



Southern California Vocal Association

August 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tammi Alderman

Welcome back! Hopefully you took some time to connect with family and friends over the summer and enjoy some relaxation before heading back to school. As we start the new school year, I want to remind you of the joy that will be yours this year.

The people who will enter your classroom in the coming weeks, while maybe not excited about returning to their other classes, will be looking forward to their time in your room. Give a little extra thought to that first day, week and month. Remember what kept you coming back to the choir room every year and how that made you feel. We know that our students keep returning to choir because of those feelings and what it means when they are part of the choral family.

This year SCVA will have more offerings than ever, most of which are highlighted in this edition of our newsletter. Please take a moment to decide what SCVA experiences will benefit your students over the course of this year. Hint: include those events and dates in your calendar so that students and parents all know the options.

EXCITING NEWS: SCVA has scholarship/financial assistance available for nearly every event that we now offer. Thanks to our Past-President, Drew Lewis, and other SCVA Board Members, we are able to offer assistance to:

- Honor Choir Students (audition fees and participation fees)
- Choral Festivals (registration fees)
- Fall In-Service (registration fees)
- Close Harmony Festival (registration fees)

If there are other events for which you or your students need assistance, please email someone on the SCVA board and we will create a solution for you and your students.

I am looking forward to another year of teaching. If there is any way that SCVA can serve you, please let us know!

Tammi Alderman
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VP - Close Harmony Festival

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Membership



HOST REGISTRATION

Now Open

ADVANTAGES OF HOSTING

CHOIR FESTIVALS WITH SCVA

- Select a festival date that works with your schedule
- No need to worry about the chaos of transportation
- You are allowed to register one performing ensemble for free!
- **Host registration closes October 1st**

SEEKING FESTIVAL ADJUDICATORS

FOR THE 2024 FESTIVAL SEASON

SCVA is seeking talented individuals to serve as sightreading adjudicators, festival adjudicators, and festival clinicians. If you are passionate about serving as an adjudicator, consider joining our team! We are looking for adjudicators who are able to fulfill the following job description:

1. Provide choral adjudications (written and spoken) to school choirs at all levels in a fast, clear, and encouraging manner.
2. Adjudications will provide positive, meaningful feedback in all categories of the adjudication form.
3. Make specific and encouraging comments focused on promoting the choir's improvement.
4. Complete adjudications professionally, promptly, and as directed.

Applicants will be evaluated based on the achievement of these objectives. **To serve as an adjudicator for Spring 2024, applications should be submitted by November 30th, 2023.**

The application process can be accessed via the following link:

http://scvachoral.org/festival_adjudicator_reg.php

If you know of any colleagues to recommend as a potential adjudicator, please e-mail their name and contact information to Alan Garcia at garcia_al@auhsd.us.



High School **HONOR CHOIR** 2023

Applications Open: August 18
Auditions: Sept 30 & Oct 7
Honor Choir Weekend: Nov 16-18
scvachoral.org

**SHARE OUR
AUDITION VIDEO
WITH YOUR STUDENTS!**



Dr. Jace Saplan
SATB Honor Choir



Dr. Joe Modica
SSAA Honor Choir



John Byun
TTBB Honor Choir

Audition Adjudicators Needed!

Help facilitate positive audition experiences for our region's students by adjudicating auditions!
Receive a \$150 stipend, or the ability to waive a Festival Participation Fee in 2024.

SCVAHONORCHOIR@GMAIL.COM

We're Back!!!
Introducing the SCVA 2023
Vocal Jazz Contemporary
A Cappella Honor Choir Director:
MATT FALKER

**AUDITIONS GO
LIVE:**
AUGUST 21ST,
2023

**AUDITION
DEADLINE:**
SEPTEMBER 17TH,
2023 AT 11:59 PM



**HONOR CHOIR
WEEKEND:**
NOVEMBER
16-17TH, 2023



MATT FALKER IS A JAZZ AND GOSPEL PIANIST, VOCALIST, ARRANGER AND CLINICIAN. AS A FULL-TIME PROFESSOR AT MIRACOSTA COLLEGE, MATT DIRECTS THE DOWNBEAT AWARD-WINNING FREQUENCY VOCAL JAZZ PROGRAM, AND IS FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF THE OCEANSIDE JAZZ FESTIVAL.

