



# Southern California Vocal Association

October 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Michael Ushino*

Dear Colleagues,

The month of October is an exciting and stressful time for all of us in music. Many of us are having our first concerts of the new school year while some are already participating in local choral festivals. It is important that amidst the field trip forms, transportation requests, performance attire orders, and everything else that our performances are a time to celebrate the great work that we do in our classrooms every day.

Some of the best moments and memories that we have are not the performances but of the serendipitous moments of joy and silliness that comes out of our rehearsal halls. One of my conducting mentors very wisely told me once that “the best memories that we have of choir are most often from the unstructured time together.” Be sure to treasure the little spontaneous moments as those are the memories that we will take away for the rest of our and our students’ lifetimes. One of my students shared with me before they graduated that the goal of many of my singers was to do something so memorable or funny that they would be the story that I would tell students for many years to come.

Choir is not for those who seek instant gratification. It is a slow labor of love, and we must continually create moments of joy while leaving space for uncontrollable creative energy of our students. Choir culture is also a term that I’ve heard thrown around quite a bit and I believe it is a misunderstood concept. The culture of your program is exactly how you want it to be and in whatever shape or form you deem it to be. We are the model, the judge, the jury, the laugh track, the disciplinarian, and the parent figure to all our students.

I know when I was still building my fledgling program early in my career, it was always easy to make comparisons to others in the field and be jealous of what they had. None of that matters. All that matters are the students in our room and the experience that we create for them. Those students will bring their friends, siblings, and anyone else they can find that also want to share in that special experience.

Patience and hard work will lead to our collective success as a field. Impatience will lead to stress and ultimately burn out. Keep pressing the refresh button and find moments of serendipity you’d like to share with your students. Try finding a new analogy, a new fact, an observation, a pop-culture question, a poll question, a what-if scenario, a personality test, or whatever it takes to keep the energy fresh in your classroom. Wishing you all a serendipitous October!

“Slow Success Builds Character. Fast Success Builds Ego.” – Charlotte Shipman

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VP II – Festivals

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Honor Choir

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VP – Jazz Festival

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Elementary Activities

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VP – Close Harmony Festival

Erika Jackson  
Membership

# Festivals

**2025 ENSEMBLE FESTIVALS OPEN**

**OCTOBER 14TH!**

A special thank you to all the school sites and directors!  
Without your help, we would be unable to put on  
community building choral events  
for our young singers.

**DON'T FORGET TO  
RENEW YOUR**



**MEMBERSHIP!**

Registration  
deadline is  
March, 1  
2025. Make  
sure to reserve  
your spot  
soon!

