



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VOCAL ASSOCIATION**  
**SEPTEMBER, 2021**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*Drew Lewis*

During our recent teacher in-service day my first thought was, “whatever happens, this is better than last year!” Here we are again at the start of another year of teaching with more uncertainty and questions. I know we all had hopes that we would be back to a “new normal” by the fall, however, I am still grateful that for the first time in a year and a half I get to see my students all in person. Even with the need for safety and mitigation strategies, we still get to make music together and grow as a community in the same space after a year and a half of online learning. My hope for you is that your year is starting better than it did last year - that the momentum is moving in a positive direction in our jobs and in our surrounding neighborhoods.

As we head into this year, I am grateful yet again for the choral community. We just finished our series of Summer Chats, which were just the right dose of connection and sharing that I needed to head into my first week with students. Be on the lookout for future in-person and virtual opportunities to connect with fellow SCVA members throughout the school year. We need to continue to encourage and collaborate with each other. If you do not feel connected to a group of colleagues, please let me know (or any of the SCVA board members) how we can help facilitate that connection for you. You can also sign up for our **Fall In-Service**, which will happen on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Fullerton Free Church. If you have any ideas for how we can continue to serve and encourage you as an SCVA Board please be sure to fill out our summer **Choral Director’s Survey** (if you haven’t) which can be found at this link: [Choir Director’s Survey 2021](#)

As we start this school year, your SCVA board is also working to create opportunities for your students while keeping in mind their health and safety as well. In the midst of all we’ve gone through, we are also working to make positive changes in our organization. This year, we will have three categories to our **Vocal Solo and Ensemble festival**: Classical Voice, Musical Theatre and Commercial Music/Vocal Jazz. This first round in February will be video submissions, with the finals happening (hopefully) in person in May 2022. We are also opening up our festival season to any hosts who would like to host a **Vocal Jazz/Gospel/A Cappella festival** on their campus. These are small steps that I hope will just be the beginning of changes to work toward making sure vocal music is accessible and equitable to all.

We have work to do. Work to rebuild our programs. Work to make sure more people are included in the world of choral music. Work for social justice and change. Work to help meet our students’ and our own social-emotional needs. But we are not alone. Let’s do this work together and I know it will get better!

[Drew Lewis](#)  
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VP - Vocal Solo Competition

[Nancy Ludwig](#)  
VP I - Festivals

[Kristen Walton](#)  
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VP – Show Choir

[Christine Tavares-Mocha](#)  
VP-Jazz/Contemporary  
A Cappella Honor Choir

[Kaitlin Holt](#)  
VP –Jazz Festival

[Theresa Thomasulo](#)  
Elementary Activities

[Antone Rodich](#)  
VP - Close Harmony Festival

[Marcelo Martinez](#)  
VP – Jr High Honor Choir



# High School Honor Choir

- 2021 -



**Dr. TJ Harper,**  
SSAA Choir



**Dr. Gene Peterson**  
SATB Choir



**Julie Dana**  
TTBB Choir

**Audition Application Deadline: Sept. 10**

Audition Confirmations: Sept. 17

**Regional Auditions: Sept. 25 & Oct. 2**

Results Posted: Oct. 16

**Honor Choir Weekend: Nov. 18-20 @ University of Redlands**

## THE AUDITION (100 points total)

**SOLO:** (40 points) Each singer must prepare an Italian, French, Spanish or German 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, or a comparable song or aria. Rubric for Solo Portion

1. The singer will sing the song once through with no repeats or da capo.
2. Each singer must provide an accompanist or recording. Sites have been asked to have CD players with a plug in for iPods and phones available for student use.
3. Singers must provide two copies of music for the adjudicators.
4. The key selected for the solo is up to the singer and is not dependant on indicated voice part.

**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. Humming during preparation is permitted.

**SCALES/TRIADS:** (15 points) Sing the following ascending and descending: major scale, major triad, minor triad, and chromatic scale, sung on any syllable.

Register your students for auditions at [scvachoral.org](http://scvachoral.org).



We're Back!!

