

SCVA NEWS

Southern California Vocal Association October, 2013

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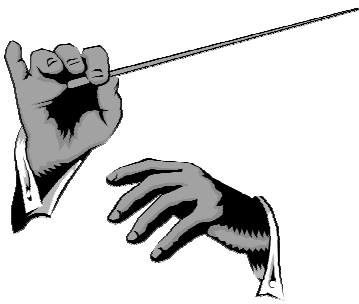
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John Hendricks

A few days ago, our Executive Vice President, Jennifer Stanley, sent me a rather unique package in the mail. I opened the box with careful anticipation, followed by sheer delight when I noticed that it contained the nearly four hundred-page document *A History of the Southern California Vocal Association and its Choral Festivals*, written by Halstead McCormac, and published as his master's thesis (in Music Education) at USC in 1963. This incredibly detailed paper contains the most wonderful minutiae about SCVA, as well as board correspondence, and discussions about the overarching philosophy that drove the early association through its first 34 years. This is a piece of living history of your organization, including festival programs, members, festival adjudication forms, and the written notes of early leaders who hoped to create a robust future for the new SCVA. I was particularly struck that SCVA was truly thriving long before most of its current members were born, and by the sheer depth and breadth of talent that existed in the early ranks of the organization and in those wonderfully vivid festival programs.

I was also reminded about the beauty and necessity of "paying things forward". Those initial supporters were not only working for their students, they were consciously building something that they intended to last for a long, long time. One of the most appealing parts about our choral community in Southern California is the legacy of service that our members demonstrate daily, not only to our students, but also to the arts in education in general. The first members, as the fledgling SCVA began to thrive during the war years, were constructing a legacy for us, as I see so many of our current members now doing every day in the classroom, and at our events that are inspiring the *next* generation of choral educators. Yes, we are the keepers of our art in education, and we must do our utmost to nurture it, evolve it where necessary, and leave it "better than we found it" for those who will follow us.

This school year marks a very special event in SCVA history. On January 21, 2014, we will celebrate our 75th anniversary. 75 years! 75 years will have passed since the first board meeting, which included Ralph J. Peterson as President and Howard Swan as the "Vice-President representing the College Level." Throughout the year, we will celebrate the rich legacy of SCVA and the dreams of those who built it. As a board, we will redouble our efforts for you, our students, and the future of choral music in schools in California. Let us all look forward to insuring that SCVA will grow and thrive for those members who will look for community in the years and generations ahead. Happy birthday, SCVA! And thank you, Halstead McCormac.



Register today for the SCVA Choral School

Rodger Guerrero, Past President

The new and exciting **SCVA Choral School** (formerly Fall In-Service) is fast approaching! In fact, if you are reading this and just remembered that you have yet to register, you better do so today. The Early Registration deadline has already passed! This novel, fantastic approach to a choral workshop will take place on **Saturday, October 19, 2013 from 9:00am – 4:00pm**. The Saturday date will hopefully better accommodate everyone with regard to finding substitutes and missing classes. **Dr. Rob Istad** from Cal State Fullerton, and **Dr. Jonathan Talberg** from Cal State Long Beach will lead, rehearse, and mold two, separate SATB choirs in a series of rehearsals leading up to an informal “performance.” All day long, participants will gain priceless *experiential knowledge*. Rehearsal and conducting technique, innovative and time-tested approaches to vocalizing, musicality, tonal production, sight singing, and much more will be addressed. I don’t know about the rest of you, but I plan to take copious notes!

