



## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VOCAL ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER, 2016

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Karen Garrett*

#### Truly thankful

As we enter the season of reflecting on the things in life for which we are thankful, two areas of my professional life come to mind immediately: **My students** who allow me to explore daily this rich life of choral music, and **my SCVA colleagues** who work so tirelessly to serve the choral community in Southern California. Did you know that the 17 people who comprise the SCVA Executive Board are hard working choral directors like yourself? In addition to working that 40 - 60 hour week, they spend time planning quality events for you and your singers!

We are still in the glow of the outstanding **Fall In-Service** put on by Rodger Guerrero, and the **High School Honor Choir** is in full swing with Crystal Stone and Matt Netto at the helm. Be sure to join us for the November 19th Honor Choir concert at University of Redlands. It is sure to be an inspiration to us all. Please see Crystal and Matt's article in this newsletter.

#### Look out! Beware! It's here!



The newly redesigned SCVA Website is here! After many months and countless hours of work by Christian Campos and Mark Freedkin, we now offer a more user-friendly and attractive web design. Please see Mark's article in this newsletter, then check out the new website. It's scary cool!!

#### Advocacy

Last spring, I had the good fortune to attend the Stand Up 4 Music Advocacy Day in Sacramento. It was an opportunity to shake hands with elected State officials and let them know the importance of music education in the lives of California's students. But what's better than 'pressing the flesh' for a good cause? Seeing your work come to fruition with the passage of bill AB 2862 that will revise our 15 year old VAPA standards.

*"This bill would require the Superintendent, in consultation with the Instructional Quality Commission, to recommend revisions to the Visual and Performing Arts content standards in certain subjects to the state board, and would require the state board to adopt, reject, or modify the recommendations on or before January 31, 2019."*

This impactful day of advocacy spurred me to program an advocacy concert entitled "Music in Our Schools." Before the concert I showed slides giving facts and figures about the benefits of music education. My students read statements regarding what learning about music and having the opportunity to perform music has meant to them. Many parents came up to me afterward and said they "had no idea" that there was actual research showing the educational benefits of music. It was an incredibly meaningful concert for both the students and me. It reminded me that every day is advocacy day for music education. We must continually tell the community about what we do, and about it's positive impact on our students, or we risk losing ground in the fight to keep music in our schools!

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## Website Update

Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster



We are proud to announce a modern new design for the SCVA website. The original site has served us well since it was first implemented in early 2000. Since that time, we have been continuously adding a significant amount of automation and real-time registration processing to help our organization operate more efficiently. By the time you receive this newsletter, the new website design will be available, complete with all new graphics and navigation methods to help you find the information you need quickly and easily. Any links and bookmarks that you may have saved will be re-directed automatically to the new pages.

We hope that everyone likes the new design. Just like Disneyland, a website is never really “finished.” It continues to evolve, so please let us know of any comments you may have about the new design, and we will do our best to accommodate those requests. Keep in mind that some enhancements are easier to implement than others, so thank you for being patient.



Remember to use a single consistent e-mail address for all SCVA activities. This will allow you to view your Festival Registrations in the Members-Only area!

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## AN INSPIRING FALL IN-SERVICE

Rodger Guerrero, Past President

An energetic group of past, present, and future choral educators gathered Friday, October 21 for the annual **SCVA Fall In-Service**. What a spectacular and practical day it was!



Lori Marie Rios did the lion’s share of work. Her inspirational approach, wrapped in solid, useful pedagogy, was a smash hit. Her compelling and informative sessions were designed to empower excellence in the choral rehearsal. **A Pro Arte: A Nested Hierarchy – The Organization of Vocal Function**, was replete with applicative vocal instruction. **Score Study, WHAT? Who Has Time to Score Study Like When We Were in College**, underscored something that we already know: rehearsals can become more efficient when extensive score study precedes them. **Quarterback or Coach – Methods & Strategies to Determine Student Involvement** poignantly reminded us that the role of the choral educator is complex, continually adaptive, and life-affirming. Additionally, Lori Marie’s utilization of a variety of solid choral literature within the framework of the three stellar sessions was marvelous. Besides, how fantastic was it to sing great choral music with an outstanding group of choral directors?

In between the three, phenomenal sessions, Scott Hedgecock and the Fullerton Union High School Men’s Chorus & Vocal Ensemble produced some outstanding music-making. Their performance will enable some SCVA members in attendance to earn their festival adjudicator certification. After detailed instruction, prospective adjudicators completed written sample adjudication sheets on both choirs to be evaluated by a committee from the Executive Board. All prospective adjudicators will be informed of the results at the beginning of December.

