



Southern California Vocal Association

DECEMBER 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tammi Alderman

Happy December to the hardest working people on earth this month. The weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year are often labeled "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." For most choral musicians the season started well before *Red Cup day* and will end with us collapsed on the most comfortable flat surface available on January 1st (or December 26th). Whatever your end date, the busy nature of the season leaves many of us struggling to balance our obligations to our music programs and spending time with our loved ones.

Unfortunately, over the years, the ever-increasing demands and expectations of December have become yet another source of stress for too many of us. Let me stop here and say: If you are someone who finds joy in doing all the things each December, by all means, keep doing them, the rest of this message is not meant for you. However, if the stress knocks you back a few steps every year and makes you dread the holiday season, read on.

Essayist, Elizabeth Joyce, has these words of wisdom for us all: "What if I told you, you don't have to do it all this holiday season? Depending on the type of person you are, you might nod in agreement or roll your eyes. Either way, the majority of you will say, "Yeah, BUT..." *But it is the holidays. But I need to make it magical. But it is tradition.* Here's the thing: You do not need to maintain traditions which no longer bring you joy. If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed for months, it is time to let go of that stress. Do less. In doing so, you may actually recapture the joy of the season."

For those of us in choral music, the traditions run strong through the threads of our programs. Some of those traditions were implemented decades before we started in our positions and others are things we chose to add ourselves. And, while there are many traditions that can (and should) be maintained, many have outlived their tenure.

The post-pandemic classroom may be the perfect time to pare down our personal expectations. Instead of trying to compensate for the losses of the last couple of years, it may be time to spin that to our advantage. Use this year to get back to the basics and find the simple joys in our music again. Remember to step back and decide what is really important about these upcoming performances (and the amount of music/decorations/set pieces) are rarely it.

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS

Drew Lewis, SCVA Past-President put on a beautiful Fall In-Service in Glendale just six short weeks ago. We not only gleaned wisdom and joy from the array of presentations, but we were also privileged to be the first readers of the SCVA Consortium Commission by Reena Esmail. Thank you so much to Drew for his hard work on these two projects!

Bethany Encina and Kristen Walton (VPs of High School Honor Choir) and Sara Logsdon (VP of Vocal Jazz/Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir) are some of the most calm, collected and gracious people I have ever seen work in the storm that is High School Honor Choir Weekend! This year, in particular was one full of curve-balls for our Honor Choir team. And, once again, it was handled with grace and poise. A special thanks to John Byun, Matt Falker, Desiree LaVertu, Dr. Christopher Peterson and John Tebay for stepping up (or in) and taking our honor choirs to beautiful places through music. Remember to send your positive comments and thanks to these people who volunteered so much of their fall semester to create this amazing event—Let them know that they are appreciated and the time they spent made a difference to our humans!

Tammi Alderman
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Elementary Activities

Marco Rodriguez
VP - Close Harmony Festival

Erika Jackson
Membership

UPDATES FROM THE FESTIVAL TEAM

FOR THE 2024 FESTIVAL SEASON

FESTIVALS TEAM: KENNETH HARO, DAN MARTENSEN, & ALAN GARCIA

Festival Rubric

As a festivals team, it has always been our goal to ensure that festivals reflect the mission and values of SCVA. At the conclusion of the 2023 festival cycle, we reviewed feedback from each of our participants. While much of the feedback was positive, an area for improvement that was indicated was in the disparity of scores and the occasionally amorphous nature of ratings. What is a superior choir? What does a superior Class I choir sound like and how is it different from a superior Class II choir?

While SCVA has an adjudication form readily available to all to peruse, we realized we did not have a rubric that outlines specifically what each category represents, but how that looks like per classification. And so, the festival team decided to create a rubric to help streamline our adjudication and create more clarity and consistency throughout. The first draft of this rubric can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/scvafestivalsrubric>

We hope that with this rubric, directors are able to have more information on which classification is best suited for their choir. If you would like to change your classification based off the information on this rubric, please contact Dan Martensen at scvafestivals2@gmail.com

Concert Festival Registration Still Has Space!

