

SCSBOA

NEWSLETTER



Announcements & Links:

SCSBOA Calendar

2024 Conference Awards Recipients

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Message from the President

CATHY OLINGER - PRESIDENT

Congratulations to all for completing another year of making music with students and the communities throughout Southern California. Each year has its new challenges, but when that final bell rings and your time becomes all yours, we should reflect on the difference we make every day. The hours, energy, and planning that went into your program this year impacted so many students and their families and have enriched their lives through the arts forever.

At the beginning of the school year, I read a quote in an educational journal that confirmed why I remained connected with SCSBOA and the membership throughout my career.

“I believe deeply that we cannot solve the challenges of our time unless we solve them together – unless we perfect our union by understanding that we may have different stories, but we hold common hopes; that we may not look the same and may not come from the same place, but we all want to move in the same direction: toward a better future for our children” Senator Barack Obama, 2008

SCSBOA celebrates 87 years of rich tradition in music education led by passionate educators with different stories but common hopes working together to support music education. As president, I have witnessed how the board of directors are able to solve challenges and move forward together. I am grateful of having the opportunity to work alongside with so many like-minded music educators.

Thank you to the SCSBOA Board of Directors for their unwavering support this year.

Jeanne Christensen, Duane Otani, Scott Domigues, Zach Christie, Bincins Garcia, Darnella Davidson, Brian Hamilton, Amy Villanova, Dennis Crystal, Brad Harris, Susan Willmering, Janet Smith, Steve Graves, Thomas Phillips, Nancy Robinson, Anthony Allmond, Brian Belski. Thank you, Amy Mack, Office Manager for making the impossible possible!





CONT. - PRESIDENT

Congratulations, to the new hires and first-year teachers, you made it! We encourage you to make connections with the membership. To those who are in the middle of your career, stay the course. And to the recent retirees who are wearing the biggest smiles, Congratulations! We will be calling on you during all your ‘free’ time!

Wishing you all a fantastic summer. Hit the reset button. Make time to unplug, reflect, renew, and enjoy your time!

Renew your SCSBOA Membership: July 1, 2024

Save the dates:

Fall Downbeat August 17, 2024

Super Saturday, September 9, 2024

Professional Development Conference @ the Hyatt Regency Conference Center, Garden Grove, February 7 – 9th, 2025

Make it great,
Cathy Olinger, President SCSBOA

Hello California Music Educators Association

We need our collective voice to continue our opposition for a proposed CTE Elementary Arts authorization, now in the Senate Education Committee.

First, a big thank you to those persons who sent letters to the members of the Assembly Education requesting their “no” vote on AB 2473: CTE Teachers Elementary Supplementary Authorization on the Arts. CMEA was successful in obtaining amendments to AB 2473 that now removes the CTE Teacher language and replaces it with a credentialed teacher supplementary authorization for the Arts!

However, the Education Budget Trailer bill continues to have the CTE Teacher Elementary Supplementary Authorization for art, music, dance and theater. We need you to share your voice in opposition to this authorization with the members of the Senate Budget Subcommittee (Education Finance) immediately. Please add your name, teaching and years of teaching to the letter linked below now! Time is of the essence!!

»» **[CLICK HERE TO SHARE YOUR VOICE](#)** ««

With much appreciation - thank you for your voice.

Sincerely, Chad Zullinger - President, [California Music Educators Association](#)



Orchestra Education

AMY VILLANOVA - VP ORCHESTRA EDUCATION

Happy Home Stretch everyone! As we are simultaneously closing out this year and gearing up for the next, here are some things to add to your future calendars!

- All Southern CA Honor audition music, and CODA All State excerpts for Orchestra are posted and available for students to start their preparations for honor group season. We will once again have a “Super Saturday” event to help our Southern CA musicians prepare for these opportunities on September 7th-stay tuned for more details as we get closer.
- The Fall Downbeat planning is also underway and will have many HANDS ON opportunities to better our string teaching skills. The string side of the day will be primarily aimed at those teaching younger level orchestra students of all ages. Additionally, participants can move between string and wind/percussion pedagogy sessions. Save the date, Saturday, August 17! More details to come!

