



Southern California Vocal Association December, 2014

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Rodger Guerrero*

Advocate (noun): from Latin *advocatus*, “one summoned [to give evidence];” derives from Latin *advocāre*, “to call or summon to;” 1. A person who argues for a cause; supporter or defender; 2. A person who pleads in another’s behalf; an intercessor.

As America’s choral advocates in the trenches, we are often, unfortunately summoned “to give evidence” as to the need for choral music in our schools. When challenged to do so, we must immediately, regularly communicate with as many people as we can about the benefits of the choral experience. Parents, fellow teachers, administrators, community organizations, and politicians must hear our call for every child to be able to sing.

When we feel individually insignificant, we must join together and board the advocacy train of organizations that effectively plead on our behalf. **Stand Up 4 Music** ([www.standup4music.org](http://www.standup4music.org)) is at the front of that train. Collectively sponsored by CMEA, The California Arts Project, ACDA, SCVA, and our sister professional instrumental organizations, it provides us with valuable information about legislative actions which may boost or damage choral music educational opportunities for youth. SCVA members should join **Stand Up 4 Music** and spread the word with colleagues, friends and family.

Yet for advocacy to become truly apparent, others must see us in order to believe us. We must therefore become strong choral music “**activocates**.” We must participate in all available workshops, clinics and conventions in order to learn from and share ideas with our colleagues. Two HUGE opportunities of this type will be available to all of us early next year: the **CASMEC Convention in Fresno, Feb. 19-22, 2015**; and the **ACDA National Conference in Salt Lake City, Feb. 25-28, 2015**.

Still, choral music advocacy cannot succeed without a collective commitment to actively participate in the choral organizations that acutely benefit us. As the only California choral organization “**dedicated to the advancement of vocal music at all grade levels in the schools of Southern California**,” SCVA sponsors a multitude of activities which assist SoCal school choral directors and singers. There are still significant opportunities for you and your singers to experience the substantial benefits of SCVA event participation: **Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Competition; Diva Day; Young Men’s Harmony Festival; Jazz/A Cappella Festival; Junior High Honor Choir; Show Choir Spectacular**; and some **65 High School and Junior High Choral Festivals!** These activities are coordinated by volunteer choral music educators who are also summoned to give evidence on the value of choral music – just like you.

Finally, at the highest level of advocacy, we can best demonstrate the value of the choral experience by continuing to produce beautiful music each and every day. Whether we teach ten novices or 50 veterans, we must make beautiful music. Whether we work with one all-inclusive choir or a logically tiered series of ensembles, we must make beautiful music. Whether our teaching assignment is all-choral or curricularly diverse, we must make beautiful music. Whether we are adequately or insufficiently funded, we must make beautiful music. Despite being over-worked, underpaid, mentally exhausted, or emotionally drained, we must make beautiful music.

Participation in SCVA activities can help. SCVA events are coordinated so that participants can “give evidence” to the intrinsic splendor of the choral experience. SCVA activities provide opportunities for that rewarding act of advocacy, one that will summon others to our noble cause for a long time to come.

# 2014 SCVA HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIRS

NOVEMBER 22, 2014 AT SANTA MONICA HIGH SCHOOL, BARNUM HALL



Conductor – Dr. Arlie Langager (R)  
Accompanist – Jill Brenner (L)



Conductor – John Tebay (R)  
Accompanist – Joseph Shubert (L)



Conductor – Dr. Geoffrey Boers (R)  
Accompanist – Sara Shakliyan (L)

# Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Competition

Marisa Rawlins Bradfield, VP-Vocal Solo



## Preliminary Performance Registration Vocal Solo and Small Ensemble Competition

<u>Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup></u> Glendale High School, Glendale Host: Grace Sheldon-Williams	<u>Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup></u> Murrieta Mesa High School, Murrieta Host: Jeffrey Kopasz	<u>Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup></u> Fullerton High School, Fullerton Host: Scott Hedgecock	<u>Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup></u> Canyon High School Santa Clarita Host: Mary Purdy	<u>Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup></u> Westview High School Westview (San Diego) Host: Crystal Stone
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### How do I explain the registration process to my student?

- Register a solo or ensemble for a festival [www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)
- Select the performance category (Competitive, non-competitive, rating or comments)
- Pay the registration fee - \$25 for solo, and \$35 for small ensembles online

### Eligibility and Guidelines

- All registrations must have director approval.
- Directors or voice teachers must be current SCVA members.
- When performing in an ensemble, only one vocalist per part will be allowed.
- All solo performances must be accompanied.
- All performers must supply their own accompanist.
- All solo performances must be memorized. Ensemble performances may choose to perform with scores.
- 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.

