Announcements & Links:

- 2023 Fall Downbeat
- Festival Registration for Directors
- 2023-2024 Membership
- New Calendar
- Super Saturday

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Message from the President
CATHY OLINGER - PRESIDENT

Many of you have already greeted your new students during summer band camp, or at the door for the first official day of school. Yes indeed, the new school year is upon us, and it is indeed the ‘Most Wonderful Time of the Year’, with endless possibilities making a difference in music education!

Congratulations to those who are in your first year of teaching. Please know that you have a tremendous support system in place with SCSBOA. You have an entire Association who have all experienced a ‘first year’ and are willing to listen and support your new adventure. To those of you in the middle of your career, stay the course. You survived the pandemic and hopefully are seeing the results of your adjustments to what the ‘Normal’ curriculum and events were and now are. And to the class of 2023 retirees who are wearing the biggest smiles right now, congratulations, and enjoy your own time for now as we will be calling on you!

I am optimistic and excited as President of SCSBOA with the direction SCSBOA is headed in. I’m very honored to work with the elected SCSBOA Vice Presidents. The Vice Presidents are your voice elected by You, the membership from all grade levels and regional areas. They are volunteers working a ‘real’ job in addition to giving tireless service to SCSBOA. Please don’t hesitate to contact the Board of Directors with any questions, suggestions, and concerns through the SCSBOA email. Your voice matters!

TAKE Note and Stay Connected:
- Website New Calendar
- Professional Development: Downbeat August 19
- Super Honor Group Prep September 9
- 2024 Festival Registration Events. Sign up now on Competition Suite for your festival attendance: Please Register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1QBz3jXNEXNq9nMEwFbQ9Qw4j5y-PHWLGcPGNRFeUmo/edit?ts=64c2acf4.

January 26- 28, 2024 Annual Professional Development Conference and All Southern Elementary, Middle, and High School Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Honor Group Concerts https://www.scsboa.org/professional-development-conference/

Celebrating 86 years of rich SCSBOA tradition with relevance reflecting support and needs of today's Southern California Music Educator and their Students.
Make it Great!
Cathy Olinger
Fall Downbeat

SUSAN WILLMERING - VP MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION

As the year gets underway, I want to wish all of you the best of luck!

To help in your preparation for a successful year, we have our Fall Downbeat happening on Saturday, August 19th in the new music building at Diamond Bar HS.

We are hosting 2 tracks for this Saturday; Band and Orchestra. I hope you join us! We have a fabulous band presenter from out of the area for all of us to learn from. He is Eddie Steadman from Okaloosa County Florida! Eddie comes to us with 46 years of experience and no signs of slowing down! He loves young students and getting them started off right.

Eddie will cover how he has made thousands of beginners successful in his classroom over the years and will also address how to set the right goals so that your beginners become advanced musicians.

We will all be inspired by his excitement for teaching!

Join us by signing up at scsboa.org and we will see you there!
Festivals

STEVE GRAVES - V.P. FESTIVAL ADJUDICATION

Welcome to the start of yet another school year! While festival season may seem to be very far away, remember that every musical step your ensemble makes should be a step towards developing the skill set necessary to play the literature you select, and that your selections should match your ensemble’s skill set! This is a great time of the year to play music that is 25% easier than what you think your ensemble is capable of. In doing so, you’ll be able to realistically evaluate whether their skill set is really where you thought it was, and you can also create some excellent musical moments! Remember that while literature is a huge part of the curriculum it must be appropriate for where your students are at, not where you want them to be.

