NOVEMBER 2009 2010

COMPOSERS FROM THE LEFT COAST



PART OF THE WEST COAST, LEFT COAST FESTIVAL





This Holiday Season

DECK THE HALL

WITH THE LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE



Ring in the season with one of our signature Holiday concerts...or all three. We'd love to see you and sing with you during this most special time of year.

Holiday Wonders Sat, Dec 5, 2009, 2:30 pm

Christmas at Walt Disney Concert Hall

A concert of traditional carols: Angels We Have Heard on High, Deck the Hall, O Holy Night and more!

John West, organ

Messiah Sing-Along Sat, Dec 12, 2009, 2 pm Sun, Dec 20, 2009, 7 pm

29th Annual Sing-Along Handel | *Messiah* with orchestra and soloists; you're the chorus! Rejoice!

Sun, Dec 13, 2009, 7 pm

A Classic Christmas Concert

Charpentier | Midnight Mass for Christmas Eve

Ramírez | *Navidad Nuestra* with Huayucaltia

Vaughan Williams | Fantasia on Christmas Carols

Susa | A Christmas Garland

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WEST CORST LEFT CORST

Festival Highlights

WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

Fri Nov 27 & Sat Nov 28 at 8pm Sun Nov 29 at 2 pm LA PHILHARMONIC

Gustavo Dudamel, conductor Marino Formenti, piano Salonen *LA Variations* Harrison Piano Concerto Adams City *Noir*

Sun Nov 29 at 7:30pm PIANO SPHERES: CALIFORNIA KEYBOARD

Gloria Cheng, Vicki Ray, Mark Robson, Susan Svrček, pianos

Tue Dec 1 at 8pm GREEN UMBRELLA

LA Philharmonic New Music Group John Adams, conductor Kronos Quartet Marshall Fog Tropes Partch US Highball Zappa Selections from The Yellow Shark

Thu Dec 3 at 8pm Fri Dec 4 at 11am LA PHILHARMONIC

Leonard Slatkin, conductor Kronos Quartet Goldsmith Music for Orchestra Bates *Liquid Interface* Waxman *Tristan und Isolde* Fantasy Newman (world premiere) Fri Dec 4 at 9pm
THE AIRBORNE TOXIC EVENT
featuring the Calder Quartet

Sat Dec 5 at 8pm Sun Dec 6 at 2pm LA PHILHARMONIC

John Adams, conductor Dresher *Glimpsed from Afar* Kraft Timpani Concerto No. 1 Roseman Suite from *Rebel Without a Cause* Adams *The Dharma at Big Sur*

Sun Dec 6 at 8pm SONGS OF THE SUN

with Brian Wilson and David Alvin

Tue Dec 8 at 8pm A NIGHT OF THE BEATS

Charles Lloyd New Quartet
Michael McClure, poet performer
Kurt Elling, Joe Lovano, Joshua Redman,
Christian McBride, Peter Erskine and
Alan Broadbent

THE COLBURN SCHOOL ZIPPER HALL

Mon Nov 30 at 8pm

AMY X NEUBURG AND THE

CELLO CHIXTET

THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF SUBWAYS

DOROTHY CHANDLER PAVILION

Sat Dec 5 at 2pm

SYMPOSIUM - "THE ART OF THE STATE"

John Adams, Phil Lesh and Kevin Starr

FESTIVAL DETAILS:

www.LAPhil.com/WestCoastLeftCoast

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Los Angeles Master Chorale Grant Gershon | Music Director

COMPOSERS FROM THE LEFT COAST

Part of West Coast, Left Coast – an LA Phil Festival curated by John Adams

Sunday, November 22, at 7 pm

Walt Disney Concert Hall

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

Grant Gershon, Conductor **Sergio "Checo" Alonso,** Mexican Harp **Lisa Edwards,** Piano

Savage Altars

INGRAM MARSHALL (B. 1942)

Ralph Morrison, VIOLIN | Kazi Pitelka, VIOLA

Mid-Winter Songs on Poems by Robert Graves

MORTEN LAURIDSEN (B. 1943)

Lament for Pasiphaë Like Snow She Tells Her Love While Half Asleep Mid-Winter Waking Intercession in Late October

Lisa Edwards, PIANO

... INTERMISSION ...