**EMAIL SARALOGSDON12@GMAIL.COM OR VISIT
scvachoral.org/vocal_jazz_honor_choir.php**

SCVA *Fall* IN-SERVICE

OCTOBER 27, 2023

9:00 AM-4:00 PM

GLENDALE CITY CHURCH

610 E. California Ave., Glendale, CA 91206



HEADLINE CLINICIAN
Maria A. Ellis
"Girl Conductor"



Sessions include a reading session with Dr. Zanaida Robles and Reena Esmail, Sound Systems for choral directors with Jeremy Fox, and elementary music sessions with Frank LaGuardia (Vice President, LA Orff Chapter)

Early Registration:

\$75 (deadline September 15, 2022)

Late Registration:

\$85 (after September 15, 2022)

SCVA Collegiate members:

\$20, includes SCVA Yearly Membership



Close Harmony Festival

*"Grow as a person
and a musician!"*



SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY FEB 3, 2024

- Meet new friends
- Perform with world champions
- Learn fun repertoire
- Perform for friends and family!

LOCATION TBD

SCVA VOCAL JAZZ & CONTEMPORARY A CAPELLA FESTIVAL

LONGER CLINIC TIMES
LUNCH TIME CONCERT
MANDATORY 3 HOUR
BLOCKS (GUARANTEED
AUDIENCE FOR ALL GROUPS)

Registration opens
October 1st, 2023 @
https://www.scvachoral.org/jazz_festival.php

Please email
kholt@hartdistrict.org
with any questions



**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 10TH
2024**

At Saugus High School
in Santa Clarita CA





**VOCAL SOLO
SMALL ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL
2023-2024**



Important Dates

- ✦ **Friday, February 23rd**
Audition Application & Round One Submission Deadline
- ✦ **Friday, March 8th**
Results of Finalists Announced
- ✦ **Friday, May 3rd**
Final Submission Deadline
- ✦ **Sunday, May 19th**
Live Finals Round @ 2:00pm
Northridge United Methodist Church 9650 Reseda Blvd.
Northridge, CA 91324

Adjudicators
*Professional
Performing Artists*

**Charlie
Kim
&
Baraka
May**



**AWARDS AND
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE**

For More Information: www.scvachoral.org
Questions:
Marisa.Bradfield@providencehigh.org
or Avakiagk@PierceCollege.edu

WEBSITE UPDATE

Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster



Your E-mail Address Matters

When you registered or renewed your annual SCVA Membership, you specified your e-mail address. You can use either your personal e-mail address or your school e-mail address, both of which are unique to you.

When your students register to participate in an SCVA event, they should always use the same e-mail address that you used when you created or renewed your Annual SCVA Membership. The system validates your e-mail address and verifies that your SCVA Membership Dues have been paid. Some of you might have multiple aliases for your e-mail address, but our system only allows one e-mail address, otherwise it will reject any student applications (such as Honor Choirs or Vocal Solo Competition).

When that happens, the application is rejected and there is nothing for me to fix. Instead, it is your responsibility to ensure that your singers use **ONLY** your primary e-mail address that is associated with your SCVA membership. In addition, when we have application deadlines, we cannot accept a claim that a student used the wrong e-mail address. It is as if they had not submitted any application at all.

On a related note, when your students use that primary email address for their audition applications, you can view all of the applications for your students by logging in to the Members-Only area of the website.

E-mail Broadcast Messages

A number of automated e-mail confirmation and broadcast messages are periodically sent from our website to SCVA members to notify them about various events. Sometimes those broadcast messages are blocked by certain school district's e-mail servers, which means you won't receive those messages. Please check with your school district's network administrators to ensure that your e-mail system can accept incoming messages from "**admin@scvachoral.org**" to prevent those messages from being rejected as SPAM (unsolicited e-mail).

Please also be aware that if you simply reply to any of those automated broadcast messages, your response will be sent to me (as webmaster), and I must then forward your message the originator. For more efficient communication, please do not reply directly to any of those messages. Instead, please send your response to the sender's e-mail address.

Hints for Using PayPal and Saving Money

When using PayPal to pay the application or participation fees for multiple students, you can minimize the processing fees by adding the desired item to your Shopping Cart only one time, and then specify a quantity for that one item. You should not add the same item to your Shopping Cart multiple times, since that will result in a larger processing fee being added to your total transaction amount.

