

California Choral Directors Association  
California Music Educators Association  
Southern California Vocal Association

# CHORAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

@ California All State Music Education Conference

**Sacramento, CA**

**January 17-18, 2025**

*This event is for high school, community college, and university students interested in the choral music profession.*

## Event Overview

The Choral Leadership Academy (CLA) will bring together high school students who demonstrate an interest in the music profession, together with pre-service college music education majors, for two days of musical and educational activities. These activities will teach musicianship skills, inspire confidence, and build camaraderie among musicians of the next generation.

The students in the CLA will:

- sing new literature
- work on their musicianship
- listen to and learn from veterans in the field
- develop friendships that will support them as they begin their careers

We are privileged to have an outstanding CLA headliner, Dr. Emily Mercado, President of Utah ACDA and Associate Professor of Music Education from the University of Utah, who will bring expertise, humor, and insight to the CLA students' experience.

The 2025 CLA faculty will also include:

Dr. Cari Earnhart (Fresno State)  
Ms. Stacey Kikkawa, (Fullerton Union High School)  
Ms. Tammi Alderman (Temple City High School)  
Ms. Hillary Ngo (Garden Grove Unified)  
Mr. Robert Davis (Ayala High School)  
Mr. John Sorber (College of the Sequoias)

Encourage your students to **register by December 4** to be a part of this exciting experience!

Due to the nature of this event, we must limit our enrollment to 75 students. Acceptance to the CLA is on a "first come, first served" basis, but please be aware that we strive to have a balance of vocal parts as well as a balance of high school and college students. Therefore, as registration moves forward towards our limit, students might have to be placed on a waiting list.

# Choral Leadership Academy Timeline

IMPORTANT: Make your housing and transportation arrangements right away! Hotels near the convention center fill up quickly.

**August 2024**                      CLA information available on website  
**October 1, 2024**                [Registration OPENS online](#) - **ONLY \$99**  
**December 4, 2024**              Registration CLOSES

\*Missed the deadline?? Contact Dr. Cari Earnhart, CLA Coordinator, at [choralleadershipacademy@gmail.com](mailto:choralleadershipacademy@gmail.com)

**December 15, 2024**              Registered singers and their directors receive information via email.  
**January 10, 2025**                [Liability form](#), All medical/liability forms due.  
**January 17-18, 2025**              The Choral Leadership Academy (CLA) is held in Sacramento during the California All-State Music Education Conference (CASMEC)

Registered CLA students have free passes to attend all sessions before and after CLA begins! (Participants will be accepted on a first come/first served basis, but leadership reserves the right to ensure that a balanced choral ensemble is created.)

## Eligibility

### Professional Membership

CMEA is proud to offer this opportunity to our affiliate organization members. All singers must be in choirs whose directors are members of the California Choral Directors Association (CCDA), California Music Educators Association (CMEA), or the Southern California Vocal Association (SCVA).

Sponsoring directors confirm participation for each participant. Students may also have their own [ACDA Student Membership](#).

### Grade Level and Voicing Requirements

Students who are a junior or senior in high school choirs are eligible to participate, as are any undergraduate/graduate students from the community college and university levels. We look forward to the mentorship of the collegiate members with the current high school students. You are all the potential future of choral music education in California! The CLA choir will be a mixed choir with SATB voicing.

## Registration Process

- **\$99 Register online by December 4, 2024 - [Click for CLA 2025 registration Form](#)**

For more info: Cari Earnhart - [choralleadershipacademy@gmail.com](mailto:choralleadershipacademy@gmail.com)

## Participant Expectations

The 2025 CLA will comprise some of the very best choral singers in the state, who may also become our next generation of music educators. Each singer applying should demonstrate the highest level of musicianship, exceptional work habits, exemplary citizenship, and a passion for choral singing. It is our goal to have the most talented, deserving, and committed singers go to the CASMEC conference in Sacramento, and participate in the CLA on January 17-18, 2025.

- CLA Students must check-in and register on Friday, January 17 from 8:00 - 9:00 am (room location will be emailed to participants).
- The CLA officially begins at 9:00 am on Friday, January 17 and ends by 5:00 pm on Saturday, January 18.
- All participants must make their own housing arrangements in advance of the Choral Leadership Academy, which will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center.
- All participants will remain until after the final event of the CLA, which will conclude at 5:00 pm on Saturday, January 18.
- Participants will attend all rehearsals and events of the CLA and submit themselves to the authority of the CLA staff, and chaperones as designated by CCDA.
- The CASMEC Conference begins on the morning of Thursday, January 16, and students are invited to arrive early to take in as much of the conference as possible. Your registration fee for CLA also gives you full registration into the conference...a real bargain! It is recommended but not required that all CLA members attend the entire conference.

## Financial Commitment

Each singer registered for the 2025 CLA will be financially responsible for the following expenses:

1. Registration fee: \$99.00 - Each registered singer will be responsible for payment by credit card. The registration fee includes participation with the entire CLA Leadership (Guest Headliner, Conductors, Accompanist), a music packet, a CLA t-shirt, two group meals (lunch on Friday and Saturday) rehearsal and performance facilities, and full registration for the California All State Music Education Conference.
2. Lunch on Friday and Saturday are included and will be eaten together. All other meals are on your own. (Chaperones are not included.)
3. Housing is up to each individual participant (or their parents/directors) to arrange. Hotel rooms fill up fast, so book your accommodation early.
4. CLA participants (and chaperones for any minors) are responsible for their own transportation costs and arrangements to and from the CLA in SACRAMENTO. Chaperones will need to purchase individual [CASMEC conference](#) concert tickets or day passes to attend concerts/sessions along with high school students that are not contained within the CLA schedule.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## 2025 Choral Leadership Academy

January 17 - 18, 2025 Sacramento, California

### **Where will we stay?**

All members of the CLA will be responsible for their own housing in Sacramento. The CLA will be held in the Sacramento Convention Center, in downtown Sacramento. Make your own reservations and do so early as all the hotels in the Sacramento area will fill up quickly with this large conference.

### **Will singers' rooms be supervised?**

Each singer is responsible for their own accommodations, and high school singers and minors must follow the guidelines as set forth by their schools/districts. **High school students must be chaperoned at all times by representatives from their sending schools/organizations.**

### **Does each High School singer need a chaperone?**

Yes, though a chaperone may be responsible for more than one CLA singer. Chaperones may be parents or teachers, and should be available on-site or nearby, either at the convention or hotel, for the duration of the CLA.

### **What does a chaperone do?**

Chaperones are responsible for their singers throughout the CLA experience. At registration chaperones will need to provide room numbers and cell phone numbers where they can be reached for the duration of the conference. Chaperones are responsible for encouraging exemplary behavior and for making sure that their singers are on time for all rehearsals, meals, activities and performances.

### **How do we handle meals?**

All members of the Choral Leadership Academy will be responsible for their own meals, with the exception of lunch on Friday and Saturday. These two meals are included in your registration fee and will be community meals enjoyed together. Please note your dietary restrictions in your registration. You are on your own for all other meals, and high school students should plan to meet up with their chaperones. A list of local establishments will be provided to all CLA members.

### **How shall we pay for the CLA registration?**

All payments will be made with a credit card through JotForm. Payment is due upon registration.

### **What if I have more questions?**

Contact the Coordinators: Cari Earnhart [choralleadershipacademy@gmail.com](mailto:choralleadershipacademy@gmail.com) (Please type CLA in the subject line of the email)