At the end of the day, Jennifer Stanley and Scott Hedgecock provided valuable information regarding the latest news concerning SCVA’s festival adjudication form revision, and highlights from trends in Music Education reform in the state of California.

Special thanks to Dave Buckeyne at JW Pepper for ordering and assembling the reading packets, Sara Shakliyan for providing piano accompaniment throughout the day, Placentia Presbyterian Church for hosting, and the SCVA Board Members for helping to make the day such a special one. SCVA members who missed this year’s event should make plans to attend next fall. Learning, valuable networking, great singing – all can be experienced at the SCVA Fall In-Service. Don’t miss out next year!

## SCVA Regional High School Honor Choir

*Crystal Stone - Vice President I, Senior High Honor Choir*

*Matthew Netto - Vice President II, Senior High Honor Choir*



Congratulations to the 271 singers selected for the 2016 SCVA Regional Honor Choirs! 481 students representing 81 schools auditioned this year. Thank you to the 12 audition site hosts and 56 adjudicators who made this whole experience possible. We certainly could not do it without you, and we appreciate the hard work, preparation, and facilities you provided.

The choirs had a wonderful first rehearsal on October 29 at Fullerton College. (A very special thanks to John Tebay for hosting us again this year.) The three choirs met from 8am - 4pm to work with our inspiring rehearsal conductors: Michael Hayden, Brandon Elliott, and Scott Melvin. Thank you all for your hard work!

**Honor Choir weekend is November 18 and 19 at University of Redlands.** The culminating concert will be on November 19 at 7pm in Memorial Chapel at University of Redlands. Please invite students and parents to attend what is sure to be a fantastic concert. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased online at [www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org), at Honor Choir rehearsals, or at the door.



To ensure that everyone has a great experience, here are just a few reminders for directors and students:

- Students must attend all rehearsals in their entirety or be subject to the removal from the Honor Choir. If a student does not attend all rehearsals, that student's school may be suspended from Honor Choir participation for one year.
- All Honor Choir rehearsals are OPEN REHEARSALS. This is a great opportunity for directors to see our outstanding guest conductors at work. Come in and observe great techniques and rehearsal ideas that you can use with your own ensembles. Rehearsals are all day on November 18 and 19. Our esteemed guest conductors are Dr. Joseph Modica (Women's Choir), Dr. Shawna Cross Stewart (Mixed Choir), and Dr. Christopher Aspaas (Men's Choir).
- We count on directors of participating singers to volunteer during Honor Choir weekend. Please find the Volunteer Spot link on the SCVA website and sign up as soon as possible. You can choose from a variety of volunteer areas including t-shirt distribution, registration, ushering, cleanup, and more. Thanks!
- Please encourage your students to **PRACTICE** and practice often. It is important that the singers feel confident on their individual parts. Have them come to you with their music and sing their parts with the provided tracks, available on the SCVA website. Do not assume efficient practice is occurring at home. Have them be accountable to you BEFORE Honor Choir weekend.



**Continue to check the Honor Choir tab on the SCVA Website for updated Honor Choir information.**

***We look forward to seeing you all at our 2016 SCVA Regional Honor Choir Weekend!***

## Quality Repertoire With a Built in Lesson Plan

*Nancy Ludwig - VP I, Festivals*

My goodness, is it November already? The school year is zooming by, but hopefully by this time of the year we have been able to get to know our ensembles. It can be nearly impossible to choose spring festival literature until we have spent some quality rehearsal time getting to know our new groups. But now.....how to narrow it down??!! There's that big long list of literature we ALWAYS want to do with our students, plus we want to vary it by time period, genre, and a whole host of criteria. So, where to begin?



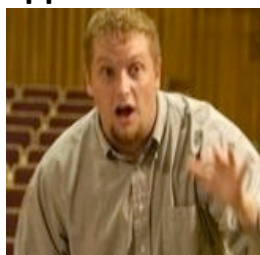
The answer lies in the very reason it is difficult to choose literature for spring until we get to know our ensembles: What do THIS year's singers need the most? What are the lessons we need to teach them through the literature? Whether the ensemble needs to learn more about efficient breath flow, articulation of text, expressive singing elements, or a period in history we've been ignoring, the literature is out there to present the lesson in a meaningful way. Dig deep and look for pieces that are not only *pretty* and *aesthetically pleasing*, but also teach our singers something that will further their development as self-aware musicians. A great place to start is with the state festival repertoire lists, and fortunately we here at SCVA happen to have a VERY extensive list. You can access it on our website, as well as the festival registration form you will need to register online for an SCVA festival. Festival registration begins online November 15 at [www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)