Cloudburst

ERIC WHITACRE (B. 1970)

A Map of Los Angeles

DAVID O (B. 1970)

Introduction (Map I)
Los Los Angeles Angeles
Bus Interlude (Map II)
The The Tar Tar Pits

HEAVENLY TRIO: Karen Hogle Brown, SOPRANO | Sun Joo Yeo, SOPRANO Drea Pressley, MEZZO SOPRANO

Meditation (Map III) El Cementerio Evergreen

Sergio "Checo" Alonso, MEXICAN HARP | Lisa Edwards, PIANO Jonathan Pintoff, BASS | Theresa Dimond, PERCUSSION Michael Englander, PERCUSSION



the James Irvine foundation

Tonight's presentation of A Map of Los Angeles is part of LA is the World, a multi-year commissioning initiative supported by a grant from the James Irvine Foundation, with special assistance from Lillian and Jon Lovelace. Additional support is provided by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.



KUSC is our Proud Media Partner

Special thanks to the **Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim** for the official jersey and baseball bat used in *A Map of Los Angeles*.

Tonight's **ListenUp!** with Music Director Grant Gershon, KUSC's Alan Chapman, and composers Morten Lauridsen, Ingram Marshall, David O, and Eric Whitacre will be held in BP Hall at 6 PM. *ListenUp!* can be heard online a week after the concert at www.lamc.org

Use of tape recorders, telephones, pagers, and/or cameras is prohibited in the auditorium. Program and artists subject to change. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of House Management.

PROGRAM NOTES

By Thomas May

VOICES FROM THE LEFT COAST

Curated by John Adams as part of the Los Angeles Philharmonic's West Coast, Left Coast Festival, tonight's program samples four active composers who range widely in style and outlook but share a gift for emotional immediacy. All of them have been nurtured by experiences of the rich cultural *terroir* of the West Coast. Its overwhelming natural beauty, too, has left its stamp on their music, suggesting overtones of spiritual and personal landscapes.

Framing the program are cantata-like works by Ingram Marshall and David O that assimilate aspects of West Coast post-minimalism to distinct expressive ends. Savage Altars and Mid-Winter Songs (Morten Lauridsen's settings of the emotionally elegant poetry of Robert Graves) both refashion classical tradition in a way that suggest contemporary relevance. Urban life, in the polyglot, joyful vibrancy of A Map of Los Angeles, is counterpointed with the endlessly renewing patterns of nature, of seasons and storms, as discovered anew in Mid-Winter Songs and Eric Whitacre's Cloudburst. Wherever the starting point, the musical compass for these composers points toward genuine communication.

Of War and Peace

Ingram Marshall recalls the culture of 1970s San Francisco as an unpredictable, messy alloy of influences. It offered a stimulating alternative to the academic establishment of the era. Along with the actively evolving West Coast brand of minimalism and assorted avant-garde trends, there was an increasing awareness of non-Western traditions. It proved to be the ideal environment for a young composer seeking his voice. Like John Adams—with whom he and a few other musicians shared an old Victorian in Haight-Ashbury for a spell—Marshall had come from the East Coast, well-trained but with ears wide open, prepared to be guided by new epiphanies.

Although the composer eventually headed back East to teach at Yale, his music is characterized by the peculiar fusion of elements that first came together during that formative period. They include Marshall's interest in electronic music and recorded sound, the impressions gathered from a summer spent in Bali, the clarity found in minimalist textures, and his unjaded admiration for end-of-era romanticism—in particular the melancholy variant found in Sibelius.