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

### **Online Application and Payment Deadline**

Saturday, December 6th

**Registration is only available online**

**For further questions and information:**

Please email me at [marisa.bradfield@providencehigh.org](mailto:marisa.bradfield@providencehigh.org)



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

*Mark Freedkin, VP - Barbershop Harmony Festivals*



Applications for this year's Barbershop Harmony Festivals for Young Women and Young Men are coming in, but we can still accommodate additional singers who wish to participate. Both events will be held at the Robert B. Moore Theater on the campus of Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. The 10th annual "**Diva Day**" Young Women in Harmony Festival, sponsored by the Harborlites Chorus, will be held on Saturday, February 7, and the 15th annual "**Young Men's Harmony Festival**" will be held on Saturday, February 21, 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.

Although the early-registration deadline has passed, the application fee is still only **\$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 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.

### **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 who wish to participate, but please submit your applications early to ensure that all of your singers can be accommodated.

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](mailto: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](mailto:mfreedkin@yahoo.com)

# Junior High Honor Choir Auditions and Grit

*Molly Peters, VP-Junior High Honor Choir*

We have been talking a lot about grit at our district professional development this year. Grit is defined as “courage and resolve; strength of character.” We can all agree that it takes courage to audition for anything—even now, I get wobbly knees and a quickened heartbeat when I think about singing in front of people (minus my students, of course). But what we really need to be teaching our students is to have the courage to fail. So much of the musical process is about failure: failure as an ensemble (whoa, that sight-reading didn’t go very well, did it?), failure as an individual (welp, totally bombed that audition), and sometimes even failure at a performance or festival. When we fail at something, what do we do? We learn from the experience. When our students fail at something, *they* need to learn from the experience. And it’s *our* job as their teachers to make that failure a learning experience for them.

Angela Lee Duckworth has a fabulous TED talk entitled, “The key to success? Grit.” You can watch it here: [http://www.ted.com/talks/angela\\_lee\\_duckworth\\_the\\_key\\_to\\_success\\_grit?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_the_key_to_success_grit?language=en). In her research, Duckworth has found that grit (courage, resolve, persistence, passion) is the key factor in determining success across the board. In fact, grit is a much more accurate determiner of success than talent.

In music, so often we are quick to praise talent. But what we should be doing in our classrooms is praising our students’ hard work. Students who are praised for their work and effort vs. students praised for their talent are much more likely to take risks and be willing to fail. Why? Because they understand that success comes from their work and is not a measure of who they are. It is much easier to say, “I will work harder next time” than, “I am not good enough,” and you will have more success with your students if they are motivated to make changes and work harder; in other words, they need to be grittier.

So how does this tie into junior high honor choir auditions?

Auditions will always be part of being a musician. The harder our students work on basic audition skills (everything from how to dress and carry yourself, practice on sight-reading, music theory, and singing technique), the more successful they will become at auditions. Will they have failures? Of course. But choir isn’t about that single audition. It’s about becoming a better singer and musician—acquiring those lifelong skills. We encourage them to keep trying, even after a failure. That’s grit.

*Resources: Video: Angela Lee Duckworth TED talk: “The key to success? Grit”*

*Article: ACSD Educational Leadership: “The Significance of Grit: A Conversation with Angela Lee Duckworth”*

Auditions for Junior High Honor Choir are scheduled for two Saturdays in 2015: January 17<sup>th</sup> and January 24<sup>th</sup>. We have audition sites in various locations around Southern California, so there is definitely one close to you and your students! **Please note: audition sites close on January 12<sup>th</sup> for scheduling.** These wonderful site hosts are opening up their schools to you and your students (6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade) so that they have the opportunity to participate in the honor choir. And it is going to be really special this year: Mr. Michael Hayden is our guest conductor and he is wonderful! Your younger singers will really enjoy working with him, and I do hope you all will encourage your young singers to audition for honor choir.

# Online Festival Registration Available NOW!!!

Nancy Ludwig and Melva Morrison, Festival VP's



Registration to participate in festivals is now open online and we are excited to announce that we have over 60 festival offerings! This means even more 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, PLUS the addition of 5 festivals offering a sight-singing component! Even more exciting is the fact that our online registration allows each director to choose the sight-singing level for their own ensemble!

