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Music Educators
Working Together
Since 1937

President

Jeanne Christensen



I had a different newsletter article ready to go for this month. Yesterday changed that for me. All of us in SCSBOA lost a wonderful music educator, head judge, HLM, and friend. Warren Torn passed away early, Monday, September 19th. I am grateful to Dean Hickman for driving to Mira Mesa HS to tell me in person. He knew the news would hit me hard. We shared a few stories and then he taught band for me as I wasn't able to do so. Thank you, Dean.

Warren Torn was someone who mentored me, challenged me, and fought for me. I am the educator today because of his guidance and persistence in making sure I taught to the best of my ability. He was a role model and someone who was loyal. He was fiercely loyal to our profession and our Association. Those who knew him, knew that he was soft spoken, funny, and loved everything about music and teaching. His impact on music education in Southern CA is immeasurable. The conversations we shared and clinics he did with my group each year, will be with me forever. He cared that kids were doing their best and that I was teaching my best. It takes a special person who can connect and leave an impression, but also lets you never forget that there is always room for improvement. To hear the

words "good job" meant something. I am so grateful to have had Warren Torn's mentorship and guidance throughout these last three decades.

There are a lot of mentors in SCSBOA. We were founded on peers gathering together, so they could support one another's teaching. I encourage you to find the people who have groups you like to listen to and watch. Start up a conversation with them. Mentorship doesn't have to be fancy. You just have to be willing to hear another perspective. We are all separated by generations, but this is how the legacy of an association like ours works. We share stories, we share thoughts and ideas, and we lift one another up. We have been supporting one another since 1937.

A mentor is someone who can teach us to be the best version of ourselves. When we are at our best, our students benefit the most.

Thank you, Warren Torn, for being my mentor and the mentor to so many others. You've left an indelible mark and we will continue your legacy.

Elementary Education

Ray Llewellyn



Hello fellow music educators. I hope the start of the new school year has gone as smoothly as it can for you. I always am energized by the excitement of the students as our elementary music staff goes school to school performing our recruiting assemblies for all of our perspective students. It is always great to get new students started and see those returning students again and how they have grown musically.

As we move forward with this school year, I wanted to let you know that elementary honor group auditions will open on October 1st on the website and close December 1st with all of the other honor groups. The information posted along with a video tutorial on the website will guide you, your students and their parents through the new process.

As I have mentioned previously we have two wonderful music educators conducting our elementary honor group this year. Jill Geist-Ruhnke from the Corona-Norco USD will be our elementary band conductor and Peggi Stoffel from the Hart USD will be our elementary string orchestra conductor. I hope you will have your top students audition for these always fine ensembles so they may have the opportunity to work with these fine educators.

Also, the Board has been hard at work planning a meaningful conference in January 2023. There are many wonderful sessions planned for elementary educators on both Friday afternoon and all-day Saturday including the honor group performances. Some topics of these sessions will include string pedagogy, trumpet pedagogy, instrument repair and resources to supplement the method book.

We will also have two sessions with a panel of elementary music teachers from all around Southern California to cover many topics you may have questions about including scheduling solutions for traveling elementary music teachers and managing the multiple duties of an elementary music teacher plus much more! It will be a great time for all of us to share and learn from each other!

Until I see you all at the conference, best of luck with your students this semester! And now back to planning for 5 schools worth of very excited young musicians!

1st Vice President

Duane Otani



SCSBOA has a strong tradition of providing outstanding professional development opportunities to music educators across southern California. We are excited to announce the return of our annual SCSBOA Professional Development Conference in full capacity at the Hyatt Regency Orange County - January 20, 21, and 22, 2023. All sessions and concerts will take place under one roof and we hope that you will join us for the weekend to connect and learn from each other.

The cost of this year's conference will remain at the traditional price of \$200 - same price that we offered in 2020 - and will include the following:

- Included Conference Meals/Services
 - Post concert reception (Friday After Jazz Concert)
 - Morning coffee service (Saturday Morning)
 - Lunch meal (Saturday Lunch)
 - Banquet dinner meal and awards gala ticket (Saturday Evening)
- 11 Elementary, Middle School, and High School Honor Ensemble rehearsals and performances

- 48 conference sessions
 - [View the latest conference grid](#) (1 tab per day - switch tabs at the bottom of the sheet)
 - Three session formats([brief overview](#)): Rapid, Traditional, and Open Discussion Forum
- Performance by Navy Band South West
- Keynote speech by Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser
- Jazz Workshop/Concert by Willie Murillo and James Morrison
- Access to music education vendors

We have secured a nightly hotel rate of \$179 for single/double occupancy. [Here is a link for you to secure a room under the conference block.](#) The room block opens Monday, September 19, and will remain open until the block sells out. Book now before it's too late!