The blend achieved in *Savage Altars*, a reflective cantata on ruin and renewal, is especially remarkable. For all the disparate threads Marshall weaves together, he communicates a sense of emotional inevitability—like the austere beauty of a ritual whose origins and purpose have been freshly illuminated. He composed *Savage Altars* for the Dartmouth College Chamber Choir in 1991, when the First Gulf War, brief as it was, made things seem like "the country was in the grip of a militarist mindset," according to the composer.

Marshall rerouted his initial plan—to set Mary's hymn of praise, the *Magnificat*—to take account of another text now seizing his imagination: a passage from the panoramic history of the Roman Empire by first-century historian Tacitus. In Book I of the *Annals*,

Tacitus recounts the catastrophic loss inflicted on the Roman legions by the Germanic chieftain Arminius in A.D. 9 at the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest. Six years later, the scene still showed the remains of chilling massacre, along with the "savage altars" (barbarae arae) left behind by the tribes. Marshall interweaves the Latin text of Tacitus with the Marian Magnificat, which itself hymns a reversal of the normal order of power, where the mighty are "cast from their thrones." The resulting hybrid, he observes, gave him "a 'language' around which I could create my musical statements."

Patterns of utmost simplicity—bell-like melodic fragments, scale passages, haunting intervals—interlock to form an emotionally vibrant mosaic. Marshall seamlessly integrates electronic "prepared sounds" with the medieval purity of his vibratoless choral lines, while violin and viola add a discreetly elegiac gloss. The work's title itself is an emblem of the surprising mix that results, as influences from gamelan and chant join to suggest an atmosphere of suspended time. In the final minutes, Marshall works yet another thread into his wondrous polyphony by quoting the cheerful 13th-century round "Sumer Is Icumen In"—pointing to its mixed sacred-secular, Latin-Middle English aspects through the use of multiple meters. Then, with a sudden, ghostlike vanishing, the music simply stops.

Poetry and Paradox

Written to celebrate the centennial in 1980 of the University of Southern California—where Morten Lauridsen studied and currently teaches composition—the choral cycle *Mid-Winter Songs* dates from before his period as resident composer with the Master Chorale. But the work was further developed by the ensemble, which introduced Lauridsen's revised version with full orchestra and subsequently recorded it for their 1998 *Lux Aeterna* CD.

Lauridsen found inspiration for this cycle in the long-lived, prolific Robert Graves and culled five poems of miscellaneous character that share motifs involving the image of winter—a season the composer values as "rich in the paradoxical symbolism of dying/rejuvenation, light/darkness, sleeping/waking."

The poems are lucid in their lyricism. Their subjects range from Graves's latter-day appreciation of the deep truths embedded in myth to the transformations enacted by nature and art alike. The bittersweet threshold between states expressed in the moving "Lament for Pasiphaë" (the wife of Minos, she was made to fall in love with a bull and give birth to the Minotaur) is echoed by the "Intercession in Late October." They frame the three middle poems that revolve around images of sleeping and waking, of intimacy and experience.

Lauridsen crafts a musical architecture shaped in the form of an arch to reinforce his arrangement of poetic themes, where "She Tells Her Love While Half Asleep" functions as the introspective center. The relatively brief second and fourth songs mirror each other in their jaunty, quickening rhythmic profiles, while the passion and pathos of the opening are transformed to gentle acceptance in the cycle's concluding song. Lauridsen moreover integrates the entire work through his pervasive use of two intervals: a descending major second and the dramatic leap of an ascending major ninth, heard in the opening setting of the words "dying sun." For this evening's performance, we hear the original version for mixed chorus accompanied by piano.

Stormy Weather

The rapid emergence of Eric Whitacre in the new-music scene has been as dramatic as the phenomenon he so vividly describes in *Cloudburst* (1992), one of his signature pieces. The Reno-born Whitacre was a late-comer to classical music. During college, however, he found himself so overwhelmed by singing Mozart's *Requiem* that he began to study composition. Within just a few years of his first pieces, Whitacre had evolved into a major new voice. He remains among the most frequently performed composers in the world of contemporary choral music.