The SCVA Choral School Schedule:

8:15-9:00am:	Check-In (Choir-I/Choir-II assignments), Continental Breakfast (Sanctuary Patio)
9:00-9:15am:	Introductions, Choral School Explanations, Rehearsal Rooms, and Seating
9:15-10:30am:	Choral Session I (choirs rehearse separately)
10:30-10:45am:	Break (Refreshments – Sanctuary Patio)
10:45am-12:00pm:	Choral Session II (choirs rehearse separately; conductors switch places)
12:00-1:30pm:	Lunch (Information on local eateries will be distributed)
1:30-2:30pm:	Choral Session III (choirs rehearse separately; conductors-30 minutes per choir)
2:30-2:45pm:	Break (Refreshments – Sanctuary Patio)
2:45-3:30pm:	Choral Session IV (choirs observe each other and rehearse combined music)
3:30-4:00pm:	Evaluations, Coordinated Choral Festivals Update, Final Concert

Once again, the venue for the **SCVA Choral School** will be the Placentia Presbyterian Church located at 849 N. Bradford Ave. in Placentia, just off of the 57 freeway. Some 90-100 members and university students are expected to attend. All participants should arrive early because registration and choir assignment may take a while to accomplish. Besides, arriving early will allow you to register, socialize, and take advantage of a delicious Continental Breakfast provided by SCVA.

Please make sure that your SCVA membership has been renewed or that you bring your **\$55 membership fee** with you. Late/Walk-up SCVA members who have not renewed their membership will need to pay both the **\$60 SCVA Choral School cost** and the **\$55 SCVA Membership** fee. Late/Walk-up university students need only bring the **\$15 SCVA Choral School** registration fee, as SCVA Membership is included in the cost. Music packets cannot be guaranteed for any who register late or walk-up that day.

Rob Istad and **Jonathan Talberg** are master educators and top-notch choral conductors. All of us will learn a great deal from them. Combination Teachers (band/chorus) will especially benefit from their expansive knowledge, sage wisdom, and stellar, unique approaches to choral music education. Oh, and one more golden kernel: Dr. Istad and Dr. Talberg produced a list of 30 choral gems for every voicing and level (beginning/intermediate/advanced SATB, SSAA, TTBB, two-part, unison). SCVA will provide copies of them as a phenomenal gift to the first 80 to register for the **SCVA Choral School!**

\$50 Early Registration (before September 30th)

\$60 Late/Walk-up Registration (Music Packets packet cannot be guaranteed)

\$15 Collegiate Membership Registration (includes SCVA Membership-what a deal!)



HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIRS NEED YOUR HELP!

Tina Glander Peterson, VP - High School Honor Choirs



With auditions successfully completed, Karen Garrett, High School Honor Choirs VPIL, and I would like to thank the audition site hosts and the judges for their great work in creating outstanding experiences for our students during the audition process. Many thanks to you all for sharing your time and talents!

We are excited as we now look ahead to greeting our 2013-2014 SCVA High School Honor Choirs for the first time on October 26th at Irvine HS for their first rehearsal. We are in need of some volunteers to assist us with 7:30am registration, 8:00-9:00am part check process. This new part check process will be modeled after the All-State process. We will need 8 people for registration and 6 people for part checks.

We will also need 6 volunteers for the Honor Choir weekend at Santa Monica HS on Friday, Nov. 22 for check in, concert ticket sales and t-shirt distribution at 8:00am. It is very important that all 270 singers are checked in and ready to start rehearsals with our amazing conductors by 9:00am on Friday. We will continue to need help throughout the day on Friday and on Saturday to complete the many logistical tasks that go into making the weekend run smoothly.

We enthusiastically welcome your assistance in October and November. Helping with these events is a great way to serve, meet friendly and interesting people, and truly make a difference in the experience of our students. And, while you're with us, we would strongly encourage you to watch some of the rehearsals. I look forward to observing our fine conductors and learning some new ideas and techniques to use in my classroom. The rehearsals are truly fascinating and inspiring!

To the directors of the students who auditioned successfully into the choirs, we respectfully request your volunteerism at the October rehearsal and/or the November honor choir weekend. We can't do it without you! We look forward to your help and appreciate you time. Volunteering is a great way to become more involved in the Southern California choral community. And above all, your assistance helps to ensure the best possible honor choir experience for our students!