[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.](#)

The SCSBOA is excited to see you in January! Please feel free to contact me at 1stvp@scsboa.org if you have any questions.

Summer Concert

Audition

Audition Application Open Feb. 1, 2022

LA YOUTH PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Summer Music Festival 2022

Summer Festival Youth Orchestra
Summer Festival Honor Choir
Summer Festival Concert Band

For More Information
Visit <https://layouthphilharmonic.com/>

Field Adjudication

Brian Belski



It's finally happening!! Months of planning, design meetings, rehearsals, student leader training, fundraising, parent meetings, and paperwork are all coming together in our first weekend of shows on October 1. I'm always excited to get to an event and hear and see the drums, winds, and guards warming up. Long tones, eights, and spins are my jam. I'm also looking forward to seeing old colleagues and friends and (hopefully) making new ones. It's a time to celebrate the many things that are right! Yes, even though your show's not done yet. Yes, even though the guard costumes haven't been delivered. Yes, even though the wireless mics you ordered last November are still on backorder. It's still time to celebrate what our students are doing and to celebrate the performing arts in one of its louder and least predictable formats: the first marching band show of the season.

Show Registration Info:

Registration using Competition Suite is going great so far. We currently have 132 more performances scheduled than we did last year. Due to requests from directors and district purchasing offices, our registration deadline for shows has changed from a hard deadline of September 15 for all tournaments to a rolling deadline of three weeks prior to each

tournament. This policy will be reviewed at the end of the season.

[Competition Suite: A How-To Guide for SCSBOA Band Directors](#)

Field Championships Information:

- Applications are available online via [Competition Suite](#).
- Applications and forms are due by October 15.
- Directors must be SCSBOA members by October 15.
- We will not be making exceptions to this policy.

The field adjudicator training session held August 20 at Long Beach City College was outstanding and extremely well attended. I received a lot of comments from people stating that it was nice to get to think in terms of big picture concepts related to judging. The session on Competition Suite was also excellent and did a lot to increase adjudicators' sense of self efficacy as well as lower their anxiety about judging using a completely different system. Thanks to Brian Hamilton for hosting and huge kudos to our Amy Mack for all her planning in making this day so awesome on all accounts.

Field Adjudication continued...

We held a separate Competition Suite training session for our Head Judges and Technicians (formerly known as Tabulators) to help make sure that shows will run smoothly in the Fall. We threw in as many problems as possible to help them learn how to diagnose and solve them. They all did a great job and we are very well positioned to have as smooth a season as possible.

Procedural Updates:

- Judge commentary will become available to directors in Competition Suite as the next group enters the field or at the beginning of a scheduled break if that group's performance is followed by a break in the lineup.

- Recaps will be available on Competition Suite at 11:00pm following each event. Hard copies of recaps will be distributed, but only for this season. Recaps will be separated by division and bands will be listed in order of placement. Show timings will not be listed.

Have a great first few weeks of your season. Please come over and say Hi if we're at a show together...especially if we haven't met in person! If you have questions or ideas, please email me at field@scsboa.org.



Festivals

Tom Philips



Membership

Darnella Davidson



**FESTIVAL SCHEDULES
WILL BE POSTED TO
THE SCSBOA WEBSITE
SOON!!!**



**WATCH YOUR EMAILS
AND THE SCSBOA
WEBSITE IN EARLY
OCTOBER FOR
INFORMATION ON
BAND & ORCHESTRA
FESTIVAL
REGISTRATION AND
APPLICATIONS!**



Now that school has started and hopefully you and your students are in a groove, how are you doing? How are you handling the perks and challenges of teaching?

Some thoughts from a veteran teacher:

- Write down great ideas, concerns to help clear the mind.
- Reach long and short-term goals with backward planning.
- Involve your students to set benchmarks for learning.
- Share your plans, process so everyone understands the purpose and desires to push forward.
- To enhance learning, teach students concepts with the “what,” “**why**,” and “how” in mind.
- Be specific with realistic objectives.
- Time management is important. Have a life outside of school.
- Attention to detail makes a difference but don’t overthink it.