The deadline to register for a festival is March 1, 2015, but early registration is encouraged. Register as soon as you can to insure attendance at the festival location that works best for you. Late registrations will not be accepted.

The cost per choir for each regular festival is \$100, and festivals with sight-singing are \$130. You may access the online registration form at <http://www.scvachoral.org/festivals.php>. Your registration is not complete until payment has been received. Any registrations that are not paid within 30 days from the initial date of submission will be cancelled. In addition, we cannot process your registration unless you are a current member of SCVA. If your membership is not current please purchase it online or add \$45 to your check amount.

Questions? Contact Nancy Ludwig or Melva Morrison. You may also visit the FAQ page at: [http://www.scvachoral.org/festival\\_faq.html](http://www.scvachoral.org/festival_faq.html).

## Junior High/Middle School Festivals

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Host</b>
Fri	3/13	9:30 am	Shivela Middle School	Murrieta	Open	Clinic	Lavinia Tikasingh
Thurs	3/19	11:00am	Venice HS	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Wendy Sarnoff
Tues	3/24	9:00am	Menifee Valley MS	Menifee	Open	Open	Tom Oliver
Tues	3/24	12:00pm	Menifee Valley MS	Menifee	Open	Open	Tom Oliver
Tues	3/31	10:00am	Oaks Christian HS	Westlake Village	Open	Open	Edward Rouse
Thurs	4/02	10:00am	Las Flores MS	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Benefield
Wed	4/08	10:00am	David Starr Jordan MS	Burbank	Open	Open	Christine DeMore
Tues	4/14	9:00am	James L. Day MS	Temecula	Open	Open	Patricia Halic
Tues	4/14	1:00pm	James L. Day MS	Temecula	Open	Open	Patricia Halic
Tues	4/14	7:00pm	California Lutheran University	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	Janna Santangelo
Tues	4/21	10:00am	Las Flores MS	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Benefield
Tues	4/28	1:00pm	Marshall Fundamental School	Pasadena	Open	Open	David Pitts
Thurs	5/07	10:00am	Oak MS	Los Alamitos	Open	Open	Rachelle Randeem
Fri	5/08	8:00am	Ramirez Intermediate School	Eastvale	Novice	Mixed	Dathan Jones
Fri	5/08	10:00am	Oak MS	Los Alamitos	Open	Open	Rachelle Randeem
Fri	5/08	11:00am	Manhattan Beach MS	Manhattan Beach	Adv	Open	Heather Gold
Fri	5/08	1:00pm	Ramirez Intermediate School	Eastvale	Novice	Clinic	Kyle Betts
Wed	5/13	10:00am	Bernardo Yorba MS	Yorba Linda	Open	Open	Linda Nason
Fri	5/15	9:30am	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Open	Greg Ellis
Fri	5/15	1:00pm	Segerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Open	Greg Ellis
Thurs	5/21	10:00am	William and Jane Bristol Civic Auditorium	Bellflower	Open	Open	Jae Shu