Dates to Remember:

Saturday, October 26 Honor Choir Rehearsals – Irvine HS

Friday, November 22 Honor Choir Rehearsals- Santa Monica HS

Saturday, November 23 Honor Choir Rehearsals and Concert - Santa Monica HS

Please contact me at tinapeterson@iusd.org to volunteer. Karen and I look forward to seeing you in October and November!



Looking for a Few Good Men and Women!!

Nancy Ludwig, VP of Festivals I; Melva Morrison, VP of Festivals II

SCVA Choral Festivals Need You for the 2013-2014 Season!

The 2013-2014 festival season needs volunteers and we are hoping that you will step up to the plate. We had 56 festivals last year involving 180 directors, 362 ensembles, and the most significant number of all - 13, 676 singers from all over southern California. We can only continue to provide this wonderful service if we have directors who volunteer to host one or more festivals.

If you hosted a festival last year, would you please sign up to host again? If you have not hosted a festival in a while (but perhaps have hosted in the past), would you please sign up to host again?

For those of you who have a facility available that is suitable for a festival, please consider hosting, even if you have never ventured forth! Remember that festival hosts receive free festival registration for one choir for each festival hosted; your students can perform in their own venue; you don't have to pay for transportation; you can select a date on your school calendar that is the most convenient for you; AND SCVA will walk you through the process providing forms, plaques, adjudicators, program covers and choirs to participate.

No matter what category you fall into, please submit your festival host registration to scvachoral.org by the deadline which is November 1, 2013. Please note that the festival host registration deadline is firm.

We are in need of festivals for high school, middle school/junior high, and elementary. Thank you so much for your continued support and feel free to contact either Nancy or Melva with questions.

Website Update

Mark Freedkin, Webmaster



Don't Reply Directly to 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 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.

Why Is Your E-mail Address So Important???

We just completed the High School Honor Choir Audition Application process, and we received over 540 applications (most of which arrived during the final 48 hours before the deadline). The on-line Audition Application system uses the choral director's e-mail address to gather together all of the singers from each school. Therefore, it is really important that all of your students use a SINGLE e-mail address for you when they submit their applications. Otherwise, if some of your students use your school e-mail address and other students use your personal e-mail address, you will have two different lists of singers to review and approve. The same thing will happen if you have multiple e-mail address aliases for your school (for example, one using "xxx.k12.ca.us" and another using "xxx.org"). Please identify one e-mail address and have all your singers use that address.



Young Women's and Young Men's Harmony Festivals

*Mark Freedkin, VP of Barbershop Harmony
Festivals*



We are pleased to invite you to this year's Barbershop Harmony Festivals for Young Women and Young Men. Both events will be held at the Robert B. Moore Theater on the campus of Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. The 9th annual "**Diva Day**" Young Women in Harmony Festival, sponsored by the **Harborlites Chorus**, will be held on Saturday, February 8, and the 14th annual "**Young Men's Harmony Festival**" will be held on Saturday, February 15, sponsored by the **Masters of Harmony**. Both of these events will provide a unique musical opportunity for your singers and will provide a positive boost to your choral music program.

Each event will consist of morning and afternoon clinics and rehearsals, followed by a public performance in the evening with the respective adult choruses. There will also be a clinic for music educators who would like to participate in a hands-on demonstration of how the barbershop style is taught and how it can be used to attract more young men and women into your program.

The early application fee is only \$25 per singer for applications that are submitted by November 15. After November 15, the application is fee \$30 per singer. The sponsoring choruses will cover the remaining costs for all sheet music, practice CDs, rehearsal facilities, guest clinicians and performance costumes. Each singer will receive a commemorative t-shirt. We will also provide lunch and dinner for the singers, choral directors and any adult chaperones accompanying the singers.

Please download and print the appropriate application forms from the SCVA website. Complete and return the applications and forms, along with payment by cash, check or money order payable to **Harborlites** (for Diva Day) or **Masters of Harmony** (for the Young Men's Festival). Each event is limited to 250 participants, so be sure to submit your applications early. Note that these festivals are completely separate events, and you must send the appropriate forms and payments to the proper recipient.