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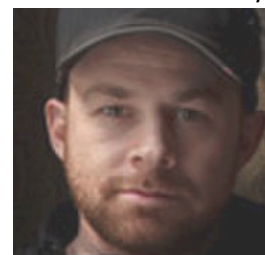
## Vocal Jazz & Contemporary A Cappella News

*Christine Tavares-Mocha – VP, Jazz Choir*

**The SCVA Vocal Jazz and Contemporary A Cappella Festival** is scheduled for Friday, March 10, 2017. The festival includes an on-stage clinic with great feedback from our exceptional adjudicators, University of Northern Colorado's Vocal Jazz Director, Kerry Marsh, and ARORA extraordinaire, Christopher Harrison. For additional information and to register, visit [www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)



**Kerry Marsh**



**Christopher Harrison**

**2017 California All State Jazz Choir** audition recordings are due by December 1. 10 - 14 students will be selected to sing under the direction of Roger Treece at the 2017 California All-State Music Educators Conference in San Jose, CA on **February 15-18, 2017**. For more information, visit [cbda.org](http://cbda.org) and click on *auditions*.

Roger Treece is a composer, arranger, producer, and singer who creates music that combines traditional Classical elements with Jazz, Funk, Gospel, and World Music. He was associate producer, arranger and singer on Josh Groban's #1 selling album, ALL THAT ECHOES. Roger is also the mastermind behind Bobby McFerrin's ground-breaking release VOCABuLarieS, a collection of seven extended choral works, hailed as "a masterpiece," "the future of choral music," and "a new standard for choral recording."



**Roger Treece**

## **Junior High / Middle School / Ninth Grade Honor Choir**

*Marcelo Martínez, VP – Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir*

I am excited to be your new Junior High/Middle School/Ninth Grade Honor Choir VP, and I hope to serve you and your students well. My goal is to organize a great event that will help our developing singers by giving them a wonderful and memorable experience. Honor Choir auditions will take place in multiple locations on **Saturday January 21, 2017** and **Saturday, January 28, 2017**. Audition sites are posted online.



Dr. John St. Marie, Director of Choirs at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA) will serve as this year's guest conductor. Dr. St. Marie also teaches conducting for the Summer Master's program at Cal State, Los Angeles, and is the Director of Music at Vallejo Drive Seventh Day Adventist Church, and at Irvine United Congregational Church. He is also a member of Pacific Chorale, John Alexander Singers, and the de Angelis Vocal Ensemble. He is an amazing musician and person, and I know your students will love working with him.

As always, the audition will include both melodic and rhythmic sight-singing. Any system that you use in your classroom is acceptable as long as the student reads the music accurately. In my classroom, I try to work in some type of sight-singing almost every day to get the students prepared. There are plenty of resources online including on the SCVA website. Examples can be found in the FESTIVALS section. There is also a link to Masterworks Press where you can purchase many reproducible sight-singing examples.

My own students who have made it into the Honor Choir have truly loved the experience and are always glad that they tried it. I hope that you will encourage your singers in grades six through nine to audition this year. Feel free to copy the information below as a guide for your students.

### **How to register**

- Go to [www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org) and click on EVENTS, then JR. HIGH HONOR CHOIR.
- Select the date and site at which you wish to audition.
- Be sure you have checked your availability for all dates.
- Pay the \$10 audition fee via PayPal.
- (Directors may choose to send a school check for all students, payable to SCVA)

### **The Audition Process**

*(All exercises are sung a cappella)*

- Sing a major scale - ascending and descending
- Sing a major and minor triad
- Sing the interval of an octave
- Sight-sing one melodic and one rhythmic example
- Sing tonal memory patterns
- Sing "America" ("My Country 'Tis of Thee")