## High School Festivals

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Host</b>
Mon	3/02	3:30pm	Del Norte HS	San Diego	Open	Open	Keith Sattely
Thurs	3/05	9:00am	Chaparral HS	Temecula	Open	Open	Rob Hodo
Wed	3/11	10:00am	Bloomington HS	Bloomington	Open	Open	Ryan Duckworth
Wed	3/11	2:00pm	Glendale HS	Glendale	Open	Open	Grace Sheldon-Williams
Wed	3/11	2:00pm	Montebello HS	Montebello	Open	Open	Jessie Flasschoen
Wed	3/11	7:00pm	Montebello HS	Montebello	Adv	Open	Jessie Flasschoen
Thurs	3/19	6:30 PM	Venice HS	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Wendy Sarnoff
Fri	3/20	10:00am	Seegerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Adv	Chamber	Grace Han
Tues	3/24	9:00am	Fallbrook HS	Fallbrook	Open	Open	Heather Smith
Tues	3/24	7:30 pm	Harvard-Westlake School <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Studio City	Adv	Chamber	Rodger Guerrero
Thurs	3/26	4:00pm	Golden Valley HS	Santa Clarita	Open	Open	Kerry Riccio Aguero
Tues	3/31	10:00am	Baldwin Park PAC	Baldwin Park	Novice	Open	Suzanne Brookey
Tues	3/31	3:30pm	Baldwin Park PAC	Baldwin Park	Adv	Chamber	Suzanne Brookey
Wed	4/01	9:30am	Beckman HS <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Irvine	Adv	Mixed	Nancy Stuck
Wed	4/01	10:00am	Rosemead HS	Rosemead	Open	Open	Ruth Gray
Wed	4/01	1:00pm	Beckman HS	Irvine	Open	Open	Nancy Stuck
Wed	4/01	4:00pm	Rosemead HS	Rosemead	Open	Open	Ruth Gray
Thurs	4/02	10:00am	Placentia-Yorba Linda USD PAC	Placentia	Open	Women's	Michael Fenton
Thurs	4/02	1:00pm	Placentia-Yorba Linda USD PAC	Placentia	Open	Mixed	Michael Fenton
Thurs	4/02	5:00pm	Walnut HS	Walnut	Open	Open	Elizabeth Lopez
Tues	4/07	6:00pm	Knight HS	Palmdale	Open	Open	Suzanne McGarraugh
Wed	4/08	9:00am	CSUSB Recital Hall	San Bernadino	Adv	Open	John Russell
Wed	4/08	10:00am	Jarupa Hills HS	Fontana	Open	Open	Darrin Schuck
Thurs	4/09	10:00am	Fontana HS	Fontana	Open	Open	Jennifer Esquivel
Thurs	4/09	10:00am	Beaumont HS	Beaumont	Novice	Open	John Fieldhouse
Fri	4/10	10:00am	Arlington HS	Riverside	Open	Open	Kelli Dower
Tues	4/14	10:00am	Seegerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Women's	Grace Han
Tues	4/14	7:00pm	Eastlake HS	Chula Vista	Open	Open	Joseph DeMers
Wed	4/15	10:00am	Seegerstrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Men's	Grace Han
Thurs	4/16	9:00am	Fullerton Union HS <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Fullerton	Open	Women/ Men	Scott Hedgecock
Thurs	4/16	10:00am	Segertsrom HS	Santa Ana	Open	Mixed	Grace Han
Thurs	4/16	1:00pm	Fullerton Union HS <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Fullerton	Adv	Open	Scott Hedgecock
Fri	4/17	9:00am	Jarupa Valley HS	Mira Loma	Open	Women's	Melva Morrison
Fri	4/17	12:30pm	Jarupa Valley HS	Mira Loma	Open	Open	Melva Morrison
Tues	4/21	6:00pm	Mark Keppel HS	Alhambra	Open	Open	Tony Azeltine
Wed	4/22	9:30am	Murrieta Mesa HS	Murrieta	Open	Clinic	Jeffrey Kopasz
Wed	4/22	10:00am	Westridge School	Pasadena	Open	Open	Paul Stephenson
Wed	4/22	1:00pm	Murrieta Mesa HS <b>SIGHTREADING</b>	Murrieta	Adv	Clinic	Jeffrey Kopasz
Tues	4/28	9:30am	Marshall Fundamental School	Pasadena	Open	Open	David Pitts
Tues	4/28	7:00pm	Thacher School	Ojai	Open	Open	Bill Wagner
Thurs	4/30	2:00pm	El Monte HS	El Monte	Open	Open	Joel Whisler
Mon	5/18	7:00pm	West HS	Torrance	Open	Open	Kathleen Jensen
Thurs	5/21	1:00pm	William and Jane Bristol Auditorium	Bellflower	Open	Open	Carolyn Kelley

**BYORD (Bring Your Own Recording Device):** We will continue with BYORD for the 2014 SCVA Festivals. BYORD allows recorded adjudicator comments to be provided to the director in any audio format the director desires, and the audio files are available immediately at the end of the festival. If your festival host does not provide recordings for you, then plan to bring your own recording device, or plan on receiving two written adjudications. Please email us if you need more information.

# Sightreading at SCVA High School Festivals in 2015!

by Jennifer Stanley, Executive Vice President

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From the results of the 2014 SCVA Festival Evaluations, we learned that 75% of directors attending festivals want sightreading included at selected SCVA festivals. In response to the evaluations, SCVA has decided to add sightreading to **five** high school festivals this year. The other high school festivals and all middle school festivals will continue in the same festival format as last year. Our goal is to meet the needs of directors who have requested sightreading at festivals, and those directors who want to continue to participate in the usual festival format.