Young Women's Festival Only:

In order to accommodate more schools, we are limiting the number of singers per school to twelve (12). Ideally we suggest 1-2 tenors, 3-4 leads, 2-3 baritones and 3-4 basses. This will allow you to perform the music as a group and use this group to help your other students learn the joy of singing four-part harmony, barbershop style. Send applications for all students you wish to participate, indicating those students beyond the initial 12 that you wish to put on the Waiting List. We will try to accommodate as many as we can.

Young Men's Festival Only:

There is no limit to the number of singers from your school that wish to participate, but please submit your applications early to ensure that all of your singers can be accommodated. We realize that this is Valentine's weekend, but we wanted to avoid any conflict with the ACDA Western Division Conference in Santa Barbara.

We look forward to receiving your applications. Please contact us if you have any questions about our festivals.

Diva Day (Young Women's Festival)
Karen Ridout
Harborlites Chorus
Home: (714) 847-0787
Cell: (714) 319-2325
Email: kridout@socal.rr.com

Young Men's Harmony Festival
Mark Freedkin
Masters of Harmony
Home: (949) 559-9621
Cell: (714) 357-1187
Email: mfreedkin@yahoo.com

A Coordinated System of Statewide Rated, Tiered Choral Festivals

Rodger Guerrero, Past President

Have you ever taken the time to compare and contrast various forms from rated/non-rated festivals your choirs have attended? When reviewing them, have you ever asked any of the following questions: *On what performance-based educational standards are these appraisal forms based? Who decides what assessment categories should be included? What rubrics are utilized in order to determine levels of categorical and overall achievement? Which tabulation formula is best in order to determine and label attainment: Roman numerals? Letter grades? Percentages? Percentiles? How are adjudicators informed so that scoring can be unbiased and consistent? How can the numbers/letters be quantified so that my administrators actually understand the level to which my choirs have achieved?*

There is no standards-based approach to SCVA/CMEA choral festivals in the state of California. And just to hammer in the disparity, take a look at these three, completely different approaches to assessment in three various geographic regions of our state (formatting removed). None even articulate a rubric regarding expectations of achievement within each category or at different learning levels (beginning, intermediate, advanced). Isn't a statewide, performance standards-based system of choral festivals desperately needed in California? Thanks to SCVA, CMEA, and ACDA, one will soon exist. Stay tuned...

REGION I	REGION II	REGION III
Quality of Sound: <i>tone quality, intonation, vowel uniformity, blend, balance</i> 30 Points	Choral Tone: <i>appropriateness, production (strident, bright, dark, breathy)</i> Letter Grade: A-F	Accuracy: <i>correct notes and rhythm</i> 10 Points
Technique: <i>rhythm, precision, pronunciation, diction, articulation, facility</i> 30 Points	Interpretation: <i>phrasing, dynamics, style, tempo, vitality</i> Letter Grade: A-F	Tone: <i>characteristic timbre for each section, beauty, vitality, warmth</i> 10 Points
Musicality: <i>interpretation, style, phrasing, expression, sensitivity, dynamics</i> 30 Points	Accuracy: <i>attacks, releases, pitches, rhythm</i> Letter Grade: A-F	Intonation: <i>vertical & horizontal</i> 10 Points
Other Factors: <i>choice of music with contrasting styles and tempi, group attentiveness and appearance</i> 10 Points	Blend: <i>unisons, vowels, soprano, alto, tenor, bass</i> Letter Grade: A-F	Diction: <i>purity of vowels, clarity of consonants</i> 10 Points
	Intonation: <i>support, chords, intervals, tessitura</i> Letter Grade: A-F	Balance: <i>between sections</i> 10 Points
	Diction: <i>consonants, vowels, correctness</i> Letter Grade: A-F	Blend: <i>within sections</i> 10 Points
	Balance: <i>within section, between parts, voices/accompaniment</i> Letter Grade: A-F	Technique: <i>breathing, attacks, release</i> 10 Points
	Presentation: <i>responsiveness, attitude, deportment, appearance, vitality</i> Letter Grade: A-F	Selections: <i>appropriate level of challenge</i> 10 Points
		Interpretation: <i>historical style, mood, dynamics, phrasing, tempi</i> 10 Points
SCORING: 100-90 = Superior 89-80 = Excellent 79-70 = Good 69-60 = Fair 59-50 = Needs Improvement	SCORING: A = 4.0; A- = 3.7; B+ = 3.6; B = 3.3; B- = 3.0; C+ = 2.9; C = 2.5; C- = 2.0; D = 1.9 (Add categories and divide by eight) Superior = 4.0 – 3.65; Excellent = 3.64 – 3.0; Good = 2.99 – 2.0	Other Factors: <i>posture, stage presence, overall appearance, facial expression, attentiveness, general effect of the performance</i> 10 Points
		SCORING: (no category names given) 100 – 90; 89 – 80; 79 – 70; 69 – 60

