

SCVA NEWS

Southern California Vocal Association September, 2015

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rodger Guerrero

Welcome (back) SCVA members! Whether you are a new or a veteran teacher, welcome (back) to the choral organization whose **primary purpose is to serve you**. Welcome (back) to choral music magic. Welcome (back) to the meaningful experiences that you and your singers will create together. Welcome (back) to an incredible profession, Choral Music Education: **a vocation that transforms lives**. Welcome (back) to the realization that we, the selfless, giving, and caring Choral Music Educators of Southern California **make a life-long impact upon the lives of tens of thousands of youth**. We do so because we maintain a positive mindset of purpose and conviction despite the significant obstacles we face. We matter, **and so do our singers**. We are crucial to their well-being, and they are essential to ours. The educational relationship we establish is thus symbiotic. Our diligent, determined work as Choral Music Educators is **The Nexus** of an immense, fervently dedicated choral music community. We light the choral wildfire in our students, and it emboldens them to do similarly for the remainder of their lives. We are the philosophers, the rebels, the movers, and the shakers. We are America's musical conscience – we foster educated historical awareness, thoughtful philosophical balance, and expansive musical perspective.

Welcome (back) to the 77th spectacular year of the **Southern California Vocal Association (Contribute!)**. Ours is the only local professional organization specifically **“dedicated to the advancement of vocal music at all grade levels in the schools of Southern California.” (Communicate!)**. This year SCVA will sponsor or co-sponsor numerous, invaluable events for tens of thousands of Southern California choral students and teachers: Fall In-Service, High School/Junior High School Honor Choirs, Solo and Ensemble Festival, Young Men's Harmony Festival [with the Masters of Harmony], Diva Day Young Women's Harmony Festival [with the Harborlites Chorus], High School/Junior High School Festivals, Vocal Jazz/A Cappella Festival, and Show Choir Festival (**Participate!**). This year SCVA will publish at least seven Newsletters, all of which will contain important information about SCVA events as well as interesting, valuable articles about the Choral Art (**Speak Up!**).

In addition to the publications and comprehensive list of student-centered activities, the SCVA Website offers abundant resources for you the Choral Music Educator. This includes links to other choral music educational sites (including a list of the *NAfME* K-12 National Performing Arts Standards and political advocacy sites such as *Stand Up 4 Music*), an inventory of recommended choral octavos for all levels and voicings, past SCVA Newsletters, an updated calendar of SCVA events, the SCVA Membership Directory, Policies, and By Laws (available for download as PDF documents), online registration forms and payment options and more. These highly valuable resources are located within the “Members Only” section. **You must register and pay for your dues to gain access to this cache of prized information.**

The unbelievably dedicated and caring human beings who **voluntarily staff the SCVA Executive Board** organize every event listed above, attend numerous meetings, and write all of those Newsletter articles. They are individually and collectively the finest people I know. This is my 12th year as a member of the Executive Board and final year in a second term as your President. Why commit so much time and energy to SCVA? 1.) Choral music has been the center of my life since I stepped into the Choir Room at Monache High School in Porterville, California 40 years ago. It is my duty, honor, and pleasure to give back; 2.) It is extraordinarily rewarding to be a member of the Executive Board and honestly, a whole heap of fun! Every meeting is replete with thoughtful, passionate, and meaningful discussions. **The Executive Board cares deeply about the choral art, SCVA, and each SCVA member.**

Again, welcome (back) everyone! SCVA is here to provide opportunities for you and your singers. **Contribute! Communicate! Participate! Speak Up! Become actively involved in our activities! Recruit others to join us!** Become more than a silent partner in the Choral Art of Southern California. Tell us how we can better serve you. Sign up online today because **we are you**. Let's improve Southern California Choral Music **one child at a time**.

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SCVA High School Regional Honor Choir

Karen Garrett, Vice President, High School Honor Choirs

Crystal Stone, Vice President II, High School Honor Choirs



We are pleased to announce this year's conductors for the SCVA High School Honor Choirs:

Mixed Choir:	Dr. Lynne Gackle, Baylor University
Women's Choir:	Dr. Angel Vazquez Ramos, Cal State Bakersfield
Men's Choir:	Dr. Christopher Peterson, Cal State Fullerton

Students who have participated in SCVA Honor Choirs in the past have regularly cited the experience as musically highly satisfying, deeply inspiring, and even life-changing. Participants will have the unique opportunity of working with some of the most distinguished conductors in our field, and prepare a concert with the most accomplished choral students from Southern California.