Already at the age of 22, when he wrote *Cloudburst*, Whitacre was aiming for the contemporary sublime. His setting of words by Mexican poet and Nobel laureate Octavio Paz (1914-1998) is a miniature choral tone poem that shows stunning resourcefulness in its reimagining of the medium. Whitacre adapts passages from Paz's 1955 poem "El Cántaro Roto" ("The Broken Water-Jug"). Water and rain become metaphors for a kind of spiritual reawakening, where the act of music itself provides the vital force: "We must sing till the song puts forth roots."

The piece, Whitacre says, suggests "a celebration of the unleashed kinetic energy in all things." His unique style of richly clustered harmonies complements the surreal, dreamlike imagery of the verse. Whitacre shapes a singular dramatic arc that includes recitation, chords that spiral upward in arpeggiated slow motion, and

chance effects, along with piano and percussion. It would spoil the surprise to spell out the non-vocal contributions of the singers—but once heard, Whitacre's simulated storm and its aftermath are unforgettable.

All Aboard

Premiered just two seasons ago as one of the *LA is the World* commissions, David O's *A Map of Los Angeles* proved its instant appeal to Chorale audiences. The composer was inspired by the diversity, linguistic collisions, and even prehistoric history of this city that defies cartographic definition. He traverses its landscape fueled, in part, by a spirit that O likens to a "bright, jagged, joyous jam session." But the score takes some unusual turns along the way, tempered by whimsical humor and poignant reflection.

The actual text involved in this six-part choral journey is surprisingly slight, considering how vivid are the impressions with which O leaves us. He folds out his *Map* with opposing panoramic shots and closeups. The wordless, scat-style, coolly minimalist patterns we hear at the start—initially laid out by isolated voices but gradually thickening and shifting in rhythmic texture—turn out to be a unifying thread. Like a rondo, they meander through the piece, but with kaleidoscopic adjustments of color and mood. Another signature element is the mariachi harp, which functions as both solo personality and accompaniment—even as a kind of commentator—and blends evocatively with the voices. O deploys his tight, economical ensemble as suggestively as his lean text.

The "jam session" gets underway before the first of three intervening episodes erupts as an anthem—both heartfelt and tongue in cheek, with a play on the "redundant and self-contradictory name" of a certain familiar baseball team (which has graciously donated a jersey and baseball bat—the latter actually being put to musical use in the performance). Angelic choral strains add a further punning layer. O again develops the busy urban pulse—spilling over once again to the baseball anthem—and mixes varied Latin and jazz rhythms into the swingular groove.

Next stop is the La Brea Tar Pits ("the the tar tar pits"). A primal, catchy beat underlies the vocal push and pull, with grunts and shrieks "echoing the cries of prehistoric beasts struggling in the asphalt."

A calmer reprise of city sounds (beginning with mirrored piano and marimba phrases) fosters the meditative state of mind befitting the final stop at El Cementerio Evergreen—the city's oldest cemetery.

To a touching habanera rhythm from the mariachi harp, the chorus recites "a ritualistic litany" of names from the tombstones, alternating Spanish and English. The changing flickers of harmony are subdued—"like sunlight filtering through the leaves of the live oaks," says O—but a rainbow burst of color sets a final seal on Map.

Thomas May writes frequently about the arts and is the program annotator for the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Grant Gershon MUSIC DIRECTOR

"Grant Gershon... has built a career on championing contemporary music."

PASADENA STAR NEWS



Now in his ninth season, Grant has led more than 70 performances with the Chorale at Disney Hall. In addition to conducting acclaimed performances of the classics, he has expanded the choir's repertoire significantly by conducting a number of world premieres: You Are (Variations) by Steve Reich; Requiem by Christopher Rouse; City of Dis by Louis Andriessen; Sang by Eve Beglarian; A Map of Los Angeles by David O; Spiral XII by Chinary Ung; Dream Variations by Andrea Clearfield; Music's Music by Steven Sametz; Voici le soir by Morten Lauridsen; Messages and Brief Eternity by Bobby McFerrin and Roger Treece; Broken Charms by Donald Crockett; Rezos (Prayers) by Tania León.