Middle Schools

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
Friday	3/1	1:00 PM	Ramon C. Cortines HS	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Drew Lewis
Monday	3/4	10:00 AM	Bonita Center for the Arts	San Dimas	Open	Open	Caitlin Shaw
Monday	3/4	1:00 PM	Bonita Center for the Arts	San Dimas	Open	Open	Jared Pugh
Tuesday	3/12	10:30 AM	Las Flores **[FULL]**	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Mariano
Friday	3/15	12:30 PM	Santa Susana HS SVUSD ONLY	Simi Valley	Open	Open	Bevin Abbe
Monday	3/18	9:30 AM	Santa Susana HS **[FULL]**	Simi Valley	Open	Open	Bevin Abbe
Wednesday	3/20	10:00 AM	Baldwin Park Performing Arts Center **[FULL]**	Baldwin Park	Class III	Mixed	Rebecca Othmer
Wednesday	3/27	1:00 PM	Corona Del Mar HS Sight-Reading **[FULL]**	Newport Beach	Open	Open	Andrew Ball
Thursday	4/4	10:00 AM	Vista Del Lago HS	Moreno Valley	Open	Open	Jennifer Meregini
Thursday	4/11	1:00 PM	Ethel Dwyer Middle School **[FULL]**	Huntington Beach	Open	Open	Neil Reyes
Friday	4/12	9:00 AM	Norco Intermediate School **[FULL]**	Norco	Open	Open	Kyle Betts
Friday	4/12	1:00 PM	Norco Intermediate School	Norco	Open	Clinic	Kyle Betts
Tuesday	4/16	10:30 AM	Las Flores **[FULL]**	Las Flores	Open	Open	Elena Mariano
Thursday	4/18	9:30 AM	TBD	Santa Ana	Open	Open	Greg Ellis
Thursday	4/18	1:00 PM	TBD	Santa Ana	Open	Open	Greg Ellis