Think about it, would you hand a student a textbook to read that contained many words and terms they did not understand and hope that their understanding grew from just reading those words more? Of course not. You would hand them textbooks that are written a level or more below their reading level to increase their comprehension of the material. In the same way, we should be handing our students literature that is written slightly below their skill set level if we want them to focus on creating musical phrases and sounds. Simply put, if our students are struggling with reading the music we hand out, we need to select easier music so we can focus on musicality and spend more time focused on building their skill set! Never have I ever listened to a group and thought, “I’d really love to hear them play something harder”, but how many times have we heard an ensemble and thought, “I wish they had played that better”? Work for better every day, not harder.
Summer Concert
apply online

Youth Symphony Orchestra | Band | Choir
Summer Music Festival by LAYP
at Walt Disney Concert Hall

SUMMER SEASON AUDITION

Summer Season Youth Orchestra
Summer Season Youth Band
Summer SATB Chamber Singers
(5th-12th school grade)

For more information,
visit www.layouthphilharmonic.com
Hello and welcome to the start of the 2023-24 school year!

I hope your summer was fabulous, restful, and you’re refreshed with an energy to inspire our youth.

If you haven’t already, please make sure to renew your membership.

As an extra incentive, a raffle for a free 2024 January conference ticket will be given to a lucky member. Sign up by September 15th to be included in the drawing.

Remember, membership in the largest professional association of music educators in Southern California comes with benefits:
• An exciting in-person conference in January
• Members only access to helpful teaching and professional development resources
• Mentoring connections from successful, experienced teachers
• Valuable performance and evaluation opportunities for marching band, concert ensembles, and jazz ensembles.
• Outstanding honor ensembles for band, orchestra, and jazz
• Networking and socializing events with congenial colleagues
• And more!

Thank you for making the 2022-23 a big comeback year for our association with an increase in membership, participation in SCSBOA events (field, festival, workshops, and conference), and scholarship donations!

Lastly, if you are new to the profession or a seasoned veteran, our association has many talented teachers willing to lend a hand and/or share words of wisdom to help our colleagues survive and thrive. Feel free to reach out to our board directors and become a member to have access to our directory of superstar music educators.

Go to [http://scsboa.org/] and sign up!
Festivals
TOM PHILIPS - V.P. FESTIVALS

Welcome Back Colleagues!

I started back to school today with new block scheduling and many kids in my two beginning string classes. It is very exciting to see all of these new faces as I still find challenges in my 35th year! I hope you too, are looking forward to making music with the smiling, eager faces who walk into your room!

Oboes to Violas
As you start your fall season, try to build a balanced instrumentation to include bass clarinet, baritone sax, bassoon and oboe. Most of these instruments will have kids who already play another instrument willing to switch but I always get volunteers...just ask! Try to offer free reeds to help entice new players so they don't have the burden of the new expense. Also, find someone to offer a lesson or two to help get them started. It is absolutely worth the effort as your band will have a warm, sonorous sound adding those instruments. As for the orchestra, keep adding viola players. I lost a great viola player in my 9 piece advanced group last year and it wasn't the same using third violins. The bottom line, work for a balanced ensemble and start them now!

Competition Suite
Amy Mack has created an account for every group that participated in a festival last spring in Competition Suite so you can soon register your groups. Right now though, you can go on the web site to make sure the information is accurate. We will have a training session soon but I am asking that all festival hosts PLEASE fill out the host planning form ASAP so we can get the festivals locked in and make it easier for participants to register all at once. Again, stay tuned for more information.
FESTIVALS CONT.

Solo/Ensemble and Regional Festival
WE NEED MORE HOSTS! We have only a few folks who are willing to host either of these festivals. Last year, we added regional festivals late because groups were emerging with superior ratings and had nowhere to go. Many hosts had to scramble to put things together. Please check your calendars for an April date and just do it! Solo/Ensemble is easy as you don't have to have a big auditorium. I have used nice classrooms and our cafeteria before...kids just need a place to perform! If you would consider hosting either event, please contact me for more information and go to the website for a planning form from the S/E or Festival Host Packet.

Encore Performance
We are still in the building stages for this special performance in a one-of-a-kind venue. We are hoping to get it started this spring. Stay tuned for more details.