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL, COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AND UNIVERSITY CHORAL DIRECTORS!

The 2014 CMEA/CA-ACDA/SCVA sponsored Choral Leadership Academy will move from the California All State Music Educators Conference (CASMEC) in Fresno to the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Western Division Conference in Santa Barbara and will be held February 21-22. This is a wonderful educational opportunity for young choral musicians that began at CASMEC in Fresno two years ago and will return to CASMEC in Fresno in 2015. In August, CMEA and CA-ACDA were pleased to welcome SCVA to the partnership in sponsoring the CLA, thus continuing a fine tradition with added strength. The CLA will bring together high school students who demonstrate an interest in the music profession, together with pre-service college music education majors, for two days of musical and educational activities. These activities will teach musicianship skills, inspire confidence, and build camaraderie among musicians of the next generation. The students in the CLA will:

- sing new literature
- work on their musicianship
- hear outstanding choirs from Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah
- listen to and learn from veterans in the field
- develop friendships that will support them as they begin their careers

Students that attend the CLA will gain a better understanding of our professional organizations, will attend some of the concert sessions at the WD-ACDA Conference, and will perform as a choir for an informal concert at the end of the Academy. The faculty of the CLA will include Dr. Edie Copley (NAU), Dr. Chris Peterson (CSU Fullerton), Dr. Jonathan Talberg (CSU Long Beach), and other leading choral directors from the Western Division of ACDA.

Choral Leadership Academy Timeline

October 1, 2013: Look for the CLA Application/Recommendation and the WD-ACDA Conference Registration forms on the CMEA, CA-ACDA, and SCVA websites.

December 1, 2013: Deadline to submit your Applications/Recommendation, WD-ACDA Conference Registration, and check for \$75.

Ongoing: Notification of accepted singers via email. Participants will be accepted on a first come/first served basis but leadership reserves the right to insure that a balanced choral ensemble is created.

When you receive Notification of Accepted Application: Make your housing arrangements right away! Start planning your travel arrangements as well. Santa Barbara is not an easy or inexpensive place to fly into to or out of. Driving is your best option.

January 15, 2014: All CLA members receive an update email blast.

February 19-22, 2014: ACDA Western Division Conference is held in Santa Barbara. The *Choral Leadership Academy* runs during the conference from **February 21-22, 2014**.

Looking For Vocal Jazz Music?

Christine Tavares, VP-Jazz Choir

Do you have a vocal jazz ensemble, or are you looking for a vocal jazz piece for your upcoming concert? Even if you have limited to no knowledge in the field of jazz, there are many pieces that are easy to learn and can have your students getting that swing feel in no time!