Summer Reading list:

If you are looking for some resources for teaching, curriculum or just to add to your beach reading, here are some recommendations:

- Principles of Violin Playing and Teaching by Ivan Galamian
- Habits of a Successful Orchestra Director by Chris Selby
- Teaching Music through Performance in Orchestra (series, various contributors)
- Teaching Stringed Instruments in Classes by Elizabeth A.H. Green (also the author of “The Modern Conductor”)
- The Art of String Teaching by Michael Hopkins
- Bringing Music to Life by Barry Green (also the author of “The Inner Game of Music”)
- The Creative Act: A Way of Being by Rick Rubin
- Steal like an Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You about Being Creative, by Austin Kleon





Festivals

TOM PHILIPS - VP FESTIVALS

Hi Membership! Can you believe it? Festival season has come and gone and summer is right around the corner! Before we get to that quiet time, we have to jam in spring concerts, auditions, leader tryouts and interviews, banquets and of course promotion and graduation...all in the last three weeks of May! I just want to say: "Congratulations! You made it!"

As for the SCSBOA, we hope that your Association has served you well, especially in the area of festivals and festival adjudication. My hope was that the festival you attended was well run and organized. Knowing many of the hosts personally, they all truly care about your festival experience. They don't really make much money on the event...they just want to host to make it easy and convenient for the area schools and the district they serve. Some schools have beautiful auditoriums, where just performing there makes it special for all. Other host schools have been doing it for so long, it just makes it comfortable for those directors so they can be more confident when on stage. Whatever the reason you chose that school in which to perform, I hope you made it a great day for your kids and that they look forward to festival next year!

As for my colleagues on the board who serve for your festival experience: Steve Graves - Festival Adjudication, Nancy Robinson - Music Lists, Bincins Garcia - Awards and our office manager, Amy Mack, we have spent countless hours in discussion and planning to make sure hosts and directors had a great experience. I want to also thank Amy Mack, for moving us forward with the addition of Competition Suite for instant judges comments and ease in signing up for festivals all at once.

As I finish up my tenure as VP of Festivals, I am encouraged that we are working towards having "user-friendly" judging sheets that can be downloaded for the host and that we are also developing super performances called: "Encore Performance" using the best venues in Southern California. Look for those additions in 2025.

If you are a festival host, please fill out the planning form and return it to me as soon as possible. Updated contracts will be sent soon, all to have schools ready to sign up on Competition Suite by October 1st.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you and your students through the SCSBOA. This experience has brought me great joy because I got to work with all of you!

Summer Concert

apply online



SUMMER
Season Youth Ensembles
AUDITION
Orchestra | Band | Choir

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

SUMMER SEASON

A U D I T I O N

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

For more information,
visit www.layoutphilharmonic.com



Membership

DARNELLA DAVIDSON - VP MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to our Association members who contributed to the SCSBOA/HLM Scholarship Fund and to the teachers who encouraged their seniors to apply. From the twenty-four student applications, our awards committee granted ten scholarships to members of the Class of 2024.

HLM Scholarships (students majoring in music):

- Trinity Dela Cruz, UCLA
- Andrew Rivas, Cal Poly Pomona
- Bishop Plaza, UCLA
- Joshua Encarnacion, CSULB
- Shayna Ashley, San Diego State
- Valerie Chen, University of Michigan
- Luisa Veloz, University of Redlands

SCSBOA Scholarships:

- Julianna Othmer, USC
- Emma Jackson, Arizona State University
- Connor McKeown, Princeton

Thank you to all the applicants for your efforts. Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

Finally, whether your summer plans include attending conferences in exciting locations, incorporating clinicians to elevate your summer band camps, or simply relaxing in staycation mode, I hope you can recharge and find inspiration for the season ahead. Music teachers lead busy lives; it's essential to prioritize self-care. Make quality time away from the podium and enjoy the things in life that brings you great joy. You ARE worth it.