Other appearances:

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Houston Grand Opera, Minnesota Opera, Utah Opera and Symphony, Juilliard Opera Theatre, Lincoln Center, Zankel Hall, Teatro Colón and music festivals in Edinburgh, Vienna, Helsinki, Ravinia, Rome, Madrid and Aspen. World premiere performances of *The Grapes of Wrath* by Ricky Ian Gordon and *Ceiling/Sky* by John Adams.

Other current assignment: Associate Conductor/Chorus Master at LA Opera; led all 8 performances of *La Traviata* with LA Opera in 2009

Previous assignments: Assistant Conductor for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Berlin Staatsoper, Salzburg Festival, Festival Aix-en-Provence **Member of:** USC Thornton School of Music Board of Advisors

On disc: Two Grammy Award®-nominated recordings: Sweeney Todd (New York Philharmonic Special Editions) and Ligeti's Grand Macabre (Sony Classical); Glass-Salonen (RCM), You Are (Variations) (Nonesuch) and Daniel Variations (Nonesuch) with the Master Chorale; The Grapes of Wrath (PS Classics)

Prepared choruses for: Claudio Abbado, Pierre Boulez, Lorin Maazel, Zubin Mehta, Simon Rattle. Esa-Pekka Salonen

On film/tv: vocal soloist in The X-Files (I Want to Believe); conducted choral sessions for films I Am Legend, Charlie Wilson's War, Lady in the Water and License to Wed; accompanied Kiri Te Kanawa and Jose Carreras on The Tonight Show



ARTIST'S IPOD:

Ayana Haviv, Soprano Radiohead, Sufjan Stevens, Shostakovich string quartets, Goldfrapp, Andrew Bird, Björk, Cat Stevens, Mercedes Sosa, and Lalo's Symphonie Espagnole

Los Angeles Master Chorale

"You do my music better than any other chorus in the world."

JOHN ADAMS,
 COMPOSER

In 1964 a Founding Resident Company of the Music Center; now in its 46th season!

Music Directors:

Grant Gershon, since 2001; Paul Salamunovich, 1991–2001; John Currie, 1986–1991; Roger Wagner, 1964–1986

Accomplishments: 25 commissions; 61 premieres of new works, of which 41 are World Premieres; ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming (1995 and 2003); Chorus America Education Outreach Award (2008) for Voices Within In the community: in-school assemblies featuring the Los Angeles Master Chorale Chamber Singers involve and educate 10,000+ students annually; 10-week residency program Voices Within teaches songwriting and collaborative skills to more than 300 5th and 6th graders each year; annual High School Choir Festival celebrates its 21st anniversary in 2010

On disc: with Music Director Grant Gershon featuring Esa-Pekka Salonen's Two Songs to Poems of Ann Jäderlund and Philip Glass' Itaipú; and Steve Reich's You Are (Variations) and Daniel Variations. With Music Director Emeritus Paul Salamunovich includes the Grammy Award®-nominated Lauridsen – Lux Aeterna, Christmas, and a recording of Dominick Argento's Te Deum and Maurice Duruflé's Messe "Cum Jubilo."

On film: Motion picture soundtracks with Grant Gershon include Lady in the Water, Click and License to Wed. Soundtracks with Paul Salamunovich include A.I. Artificial Intelligence, My Best Friend's Wedding, The Sum of All Fears, Bram Stoker's Dracula and Waterworld.