Please encourage your eligible high school students to apply to audition for what promises to be an exceptional choral experience. Check out the **NEW HONOR CHOIR TAB** on the left side of the SCVA website www.scvachoral.org. It is full of helpful information including past sight reading and tonal memory examples to assist in the preparation of your auditioning students.

Below, you will find our condensed version of the Honor Choir Policies and Guidelines as well as important dates and times. Crystal Stone, VP II of Honor Choirs and I wanted to provide you with a quick, one-page "At-A-Glance" for Honor Choir. May I suggest that you copy and distribute these pages for your students? I have auditioning students and their parents initial these pages and return to me to confirm that they understand all information. **For a complete and detailed listing of Honor Choir Policies and Guidelines please go to www.scvachoral.org** and use the Honor Choir tab on left side.

SCVA High School Honor Choir At-A-Glance

Important Dates 2015: *(all rehearsals are mandatory)*

- August 28-Sep 18th On-line Audition Application Open (fee \$10).
Deadline midnight 9/18/15
- Sept. 22nd Audition Times/Sites Posted and Confirmed
- Sept. 26th or Oct 3rd Regional Auditions at various So. Cal Sites
- Oct. 8th Audition Results Posted (Honor Choir fee \$90.00
If accepted)
- Oct. 24th Rehearsal @ Fullerton College 8:00 a.m. - 4:00p.m.
This is an ACT date so plan accordingly
- Nov. 20th and 21st Honor Choir Weekend, Redlands University,
Performance Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

Honor Choir Guidelines and Policies

(for complete listing go to www.scvachoral.org)

- **If selected for the Honor Choir you must participate. If a student does not attend rehearsal or drops out of an SCVA Honor Choir, the student's school may not be allowed to participate in Honor Choir the following school year.**
- Calendar conflicts are **NOT** an acceptable reason for missing rehearsal or dropping Honor Choir. This includes work schedule, athletic games or practices, SAT tests, school choir or drama events, etc. We encourage every student to check the dates above before applying to audition.
- Students who must, out of extreme necessity (such as a death in the family or a serious medical problem, or other matter of an equally serious nature) drop out of Honor Choir after being accepted are required to provide a signed, written note from their parents and from their school choral director stating the reasons for the drop out.
- A student must be enrolled in his/her school's choral program in order to be eligible for participation in Honor Choir. Teacher must be a member of SCVA.
- Students are responsible for travel to and from the rehearsals and must be chaperoned by a parent or teacher if staying overnight.

The Audition (100 points)

We recommend that you review each of these skills so you are well prepared:

- **SOLO:** (40 points) Prepare an Italian song to be sung from memory. We recommend Schirmer's 24 Italian Songs and Arias or 26 Italian Songs and Arias edited by John Glenn Paton.
- **TONAL MEMORY:** (25 points) Five-note passages will be played on the piano for the singer to repeat, sung on any syllable.
- **SIGHT-READING:** (20 points) A single-line, unaccompanied melody will be supplied, sung on any syllable.
- **SCALES/TRIADS:** (15 points) Sing the following ascending and descending: major scale, major triad, minor triad (lowered 3rd from the major triad, not "la" based), and chromatic scale, sung on any syllable.

How to Apply:

- Go to www.scvachoral.org. Click on the Honor Choir tab at the left. Click Student Audition Application.
- Select the weekend and site at which you wish to audition, your teacher's e-mail and if you wish to be considered for All State. Be sure you have checked all the dates.
- Pay \$10 on the PayPal site (or major credit card) or have your teacher send a school check or money order to address below (no personal checks accepted).
- No student will be given an audition time without payment by Sept. 18th.
- **If you wish to be considered for All State Honor Choir you must be available Feb. 11th-13th, 2016, in San Jose California.**

Mail School Checks (Payable to SCVA) only to: Karen Garrett, Santiago High School, 1395 Foothill Pkwy, Corona, CA 92881.

S.C.V.A. Fall Inservice

A Professional Development
experience that's actually
RELEVANT

**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 16**

*Placentia Presbyterian Church
849 No. Bradford Ave. Placentia*

*Grab your colleagues, student teachers,
accompanists, music coordinators, and anyone else
involved in Choral Music!*

Register



*Michelle
Jensen*



*Joe
Schubert*



*Desiree
Lavertu*

today
scvachoral.org

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
VOCAL ASSOCIATION**
*invites you to attend our annual
Fall Inservice, a Professional
Development Day for Choral
Directors, beginning at 9 a.m. on
Friday, October 16.*

READING SESSIONS for
High School and Middle School will
be presented by **MICHELLE JENSEN**
of Azusa Pacific University, and by
JOE SCHUBERT of Anaheim Union
High School Dist. Every attendee
receives a music packet!