Again, welcome back to the classroom with your kids. If this is your first year teaching, all of us at SCSBOA are willing to help in any way we can. We are not just an association of music teachers, but an educational service for both students and teachers; helping both connect to create wonderful music experiences. If you ever need any help or have questions, please email me: vpfestivals@scsboa.org or call/text me: 562-212-BAND (2263).

Thank you all for your commitment to teaching children and your dedication to music education.

Tom Philips
Orchestra Education

AMY VILLANOVA - VP ORCHESTRA EDUCATION

Happy New Year! We have so many good things going on EARLY in the school year for our Orchestra teachers at all levels. Please join us for the Fall Downbeat, Saturday, August 19th at Diamond Bar HS. Our STRING DAY sessions are geared toward any level. Naomi Norwick and Albert Jeung have created sessions based on the feedback they give at festivals and also thinking about what you might need at the start of the year. We will end the day with an open-ended help desk-style session with a panel of Southern CA Orchestra educators. Bring a string instrument for hands-on participation, bring your questions, or just come and observe. Your $21 registration includes lunch. People can bop between the string sessions and the Beginning Band sessions hosted by Eddie Steadman next door! Register HERE.

Session 1: Bowing styles and techniques explained, with Naomi Norwick. Are you using the right tool for the job? Sometimes altering the bowing technique (or simply HOW to execute the proper style) will clear up the "something's not right" about a piece. This session will start with the youngest players and extend to more advanced issues.

Session 2: Teaching Secondary Instruments for better balance and improved technique. Albert Jeung will take you through a session on his method to encourage more viola, cello, and bass musicians. You'll have the opportunity for hands-on learning and pick up some great pedagogical tips and tricks along the way.

Lunch! (included in your registration fee)

Session 3: Applying Technique to Literature: What do my kids need to know to be able to play this piece? This will be a start-to-finish guide to teaching specific pieces at the beginning and intermediate levels.

Session 4: Orchestra CHAT! Join us and bring your questions. A panel of fantastic Southern CA orchestra teachers will be on hand to facilitate the conversation, and we look forward to learning from YOU too!
For your students, we are offering a SUPER SATURDAY Audition Clinic on September 9th at Woodbridge HS. In partnership with CBDA, SCSBOA will be hosting the string musician side of the event and provide audition masterclasses at the middle and high school level for students planning on auditioning for the All-Southern and All State (February) Honor Groups. This is a 3 hour masterclass on each instrument. Students will spend 3 sessions with a professional musician on their instrument. The first hour will be spent on general instrument-specific techniques, the second hour will be dedicated to the All-Southern (and winter All-State) excerpts and the third hour will be a work session with the clinician so that students can get individualized assistance with their own personal preparation. Students should definitely bring their instruments! The High School session goes from 9AM-12PM, and the Middle School session goes from 1-4PM. Students can register early for a discounted price or just register at the event. Click HERE for registration information. There are separate registration links for strings and winds/percussion.

I look forward to continuing to serve you and the SCSBOA in my new role as VP of Orchestra Education. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to connect to support you or your program. orchestra@scsboa.org

Amy
Hello Southern California Music Educators! I am very excited to serve as the next SCSBOA VP of Elementary Education. I am starting my 22nd year teaching elementary music in public schools and my 13th year teaching in the Arcadia Unified School District. (Like many of you, that’s a lot of “Hot Cross Buns!”) Each year, I learn so much from fellow teachers and appreciate the network that this organization has created. Thanks so much to our previous VP, Ray Llewellyn, for his fantastic work on the SCSBOA Board. His efforts pulled our elementary division through a challenging time. He provided amazing support and opportunity for students and teachers over the past few years. Congratulations, Ray, on all your success!

Please feel free to reach out to me at elementary@scsboa.org at any time. As an elementary teacher, you might split your time between multiple schools or be the only music teacher on site. SCSBOA can provide us with the opportunity to support one another. If you are interested in connecting with other elementary music educators, participating in conference sessions, roundtable discussions, assisting with honor groups, or have any suggestions on how SCSBOA can strengthen elementary music, I would love to hear from you.