Take care everyone and congrats to the retirees of 2024!





Elementary Music

JANET SMITH - VP ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Hello, fellow elementary educators! I'm sure many of you are in the process of presenting multiple concerts at multiple sites. Our spring performances are the culmination of an entire year of learning, which is exciting but can also carry a great deal of pressure. Over the past two years, I've had the pleasure of sitting in a beginning band audience as a parent of a grade 5 saxophonist. Being on the other side of an elementary concert has altered my perspective slightly. As a director, I strive for excellence and often worry about small mistakes. However, when I listen as a parent, I am proud of everything the ensemble has accomplished and view this as the first step in a musical career that will continue to develop. So instead of "sweating the small stuff" (squeaks, dropped sticks, lost music..I could go on!) I want to remember how far my students have come. There wouldn't be all the fantastic secondary performances if our talented and passionate elementary educators didn't put in all this hard work!

As districts implement new programs or hire additional staff with Prop 28 funding, we must continue advocating for our programs and quality arts education. I'd like to focus on the importance of credentialed music teachers at the elementary level. Credentialed teachers are crucial to ensure the quality and longevity of an elementary program where concepts must be broken down and delivered in the most effective manner possible. We have years of training and can deliver an engaging, sequential, standards-based curriculum. However, the Education Budget Trailer Bill currently includes the potential for a CTE Elementary Supplementary Authorization in the Arts. **[Please visit this NafME page](#)** for more information and to lend your voice if you would like to oppose this bill. If your district does not have a VAPA coordinator, it may be up to the teachers to advocate for your program and certification. Discussions with your site principals are a great place to start. You can routinely check the **[CDE's Prop 28](#)** website for updated information and **[CreateCA](#)** for advocacy tips. I would also like to be a support system for any elementary-specific concerns. SCSBOA is currently working to present more information regarding Prop 28 funding at the elementary level, please stay tuned.



Elementary Music Cont.

Our elementary teachers play a vital role in SCSBOA and music education in general. I want to extend an invitation for you to reach out to me (elementary@scsboa.org) if you are interested in working with our honor groups, participating in elementary events, or simply want to engage in a conversation about elementary music education. I am always eager to connect with other educators in our region. Looking ahead, we are planning the SCSBOA Fall Downbeat workshop, which promises to offer some fantastic content for elementary teachers and provide an opportunity for all of us to connect. On that note, please take a moment to celebrate all your incredible accomplishments this year. I hope you find some well-deserved relaxation during the upcoming summer break. Congratulations, and thank you for all that you do!

High School Education

BRAD HARRIS - VP HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

How many times will you repeat pomp and circumstance? Each one brings you closer to summer! Congratulations to you all! I hope that your summer is refreshing, inspiring, and allows you to connect to the things that bring you joy!

For those of you who are already getting excited about next year's opportunities, I am THRILLED to announce our conductors for the 2025 High School Honor Groups and share preliminary information. More information will be available as we start school in the fall, but I know some of you have students who are ready to prepare for their next challenge!

Who: Leading our Symphony Orchestra from University of Missouri - Kansas City, Kevin Noe. Bio [HERE](#). Conducting our Wind Ensemble, He was the Assistant Dean and conducting professor at the University of Oregon, held conducting/teaching posts at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, East Carolina University, Pacific Lutheran University, and in the public schools of West St. Paul-Mendota Heights, Minnesota, Robert Ponto, Bio [HERE](#). And our very own Kurt Curtis will be conducting and inspiring our musicians in the Symphonic Band. Kurt is currently the Conductor for the Southern California Brass Consortium, The Long Beach Municipal Band and the past Disneyland Band director. Kurt continues to be a freelance musician. Bio [HERE](#)

When: Feb. 7-9, 2025.

Where: the SCSBOA Conference - Hyatt Regency Orange County.