# High School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Sight-Reading	Host
Wednesday	2/12	11:00 AM	Rancho Verde High School	Moreno Valley	Open	Open	N	Samuel Irvin
Tuesday	2/25	10:00 AM	Hacienda Heights Community Center	Hacienda Heights	Open	Open	N	Jeffrey Fahey
Tuesday	3/4	10:00 AM	Marshall Auditorium	Pasadena	Open	Open	Y	Michelle Espinosa
Thursday	3/6	10:00 AM	Bishop Amat High School - Carroll Performing Arts Center	La Puente	Open	Open	Y	Jennifer Escovar
Monday	3/10	7:00 PM	California Lutheran University, Samuelson Chapel	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	N	Janna Santangelo
Tuesday	3/11	10:00 AM	Fontana HS Auditorium	Fontana	Open	Open	N	Jennifer Larsen
Tuesday	3/11	6:30 PM	Santa Paula High School Freeman Eakin Auditorium	Santa Paula	Open	Open	N	Jerry Cruz
Tuesday	3/11	7:00 PM	California Lutheran University - Samuelson Chapel	Westlake Village	Open	Open	N	Amy Rolniak
Wednesday	3/12	9:30 AM	Mission Viejo High School	Mission Viejo	Class I	Women/Men	N	Sarah Norris
Wednesday	3/12	10:30 AM	Bonita Center for the Arts	La Verne	Open	Women/Men	N	Ryan Yoder
Wednesday	3/12	11:00 AM	Etiwanda High School	Etiwanda	Open	Open	N	Sheri Nelson
Wednesday	3/12	1:00 PM	Mission Viejo High School	Mission Viejo	Class I	Mixed	N	Sarah Norris
Thursday	3/13	10:00 AM	Vista Del Lago High School	Moreno Valley	Open	Open	N	Jennifer Meregini
Thursday	3/13	10:30 AM	Bonita Center for the Arts	La Verne	Open	Mixed	N	Ryan Yoder
Friday	3/14	9:00 AM	Santa Susana High School	Simi Valley	Open	Open	N	Bevin Abbe
Monday	3/17	10:30 AM	Silverado High School	Victorville	Open	Open	N	Jackie Reeff
Wednesday	3/19	10:00 AM	Loara High School	Anaheim	Open	Open	N	Katherine Keilty
Thursday	3/20	9:30 AM	Santiago High School	Corona	Open	Open	Y	Rachelle Randeon
Thursday	3/20	1:00 PM	Santiago High School	Corona	Class I	Mixed	Y	Rachelle Randeon
Friday	3/21	11:00 AM	Biola University, Crowell Concert Hall	La Mirada	Open	Mixed	N	Shawna Stewart
Friday	3/21	3:00 PM	Biola University, Crowell Concert Hall	La Mirada	Open	Mixed	Y	Shawna Stewart
Friday	3/21	7:30 PM	Biola University, Crowell Concert Hall	La Mirada	Open	Mixed	Y	Shawna Stewart
Tuesday	3/25	8:30 AM	Ramon C. Cortines School for the Visual and Performing Arts	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Y	Drew Lewis
Tuesday	4/1	10:00 AM	El Monte High School Auditorium	El Monte	Open	Open	N	Joel Whisler
Wednesday	4/2	10:00 AM	CdM Sea King Theater	Newport Beach	Class III	Open	Y	Andrew Ball
Thursday	4/3	2:00 PM	Bloomington High School	Bloomington	Open	Open	N	Ryan Duckworth
Friday	4/4	10:30 AM	Los Osos High School	Rancho Cucamonga	Open	Open	Y	Stevie Leyton
Friday	4/4	2:30 PM	Los Osos High School	Rancho Cucamonga	Open	Open	Y	Stevie Leyton
Wednesday	4/9	10:00	Rubidoux High School Concert Hall	Jurupa Valley	Open	Open	N	Jeff Lin
Thursday	4/10	9:00 AM	Norco High School	Norco	Class III	Open	N	Antone Rodich
Thursday	4/10	10:00 AM	Moreno Valley High School Performing Arts Center	Moreno Valley	Open	Clinic	Y	Trevor Torres
Thursday	4/10	1:00 PM	Norco High School	Norco	Class I	Open	Y	Antone Rodich
Thursday	4/10	6:00 PM	Mark Keppel High School	Alhambra	Open	Open	N	Marcelo Martinez
Friday	4/11	9:00 AM	Vista Murrieta High School	Murrieta	Open	Open	N	Zachary Krug
Friday	4/11	1:00 PM	Vista Murrieta High School	Murrieta	Open	Open	N	Zachary Krug
Tuesday	4/22	7:00 PM	The Thacher School	Ojai	Open	Open	Y	William Wagner
Friday	4/25	6:30 PM	El Camino College	San Pedro	Open	Open	N	Julie Corallo
Thursday	5/22	6:00 PM	Mira Costa High School	Manhattan Beach	Open	Open	Y	Kate Crellin