If you have no idea where to begin, there are a couple sites that are extremely helpful as they provide listening examples and charts for perusal. Here are a few sites that I have found to be great resources other than www.jwpepper.com

Singers Sheet music resource www.singers.com

Sound Music Publications www.smpjazz.com

UNC Jazz Press www.uncjazzpress.com

Jennifer Barnes www.jenniferbarnesmusic.com

Jeremy Fox www.jeremyfox.net

Kerry Marsh www.kerrymarsh.com

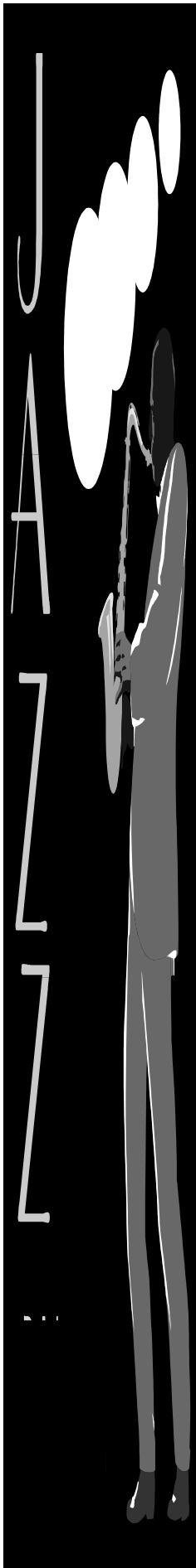
Michele Weir www.micheleweir.com

As a choral director, when I first started teaching jazz, I realized the best way to learn how to teach a vocal jazz group was to just start one. I went to many festivals with my students and each time I went, I learned better ways to teach vocal jazz. I found more enjoyment from teaching jazz the more I became knowledgeable in my teaching techniques. Finding pieces can sometimes be the biggest challenge to a new teacher. I'd like to share a few pieces that have been successful for my students. The following pieces I have found to be GREAT resources for teaching and my students love them! If you are looking for a couple pieces to get you started, here are some that may work for your ensemble.

Beginning to Intermediate

Title / Arranger / Description

1. Muddy Water, arranger Michele Weir
A great bluesy triple shuffle chart & helps introduce scatting techniques.
2. Don't Be On the Outside Kerry Marsh
Another great blues swing great for introducing opportunities for easy improv. solos.
3. Lullaby of Birdland – Paris Rutherford
Swing with a few written scat sections – improv sections can be added.
4. Embraceable You – Kirby Shaw
Excellent piece to teach free or conducted movement with rich jazz chords
5. Everybody's Boppin – Kirby Shaw
Good piece to start feeling faster swing feel, excellent opportunity for improv. solos and a great soli section for the vocalists to work on swing syllables. Great Concert Closer.



6. Amazing Grace, arranger Jeremy Fox
Gospel rock. Fairly secular feel with a message of how we all have the power to change for the better. Great feature for a soloist. Also available SSAA
7. Mas Que Nada, arranger Steve Zegree
A recognizable piece used in pop culture movies, fun introduction to Latin feel.
8. I Can't Believe that You're in Love with Me, Arranger Darmon Meader (Intermediate) (New York Voices). Great chart for featured soloists, swing feel, and closed voicing jazz harmonies and "written scat syllable" lines.
9. Georgia on my Mind, arranger. Gene Puerling (Intermediate)
A great 4-part arrangement for the intermediate progressing ensemble. Some challenging chords, with rhythm section.
10. Michelle, Arrangement Gene Puerling (Intermediate to Advanced)
Harder acapella piece. For the advanced choir, but new to jazz. If you are looking for a challenge that will stretch your student's ears, this is it. In fact, any Gene Puerling piece will be good for your ensemble for learning purposes.)