At the sightreading festivals, each choir will perform, and then leave the stage and proceed directly to the sightreading room (a classroom adjacent to the venue). The choir will then do their adjudicated sight-reading. For detailed information on the rules and procedures, please see [scvachoral.org/festivals.php](http://scvachoral.org/festivals.php) in the Festival Sightreading Info section. Choirs will receive a rating for sightreading that is separate from their performance rating; both ratings will appear on the plaque.

Please note that there is an additional \$30 fee for choirs attending sightreading festivals. The registration fee for sightreading festivals will then total \$130 (\$100 registration fee plus \$30 sightreading fee). This fee increase is to cover the cost of the third judge needed to adjudicate the sightreading.

We have worked to make sure there is accessible sightreading for groups at all ability levels. Please see the sample of Level 1 sightreading below. Each director will be able to choose the level (1-6) and the voicing for their choir's sightreading. Detailed information including examples of sightreading at all six levels can be found at [scvachoral.org/festivals.php](http://scvachoral.org/festivals.php) in the Festival Sightreading Info section. Please read all these documents carefully.

## LEVEL I

515

HS - Unison Treble  
2013

### *Melodic*

The musical notation is presented on two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4, and the second staff contains measures 5 through 8. The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes.

Our festival sightreading examples are being provided by MasterWorks Press. They have been producing festival sightreading materials since 2001, and all of their previous materials are available for purchase at the rate of \$1/page. Their website says, "You may copy our reproducibles in any quantity you wish, year after year, at no extra charge." There is a link from the SCVA website to the MasterWorks Press website, or please go directly to [masterworkspress.com/State\\_Festivals.htm](http://masterworkspress.com/State_Festivals.htm) and click on California/SCVA.

Sightreading will be added to selected middle school festivals at a later date, possibly 2016.

Please email your comments and questions to me at [scvaexecvp@gmail.com](mailto:scvaexecvp@gmail.com). Thank you!



## **SCVA JAZZ**

*Christine Tavares-Mocha, VP Jazz Festival*

### **SCVA's Acapella and Vocal Jazz Festival Friday, March 13, 2015 Featuring Artist: ARORA**

SCVA is proud to announce the 2014 SCVA Acapella and Vocal Jazz Festival! Our two judges this year will be Angie Doctor (of the BOBS acapella group and the Vocal Jazz group Clockwork) and Chris Harrison of ARORA. The festival will close with an encore performance by Arora. L.A. band ARORA (previously SONOS) is a vocals+electronics group who has created a genre of their own, with unique avant garde harmonies paired with deep soul. This past July 2013, ARORA released their resonant and addictive new all-original album, BIOLUMINESCENCE.

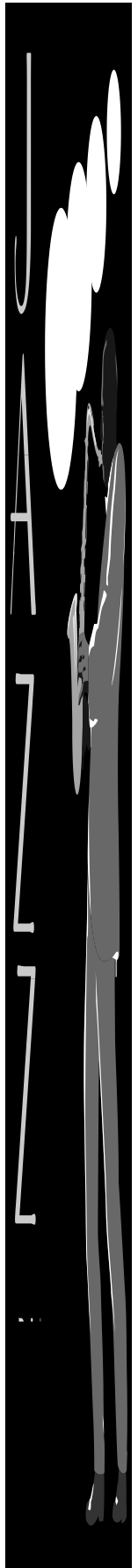
Two years in the making, "Bioluminescence" perfectly demonstrates the cinematic dream pop sound that is ARORA, marrying dreamy vocals with striking production. ARORA takes the album to the stage using nothing except their five voices and their rig of live looping and effects pedals.

Last year this festival reached full capacity so do not delay in reserving your participation space. Sign up today and reserve your spot for the festival, visit [www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)

### **2015 California All State Vocal Jazz Auditions! Deadline is Approaching! Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

California All State Vocal Jazz Auditions are fast approaching! This year's California All State Vocal Jazz director is UNT Vocal Jazz Director, Jennifer Barnes. If you have a student who is interested, have them visit [www.cbda.org](http://www.cbda.org) and look up audition materials and information on how to apply.

Those students that are selected will perform at the CASMEC convention in the Saroyan Performing Arts Center a concert for the California All-State Music Educators Convention in Fresno, CA on February 18-21, 2014. The concert will be held on Friday, February 20th.