High School Festivals

Day	Date	Time	Site	City	Level	Type	Host
Friday	3/1	10:00 AM	Ramon C. Cortines HS *Sight-Reading* LAUSD ONLY	Los Angeles	Open	Open	Drew Lewis
Thursday	3/7	10:00 AM	El Monte High School **[FULL]**	El Monte	Open	Open	Joel Whisler
Thursday	3/7	1:00 PM	Bloomington High School **[FULL]**	San Bernardino	Open	Open	Ryan Duckworth
Friday	3/8	10:30 AM	Newport Harbor HS **[FULL]**	Newport Beach	Open	Open	Jeffrey Ledon
Monday	3/11	7:00 PM	California Lutheran University **[FULL]**	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	Janna Santangelo
Tuesday	3/12	10:00 AM	Bonita Center for the Arts **[FULL]**	La Verne	Open	Women/Men	Ryan Yoder
Tuesday	3/12	10:00 AM	Fontana HS **[FULL]**	Fontana	Open	Open	Jennifer Hartman
Tuesday	3/12	10:00 AM	Moreno Valley HS *Sight-Reading* **[FULL]**	Moreno Valley	Open	Clinic	Trevor Torres
Tuesday	3/12	1:00 PM	Bonita Center for the Arts **[FULL]**	La Verne	Open	Mixed	Ryan Yoder
Tuesday	3/12	7:00 PM	California Lutheran University **[FULL]**	Thousand Oaks	Open	Open	Amy Rolniak
Wednesday	3/13	9:30 AM	Mission Viejo HS **[FULL]**	Mission Viejo	Class I	Women/Men	Sarah Norris
Wednesday	3/13	1:00 PM	Mission Viejo HS	Mission Viejo	Class I	Mixed	Sarah Norris
Thursday	3/14	10:00 AM	Vista Del Lago HS **[FULL]**	Moreno Valley	Open	Open	Jennifer Meregini
Friday	3/15	9:00 AM	Santa Susana HS SVUSD ONLY	Simi Valley	Open	Open	Bevin Abbe
Friday	3/15	6:00 PM	Santa Paula HS	Santa Paula	Open	Open	Jerry Cruz
Wednesday	3/20	1:00 PM	Hacienda Heights Community Center HLPUSD ONLY	Hacienda Heights	Open	Open	Jeffrey Fahey
Friday	3/22	11:00 AM	Biola University **[FULL]**	La Mirada	Open	Open	John Tebay
Friday	3/22	3:00 PM	Biola University	La Mirada	Open	Open	John Tebay
Friday	3/22	7:30 PM	Biola University	La Mirada	Open	Open	John Tebay
Wednesday	3/27	10:00 AM	Corona Del Mar HS *Sight-Reading* **[FULL]**	Newport Beach	Class I	Open	Andrew Ball
Thursday	3/28	5:00 PM	Walnut HS	Walnut	Open	Open	Elizabeth Lopez
Tuesday	4/2	9:30 AM	Rancho Cucamonga HS **[FULL]**	Rancho Cucamonga	Open	Open	Kelley Squires
Tuesday	4/2	6:30 PM	Rancho Cucamonga HS **[FULL]**	Rancho Cucamonga	Open	Open	Kelley Squires
Thursday	4/4	4:00 PM	Mark Keppel HS	Alhambra	Open	Open	Marcelo Martinez
Friday	4/5	10:30 AM	Los Osos HS *Sight-Reading* **[FULL]**	Rancho Cucamonga	Open	Open	Bethany Encina
Friday	4/5	2:30 PM	Los Osos HS *Sight-Reading*	Rancho Cucamonga	Open	Open	Bethany Encina
Monday	4/8	6:30 PM	Apple Valley HS	Apple Valley	Open	Clinic	Ali Naim
Tuesday	4/9	6:00 PM	Eastside HS	Palmdale	Open	Clinic	Daniel Martensen
Wednesday	4/10	9:00 AM	Norco HS **[FULL]**	Norco	Class III	Open	Antone Rodich
Wednesday	4/10	10:00 AM	Rubidoux HS **[FULL]**	Jurupa Valley	Open	Open	Jeff Lin
Wednesday	4/10	12:00 PM	Norco HS *Sight-Reading* **[FULL]**	Norco	Class I	Open	Antone Rodich
Thursday	4/11	9:00 AM	Fallbrook HS *Sight-Reading* **[FULL]**	Fallbrook	Open	Clinic	Heather Smith
Friday	4/12	6:30 PM	El Camino College **[FULL]**	Torrance	Open	Open	Julie Corallo
Tuesday	4/23	7:00 PM	The Thacher School	Ojai	Open	Open	William Wagner
Thursday	5/2	6:30 PM	Gabrielino HS	San Gabriel	Class I	Mixed	David Pitts

Registration for Spring SCVA Concert Festivals is open and still has spots left! Please see the list above for selections to take your students this year to participate in one of these amazing festivals.

Make sure to pay for your participating festival within one month of registering to avoid complications. If you have questions regarding your festival payment, please email Dan Martensen at scvafestivals2@gmail.com.

Registration deadline is March 1, 2023. Make sure to reserve your spot soon! Register online at <http://www.scvachoral.org/festivals.php>



2023 HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIRS



MANY THANKS

To all of the students and directors for preparing so very well for this year's Honor Choirs. Thank you to University of Redlands for the use of their stunning facilities. And especially to our phenomenal guest conductors and pianists for inspiring the next generation of choral artists so selflessly and brilliantly! To John Tebay, Desiree Lavertu and Christopher Peterson for all you sacrificed to step in last minute and save the day for our students, and the magic you worked with them over the course of the weekend - SCVA is so very grateful!