Marisa Rawlins-Bradfield, VP - Vocal Solo Competition

# Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Competition

## *Preliminary Performance Registration*

### Audition Dates and Locations

**SATURDAY  
JANUARY 7**

**Glendale High School**  
1440 Broadway Ave.  
*Grace Sheldon-Williams, Host*

**SATURDAY  
JANUARY 14**

**Providence High School**  
511 S. Buena Vista, Burbank  
*Marisa Bradfield, Host*

**SATURDAY  
JANUARY 28**

**Fullerton High School**  
201 E. Chapman Ave.  
*Scott Hedgecock, Host*

**SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 4**

**Newbury Park High School**  
456 N. Reino Rd.  
*John Sargent, Host*

### How Do I Register?

- Visit the SCVA website  
[www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)
- Select Category  
*Classical*  
*Musical Theatre/Jazz*
- Select Adjudication Method  
*Competitive*  
*Non-Competitive*  
*Rating*  
*Comments Only*
- Pay Registration Fee  
*\$30 - Soloist*  
*\$35 - Small Ensemble*

### Application & Payment Deadline

**JANUARY**

**2**

Please email  
[marisa.bradfield@providencehigh.org](mailto:marisa.bradfield@providencehigh.org)  
with any questions you may have!

### Performance Guidelines

- All registrations must have director approval.
- Directors or voice teachers must be current SCVA members.
- For ensembles, only one vocalist per part is allowed.
- Ensembles may be 3 to 8 singers.
- All solo performances must be accompanied.
- All performers must provide their own accompanist.
- All solo performances must be memorized.
- Ensembles may choose to perform with scores.
- All repertoire must be selected from the Classical, Musical Theatre, or Jazz genre.

**Attention!!**

*SCVA participants who earn a Superior rating will be invited  
to the CMEA State Solo and Small Ensemble Festival.*

## Building Community in High School Choir

*Rachelle Randeem – President Elect*



Community within any choir is incredibly important. At Santiago High School in Corona, a large leadership team is given a lot of responsibility so that the choir members feel that the students are leading the ensemble to success. It is so important to **delegate!** This is imperative to student growth. As educators we should LOVE teaching leadership skills to the next generation!

In the Santiago High School choirs, the leadership team, rather than the director, begins the class in front of the choir checking for absences, talking about morning announcements, calendar information, performance details, etc. It is imperative that student leadership connects to their peer group. On-going dialogue between leadership and the director is essential to make sure each ensemble can attain the best experience possible.

Would you like additional information about leadership within high school vocal music ensembles? Email Karen Garrett at [kgarrett@cnusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:kgarrett@cnusd.k12.ca.us)

Watch for email communications containing additional helpful information. If you feel you r colleagues could be encouraged by more frequent email communication and helpful tools provided by their colleagues, please guide them to sign up for the communication, or have them email me at [rrandeem@losal.org](mailto:rrandeem@losal.org)

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## Young Women's and Young Men's Harmony Festivals

*Mark Freedkin, VP - Barbershop Harmony Festivals*



Applications for this year's Barbershop Harmony Festivals are still being accepted. Both the Men's and Women's events will be held at the Robert B. Moore Theater on the campus of Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. The 12th annual "**Diva Day**" Young Women in Harmony Festival, sponsored by the Harborlites Chorus, will be held on Saturday, February 4, and the 17th annual "**Young Men's Harmony Festival**" will be held on Saturday, February 11, 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.

The early-registration deadline is November 11, so you can still take advantage of the \$25 registration fee per singer. After November 11, the application fee will be \$30 per singer. The sponsoring choruses will cover the remaining costs for all sheet music, practice CDs, rehearsal facilities, guest clinicians, performance costumes, and a commemorative t-shirt for each singer. Lunch and dinner is also provided for the singers and any directors/chaperones in attendance.

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 will be limited to a maximum of 250 participants, so be sure to submit your applications early. Note that these festivals are separate events, and you must send the appropriate forms and payments to the proper recipient.

We look forward to receiving your applications. Please contact us if you have any questions about our festivals. Contact information for both groups is available on the SCVA website.

## Southern California Vocal Association

Santiago High School Attn: Karen Garrett  
1395 Foothill Parkway, Corona, CA 92881  
[www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org) / email: [scvemail@yahoo.com](mailto:scvemail@yahoo.com)



### IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

Festival Host Application Deadline	November 1, 2016
HS Honor Choir Weekend @ University of Redlands	November 18-19, 2016
Solo/Ensemble Festival Application Deadline	January 2, 2017
JH Honor Choir Application Deadline	January 13, 2017
JH Honor Choir Auditions (Various Locations)	January 21, 2017
JH Honor Choir Auditions (Various Locations)	January 28, 2017
Diva Day	February 4, 2017
Young Men's Harmony Festival	February 11, 2017
California All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble	February 15-18, 2017
Vocal Jazz & Contemporary A Cappella Festival	March 10, 2017