# *Choral Music Truisms*

*Rodger Guerrero, President*

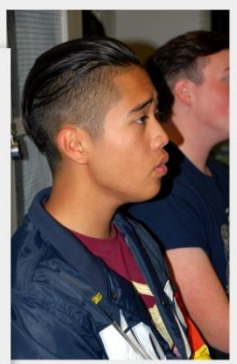
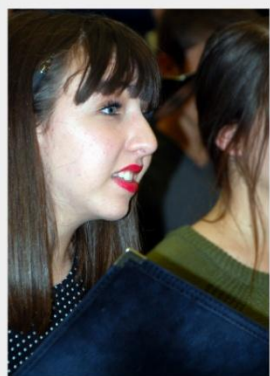
Sometimes we fail to realize how significant our impact is upon those we teach. Often we never know how much something we say rings true with our students. Occasionally a phrase we coin stays with our students for years to come. It may even become a theme that they share with their own children...or so I'm told (of course you have to teach for decades in order for this to occur).

Recently, before leaving SoCal to conduct a regional honor choir, I asked my students if there were any axioms that I frequently used in rehearsals, phrases that had meaning for them. I was completely surprised by their excited reactions and even more amazed by their written responses. A few of them are below. Some are mine, and some have been "lifted" from other sources. Feel free to do the same...and you even have my enthusiastic permission to claim them as your own. Maybe some of them will return to you when you begin to teach your students' children. ☺

- *Music is about the continuous relationship between the gathering and releasing of energy.*
- *No note is in and of itself **by itself**, and no two notes are ever alike.*
- *With regards to musical line, there is no **bridge to nowhere**.*
- *Like humankind, every note comes from somewhere and leads to and/or creates something.*
- *The journey of music-making is like approaching a mountain range: the closer we get, the clearer and more detailed the vista becomes.*
- *False music displays. True music reveals (**Bruce Adolph**).*
- *Music is praxial, not solely aesthetic: you are the prism through which the white light of the composer's intentions is separated into a stunning spectrum of color for the audience to receive and respond to.*
- *A choir is like Christmas lights: if one bulb is out, the entire strand won't work.*
- *This is not **my choir**. My back is to the audience. This is **your choir**. The music is **yours**, and the audience is watching.*
- *A choral performance must be a visual feast. What do you want the menu to look like?*
- *A choral performance is like walking through an art gallery. Every piece must have its own color, its own story, its own character, and its own expression.*
- *A ship in port is safe, but that's not what ships are built for (**Admiral Grace Hopper**).*
- *Opportunity is failure turned upside-down. When there is no sun, we can see the evening stars (**Heraclitus**). Learn from yesterday; savor today; look to tomorrow.*
- *Today I will give everything I have; for anything I keep will be lost forever (**Peter Loel Boonshaft**).*
- *Nothing of profound value is easily obtained.*
- *Excuses are the pillars of mediocrity that build a monument to nothing.*
- *Success is not one singular, great achievement but a series of small improvements, consistently applied (**Dwight Stones**). Raise the bar at every attempt, so that even if you can't jump over it, you can walk under it standing pretty tall (**Peter Loel Boonshaft**).*
- *Excellence is caring more than others think is wise; risking more than others think is safe; dreaming more than others think is practical; and expecting more than others think is possible (**Peter Loel Boonshaft**).*

# 2014 SCVA HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIRS

NOVEMBER 22, 2014 AT SANTA MONICA HIGH SCHOOL, BARNUM HALL

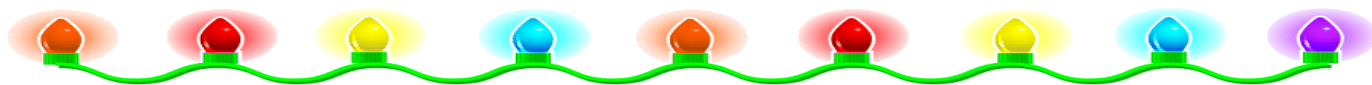


## Southern California Vocal Association

Harvard-West-Lake Upper School

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### IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

SCVA Festival Registration Continues	Deadline March 1, 2015
Junior High Honor Choir Application Deadline	January 12, 2015
Junior High Honor Choir Auditions	January 17, 2015
	January 24, 2015
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
Junior High Honor Choir Regional Rehearsal	March 14, 2015
Junior High Honor Choir Regional Rehearsal	March 21, 2015
California All-State High School Honor Choirs	March 26 - 28, 2015
Junior High Honor Choir Rehearsal & Concert	April 25, 2015
Show Choir Spectacular	May 2, 2015