PRESENTATIONS include
"MORE Vocal Warm-ups for All
Ages" presented by the insightful
and witty **DESIREE LAVERTU** of
Occidental College (back this year by
popular demand), and "Teaching
Sight-Singing-How to Get Started"
presented by the energetic and ever-
informative **HEATHER GOLD** of
Manhattan Beach Unified School Dist.
Other highlights include "Successful
Techniques for Working with Non
Pitch Matchers," "Achieving Fine
Tone with Beginning or Intermediate
Choirs," and "Including the Classics
in Festival Repertoire," as well as
other valuable techniques and tools
you can take back to rehearsal!

BECOME A CERTIFIED FESTIVAL ADJUDICATOR

*After an introduction of the festival
adjudication process, those wishing
to be certified will submit a sample
adjudication of two guest choirs.
Submissions will then be evaluated
privately for possible certification.*

**ALL
THIS
FOR
\$60!**



*Scan code to register!
(So high-tech!)*

Join Us! Become an SCVA Member Today!

SCVA values you and your professional health as a director. The opportunity for you to connect and grow as a teacher/musician and provide more meaningful, musical experiences for your singers is our priority for you as a member!

We offer awesome professional development at our Fall In-Service, the opportunity to participate in honor choirs for your students, and numerous school festivals in the spring from novice to advanced, but did you know...

Our website is changing, and it's designed with you in mind!

As a member of SCVA you have *immediate* access to a number of resources on our website that can help you to improve your daily lesson plans or rehearsals, elevate your concerts/services, and encourage your own individual professional development.

We have a wonderful Facebook Community!

Make social media a bit more significant by tapping into shared resources and ideas, asking meaningful questions, sharing gig opportunities, easily connecting with your colleagues, and more, using this very convenient online medium. [Submit your friend request today!](#)

Start your school year off right by taking advantage of all SCVA has to offer! Register today!!!

(You can conveniently register and pay online at www.scvachoral.org)

Website Update

Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster

High School Honor Choir Audition Application

We are now accepting on-line Audition Applications for this year's High School Honor Choirs. Your students can follow the link on the SCVA Home Page to submit their audition application. To help streamline the process, please ensure that your students to use **one consistent e-mail address** for you. Then, please remind your students to enter your e-mail address accurately into the on-line application form, or you may receive incomplete or multiple lists of the singers from your school who submitted an audition application when you are asked to Approve those singers.

More About Your E-mail Address

When you register as a Festival Host or Festival Participant, please be sure to use the same e-mail address that you used when you entered or renewed your Annual SCVA Membership. That way, you will be able to view those registrations when you login to the Members-Only page on the website.

Automated E-mail Broadcast Messages

A number of automated e-mail confirmation and broadcast messages are routinely sent from our website to choral directors for various events. Please ensure that your e-mail system can accept incoming messages from "**admin@scvachoral.org**", so you can receive all of those messages. In some cases, you may need to contact your school district's network administrators to prevent those messages from being incorrectly rejected as SPAM (unsolicited junk 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 e-mail response directly to the original sender's e-mail address.



THE TIME IS NOW! Don't wait to submit your festival host registration form for Spring 2016!!!

Nancy Ludwig, VPI Festivals

Is summer really over?!?! In sitting down to write this it feels like only a moment ago I was wishing you all a good summer and thanking you for a successful festival season! Yet here we are, beginning again. With so many details to see to in starting the year, thinking about spring festivals can be one of those things we put on the back burner, or table for the next meeting. But it is upon us, and there is no time like the present!

As you begin to plan your choral events for the coming year we would like invite you to consider hosting an SCVA Choral Festival as part of your calendar. SCVA served over 15,000 choral students at over 60 festivals this past spring in Southern California, and four of those were festivals that included a sight-singing component! This type of success is only possible when directors like you generously agree to host a festival.