- When the plan goes awry, be ready to breathe, be flexible, and regroup.
- Smile more and find some joy in the journey.

Friends, if any of those thoughts resonated with you, many more helpful tips can be shared when you participate in any of our SCSBOA workshops, field competitions, parades, festivals, and the almighty 3-day winter conference set for January!

Thank you to all who participated in the Fall Countdown held last month which covered valuable information for elementary, middle school, field, and parade directors.

Feel inspired. Feel support alongside some of the most creative minds in southern California. Know that you have mentors and colleagues from the oldest, largest music teacher association in SoCal willing to offer a helping hand. Just reach...reach!

Make sure your membership is up to date and be well.

High School Education

Amy Villanova



High School Education, continued...

SCSBOA High School Honor Group Information

Auditions will open October 1

The 2023 SCSBOA High School Honor groups are preparing for our IN-PERSON event this winter at our SCSBOA conference. The audition window will officially open on October 1 and will close on December 1, 2022 at 11:59PM. The audition format will closely follow the All-State process. Directors MUST be SCSBOA members and must begin each student's audition portal. Detailed instructions can be found on the SCSBOA website closer to registration for directors to begin student audition portals. All excerpts and scans can be found under the honor group tab at www.scsboa.org.

The Event!

The High School Honor Groups will meet at the Hyatt regency, Orange County on conjunction with our SCSBOA Professional development Conference. Students will rehearse on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023 and rehearse and perform (Orchestra in the evening) on Saturday, Jan. 21. The Bands will perform on Sunday, Jan. 22. The public is welcome to attend the performances on Saturday evening (Orchestra) and Sunday morning (Bands). Audition fees will be \$35 and if selected, the participation fee is \$180. Directors are encouraged to attend honor group rehearsals as part of their conference experience as well.

Renew your director membership

Don't forget to drink water, go for a walk, find a few moments for yourself-self care doesn't need to be a major event, a few minutes of quiet on the drive in, or a moment or two to watch the sunset (not over your practice field), a phone call to a family member or friend, a favorite bite to eat or drink...read a book, find a podcast, turn the phone off for the evening, go for a drive, take yourself (or your partner too) on a date night! You can only be as effective a leader as you are feeling, so don't forget to take care of yourself too.



HS Honor Orchestra
Angela Woo
John Adams Middle School
Santa Monica, CA



HS Wind Ensemble
Dr. Dustin Barr
Cal State Fullerton



HS Symphonic Band
Dr. Gregory Whitmore
Cal State Fullerton

Jazz Education

Dennis Crystal



Beginning With The End In Mind

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful break and is coming back energized and ready for another year. As I started to consider this year for my own program and what I hope to accomplish with this batch of students, I was reminded of Stephen Covey's book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People". One of his habits (and they are all great) is to "Begin With the End in Mind". With regard to your jazz program, now is a fantastic time to think about where you want your group to be at the end of the year. Looking back on last year, what parts of your band do you wish were better? What were your strengths and what were your weaknesses? You now have an entire year to plan for some strategic building of those areas by adjusting your curriculum or methods, reaching out for some professional development at a conference or via online materials, or by connecting with someone in your area that is having success and asking them how they do it. We are so fortunate to live in Southern California because there is just a wealth of talent in every domain of band and orchestra teaching, it is not difficult to find somebody who would love to come work with your students and help you grow as an educator. Some of my best professional friendships started with a cold call asking for help!

In thinking about some of the areas that you might be looking at this year to make your band sound their best, I'd like to suggest two main things to focus on:

1. **Feel** – Arguably, this is the single most important area to consider developing for bands at all levels. This requires not just steady time keeping, but everybody in the band really has to understand how the music is supposed to feel at all times and in all styles. This has to do with playing any kind of music with authenticity, is primarily conceptual, and is best taught through intensive guided listening. You have to be able to draw your students' attention to those elements of a performance that they may not notice otherwise, but become undeniable once they hear them. This is just as applicable to playing marches, Concert Music or Chamber Music, as it is to playing Basie or Ellington. When you hear some great piano comping or a particularly soulful lick or really tightly balance ensemble section, stop and point it out. If you let your students in on what really excites you about a particular performance, you are giving them clues about what they should be listening for and it gives them context for their continued listening outside of class.



Jazz Education, continued...