Our 2024 SCSBOA All-Southern Elementary Honor Group audition music is available on the SCSBOA website. Auditions will remain virtual for the elementary groups. We look forward to welcoming our esteemed conductors, Gregory Rochford (orchestra) and Chris Watts (band). We’ll have more information coming soon.

It is an exciting time to be a VAPA teacher in California, as the additional funding from Proposition 28 will significantly impact our schools. Please stay tuned—we will be hosting a Zoom in September (date TBA), providing a forum to share any progress we've made in our programs or the areas in which we hope to utilize the funding. I'm incredibly interested to hear from other elementary teachers on this topic.

Finally, Amy Villanova and Susan Willmering have put together a fantastic Fall Downbeat, held on August 19th at Diamond Bar High School. It will include sessions that are perfect for beginners (as well as other levels) for both band and orchestra. This event is an excellent opportunity for elementary educators to kickstart the year with targeted professional development and connect with one another. I hope to meet many of you there.

Best of luck getting your year started! Your beginners are about to discover how much they love music, and your returning students will be thrilled to play together again.
Professional Development

DUANE OTANI - FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

SCSBOA has a strong tradition of providing outstanding and authentic professional development opportunities to music educators across Southern California. Attending the annual SCSBOA Professional Development Conference is a perfect mid-year check-in to rejuvenate yourself and learn ideas that will help with refining your teaching craft. In 2023 we reached record-setting conference numbers and the board of directors have been hard at work planning another amazing experience for you in 2024. Our annual conference will take place at the Hyatt Regency Orange County - on January 26, 27, and 28, 2024.

The cost of this year’s conference will remain at the traditional pre-pandemic price of $200 for all SCSBOA members and will include the following:

- 50+ Conference Sessions in three formats
  - Three session formats (brief overview): Rapid, Traditional, and Open Discussion Forum
- 11 Elementary, Middle School, and High School Honor Ensemble rehearsals and performances
- Keynote speech by Scott Lang
- Performance by 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, CSU Fullerton Symphonic Winds, and Tesoro High School Orchestra
- Meal bonus for attendees who register by January 12, 2024
  - Post-concert reception (Friday and Saturday evening at 9:00 p.m.)
  - Lunch meal (Saturday Lunch)
  - Banquet dinner meal and awards gala ticket (Saturday Evening)
- Access to music education vendors

Here is a “Conference At-A-Glance” document that you can share with your administrator to help you explain the conference and secure conference funding.

We have secured a nightly hotel rate of $240 for single/double occupancy. Here is a link for you to secure a room under the conference block. The room block will remain open until the block sells out. Due to the NAMM conference, we recommend booking as early as possible.
The full conference grid will be sent out in early September following our September SCSBOA board meeting. Thank you for your patience as we finalize the conference sessions. This year we received triple the amount of applications that we normally receive annually, which is exciting for our organization but also requires extra time to review. We will notify those selected by the end of the month.

You may notice that the hotel rate for the 2024 conference increased this year due to our concurrent schedule with NAMM. The hotel pricing in Anaheim is negotiated and locked city wide by NAMM. In 2025, our conference will not fall on the same weekend as NAMM and we will have a lower room rate in line with normal hotel pricing. We are also aware that our conference is back to back with the CASMEC conference for this year only. We secured our contract two years ago, prior to CASMEC moving their date to January. In 2025, our conference will take place February 7 - 9, 2025 (off of NAMM weekend) and the CASMEC conference will take place January 15 - 19, 2025.

The SCSBOA looks forward to connecting with all of you in January! Please feel free to contact me at 1stvp@scsboa.org if you have any questions.

Duane
Dear High School Marching Band Directors,

It's August...again. Teaching marching band can often feel like reliving the movie "Groundhog Day" – each rehearsal a new day, yet somehow familiar. “Didn’t we just teach this?” Kudos to all of you dedicated professionals who coach excellence, and occasionally genius, out of your students in the hot sun. Now, that's dedication! I extend a warm welcome back to each of you as we embark on this exciting journey together.

