered regarding music and the Common Core that could prove helpful for you, and I encourage your attendance. There is a lot of Common Core professional development money in this year's state budget that you might try and access to pay for CASMEC.

Here are some additional resources:

The California Arts Project is a great resource for professional development, and they have regional sites: http://csmp.ucop.edu/tcap/

The California Department of Education has posted a number of on-line professional learning modules on the Brokers of Expertise website. http://www.myboe.org/ The module Content Literacy for Technical Subjects was created in collaboration with The California Arts Project and provides an overview of the standards for technical subject educators.

Here is what our National Association (NAfME) has on music and Common Core: http://advocacy.nafme.org/common-corestate-standards/

Also, your county office of education could be a good resource for you.

Best wishes in developing music instruction that provides your students a rigorous education in literacy in music!

Sincerely,
Russ Sperling, President
California Music Educators Association (CMEA)
http://www.calmusiced.com/

Article reprinted with permission of Russ Sperling.

1ST ANNUAL SCVA CHORAL SCHOOL October 19, 2013



Southern California Vocal Association

c/o The Buckley School



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Festival Host Application Deadline

SCVA Festival Registration Opens

Harmony Festivals Early Registration Deadline

November 1, 2013

November 15, 2013

High School Honor Choir Weekend November 22-23, 2013 SCVA Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir Auditions January 18, 2014

SCVA Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir Auditions January 25, 2014

Diva Day February 8, 2014

Young Men's Harmony Festival February 15, 2014
ACDA Western Division Conference February 20 – 22, 2014

SCVA Vocal Jazz/Acapella Festival

February 20 – 22, 2014

March 7, 2014

SCVA Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir Rehearsal March 15, 2014

California All-State High School Honor Choirs March 20 - 22, 2014

SCVA Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir Rehearsal March 22, 2014 SCVA Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir Concert April 26, 2014