MASTER CHORALE PERFORMERS

SOPRANO

Samela Beasom
Tamara Bevard
Karen Hogle Brown
Vicky Brown
Claire Fedoruk*
Rachelle Fox*
Ayana Haviv
Marie Hodgson
Susan Judy
Risa Larson
Lesley Leighton
Emily Lin
Deborah Mayhan
Holly Shaw Price

ALTO

Sun Joo Yeo

Nicole Baker
Leanna Brand*
Aleta Braxton
Amy Fogerson*
Kyra Humphrey
Leslie Inman
Farah Kidwai
Alice Kirwan Murray
Drea Pressley †
Helene Quintana †
Niké St. Clair
Nancy Sulahian*
Kimberly Switzer
Kristen Toedtman
Tracy Van Fleet**

The singers of the Los Angeles Master Chorale are represented by the American Guild of Musical Artists, AFL-CIO; Leanna Brand, AGMA Delegate.

TENOR

Scott Blois Andrew Brown Matthew Brown Daniel Chaney Pablo Corá Jody Golightly J. Wingate Greathouse Steven Harms Jon Lee Keenan Shawn Kirchner* Charles Lane Michael Lichtenauer* Dominic MacAller Christian Marcoe Sean McDermott George Sterne

BASS

Melvir Ausente Joseph Bazyouros Mark Beasom Reid Bruton*3 Kevin Dalbey Greg Davies Michael Freed Gregory Geiger Dylan Gentile Abdiel Gonzalez* † Scott Graff Stephen Grimm **Bob Lewis** Tonoccus McClain Steve Pence Jim Raycroft

- * Savage Altars small ensemble
- ** Savage Altars soloist
- † Cloudburst soloist

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Theresa Dimond Principal Michael Englander Mark Zimoski

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Sergio "Checo" Alonso

MEXICAN HARPIST



A Native of: Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, son of Mexican immigrants from Jalisco and San Luis Potosi

Education: Bachelor's Degree in ethnomusicology from UCLA in 1999, Master's Degree in Cross-cultural Education

Began His Professional Performing Career: in 1997 as a member of the worldrenowned Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano

Has Performed And/Or Recorded With: Linda Ronstadt, Jose Feliciano, Vikki Carr, Carlos Santana, Caetano Veloso, Lila Downs, Aida Cuevas, Filarmónica de Jalisco, Filarmónica de la Ciudad de Mexico, Filarmónica de Queretaro, Filarmónica de Guanajuato, Chicago Sinfonietta, Tucson Symphony Orchestra, Los Lobos, Ozomatli, Little Feat, The Chiefrains

Awards: 2006 Durfee Foundation Master Musician Fellowship; 2008 Grammy Award®: Best Regional Mexican Album

Other Positions: music teacher at San Fernando High School, delegate on the National Association for Music Education's Mariachi Advisory Committee

Lisa Edwards



Official Position: Pianist/ Musical Assistant of the Los Angeles Master Chorale

Education: undergraduate studies in piano performance at North Texas State University; MM in Keyboard Collaborative Arts at USC (with honors)

Has performed with: Los Angeles Master Chorale, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Santa Barbara Symphony

Recordings: Steve Reich's You Are (Variations) and Daniel Variations on Nonesuch

Previous faculty positions include: California State University Long Beach, Glendale Community College, Pasadena City College, Idyllwild Arts Festival

Other positions: San Marino Community Church, Stephen S. Wise Temple, Congregation Kol Ami

COMPOSERS

Morten Lauridsen

B. February 27, 1943, in Colfax, WA



Began his association with the LAMC: in 1985 when Roger Wagner conducted his *Mid-Winter Songs on Poems by Robert Graves* at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Was the LAMC composer-inresidence: from 1994 until 2001

The LAMC has premiered his: O Magnum Mysterium, Lux Aeterna, Ave Maria, Voici le Soir (from Nocturnes)

The LAMC has recorded: Lux Aeterna, Les Chanson des Roses, Ave Maria, Mid-Winter Songs, and O Magnum Mysterium on the Grammy Award®nominated album Lauridsen – Lux Aeterna (1998)

Preparing the next generation of composers: as Distinguished Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music

Awards: in 2005, named an "American Choral Master" by the National Endowment for the Arts; in 2007, the National Medal of the Arts "for his composition of radiant choral works combining musical beauty, power, and spiritual depth"