Consider setting up a playlist for your band using your favorite streaming platform. Simply suggesting to students that they need to listen more will not yield the results we hope. They need to be led to what to listen to. You could update it monthly with different themes or just create your own "essential listening" source. One resource like this that I found recently was done by drummer Peter Erskine for his students at USC, then went up on his Facebook page to the rest of the world, and now lives on his website. It is his "Infinity Drummers" list that you can find on his webpage. It's not a "Top 10" or "Top 25" or "Top Anything", it is just a list of drummers and recordings that he likes. Each drummer has a short explanation of why he was included or what makes the album special to him and there is a link to listen to the recording.

[Click Here To Check Out Peter Erskine's Infinity Drummers List](#)

You don't have to create anything so exhaustive as this, but building a small and focused listening resource for your students will ensure that they know exactly what to listen to, at least as a starting point. I'm sure many students will listen to Count Basie's "Shiny Stockings" and use that as a jumping off point to hear many other tunes in the Basie repertoire or find themselves discovering other important big bands in the Basie style

If you're not familiar with some of the most essential Jazz repertoire or artists, Dr. JB Dyas, VP for Education and Curriculum Development at the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz, has a terrific resource with "must know" standards and their definitive recordings here:

[104 Must Know Tunes](#)

Either way, study of the art form through listening is absolutely essential to great performance in any style. This is something that you can setup once and use over and over again or edit/add to as you like, but your students will have the tools they need to grow in their love and appreciation for jazz and will reward you with more satisfying performances.

2. **Improvisation** – Most young jazz musicians struggle with improvisation and the fact of the matter is that this is one area of jazz performance that just requires time and effort. This might also be an area that you hear consistently from festival judges. I don't know how many times I've heard students at festivals that just can't demonstrate an understanding of the harmony or the style of the music through their improvisations. Even some very good band, that are playing some of the most sophisticated repertoire available, don't have soloists that can play up to the ensemble. Jazz, as an art form, is singularly defined by improvisation and it is a part of jazz performance that will give students all of the cognitive and affective benefits that music has to offer.

Jazz Education, continued...

There are many approaches to learning how to play good solos, but ultimately we all need time “in the woodshed” to play and experiment and find what works so that it can become part of our vocabulary. One of the best ways to help students develop vocabulary is to include some “Call and Response” exercises at the beginning of rehearsal. Even a small repertoire of authentic jazz licks can be used as a vehicle for creating rhythmic or melodic variations to help students develop their ability to create spontaneously. Beyond this, I like to have students learn and play the written solo from memory and then use that as a basis for creating their own solo. Learning the guide tones lines (connecting the 3rd and 7ths of each chord), playing through the arpeggios, applying the correct scale types to the chords, applying certain theoretical constructs (like approach tones, enclosures, and turns), and doing transcriptions of the definitive recordings are all great ways to help build improvisation skills. There are many resources available online that help support the teaching and learning of improvisation. Here are just a few and notice how different the approach is in every case:



These are just a few of the many online improvisation resources available and any one of them could make a big difference in your students' success this year. Pick your favorite one and try to employ some of the techniques consistently this year and see if the improv improves. The bottom line is that this is an area of jazz performance that is not easy or quick to develop. It will only happen with a certain amount of concerted effort over time, but it really rewards the student with the ability to create music if they embrace the journey. Students' solos do not have to be mind-bendingly hip, but I think all audience members and festival adjudicators would appreciate hearing students that have a basic grasp of the changes and some sense of melody and intention in their solo.

[Jazz Everyone](#)

[Bebop Bootcamp](#)

[The 10-Minute Jazz Lesson Podcast](#)

[Chad L-B](#)

[Jamey Aebersold](#)

[Jazz Etudes](#)

Jazz Education, continued...

All great jazz musicians have taken this journey and there are just some parts of music making that just boil down to paying your dues.

No matter where your program is now, now is the time to plan for your future success. Get excited about the possibilities that this year holds and take your students on a mutual journey of growth and exploration. As always, if there is anything at all that I can do to help you and your students with your journey, please reach out (jazz@scsboa.org). I would love to help you and I

would love to help put you in touch with others that can do the same.

Have an amazing year! I look forward to seeing everybody at the triumphant return of our Winter Conference this January. You should definitely be making plans to be there. There are some fantastic jazz clinic sessions planned and our honor groups conductors are top notch. Come say hi and check it out!