SATB Honor Choir
Dr. Christopher Peterson, conductor
Dr. Anna Gryshyna, pianist



SSAA Honor Choir
Desiree LaVertu, conductor
Dr. Joseph Schubert, pianist



TTBB Honor Choir
John Byun, conductor
Christopher Luthi, pianist



Congratulations to the 2023 SCVA

Vocal Jazz Contemporary A Cappella Honor Choir Singers!

Performance: Friday, November 17th, 2023 at the University of Redlands

Sofia Evangelista, Aarya Shah, Brendan Kleisch,

Adrian Totanes, Alexander Kim, Mariah Zimmerman

Sara Panameno, Micah Banaag, Noya Madnick,

Birdie DeFreitas, Lucas Santos,

Ava Terlouw, Nathaniel Casequin, Keila Viray, Isaac Tiu, Tomi Lessis, Pari Alamdari,

Zaide Rihani, and Amber Munoz



Featured High Schools & Directors:

Valencia High School, Christine Mocha

Saugus High School, Kaitlin Pi

Los Osos High School, Bethany Encina

Woodbridge High School, Jim Blackett

Harvard Westlake, Zanaida Robles

Hart High School, Sarah Anders

Tesoro High School, Keith Hancock

Great Oak High School, Sang Park

St. Margaret's Episcopal, Adela Kwan



Close Harmony Festival

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

SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY FEB 24, 2024

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

**LOCATION HUGHES
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

MARCOANTONIORODRIGUEZJR@GMAIL.COM



SCVA VOCAL JAZZ & CONTEMPORARY A CAPELLA FESTIVAL



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2024 @ SAUGUS HS, SANTA CLARITA
Registration is now closed.

Please email kpi@hartdistrict.org with questions or to join the waitlist.

More info at: www.scvachoral.org/jazz_festival.php

We are excited to introduce our performers/clinicians: LAKEVIEW



Dylan Melville is a bass vocalist, artist manager, and vocal arranger originally from Miami. He attended the prestigious Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts where he became an award winning vocalist. He attended the University of Miami's Frost School of Music, followed by graduate level studies in jazz/contemporary voice at Berklee College of Music under Dr. Charles Christensen and Peter Eldridge. Dylan is the bass vocalist and business manager of the award winning a cappella group, Radius, and the owner and bass of Lakeview. He arranges, coaches and directs for several cappella groups and vocal ensembles.



Raymond Ortiz is a Mexican-American musician from Los Angeles. He is currently a student at USC where he studies Contemporary Voice under Sara Gazarek, Lyndia Johnson, & Kathleen Grace. His emphasis on authentic expression & vocal technique is firmly intertwined with his passion for session singing, performing, vocal arranging, and music directing. Currently, he is serving as the music director for USC's premiere a cappella group, The SoCal VoCals, and Cape Cod's professional a cappella group, The Hyannis Sound. His fusion of jazz, pop, and Latin music manifests in Raymond's signature sound.



Gabe Schonman is a tenor vocalist & arranger hailing from Chicago. He attended the University of Miami where he majored in Jazz Vocal Performance and studied under professors Kate Reid and Allison Wedding. While in college he directed the award winning a cappella group BisCaydence for 3 years. Since finishing his time in Miami, Gabe has been the music director and high tenor for the award winning a cappella group Radius and serves as the beatboxer for Lakeview. He also arranges, directs and coaches vocal ensembles, show choirs, and a cappella groups around the country.