You can also use a single PayPal transaction to pay the application or registration fee for multiple events at the same time (such as Festival Registration Fees), rather than checking out after submitting each item. Simply add each item to your current shopping cart, and then click on the Continue Shopping link to return to the SCVA website. After you have completed all of the items you wish to purchase, you can then proceed to the checkout page and receive a single invoice that lists all of those items.

If you have any comments, questions or problems with any aspect of our website please contact Mark Freedkin at **mfreedkin@yahoo.com** or (714) 357-1187.

SAVE THE DATE

SCVA SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR



MAY | **18TH** | **2024**

JOHN A. ROWLAND HIGH SCHOOL
2000 OTTERBEIN AVE ROWLAND HEIGHTS CA 91748

Important Dates & Deadlines

Festival Host Registration	2023
High School Honor Choir Applications Open	Now Open
VJC A Capella Honor Choir Auditions Go Live	August 18
VJC A Capella Honor Choir Audition Deadline	August 21
High School Honor Choir Auditions	September 17
VJC A Capella Festival Registration Opens	September 30
High School Honor Choir Auditions	October 1
Fall In-Service	October 7
JVC A Capella Honor Choir Weekend	October 27
High School Honor Choir Weekend	November 16-17
Festival Adjudicators Application Deadline	November 16-18
	November 30
	2024
Close Harmony Festival	February 3
VJC A Capella Festival	February 10
Vocal Solo Small Ensemble Audition Application and Round One Submission Deadline	February 23
Vocal Solo Small Ensemble Results of Finalists Announced	March 18
Vocal Solo Small Ensemble Final Submission Deadline	May 3
Vocal Solo Small Ensemble Live Finals Round	May 19



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

**Jennifer
Meregini**
Vista Del Lago High School



Tell us about yourself:

My name is Jennifer Meregini. After graduating from Grambling State University, I started my teaching career as a middle school choir director for two years. I am currently serving as the director of vocal music at Vista Del Lago High School and have held this position for the last six years.

Describe the structure of your program: (size, schedule, ensemble voicings):

At VDL, the choral program has expanded from three choirs to four choirs in just the last three years. These choirs include concert choir, show choir, an advanced chamber/madrigal choir and the newly added vocal jazz choir. Students are allowed to join concert choir freely but have to audition in order to get into the three additional choirs. We dive into as much music as possible such exploring jazz, folk, traditional and contemporary pop selections and spirituals as well as language pieces including but not limited to Spanish, French, German, Korean, Swahili and more. Each choir size is calculated to be between 15-20 students except for Vocal jazz current set at 12 students between 9th-12th grade.

What about your program are you most proud of:

Teaching at a high school has always been a dream of mine and I love reliving those moments with my students. From singing the national anthem at various sports events (football, volleyball, baseball, softball and basketball games) to participating in all of the school dances prep rallies and academic assemblies, I'm so proud of how the choir program is heavy immersed in the school culture. The students will go from walking in the school parades with the cheerleaders showing school spirit to sing surprise birthday songs to various faculty members on campus, to creating and editing get well soon videos to kids in needs. Students do not want to be knowing for singing at concerts but serving, supporting uplifting their school and community. We are very competitive as well. Every year, the advanced chamber ensemble called Madrigals earns a Superior at various SCVA festivals. For the last two years in row, Madrigals has earned Festival of Gold invitations because of competing and earning Gold ratings at World Strides Onstage Festivals hosted in Anaheim, California. This past year, I challenged our vocal jazz choir to do the same and they a Silver 2nd place which was extremely impressive. We also hosted a concert titled The Love Show, where each year students work along said the jazz band perform live music. At the last show, every seat was filled to the house and encores were yelled at the end of the night.

Favorite repertoire you have recently programmed:

I am a huge fan of vocal jazz music so some of my favorites are "I'll Be Seeing You" and "Send in the Clowns" both composed by Darmon Meader and "Words" and "Chili con Carne" by Anders Edenroth. A few more would be "Light in the Hallway" arranged by Jaco Narverud, "City Called Heaven" arranged by Josephine Poelinitz and "Git Outta of My Way" arranged by Kellori Dower.

Tell us about your life outside the classroom:

I currently participate in various background vocal projects around parts of Moreno Valley, Riverside, Redlands and Los Angeles. I am most proud of being featured in the worldwide premiere of sing along of "Rent" in 2018 and the "Beyonce" Mass that premiered in Southern California in 2019. I am currently work on my second master's area of music education from Boston University.