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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Drew Lewis*

My students and I recently attended an online vocal jazz festival, where schools shared music performances with each other. During this session our clinician asked my students to state any “roses or thorns” they’ve experienced during this semester of remote and hybrid learning. Hearing their responses served as a good reminder that we should continue to devote time for reflection, not only for ourselves, but also for our students as we approach the end of yet another semester of teaching.

As we head toward the end of the calendar year, I’m reminded again of the musical tradition that started in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Scotland with Robert Burns and the poem *Auld Lang Syne* (which he claimed was an old song that had never been in print until he wrote it down for the first time). According to [www.scotland.org](http://www.scotland.org), “The phrase ‘auld lang syne’ roughly translates as ‘for old times’ sake’, and the song is all about preserving old friendships and looking back over the events of the year.”

We certainly have plenty of events on which to look back during 2020! I know that many parts of this year have been challenging for us and our students; however, my hope is that you have been able to cultivate those relationships and connections, which continue to bring life, hope, and gratitude. I’ve loved every moment at our online SCVA events (and other community events) where colleagues have encouraged each other, and we’ve seen ourselves inspired to make it through another day. You are invited to attend our final SCVA Happy Hour on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-6 PM. We will reflect upon our fall semester as an SCVA community and discuss ideas, concerns, and find the help we may need going forward into 2021. If you have any virtual performances you would like to share on December 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be an opportunity to present those as well.

As we look toward 2021 with cautious hope and anticipation, we should also reflect upon the events of 2020 to see how this time has shaped and will shape us. Your creativity and flexibility are on display. You all are rock stars for the work you have put into your classes and for the ways you have tried to build meaningful connections with students in a non-ideal situation. Take a deep breath, find the gratitude you have in life, pause to reflect, and remember these words as we wrap up this semester:

Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
And days of auld lang syne?  
For auld lang syne, my dear  
For auld lang syne  
We’ll tak a cup o’ kindness yet  
For days of auld lang syne



## Jr. High/MS Honor Choir

Amanda Benavides, VP



As we continue to see what is happening in the world, Jr. High/MS Honor Choir is going to look a little different. Any student who made the 2020 group, is grandfathered in for this year (no audition necessary). The following will be the process for the 2021 group:

1. Auditions – Students will audition virtually on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Cost will be \$10. Window to sign up will happen after winter break.
2. Audition Criteria –
  - a. Sing the song “Good Morning to You” (Key of C or F for changed voices)
  - b. Sing a major scale (Key of C or F for changed voices)
  - c. Repeat a vocalise
3. Depending on what the pandemic situation is, Honor Choir will either be small ensembles, consisting of 12-15 students per group (each ensemble practice and perform/record two pieces) or the group will be virtual (performing three pieces total). Cost will be between \$45-50. This will cover the costs of the music and practice tracks, session with conductor/accompanist (small ensembles only) or virtual session with conductor (TBD), instructional videos for student recordings, and virtual choir editing service (virtual ensemble only)
4. Regardless of which direction we end up going, the final pre-recorded virtual performance will be on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

As with everything, we will need to flexible as our situation constantly changes. Please feel free to email [amandacbenavides@gmail.com](mailto:amandacbenavides@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Introducing SCVA VJCA Honor Choir  
under the direction of Jamie Shew

Watch their performance  
debut Live Streamed

**SAT DEC 12TH @7PM**

Link will be emailed to all members.  
For more info email [cmocha@hartdistrict.org](mailto:cmocha@hartdistrict.org)

*Family District*  
**HONOR CHOIR**

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VOCAL ASSOCIATION**

***VOCAL SOLO  
COMPETITION***

**Application**

**Deadline: Saturday, January 23, 2021**

**Virtual**

**Submission Deadline: Saturday, February 3, 2021**

**Finalist and Results Posted**

**Saturday, March 6, 2021**

**Live**

**Finals Round: May 8, 2021 Location TBD**

**Judges: Clarissa Shan & Charlie Kim**

**For more info visit: [scvachoral.org](http://scvachoral.org)**



**SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR 2021**

*Sarah Anders, Vice President of Show Choirs*

Save the Date! SCVA will be hosting its first ever Show Choir Competition: Virtual Edition on May 8, 2021. Show Choir Divisions include: Novice Women, Novice Mixed, Intermediate Women, Intermediate Mixed, Advanced Women, Advanced Men and Advanced Mixed (Combined Tier 1 & 2).

We encourage all groups to attend regardless of the level of experience of the group. This is truly a place for everyone! The show choir community is incredibly supportive and enjoys both the competitive atmosphere and sharing and appreciating the music and choreography that other schools have worked so hard to master. The judges we will be using this year are pros in the show choir community and have years of experience adjudicating both the visual and musical aspects of show choir.

Trophies are awarded to the top scoring groups in each division along with plaques for outstanding achievements in Showmanship and Musicianship. In addition, this year, we will add several caption awards including best video editing, best costumes, best choreography, and best soloists for each division. The event will air on a livestream channel on May 8<sup>th</sup>, with division start times sent out in advance. We hope to see you on May 8!

## Southern California Vocal Association

2450 W Ball Road, Anaheim, CA 92804

[www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org) / email: [info@scvachoral.org](mailto:info@scvachoral.org)



### IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

SCVA Online Happy Hour 5-6pm	Dec 10, 2020 <b>2021</b>
Virtual Vocal Jazz & Contemporary A Cappella Festival	March 12 – 13
Vocal Solo Competition Application Deadline	Jan 23
Vocal Solo Competition Virtual Submission Deadline	Feb 3
Vocal Solo Competition Finalist and Results Posted	March 6
Vocal Solo Competition Finalists Round	May 8
Show Choir Spectacular	May 8

***Please follow our social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) for updates on upcoming events that will be finalized prior to our next newsletter publication.***