For those of you who have hosted festivals in the past, we hope you will again consider hosting a festival this year. We would also very much like to add more festivals which include the sight-singing portion, so please contact us if you are considering this and have questions. To those who have considered hosting but have concerns, or maybe haven't thought about hosting a festival, there are many great reasons to host an SCVA Choral Festival:

- Festival hosts receive free festival registration for one choir for each festival you host.
- Your students have the benefit of performing in their own venue, AND you do not have to travel to the festival.
- You can choose a date that works best for you, your school calendar, and your administration.
- You receive support from SCVA in that the organization provides all forms and plaques, schedules adjudicators, and will provide you with contact information for all directors bringing groups to your festival.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet and network with other directors and adjudicators. But most importantly you are helping to provide an opportunity for choirs in your area to perform for one another, hear quality repertoire, and receive feedback from qualified adjudicators, which is an important part of their growth as young choral musicians.

Submit your festival host registration at SCVACHORAL.ORG - deadline is November 1, 2015.

If you are interested in hosting an ELEMENTARY FESTIVAL, or if you have questions about elementary festivals, please email Nancy Ludwig or Melva Morrison.

Please contact us with questions!

2015 SCVA Festival Adjudication Summary

by Jennifer Stanley, Executive Vice President

FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE	2013	2014	2015
Number of SCVA Festivals	56	54	61
Number of Directors Attending Festivals	180	196	208
Number of Choirs Attending Festivals	362	372	409
Number of Students Attending Festivals	13,676	14,552	15,664
% of SCVA Membership Attending Festivals	53%	60%	55%

FESTIVAL RATINGS	2013		2014		2015	
Average Rating	3.680		3.655		3.681	
	Amt	%	Amt	%	Amt	%
SUPERIOR	216	65%	220	62%	237	60%
EXCELLENT	117	35%	135	37%	152	39%
GOOD	1	0%	3	1%	3	1%
TOTAL	333	100%	358	100%	392	100%
<i>Superior = 3.65-4.0; Excellent = 3.0-3.64; Good = 2.0-2.99</i>						

FESTIVAL EVALUATIONS – RESULTS FROM 2015	YES	NO
The adjudicator gave ratings that were too high.	6	224
The adjudicator gave ratings that were too low.	12	218
The adjudicator gave ratings that were fair/accurate.	214	16
Comments for improvement were constructive and helpful.	216	14
Was the facility appropriate for this event?	114	1
Would you attend this festival again or recommend it to others?	111	4

BYORD - BRING YOUR OWN RECORDING DEVICE (results from 2015)		
Regarding audio recording of judge's comments, choose one of the following:	Number of Responses	% of Total
I attended a BYORD festival, and I brought a recording device.	76	66%
I attended a BYORD festival, but I elected not to bring a recording device and received two written adjudications.	23	20%
I attended a festival where the host provided digital recording, and I received an audible recording.	15	13%
I attended a festival where the host provided digital recording, but the recording was inaudible.	1	1%

The Most Frequently Performed Festival Literature of 2015

Al Shlosa D'varim by Allan Naplan *
 Ave Verum Corpus by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart *
 Beati Omnes by Richard Ewer
 Bonse Aba by Victor Johnson
 Come in from the Firefly Darkness by Amy Bernon
 Come to Me, O My Love by Allan Robert Petker *
 Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel by Roger Emerson *
 El Vito by Emily Crocker *
 Elijah Rock by Roger Emerson
 Fa Una Canzona by Orazio Vecchi *
 Festival Sanctus by John Leavitt
 For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter *
 Homeward Bound by Marta Keen, arr. Althouse
 Hotaru Koi by Ro Ogura *

Il est bel et bon by Pierre Passereau
 J'Entends le Moulin by Emily Crocker *
 Je Le Vous Dirai by Pierre Certon *
 Lightning! by Greg Gilpin *
 O Occhi Manza Mia by Orlando di Lasso
 Rockin' Jerusalem by Rollo Dilworth
 Set Me as a Seal by Rene Clausen
 Sing for Joy by George Frideric Handel, arr. Spevacek
 Sure on this Shining Night by Morten Lauridsen *
 The Word Was God by Rosephanye Powell *
 There Will Come Soft Rains by Ruth Morris Gray
 Ton The by Jeanne and Robert Gilmore, arr. Brumfield
 Witness by Jack Halloran *
 Yo Le Canto Todo el Día by David Brunner *

* SCVA Recommended Festival Music List

2015 Sightreading Festival Results – The First Year...

SCVA 2015 Sightreading Festival Results		
Sightreading Rating	Number of Choirs	%
Superior	15	54%
Excellent	7	25%
Good	2	7%
Fair	3	11%
Poor	1	3%
TOTAL	28	100%

Are you interested in attending a sightreading festival in the future?		
Yes	39	34%
No	26	22%
Maybe	51	44%