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626-240-4621 acmonline.us



Parade Adjudication

Joe Dudek



What a wonderful parade day SCSBOA had on September 10 at Santiago High School! Attendees heard why parade band was important from a distinguished panel including USMC Sgt. Brian Martinez, SCSBOA President Jeanne Christensen, Raul Guerrero, Corkie Keys and Anthony Almond. Members enjoyed sessions on parade rehearsal techniques, avoiding penalties, new and current judging sheets, and how to become an apprentice adjudicator. Other sessions geared towards drum majors were attended by over 40 student drum majors from all areas of Southern California; they received hands on training by SCSBOA drum major adjudicators and guests from Peacock Enterprises. A great big "Thank You" goes out to our panel members, presenters, clinicians, and our Parade Adjudication Committee (PAC) for making the day successful and enjoyable!

If you haven't visited the SCSBOA website lately, I would like to draw your attention to the updated parade music lists. Both the MS list & the HS list have been updated and now include links to recordings of (most of) the marches. Now you can hear a march as you are perusing titles. Thank You Amy Mack! As we move into the fall, I encourage all marching band directors to give marching in a parade a try. Local parades, and band reviews offer such a positive, educational performance

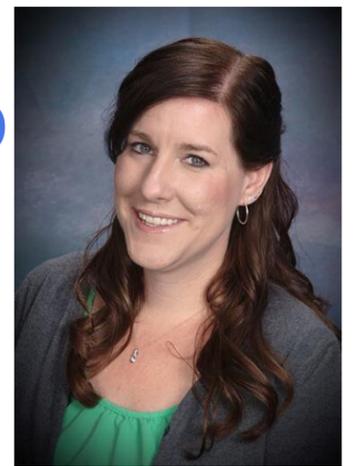
experience. If learning a Sousa style march is not in your plans, elect to compete in the Show Band Class and perform your band's greatest hits, or play whatever you wish and choose not to compete. Your community may not come to your concerts, so bring the concert to them.

Below is a current list of parades and band reviews adjudicated by the SCSBOA, but there are so many more community events that are not judged. Get out there and PERFORM! Have a great fall!

- 10/1 - Tustin Tiller Parade
- 10/8 - Placentia Heritage Parade
- 10/15 - Norwalk Arturo Sanchez Halloween Parade
- 10/29 - Loara Band Review
- 10/29 - Mt Carmel Parade
- 11/5 - Chino Band Review 11/5
- 11/12 - ML King Band Review
- 11/19 - Arcadia Band Review
- 12/3 - Baldwin Park Parade
- 12/10 - Pomona Christmas Parade
- 12/10 - Camarillo Christmas Parade
- 12/10 - Perris Valley Parade
- 12/10 - Compton Christmas Parade 12/11
- 3/4/2023 - Laguna Beach Patriot's Day Parade
- 3/25/2023 - Swallow's Day Parade

Middle School Education

Susan Willmering



ALL-SOUTHERN HONOR GROUPS

This year, we are back to our 3 group model of having a Symphonic Band, Full Orchestra and String Orchestra. The audition window will open October 1st and close December 1st at 11:59PM. Directors want to familiarize themselves with the online audition system which is similar to the one used for All-State Honor Groups. The music director must set up their students' accounts initially in the online audition system. Once done, students will have access to it and can upload their recordings. Students should use a non-school email when setting up their accounts. All recordings are AUDIO only and should be an mp3.

2023 Audition Lists and Material

The cost to audition is \$35 with a participation fee of \$180.

HONOR GROUP CONDUCTORS

I am very pleased to announce our honor group conductors for the middle school:

Matthew Mulvaney Mira Mesa HS String Orchestra	Todd Montemayor Redlands Youth Symphony Full Orchestra	Jay Posteraro Mesa Verde MS Symphonic Band
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HONOR GROUP SCHEDULES

Rehearsals:

- Sat 1/14- All Groups, 8:30am-4:30pm
- Sun 1/15- All Groups, 8:30am-4:30pm
- Fri 1/20- String Orchestra and Full Orchestra, 6-9pm
- Sat 1/21- Symphonic Band- 8:30-11:30am

Concerts:

- Sat 1/21- 7:00pm- String Orchestra Concert
- 7:45pm- Full Orchestra Concert
- Sun 1/22 - 9:00am- Symphonic Band Concert

Please help get the word out about the honor groups and encourage your students to consider auditioning. The performances will occur during our winter conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Orange County alongside the High School Honor Ensembles and is open to the public.

If you have any questions with any part of the honor group audition material, application process, recordings and or anything else, do not hesitate to reach out to me at middleschool@scsboa.com