**Introducing  
2021 SCVA Vocal Jazz Contemporary A Cappella  
Honor Choir Director  
Shams Ahmed**

Live Performance: November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Audition Deadline: September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Email [cmocha@hartdistrict.org](mailto:cmocha@hartdistrict.org) for more info

or

visit

[www.scvachoral.org](http://www.scvachoral.org)

[https://www.scvachoral.org/vocal\\_jazz\\_honor\\_choir.php](https://www.scvachoral.org/vocal_jazz_honor_choir.php)

**Shams Ahmed** is an arranger, vocal producer, and creative director based in Los Angeles, CA. He is a graduate of Northeastern University, where he directed a cappella heavy-hitters and two-time ICCA champions, The Nor'easters, while studying Finance. Under his leadership, the group progressed from its casual beginnings to becoming one of the most storied groups in the game. Shams' unique directing and arranging style became synonymous with the group's signature sound, which is still emulated by collegiate groups today. In 2013, Shams continued pursuing musical projects while also (plot twist) juggling a busy career in Investment Banking and Finance. It was at a fateful Pentatonix concert that he met arranger Ben Bram. The two became fast friends, and later, colleagues. During the summers, Shams would jet off to Los Angeles, where he directed at A Cappella Academy, an elite summer music program, designed to train and mentor top up-and-coming vocalists around the world.

Most recently, Shams launched a female pop/R&B group called Citizen Queen along with Pentatonix's Scott Hoying, and Ben Bram. Shortly after launching, the band signed a record deal with Sony Music's RCA Records. Now with a collection of original music, collaborations with music industry greats like Justin Tranter and NOVA WAV, Citizen Queen has fully stepped onto the scene as one of the great girl groups to watch. Shams also co-founded Acapop! KIDS, a music brand for kids. For this project, he wears many hats: producer, arranger, creative director, stylist, financial controller, media coordinator, brand strategist, etc. With recent performances on The Kelly Clarkson Show, and over 65 million views for their best-in-class music videos, the brand is poised to take the kids entertainment world by storm!

Shams loves to give back to the a cappella community by serving as a regular judge at the International Competition for Collegiate A Cappella, All-American Awaaz, as well as festivals for the Contemporary A Cappella Society. Outside of a cappella, he serves as a Director of Talent & Creative for Northeastern University events, most notably, his edu-tainment piece at the \$1.4 billion EMPOWER Celebration. He additionally produces entertainment for other large-scale University events.

Catch Shams online: IG: @theonlyshamsyouknow TT: @theonlyshamsyouknow

# 2021 SCVA Fall In-Service

Friday, Oct. 15, 2021

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Location: Fullerton Free, 2801 N  
Brea Blvd, Fullerton, CA 92835



**HEADLINER:**  
**DR. JEFFREY BENSON**  
**SAN JOSE STATE**

**ELEMENTARY MUSIC SESSION**

EMMA JOLEEN



**"SOUNDS OF OUR WORLD"**

**READING SESSION**

DR. JEFFREY BENSON

DR. CRISTIAN GRASES

MICHAEL USHINO



**REGISTER AT [SCVACHORAL.ORG](http://SCVACHORAL.ORG)**



## Festivals are Back? Let's Do This!!!

*Nancy Ludwig, Festivals VPI*

Many of us are struggling this year to rebuild our programs, so let's do this together! SCVA Festivals have always been successful thanks to our strong choral community of volunteer hosts. This year we need your help more than ever to ensure this opportunity to the thousands of choral students who are being re-introduced to the choral art after over a year of isolation.

### Past reasons to host a festival still hold true!

- The host selects the date.
- Hosting schools register one performing group for FREE on the day of their festival.
- No need to find transportation!
- Service to our choral educators and their students by providing a festival locally.

### NEW reasons to host a festival!

- The opportunity for community building can heal educators and students alike.
- It is TIME to make music with and for each other!
- Advocacy is even more crucial as many choral programs face elimination!

### How to Register!

- Register online at: [scvachoral.org](http://scvachoral.org)
- Under the 'Festivals' tab select 'Host a Festival'
- Make sure your membership is current and go for it!

### Have Questions?

- Under the 'Festivals' tab go to 'Concert Festivals' and locate our Information for Hosts page for step by step guidance!



***Don't delay! The deadline for Concert Festival Host Registration is October 1st!***

## CALL FOR ADJUDICATORS

SCVA is always looking to add additional talented individuals to serve as sight-reading adjudicators, festival adjudicators, and festival clinicians. Consider joining our team!

The application process is done on-line at [scvachoral.org](http://scvachoral.org). To apply select *Festivals* > *Concert Festivals* > *Adjudication Information* from the menu to find the Application site.

