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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Drew Lewis

Greetings from your SCVA president. Little did I know that when I became president-elect two years ago, I would start my tenure as president in the middle of a global pandemic! However, I believe we have an opportunity to examine the *how* and *why* of what we teach through a new lens that will allow us to discover creative ways to keep our students engaged and inspired long after the pandemic is over.

For those who know me, you won't be surprised to hear that one of the things I've missed these past several months is Disneyland. This is probably why two Disney songs come to mind (one from a movie I enjoy, and one from a movie that I don't) when I think of the future ahead for SCVA. So I would like to say two things; while we are heading *Into the Unknown*, we need to remember that *We're All In This Together*.

Into The Unknown

This summer has been full of learning for me as I've attended online conferences and webinars, read several books, and spent a lot of time searching the internet for ideas. I have been learning about and considering how we as a choral community can elevate historically marginalized voices and make substantive changes during this time where deep seated systemic racism has again been brought to the forefront.

I have also explored many different online platforms and tools, including creating my own Bitmoji virtual classroom after vowing never to do so back in May! Dan Hawkins has also compiled an incredible resource of tools to share with you in this month's newsletter, and we will also update our **COVID-19 resources page** on the SCVA website regularly.

We may not know much about what will come in the next few weeks or even months, but we want to create a place where our students can be nurtured, and our programs will survive.

We're All In This Together

SCVA is committed to building and cultivating connections and resources to help us encourage each other even more throughout the school year. Starting September 10th at 5PM we will host a monthly SCVA Online Happy Hour (the second Thursday of each month) and our Past President, Rachelle Randeem, has organized a **Fall In-Service Series** on the subjects of digital collaboration/virtual performances and honoring diversity. Also, The **Contemporary A Cappella Vocal Jazz Honor Choir** under the direction of Jamie Shew from Fullerton IS HAPPENING. This year's event will focus on solo singing, as well as group singing, philosophy of performance, & Master Classes. For more information, email cmocha@hartdistrict.org. In the next few weeks your SCVA board will have even more exciting resources and virtual events to share with you!

2020-2021 will be like no other school year. COVID-19 will define a generation, and we know that the arts are needed now more than ever. Let us support each other so that we can come through this, as Dr. Mackey said at the recent Music Ed Tech Conference, "not just having survived, but stronger and more resilient!"

Distance Learning SCVA Resource Guide

Compiled by Dan Hawkins, VP Festival Adjudication, 8/4/2020

One of the things I have been most grateful for and humbled by during this pandemic is the amazing outpouring of collaboration and sharing. Although we are physically distanced, in some ways the choral community has come together more than ever! In that spirit, I pulled together a resource guide to share with you all as well. If you are new to this, the best advice is “Keep It Simple.” Pick one or two things and run with them. Technology cannot substitute for good teaching – so lean into your experience and training, then pick resources to support the work you already do. This is a summary list – for the full resource guide with links, check out “Resources” on the SCVA webpage.

Professional Choral Educator Organizations and Facebook Groups

- Your professional organizations (SCVA, CCDA, ACDA, WACDA, NAFME, NATS, and CMEA) have TONS of webinars, resource lists, and videos for you to explore.

MusicFirst.com

- A robust on-line music education LMS including a library of lessons, assessments, content, and courses as well as the Focus on Sound music encyclopedia.
- Ability to add-on additional software licenses for notation, recording, composition, theory, ear-training, and beat generators.

Online Collaborative Recording and Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs)

- DAWs give you the ability to collaborate with your students on recording projects (audio and video). Also enables you to create “call and response” assignments. A few worth checking out are BandLab, Soundtrap, the Acapella App, UpBeatMusicApp.com, and ChoirCreator.com.

Music Theory and Ear Training Resources

- Build musicianship skills often overlooked in our classes. There are lots of materials out there, including ToneSavvy, ThetaMusic Trainer, MusicTheory.net, MyMusicianship (formerly SonicFit), Auralia and Musition for Education, and Breezin’ Thru Theory.

Tools for Music Notation and Composition

- Tap into students’ creativity using music notation tools, with the added ability to immediately “hear” compositions played back. Take a look at Flat for Education (*Flat.io is also available as a useful add-on for Google Slides and Docs*), Musescore, and Noteflight Learn (which can include SoundCheck for performance assessment).

Resources for Sight Reading and Performance Assessment

- Check out SightReading Factory to easily generate endless sight-reading examples. Tired of the constant assessment of student performance tracks? Automate the process through SmartMusic, SoundCheck (with NoteFlight) or PracticeFirst (with MusicFirst).

