



John Knutson is Director of Choral Studies at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, CA. He is also a member of the professional vocal jazz ensemble Vocalogy, formed by Phil Mattson in 1998. Before moving to California, John taught at Southwestern Community College in Iowa. While at Southwestern, he performed all over the US and Europe with the award-winning vocal jazz group Voiceslowa. Prior to that John lived in New York, where he taught vocal music at JHS #263 in Brooklyn, and performed with the acappella cabaret group, the QuintEssentials.

Cuesta Voce will appear at the Jazz Education Network conference in New Orleans this year. They have been headliners at the Santa Cruz Jazz Festival several times, and also headlined the 2009 California Music Educators Convention. They received 2nd place at the Vokal Total Festival in Austria against professional choirs from Europe and Asia. Under his direction, the Cuesta Chamber Singers performed at the Festival International Choral en Provence in 2008. Other prestigious performances include the 2005 American Choral Directors Association National Convention in Los Angeles, the 2005

Montreux Jazz Festival, and the 2003 International Association for Jazz Education Convention in Toronto. He directed the California All-State Vocal Jazz Choir in 2006, and in May 2009 John was named Cuesta College's Teacher of the Year.

John has served as a clinician at jazz and choral festivals in fifteen states, and in three Canadian provinces. John has numerous choral compositions; his vocal jazz arrangements are available through UNC Jazz Press.

John holds a Masters in Conducting degree from Northern Arizona University and a Bachelors in Piano Performance from the University of Minnesota.