Ingram Marshall

B. May 10, 1942, in Mount Vernon, NY



Education: studied electronic music with Vladimir Ussachevsky at Columbia University and Morton Subotnick at California Institute of the Arts

Influences: minimalism, Jean Sibelius, Javanese gamelan, gambuh (traditional Balinese bamboo flute), electronic techniques using synthesizers, tape delay, feedback

Academia: Guest Teacher in Composition at the Hartt School of Music; visiting Professor at Yale School of Music

Commissions from: Kronos Quartet, Theatre of Voices, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Oakland Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, American Composers Orchestra, Bang On a Can All-Stars

Compositional style: Marshall considers himself an "expressivist"; his works often combine taped sounds from the "real world" with live performers.

Perhaps best known for: Fragility Cycles (1978) for synthesizer, tape looping, gambuh and voice; Fog Tropes (1981) for six brass instruments and tape; Peaceable Kingdom (1990) for the Los Angeles

Philharmonic

Other accomplishments: founded New Albion records with Foster Reed; senior Fulbright scholar; Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Literature; Guggenheim fellowship; NEA and Aaron Copland fund grants

Raves: "...some of the most spiritual art to be found in America today...the music offers a powerful recreation of solitude that is very close to an experience of the divine." —New York Times

David O

B. June 2, 1970, in Salinas, CA



Known to thousands of Los Angeles children as:

"The Professor," composer and performer for six years in *The Voyage* of the Global Harmony, part of the LA Phil's "Summersounds at the Hollywood Bowl"

Has taught hundreds of 5th graders as: a Master Teaching Artist and composer with the LA Master Chorale's educational outreach program *Voices Within*

Original musicals: The Very Persistent Gappers of Frip and The Legend of Alex, both commissioned by Center Theatre Group's P.L.A.Y. Program; Atalanta, based on the story from "Free To Be You And Me"; other compositions for the theatre include the a cappella vocal score for Hippolytos, the inaugural production at the Getty Villa, and a score for voices, piano, percussion, and kazoos for Ubu Roi at A Noise Within

Musical director: world premiere of Jason Robert Brown's 13 at the Mark Taper Forum; the West Coast premiere of Michael John LaChiusa's The Wild Party and Little Fish

Awards: Ovation Award for the score of *Ubu Roi*; LA Drama Critics Circle, LA Weekly, and Garland Awards for musical direction of multiple productions including 13, *The Wild Party*, and the world premiere of *The Shaggs: Philosophy of the World*

Other choral compositions:
Elements, with text by the
ancient Greek philosopher/poet
Empedocles, commissioned by
the Sacramento Master Singers;
Dadme, with text by Pablo Neruda,
commissioned by the Eagle Rock
Arts Center; arrangements and
compositions featured in the Warner
Brothers film License to Wed

Eric Whitacre

B. January 2, 1970 in Reno, NV



Formal training: didn't begin composing until college, when he sang in a choir for the first time

Quick study: He earned a Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School, studying with John Corigliano

His recent musical:

Paradise Lost, a cutting-edge work combining trance, ambient and techno electronica with choral, cinematic and operatic traditions, won both the ASCAP Harold Arlen award and the Richard Rodgers Award for most promising musical theater composer

Considered by many to be: one of the most popular choral composers of the last decade for works such as Water Night, Cloudburst, Lux Arumque, and Sleep

Other awards: his first recording, *The Music of Eric Whitacre*, was called one of the top 10 classical albums of 1997 by *The American Record Guide*; in 2001 he became the youngest recipient ever awarded the Raymond C. Brock commission by the American Choral Directors Association



BENEFACTOR

OPENING NIGHT GALA 2009

THANK YOU to our generous guests and donors for their support of the 2009 Opening Night Gala! As this is our only fundraiser in support of the artistic and educational programs of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, we are profoundly grateful to the Patrons and donors listed as well as all who attended this exceptional event.