If you would like to recommend someone as a potential adjudicator, please email their name and contact information to Dan Hawkins at [scva.vpfestadj@gmail.com](mailto:scva.vpfestadj@gmail.com).

## FESTIVAL SCHOLARSHIPS

SCVA is committed to making it possible for ALL interested choirs and directors to participate in an SCVA festival. Scholarships are available for schools and programs who may need extra support to make a festival appearance a reality.

### **To apply for a scholarship:**

1. Register for an SCVA festival starting Oct. 15
2. After registering, complete the application at [scvachoral.org/festival\\_scholarship\\_reg.php](http://scvachoral.org/festival_scholarship_reg.php)

Feel free to e-mail Dan Hawkins at [scva.vpfestadj@gmail.com](mailto:scva.vpfestadj@gmail.com) with questions!

# Close Harmony Festival – SATB Edition

*Antone Rodich – VP of Close Harmony*

Hello Choral Educators!

SCVA has some very exciting news! On **Saturday, February 5, 2022**, SCVA and the Association of International Champions (AIC) will be hosting the SCVA Close Harmony Festival in collaboration. This festival encompasses students from middle school thru high school, learning songs in the barbershop style, and also some a-cappella music. **The location of the Close Harmony Festival will be announced shortly!**



If you would like to have a **gold medal winning quartet** come out for an outreach performance at your school, please fill out this form:  
<https://tinyurl.com/SCVAFallOutreach>

This Google Form will be due **Friday, October 1, 2021.**

If you have a high school barbershop quartet (SATB, SSAA, TTBB) that would like to be a part of the Barbershop Quartet Workshop (more info to come), and possibly sing in the evening performance, please email me separately.

You can bring as many students as you desire (SATB, TTBB, SSAA). Registration, paperwork and other information will be available on the SCVA website and sent through the SCVA email database in September, and in the next SCVA newsletter. Stay tuned!



Here is the tentative schedule for Saturday, February 5, 2022:

- 9:00 - 10:00 : Registration (name tags and T-shirts) Bring your music!
- 10:00 - 10:30 : Introductions, warm-up and demonstration of the barbershop style
- 10:30 - 12:00 : Rehearsal
- 12:00 - 12:45 : Lunch
- 12:45 - 2:30 : Sectional rehearsals
- 2:30 - 2:45 : Break
- 2:45 - 3:30 : Barbershop Quartet Workshop
- 3:30 - 3:45 : Break
- 3:45 - 5:30 : Final rehearsal
- 5:30 - 6:15 : Serving Dinner/get ready for the show
- 6:30 : Performing Arts Center doors open
- 7:00 : Showtime



If you have any questions about this amazing event, feel free to email me.

**antonerodich87@gmail.com**



# SCVA Vocal Jazz, Gospel & Contemporary Acapella Festival

*Save the date! March 11th & 12th, 2022*

*Tentatively live and in person  
with a virtual option*

*Location TBD*

## SAVE THE DATE...

### SCVA SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR 2022

*Sarah Anders, VP-Show Choir*



We are so excited to once again bring you the **SCVA SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR!**  
This year's event will be held at Hart High School in Santa Clarita, CA on Saturday May 7, 2022.

Divisions include:

- Middle School Treble & Mixed
- High School Novice Treble & Mixed
- High School Intermediate Treble & Mixed
- High School Advanced Treble, Bass Voices, and Mixed

Registration will open on November 1, 2021. **Questions?** Email Sarah Anders: [scvashowchoir@gmail.com](mailto:scvashowchoir@gmail.com)

## 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

HS Honor Choir Audition Application Deadline	<b>2021</b> Sep 10
Vocal Jazz Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir Audition Deadline	Sep 15
HS Honor Choir Audition Confirmations	Sep 17
HS Honor Choir Regional Auditions	Sep 25 & Oct 2
Concert Festival Host Registration Deadline	Oct 1
SCVA Fall In-Service	Oct 5
Registration for Festivals Opens	Oct 15
Festival Scholarship Applications Opens	Oct 15
HS Honor Choir Audition Results Posted	Oct 16
Show Choir Spectacular Registration Opens	Nov 2
HS Honor Choir Weekend	Nov 18-20
Vocal Jazz Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir Performance	Nov 19
	<b>2022</b>
Close Harmony Festival	Feb 5
Vocal Jazz, Gospel & Contemporary Acapella Festival	March 11 & 12
Show Choir Spectacular	May 7

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