## Junior High/Middle School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Sight-Reading	Host
Thursday	2/27	10:00 AM	Beacon Park School	Irvine	Open	Open	N	Miguel Chicas
Monday	3/3	10:00 AM	Bonita Center for the Arts	La Verne	Open	Open	N	Caitlin Shaw
Monday	3/3	1:00 PM	Bonita Center for the Arts	San Dimas	Open	Open	N	Jared Pugh
Tuesday	3/4	12:30 PM	Marshall Auditorium	Pasadena	Open	Open	Y	Michelle Espinosa
Friday	3/7	11:00 AM	Los Cerritos Middle School	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	N	Grant Goldstein
Tuesday	3/11	10:30 AM	Las Flores	Las Flores	Open	Open	N	Elena Mariano-Benefield
Wednesday	3/12	10:00 AM	Moreno Valley High School Performing Arts Center	Moreno Valley	Open	Open	N	Trevor Torres
Friday	3/14	12:00 PM	Santa Susana High School	Simi Valley	Open	Open	N	Bevin Abbe
Wednesday	3/19	10:00 AM	Los Cerritos Middle School	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	N	Grant Goldstein
Thursday	3/20	10:00 AM	Baldwin Park Performing Arts Center	Baldwin Park	Class III	Mixed	N	Rebecca Othmer
Tuesday	3/25	12:30 PM	Ramon C. Cortines School for the Visual and Performing Arts	Los Angeles	Open	Open	N	Drew Lewis
Wednesday	4/2	1:00 PM	CdM Sea King Theater	Newport Beach	Open	Open	Y	Andrew Ball
Friday	4/11	9:00 AM	Norco Intermediate School	Norco	Open	Open	Y	Kyle Betts
Friday	4/11	1:00 PM	Norco Intermediate School	Norco	Open	Clinic	N	Kyle Betts
Thursday	4/17	10:00 AM	Vista Del Lago High School	Moreno Valley	Open	Open	N	Jennifer Meregini
Thursday	4/17	10:30 AM	Las Flores	Las Flores	Open	Open	N	Elena Mariano-Benefield
Friday	4/18	10:30 AM	Ladera Vista Performing Arts Gym	Fullerton	Open	Open	N	Andrea Calvo
Thursday	5/1	2:00 PM	Ethel Dwyer Middle School	Huntington Beach	Open	Open	Y	Neil Reyes
Friday	5/9	1:30 PM	Manhattan Beach Middle School	Manhattan Beach	Open	Open	Y	Kate Crellin

# SCVA VOCAL JAZZ & CONTEMPORARY A CAPELLA FESTIVAL



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025**  
**[WWW.SCVACHORAL.ORG/JAZZ\\_FESTIVAL.PHP](http://WWW.SCVACHORAL.ORG/JAZZ_FESTIVAL.PHP)**  
**Registration this Monday, October 14th!**



Clinician Teryn Re

Deriving influences from jazz artists such as Sarah Vaughan, Carmen McRae, and Ella Fitzgerald, **Teryn Re** has developed her own unique sound which she enjoys sharing in both her performing and teaching. She performs regularly with her big band (The Teryn Ré Big Band), small band, and duo in local L.A. jazz clubs such as The Baked Potato, the Blue Whale, and O.C. venues such as Campus Jax. She has also released several albums. Teryn currently directs the new Vocal Jazz Major at Cal State Fullerton, a new program under the existing Jazz and Commercial Music Major led by Bill Cunliffe and Rodolfo Zuniga.

**Kris Ornelas** is the director of choirs at West Ranch High School, Rancho Pico Middle School, and professor at College of the Canyons where he directs the Just Jazz vocal ensemble. Mr. Ornelas holds a B.A. in Choral Music Education from Cal State Fullerton, and an M.M. in Choral Conducting from CSULA. He has extensive experience as a performer and is adept in the vocal stylings of classical, rock, pop, gospel, musical theater, and jazz. He has performed with renowned artists such as Josh Groban, Andrea Bocelli, The Who, Debra Voigt, Billy Idol, Greg Jaspers, Michelle Weir, and Rosanna Eckert in venues such as The Hollywood Bowl, The Greek Theater, Carnegie Hall, Segerstrom Concert Hall, and The Walt Disney Concert Hall. Mr. Ornelas studied vocal jazz with Julie Lawson and Grammy award-winning artist, John Proulx



Clinician Kris Ornelas



**Jane Monheit is a jazz and adult contemporary vocalist with a deep passion for the Great American Songbook. With many highly acclaimed solo albums, countless awards and accolades, and over two decades of international touring experience, Jane has not only been an extremely successful bandleader, but has had the privilege of making music with some of the greatest musicians, arrangers, and producers in jazz.**



# Vocal Jazz/A Cappella Honor Choir Concert: November 15th, 2024 @ 7pm

**Featuring  
Director,  
Jamie Shew!**



Location:  
California Lutheran University  
60 W. Olsen Rd  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