**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

**AWARDS AND
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE**

Adjudicators
*Professional
Performing Artists*

**Charlie
Kim
&
Baraka
May**



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

SAVE THE DATE

SCVA SHOW CHOIR SPECTACULAR



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

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





MIDDLE SCHOOL/9TH GRADE HONOR CHOIR 2023-2024

Important Dates

★ **Saturday January 20th**

Audition Weekend 1

Temple City High School ~ Temple City
Martin Luther King High School ~ Riverside
Fullerton Union High School ~ Fullerton

★ **Saturday January 27th**

Audition Weekend 2

Dr. Augustine Ramirez Intermediate School ~ Eastvale
Cate School ~ Carpinteria
Beacon Park K-8 School ~ Irvine
Griffiths Middle School ~ Downey

★ **Saturday March 23rd**

Regional Rehearsal

Dr. Augustine Ramirez Intermediate School
Eastvale, CA

★ **Saturday May 4th**

Rehearsal Day and Final Concert
Portola High School
Irvine, CA

AUDITION
ADJUDICATORS
NEEDED!

Tina Peterson *Conductor*



OPEN TO ALL
6TH-9TH
GRADERS!

For More Information: www.scvachoral.org
Questions: Sammy.Salvador@cnusd.k12.ca.us

Orange County Kids All Sing!

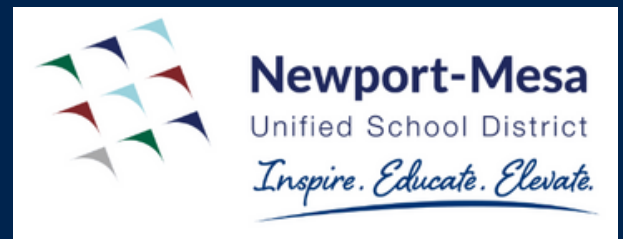
Join us at Costa Mesa High School Performing Arts Center on April 6, 2024 for a fun day of singing, making new friends, and performing in a concert. Open to elementary children ages 8-12, no audition required! More information to follow, stay tuned for more details!

SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY APRIL 6, 2024
8:30AM - 4:30PM

Learn from a dynamic Guest Conductor!

Perform for friends and family in a beautiful concert hall!

First-time singers welcome!



For more information, contact Alanah Maguire at ockidsallsing@gmail.com

Important Dates & Deadlines

VJC A Capella Festival	February 10
Vocal Solo Small Ensemble Audition Application and Round One Submission Deadline	February 23
Close Harmony Festival	February 24
Vocal Solo Small Ensemble Results of Finalists Announced	March 18
Orange County Kids All Sing	April 6
Vocal Solo Small Ensemble Final Submission Deadline	May 3
Middle School/9th Grade Honor Choir	May 4
Show Choir Spectacular	May 18
Vocal Solo Small Ensemble Live Finals Round	May 19



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

Adrian Rangel-Sanchez

Portola High School



Tell us about yourself:

My name is Adrian Rangel-Sanchez, I am the Director of Vocal Music at Portola High School in Irvine, the Director of Music Ministry at Canyon Hills Presbyterian Church, and a current student in the Choral Conducting Masters program at CSU Fullerton. I also completed my BA in Music Education at CSU Fullerton.



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

I have about 150 students split between five choral ensembles in my program this year: beginning SATB, intermediate pop choir, advanced TTBB, advanced SSAA, and advanced SATB. We also have a barbershop quartet and an a cappella group that rehearse after school.



What about your program are you most proud of:

I am proud of how much we have grown. I was fortunate to be the one to establish and build the choral program as Portola was a new school when I was hired in 2017. I started with just one choir of freshmen and sophomores, and since then we have added so many students and ensembles to the program. I am especially proud to have 3 advanced level ensembles that are able to combine into a balanced SATB symphonic chorus and put together some amazing choral orchestral works each spring.



Favorite repertoire you have recently programed:

This year we will be putting together the Faure Requiem in collaboration with our school's orchestra. We have recently also performed some other large scale choral orchestral works including Howard Goodall's Eternal Light: A Requiem, excerpts from Carmina Burana, and the Vivaldi Gloria.



Tell us about your life outside the classroom:

I love to bake and cook in my limited spare time. I also love to travel, this summer I spent two months traveling in Korea, Japan, Mexico, Germany, and Spain.