Unique Arrangements Worth Mentioning

Woods, Arranger Kerry Marsh
Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Arranger Michele Weir
Even the Pain, Arranger Greg Jasperse

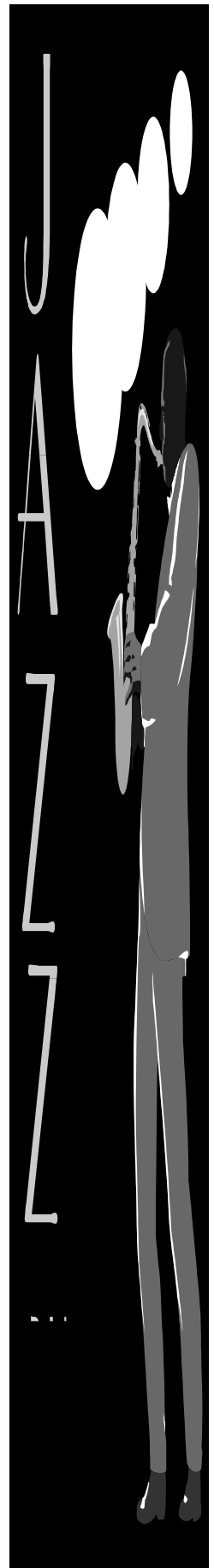
California All State Repertoire: 2011-2013

Below is a list of repertoire from the 2011, 2012, and 2013 performances from the California All State Vocal Jazz CASMEC/CAJ Conventions. This music would be more suitable for intermediate to advanced students, but some pieces may also work for highly motivated beginners.

Basically Blues, arranger Sharon Broadley
Gingerbread Boy, arranger Jennifer Barnes
How Deep Is The Ocean, arranger Rosanna Eckert
Let Your Love Rain On Me, arranger Michele Weir
It's Sandman, arranger Roger Treece
Last Train to Clarksville, arranger Jason Smith
Sa Skimrande Var Aldrig Havet, arranger Anders Edenroth
Still, arranger Jeremy Fox
You're Makin' Me Crazy, arranger Michele Weir
Blue Sky Rising, composed by Jeremy Fox
Let Your Light Shine, arranger Jeremy Fox
Love is Here to Stay, arranger Darmon Meader
So Danco Samba, arranger Michele Weir

CA Vocal Jazz All State Auditions: Due 12-1-2013

For more information and how to audition, visit www.cajazz.org
Directed by Cal State Long Beach Vocal Jazz Director: Christine Guter



ANNOUNCING THE

2014 SCVA VOCAL JAZZ / ACAPELLA FESTIVAL
Friday, March 7, 2014

Featuring *Next Level*



Next Level is a vocal ensemble encompassing a wide range of musical influences and backgrounds that seeks to find the balance between jazz, funk, pop, and R&B. Together, the four singers – Katie Campbell, Sharmila Guha, Fletcher Sheridan, and Matt Falker – have experience in songwriting, arranging, touring, session singing, choral singing, and teaching. Basically, Next Level runs the musical gamut! All the singers have collaborated in a number of musical contexts over the years and were inspired to venture out on their own after singing together on a recording project.

Our two adjudicators for the SCVA Vocal Jazz / Acapella Festival will be Fletcher Sheridan and Matt Falker!

For more information and to register visit www.scvachoral.org or email Christine Tavares at christinetavares33@gmail.com

2013 SCVA High School Honor Choir Conductors



As a member of the Westminster Choir College faculty, Dr. Amanda Quist conducts the Chapel Choir, Westminster Kantorei, and teaches conducting. During her work with the Westminster Symphonic Choir she collaborated with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, and composers Ola Gjeilo and Tarik O'Regan. Dr. Quist recently served as Chorus Master for the North American premiere of the opera Matsukaze for Spoleto Festival USA and Lincoln Center Festival. She was previously Director of Choral Activities at San José State University.

Dr. Quist has received numerous awards as a teacher and conductor. These include the prestigious James Mulholland National Choral Fellowship and the Audrey Davidson Early Music Award. An active adjudicator and clinician, Dr. Quist will conduct honor choirs in several states this year including New York, Arkansas and Georgia, and will present a workshop for the Eastern Division ACDA Conference. Dr. Quist serves as the National ACDA R&S Chair for Youth and Student Activities.