Festival Adjudication

STEVE GRAVES - VP FESTIVAL ADJUDICATION

I hope that everyone has had a rewarding festival season and had an enjoyable festival experience. As an association, we have been working to create a festival atmosphere that is less contest-like and more conducive to developing the musicianship of your students. I hope that you might have noticed some changes, including less down time in between performance selections, greater freedom in music selection to meet the needs of your ensembles, commentary that includes more suggestions on how to rehearse or fix issues noted from performances, and clinics directed more at improving future performances and overall musicianship. Keep in mind that change takes time and that while your results may vary, these slight changes should become more noticeable.

One thing that hasn't changed is the expectations for a superior performance, and it's always exciting to hear so many groups reach that level. This is a good time to look at your festival sheets from the past and see if you can identify and consistent strong and weak areas over the several years. This can be helpful in shaping your curriculum for next year. Two areas that I have found in the past with my own groups were intonation and musicianship. It seems that many of us focus greatly on technique and timing – the “what” and “how” of music – but not as much on the “why”. I found that increasing students' awareness of why the composer put something in the music and what its effect is helps the students absorb the greater meaning of musical ideas such as dynamics, articulations, phrasing, balance, and nuance. Selecting music at a level that allows students to achieve more in these areas really helps as well. Perhaps that's something you might consider helpful for your own groups as well.





Consider how your rehearsal pacing worked for you this year when planning out next year. Did you find yourself with enough time, or did you fall? Perhaps it was due to over-programming, or maybe there were factors outside of your control that took valuable rehearsal time away. When looking at next year’s calendar and literature selections, keep these things in mind to help you program for success!

This year we added several new adjudicators to our available pool of qualified festival judges, and I was very happy to have a few of them do such a great job in adjudicating and providing meaningful clinics for my own groups! We’ve also have quite a few directors enter the apprentice process this year and are currently in the review and approval stages for them. The experience of listening critically to so many bands in one day can really help to improve one’s analytical and teaching skills; consider apprenticing next year. The application online will open in October.

As always, there is room for improvement in our process and individual efforts, so we welcome you to please use the online Festival Feedback form to let us know what’s working and what we might still need to work on.

Music Lists

NANCY ROBINSON - VP MUSIC LISTS

And just like that, we are at the end of another school year! As my first year of this term comes to an end, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the titles you submitted for addition to the SCSBOA Music List. This year we added 53 new titles. Please complete the Google form below if you have some favorite titles that are ‘no fail’ for festival performance. I would like to compile a list for each grade level to share in the fall newsletter as we begin to plan for the next school year.

[Festival Tunes that Work](#)





Field Adjudication

BRIAN BELSKI - VP FIELD ADJUDICATION

Happy Home Stretch, everyone! Soon you'll be relaxing on the beach and spending time with the family...but for now it's more time with Sir Edward Elgar and maybe even fixing things in the Alma Mater. As a district administrator, I will be attending 9 different high school graduation ceremonies next week and am looking forward to celebrating our seniors...before gently booting them all out of the stadium for the next event. I hope you have some great final moments this school year!

When you vote for SCSBOA board members for next year, my name will not be on the ballot. I am stepping down as VP of Field Adjudication after two wonderful years serving you and your students. The challenges of balancing new workflows and responsibilities in my day job have been demanding. The Field VP gig is both nuanced and multifaceted and I don't want to move forward with it if I don't feel I can give the position what it deserves. Plus, my daughter is starting on horn and I'm looking forward to beginning my "Band Dad Era." I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve you these past couple of years. The thing that made it really fun was getting to see you and your bands at shows and I'm happy that I'll still be in the press box next season.

I'm proud of the work that we have done over the past two years to modernize and improve our processes in SCSBOA Field while keeping an intentional focus on music education and trying to do what's best for kids as much as possible. Some of the highlights have been:

- The implementation of **Competition Suite** for registration, adjudication, and emergency event communications. Thank you to Susie Marin, previous Field VP, for getting this moving during her term.
- Utilizing **tenths of a point** instead of half points to allow for more effective evaluations and more accurate box placements.