Additional Resources

- I’ve included a couple other useful resources, including a link to MidnightMusic.com – Katie Wardrobe’s amazing site for integrating technology into music education.
- By far, one of my favorite discoveries is the “Talk and Comment Chrome Extension” which easily allows you to record and leave voice comments in Google Classroom.

SCVA Fall Inservice Series

**Virtual
Platform**
Watch your
email for
details

DIGITAL COLLABORATION & VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE

Saturday, August 29, 2020, 9am -12pm

HONORING DIVERSITY

Saturday, September 26, 2020, 9am -1pm

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VOCAL ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS:



Winner of 2020
DOWNBEAT
award

CONTEMPORARY A CAPPELLA & VOCAL JAZZ STUDIO HONOR CHOIR

WITH

FULLERTON DIRECTOR OF VOCAL JAZZ

JAMIE SHEW

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Masterclass, Solo Singing, Philosophy of Performance

For more info email:

Christine Mocha

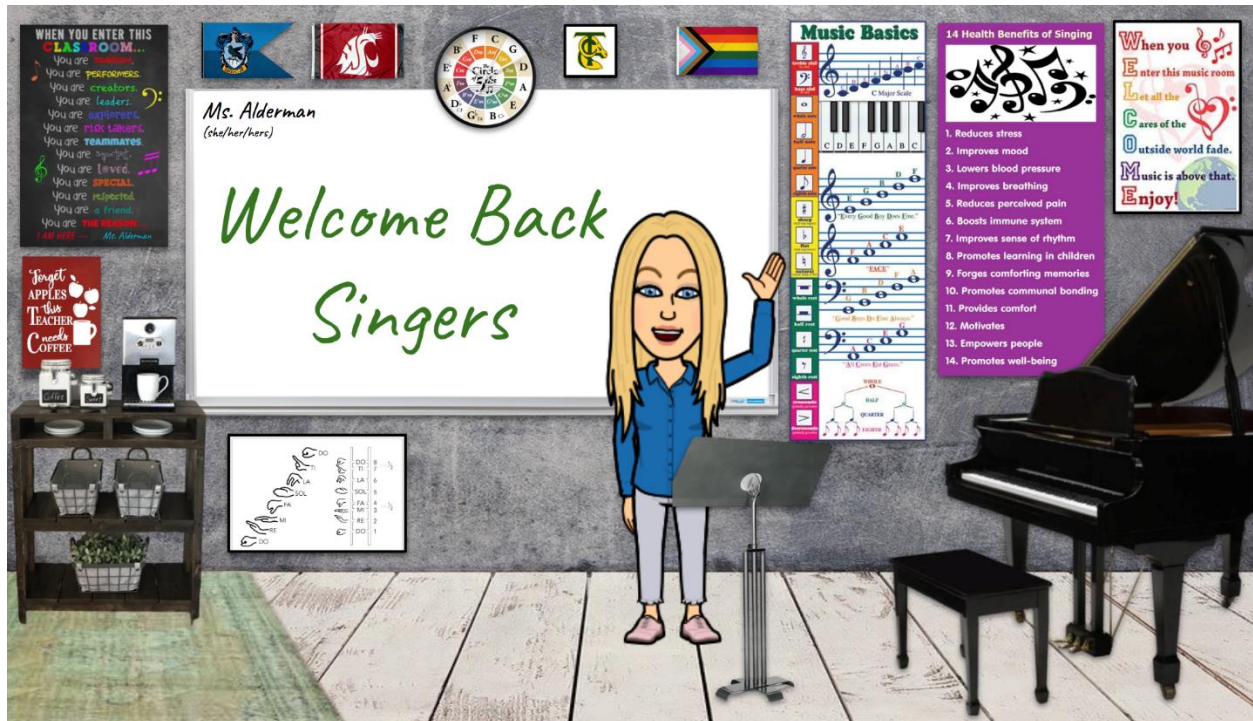
cmocha@hartdistrict.org



Southern California Vocal Association

2450 W Ball Road, Anaheim, CA 92804

www.scvachoral.org / email: info@scvachoral.org



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

	2020
SCVA Fall In-Service Series	Aug 29 9am-Noon
SCVA Online Happy Hour	Sep 10 @5pm
SCVA Fall In-Service Series	Sep 26 9am-1pm
SCVA Online Happy Hour	Oct 8 @5pm
SCVA Online Happy Hour	Nov 12 @5pm
Contemporary A Cappella & Vocal Jazz Studio Honor Choir	Nov 22

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