Women's Honor Choir
Dr. Amanda Quist

Jeffrey Benson is currently the Director of Choral Activities at San José State University in San José, California. The Washington Post hails his choirs for singing "with an exquisite blend, subtlety of phrasing, confident musicianship and fully supported tone...that would be the envy of some professional ensembles."

Dr. Benson has served as cover conductor for the Grammy award-winning Washington Chorus, where he helped to prepare the ensemble for Maestros Leonard Slatkin, Marvin Hamlisch and Julian Wachner. Choirs under his direction have performed with Andrea Bocelli, the Los Angeles Festival Orchestra and the Skywalker Orchestra. In 2006, the Woodlawn Chamber Singers under Dr. Benson's direction were the only high school choir invited to sing on the National Conference of Chorus America in Washington, DC. A former member of the Choir of Men and Boys at Washington National Cathedral, Dr. Benson is an active singer and a frequent guest conductor and clinician. In 2002, ACDA recognized Benson with the first annual Colleen Kirk Award for his outstanding achievement as a young conductor. Santa Barbara Music Publishing recently released one of Dr. Benson's folksong arrangements under the Charlene Archibeque Choral Series.

Benson received his Masters degree and his Doctorate in Choral Conducting/Music Education from The Florida State University and his Bachelors degree in Music Education from New York University.



Men's Honor Choir
Dr. Jeffrey Benson



Mixed Honor Choir
Dr. Robert Istad

Dr. Robert Istad is Associate Professor and Director of Choral Studies at California State University, Fullerton where he conducts the University Singers and Women's Choir in addition to teaching courses in conducting, advanced interpretation and literature. He and his singers were featured at the 2013 ACDA National Conference in Dallas, Texas and the 2012 ACDA Western Division Conference in Reno, Nevada. This year, Istad's University Singers have been invited to perform for the 2013 National Collegiate Choral Organization National Conference in Charleston, SC. Istad and the CSUF University Singers have performed all over the world, including engagements at the 2012 Ottobeuren Festival of Music in Germany, the 2012 Eingen Festival of music in Germany, a performance for UNESCO in Pisa, Italy, and in the world-famous Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary. Istad has prepared professional choruses for Gustavo Dudamel and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Carl St.Clair and the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Nicholas McGegan and the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, as well as conductors Vasily Sinaisky, Sir Andrew Davis, Bramwell Tovey, Thomas Wilkins, John Williams, Richard Kaufman, Eric Whitacre, William Lacey, Giancarlo Guerrero, Marin Alsop, George Fenton, Case Scaglione, Robert Moody, John Alexander, William Dehning, and David Lockington. Dr. Istad received his Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, his Master of Music degree in choral conducting from California State University, Fullerton and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral music at the University of Southern California. He studied conducting with Dr. William Dehning, John Alexander and Dr. Jon Hurty. Istad is also the Artistic Director of the Long Beach Camerata Singers and Long Beach Bach Festival, is the Assistant Conductor of the Pacific Chorale, and is in demand as an adjudicator, guest conductor and guest clinician throughout the nation.

Southern California Vocal Association

c/o The Buckley School

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Happy 75th Anniversary!

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

High School Honor Choir Audition Times Posted	September 20, 2013
High School Honor Choir Auditions	September 28, 2013
	October 5, 2013
SCVA Choral School Early Registration Deadline	September 30, 2013
High School Honor Choir Results Posted	October 9, 2013
SCVA Choral School	October 19, 2013
High School Honor Choir Rehearsal	October 26, 2013
Festival Host Application Deadline	November 1, 2013
Harmony Festivals Early Registration Deadline	November 15, 2013
High School Honor Choir Weekend	November 22-23, 2013
Diva Day	February 8, 2014
Young Men's Harmony Festival	February 15, 2014
ACDA Western Division Conference	February 20 – 22, 2014
SCVA Vocal Jazz/Acapella Festival	March 7, 2014
California All-State High School Honor Choirs	March 20 - 22, 2014