Evaluating and adjusting the event schedule to improve **regional balance** so groups can participate in more events within their own regions each weekend.





VP FIELD ADJUDICATION - CONT.

- The addition of Prelims to put the bands in our most-enrolled divisions in front of the same panel to determine our finalists.
- The creation of a system of transparent finances for show hosts so there is no guessing involved in the adjudication cost of their events.
- Finally, the expansion and phase one of the overhaul of the Apprentice Program led to the approval of 17 new adjudicators just this past season.

Great things come from great collaborations and I have had tremendous support from the Board as well as the amazing members of the Field Adjudication Steering Committee (FASC). Our FASC members have been Anthony Bailey, Jeanne Christensen, Brandon Corenman, Darnella Davidson, Arwen Hernandez, Amy Mack, Daniel Magallanes, Kevin McKeown, Eric Samson, Cameron Yassaman and Pete Sapadin.

Some reminders for this coming 2024 SCSBOA Field Season:

- Championships: All groups need three SCSBOA shows to qualify for Field Championships. 1A and 2A groups must attend Prelims, which will count as their third event. 1A & 2A Prelims seeding will be done based on each group's two highest scores as of November 9. 3A-6A groups will qualify for Championships based on their three highest scores as of November 16.
- Timing: To continue support for rebuilding programs, the shortened 5-minute minimum show timing will be kept the same as the past few years. Divisional assignments will preliminarily be set to the same number of musicians as 2022 and 2023 with the option to review those ranges as groups enroll in the 2024 shows on Competition Suite.
- Divisions: Divisional assignments will preliminarily be the same as the past few years with the option to review those ranges as groups enroll in the 2024 shows on Competition Suite. Divisions are separated according to the number of musicians in each group and defined as follows:
 - 1A: 1-35
 - 2A: 36-50
 - 3A: 51-65
 - 4A: 66-80
 - 5A: 81-120
 - 6A: 121+

For next season, I wish everyone the very best of skill (and luck, because why not both?!). Thanks to all who have supported and shared kind words and equal thanks as well to those who have challenged my thinking along the way. I love this quote from Amit Ray: "Fixed mindset worries in the nest and the growth mindset dances on the edge." I like to get to the edge and dance there while imagining the possibilities. Have a great summer!



On behalf of President Cathy Olinger and the SCSBOA Board, we would like to congratulate our 2024 Conference Awards Recipients

OUTSTANDING ELEMENTARY EDUCATOR

GARY HUNG



RETIRED MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD

LEONARD NARUMI



OUTSTANDING MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATORS

JONATHAN CRUZ



OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATORS

MIKE WOOTEN



VALERIE PETTY



MARIE SANTOS



RISING STAR MUSIC EDUCATOR

TAYLOR ESTEP



OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATOR

PHIL R. MORTENSEN





On behalf of President Cathy Olinger and the SCSBOA Board, we would like to congratulate our 2024 Conference Awards Recipients

ROBERT GREENWELL AWARD - PARADE
SHARON KANSTUL



ROBERT GREENWELL AWARD - FESTIVAL
GARY BOLLARD



DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARDS
STEPHANIE SALGADO



ROBERT GREENWELL AWARD - FIELD
EDUARDO MARTINEZ



MISSY SAMSON



GOLD AWARDS OF RECOGNITION
MELISSA PALMER



STUART POMPEL



OMAR VIDANA





On behalf of President Cathy Olinger and the SCSBOA Board, we would like to congratulate our 2024 Conference Awards Recipients

OUTSTANDING VETERAN MUSIC EDUCATOR
RAY LLEWELLYN



2024 SCSBOA HONORARY LIFE MEMBER
PAUL BLUTO JR.



2024 SCSBOA HONORARY LIFE MEMBER
PETE JACKSON



LIFETIME MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD
DR. TIM LAUTZENHEISER





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