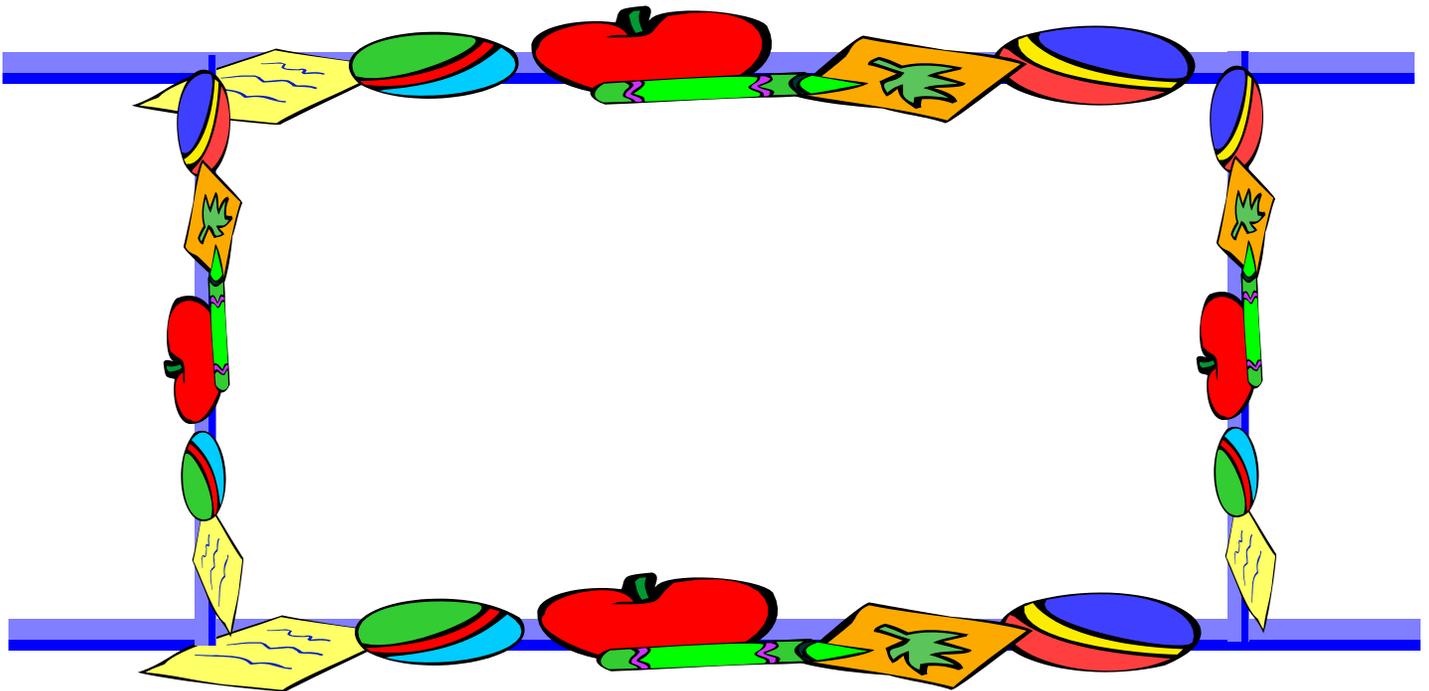
Many thanks to our festival hosts and adjudicators! Special thanks to Nancy Ludwig, Melva Morrison, and Mark Freedkin for their tireless work in organizing festivals! Thanks also to Kevin Aguirre, Lorraine Gomez, Danny Hernandez, Ryan Yu, Steven Chuong, and Danielle Onate for their assistance with festival data processing.

Southern California Vocal Association

Harvard-West-Lake Upper School

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IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

High School Honor Choir Registration Window	Aug 28 – Sep 18, 2015
High School Honor Choir Audition Times/Sites Posted	September 22, 2015
High School Honor Choir Auditions	September 26, 2015 October 3, 2015
SCVA Fall In-Service Early Registration Deadline	September 29, 2015
High School Honor Choir Audition Results Posted	October 8, 2015
SCVA Fall In-Service	October 16, 2015
High School Honor Choir Rehearsal	October 24, 2015
Festival Host Application Deadline	November 1, 2015
High School Honor Choir Weekend	November 20 & 21, 2015
Diva Day	February 6, 2016
Young Men's Harmony Festival	February 20, 2016
ACDA Western Division Conference	February 24 – 27, 2016
California All-State High School Honor Choirs	February 11 - 13, 2016