JAMIE SHEW IS AN ACCOMPLISHED VOCALIST, RECORDING ARTIST, EDUCATOR, PIANIST, COMPOSER, AND ARRANGER. IN ADDITION TO A RICH PERFORMANCE CAREER, JAMIE IS ALSO IN HER 22ND YEAR AS COORDINATOR OF VOCAL JAZZ STUDIES AT FULLERTON COLLEGE IN FULLERTON, CA. SHE IS ALSO AN IN-DEMAND ADJUDICATOR AND CLINICIAN FOR JAZZ FESTIVALS THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE, HAS SERVED AS THE PAST SCVA VOCAL JAZZ CHAIR, AND HAS DIRECTED BOTH THE CALIFORNIA AND WASHINGTON ALL-STATE VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLES.

**BUY VOCAL JAZZ/CONTEMPORARY HONOR CHOIR  
CONCERT TICKETS AT  
[HTTPS://WWW.SCVACHORAL.ORG/PAYMENTS.PHP](https://www.scvachoral.org/payments.php)**



# MIDDLE SCHOOL/9TH GRADE HONOR CHOIR 2024-2025

## Important Dates

✦ **Saturday January 25th**  
Audition Weekend #1  
Locations TBD

✦ **Saturday February 1st**  
Audition Weekend #2  
Locations TBD

✦ **Saturday March 15th**  
Regional Rehearsal  
Dr. Augustine Ramirez Intermediate School  
Eastvale, CA

✦ **Saturday May 3rd**  
Rehearsal Day and Final Concert  
Portola High School  
Irvine, CA

AUDITION  
HOSTS  
NEEDED!

Kim Nason  
*Conductor*



OPEN TO ALL  
6TH-9TH  
GRADERS!

# You CAN host an Sight Reading Festival

Hosting a festival for the first time can seem overwhelming, and the added space and logistics of hosting a sightreading festival are understandably off-putting to some. But hosting is a wonderful way to get involved in our choral community, educate your administrators about the culture of choral music and (importantly) exercise your **STUDENT LEADERS!**

You do not need to have a fully-formed Student Leadership team to get your students involved in the running of an event on your campus. Our teens *desire* responsibility and contribution, and giving them well-prepared instructions and structure will allow them to flex their developing leadership muscles.

Please feel free to use these **Festival Hosting Resources**, developed during my time at Los Osos High School. Many thanks to the many directors I gleaned this wisdom from over the years by attending their fantastic festivals, in particular Rachelle Randeem. Happy Hosting!

**Bethany Encina**  
President Elect



## **WEBSITE UPDATE**

**Mark Freedkin, SCVA Webmaster**

### **Your E-mail Address Matters**

When you registered or renewed your annual SCVA Membership, you specified your work or personal e-mail address, both of which are unique to you. In some cases, you might have multiple e-mail address aliases for your school, but you must always standardize on the one that you used for your SCVA Membership.

When your students register to participate in an SCVA event, they should 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. Our systems will reject any student applications (such as Honor Choirs or Vocal Solo Competition) that don't use your primary e-mail address.

When that happens, the application is discarded and there is nothing that we can do to recover it. 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 or if they had some Internet connectivity problems. It is as if they had not submitted any application at all. This is another great reason to teach your students that waiting until the last minute to submit their applications is not a very good idea.

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. You can also view all of your Festival Registrations on that page once we open the Festival Registration process.



# Close Harmony Festival 2025



## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday February 22, 2025


### Contact

[https://www.scvachoral.org/close\\_harmony\\_festival.php](https://www.scvachoral.org/close_harmony_festival.php)

 marcoantoniorodriguezjr@gmail.com



### Fun Fact

 The music originated in the late 1800s in African American communities of the South, with deep ties to jazz musical techniques. (And yes, it really was sung in barbershops!) First meeting of the Society: April 11, 1938 at the Roof Garden of the Tulsa Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma.





# SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR

MAY 17TH 2025

CATEGORIES:

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HS NOVICE:  
Mixed  
Treble

HS INTERMEDIATE:  
Mixed  
Treble

HS ADVANCED:  
Mixed  
Treble

HS TENOR/BASS

REGISTRATION OPENS

OCTOBER  
14TH



# OC KIDS SING

## ● LET'S SING ●

OC Kids Sing is an opportunity for students ages 8-12 years old to come together and sing new music! The day will start at Lincoln Elementary School with warm-ups led by a world class clinician. Students will then split up and work with other choral directors from around the county to learn new music and get to know other students. The day ends with a concert where parents and family members can see what their students have spent their day working on. It is truly a memorable day!

Cost is \$25 per student and includes an OC Kids Sing t-shirt

**MARCH 8, 2025  
LINCOLN ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**



**Full choirs and  
individual students  
are invited to this  
event!**



**QUESTIONS?  
EMAIL [OCKIDSALLSING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OCKIDSALLSING@GMAIL.COM)**

Lincoln Elementary School  
3101 Pacific View Drive  
Corona del Mar, CA  
92625

# Important Dates & Deadlines

## Event

Festival Registration Opens &  
HS Honor Choir Weekend &  
HS Honor Choir Performance  
VJ Contemporary a Capella Honor Choir Weekend  
VJ Contemporary a Capella Honor Choir Performance  
Adjudicator Application Deadline

Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Audition #1  
Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Audition #2  
VJ & Contemporary a Capella Festival  
OC Kids All Sing  
Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Rehearsal  
Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir Concert

## 2024

October 14  
November 7-9  
November 9  
November 14-15  
November 15  
November 30

## 2025

Jan 25  
February 1  
February 8  
March 8  
March 15  
May 3

**Stacey Y. Kikkawa** teaches at **Fullerton Union High School**. She is currently in her 16th year of teaching and her 6th at Fullerton.

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

We currently have 4 choirs - a Treble Chorus (open/non-auditioned treble), Treble Ensemble (intermediate treble), Bass Chorus/Ensemble (open/non-auditioned beginning-intermediate), and Vocal Ensemble (intermediate-advanced mixed SATB). I also teach 1-2 periods of Piano, depending on the master schedule. (If anyone wants to collaborate on Class Piano curriculum, please hit me up!)

### What about your program are you most proud of:

I appreciate and work hard to uphold the mission and vision statements of our program that was created during my 2nd year at FUHS with Vocal Ensemble students.

Our Mission: Students shall not only be life-long learners and enjoyers of vocal music, but will also achieve high standards in musical excellence, professionalism, and character of person.

Our Vision: Each student will gain life skills through their participation in music, preparing them to become gracious and contributing members of a global society.

Our students come from all different areas of life and work hard towards these short and long term goals. I am so proud of the fact that our students aim high to be good musicians, but above all, good humans.

### Favorite repertoire you have recently programmed:

I have a lot of favorite octavos! One of my favorite programs to create at each school I've taught is the A Cappella Showcase. I believe that introducing close harmony and contemporary a cappella is an essential branch of choral singing, and offers a valuable experience that fosters life-long singing—it can't all be classical or musical theater! To ensure our students receive the best possible training, we bring in professionals like Dr. Mark Stover, Rob Dietz, Ben Bram, and Anna Crumley to design the show and coach our students. It's crucial to me that they learn from experts in this genre. This is all in addition to their classical choral repertoire in the second semester.

### Tell us about your life outside the classroom:

I'm married to the most incredible aerospace engineer, who somehow manages to be a loving and supportive husband to a teacher, a great cook, and a devoted cat dad all rolled into one! I've had the privilege of holding leadership positions in organizations like the California Choral Directors Association (CCDA) as Southern Region Representative (2014-2018) and Repertoire & Resources Chair for High School (2018-2022), plus coordinating the 2022 State Choral Festival for California Music Educators Association (CMEA). On the musical side, I've been a staff singer with the Pacific Chorale since 2013 and also with the Long Beach Camerata Singers. Currently, I'm part of the adjunct faculty at Chapman University and teach at the Arrowbear Summer Music Camp. Likes: Food Adventures, Lakers, Board Game Night, and Escape Rooms Dislikes: Spicy Food, Disingenuous people, Ham, and Horror Movies.

## MEMBER Spotlight



STACEY Y. KIKKAWA