Enhancing Financial Transparency

Our commitment to enhancing the marching band experience extends to our new financial structure for show hosts. We're prioritizing financial transparency to ensure that any profits from SCSBOA-adjudicated events go directly to tournament hosts. Essentially, band entry fees will cover adjudicator pay, travel, and tech costs for using Competition Suite. The balance is returned to the show host right after the event. SCSBOA does not keep money from the gate, concessions, etc. Costs are broken down on a “per band” basis and show hosts and booster groups now know exactly how much money they can count on for their students.

The Road to Championships

A gentle reminder to all 1A and 2A bands aspiring for SCSBOA Championships: be sure to mark November 11 on your calendars and sign up in Comp Suite for your division’s prelims event. We are putting all 1A and 2A bands in front of the same respective judging panels on the same day to make sure we get the championship lineups as accurate as possible. I will host a Zoom meeting for 1A and 2A directors on Wednesday, August 30 at 6:00 pm to give you more details and to get your insights on the prelims-finals format for your divisions. A link will be emailed to you next week. Please join us in shaping an approach to these events that align with our shared goals to do what's best for your students.

As we journey into the 2023 season together, remember that the SCSBOA is a community founded on the spirit of collaboration and contribution to our colleagues and their students. All of us are the SCSBOA! It's not the board...it's the membership. The volunteer board made up entirely of music educators serves the music teachers who elected them. We serve over 1,000 schools, affecting over 100,000 students in instrumental music. When you support SCSBOA, you support your colleagues and their students.

Have a wonderful field season and please keep sharing your thoughts and experiences with me along the way!
High School Education

BRAD HARRIS - VP HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

Some of you are reading this as you prepare your classroom for the upcoming school year, some of you just came in off the practice field, and some of you have been at it for over a month already, but regardless of where this newsletter finds you, I want to wish you a very enthusiastic “Happy New Year”!

I am looking forward to serving SCSBOA in the role of VP for High School Education. I am about to start my 20th year of teaching, prior to that, I worked as a professional musician and Disneyland Entertainment Manager. I am thrilled to be working with a fantastic team to bring together the 2023 HS Honor Group experience in January. This SCSBOA office has evolved to include more high school-relevant topics, and I am excited to dig in to provide our high school membership with greater opportunities. Please don’t hesitate to call me or email me to share your thoughts!

Honor Group Information

We are excited to host the CBDA-All State and SCSBOA Honor groups audition prep day for all winds and strings. This will be held on 9/9 at Woodbridge High School in Irvine. More detailed information can be found in this newsletter. Please encourage your students to attend this incredible opportunity for them to get individual instruction from professionals on their instrument.

The audition materials mirror CBDA-All State, and CODA Honor Orchestra requirements, and information is available now on the SCSBOA website. Students can sign up NOW on the SCSBOA website. Please keep checking to help ensure they are signed up before the November 1 deadline.
We are excited to introduce this season's conductors:

**Dr. Danielle Gaudry** – Associate Professor, Director (Wind Orchestra) at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada – Conducting the High School Symphonic Band. Bio link: [https://www.mcgill.ca/music/danielle-gaudry](https://www.mcgill.ca/music/danielle-gaudry)

**Dr. Michelle Rakers** - Senior Assistant Director for “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band and Marine Chamber Orchestra – Conducting the High School Wind Ensemble. Bio link: [https://www.michellerakers.com/bio](https://www.michellerakers.com/bio)

**Sharon Margaret Lavery** - Resident Conductor of the Thornton Symphony, Chamber Orchestra, and Thornton Winds at the University of Southern California – Conducting the High School Symphony Orchestra. Bio link: [https://music.usc.edu/sharon-lavery/](https://music.usc.edu/sharon-lavery/)

Stay tuned for more detailed information about the High School Honor Groups in the September Newsletter.

Have a fulfilling and artistic year!
2023-2024 SCSBOA Board of Directors

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