Following the concert featuring the moving Choruses from The Death of Klinghoffer by John Adams and the sublime Mozart Requiem, guests arrived to a mystical midnight blue and pewter decorated BP Hall for the Gala. Attendees were thrilled by the signature Surround-Sing with the entire Los Angeles Master Chorale circling the room, then treated to a wonderful dinner prepared by Joachim Splichal and the Patina Restaurant Group. A lively auction to support the artistic and education programs of the Los Angeles Master Chorale was followed by dancing to finish off a delightful Gala evening.

We gratefully acknowledge the extraordinary support of The Bank of New York Mellon for 17 years of generous sponsorship.



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TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

Savage Altars by Ingram Marshall

from Annals Book I of Tacitus

Barbarae arae.

from the Magnificat:

Magnificat anima mea Dominum. Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.

Et misericordia ejus a progenie

in progenies timentibus eum. Fecit potentiam in brachio suo.

Deposuit potentes de sede,

et exaltavit humiles. Esurientes implevit bonis:

et divites dimisit inanes.

from Tacitus

...haud procul Teutoburgiensi saltu,

in quo reliquae Vari legionumque

insepultae dicebantur.

from the Magnificat

Magnificat anima mea... Quia respexit humilitatem

ancillae suae:
ecce enim ex hoc beatam
me dicent
omnes generationes.
Quia fecit mihi magna
qui potens est:
et sanctam nomen ejus.

Magnificat anima mea Dominum. Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.

from Tacitus

...medio campi albentia ossa, ut fugerant, ut restiterant, disiecta vel aggerata. Adiacebant fragmina telorum, equorumque artus, simul truncis arborum antefixa ora: lucis propinquis barbarae arae... Savage altars.

My soul magnifies the Lord. And my spirit has rejoiced in God my saviour.

And his mercy is on them who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm.
He has deposed the mighty from their seats, and exalted the humble.
The hungry he has filled with good things. and the rich he has sent empty away.

...they were now not far from the Teutoburgian forest, where, it was said, the remains of Varus and his legions lay unburied.

My soul magnifies...
For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he who is mighty has done great things to me; and holy is his name.

My soul magnifies the Lord. And my spirit has rejoiced in God my saviour.

...in the plains between were bleaching bones, scattered or in little heaps, as the men had fallen, fleeing or standing fast. Hard by lay splintered spears and limbs of horses, while human skulls were nailed prominently onthe tree trunks. In the neighboring groves stood the savage altars...

from the Magnificat

Deposuit potentes de sede,

et exaltavit humiles.

Magnificat anima mea Dominum. Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo. He has deposed the mighty from their seats, and exalted the humble.

My soul magnifies the Lord. And my spirit has rejoiced in God my saviour.

from the 13th century Reading Rota (old English)

Sumer is i cumen in Lhude sing cu-cu Groweth sed and bloweth med and spring the woods a nu.

(Latin)

Perspice Christicola que dignatio Caelicus agricola provitis vitio Filio

from Tacitus

Igitur Romanus, qui aderat, exercitus, sextum post cladis annum, trium legionum ossa, nullo noscente, alienas reliquias an suorum humo tegeret, omnes, ut coniunctos, ut consanguineos, aucta in hostem ira, moesti simul et infensi condebant.

And so, six years after the fatal field, a Roman army buried the bones of three legions; and no man knew whether he consigned to earth the remains of a stranger or a kinsman, but all thought of all as friends and members of one family.

Mid-Winter Songs on Poems by Robert Graves

by Morten Lauridsen

I. Lament for Pasiphaë

Dying sun, shine warm a little longer!

My eye, dazzled with tears, shall dazzle yours,

Conjuring you to shine and not to move.

You, sun, and I all afternoon have laboured

Beneath a dewless and oppressive cloud—

a fleece now gilded with our common grief

That this must be a night without a moon.

Dying sun, shine warm a little longer!

Faithless she was not: she was very woman,

Smiling with dire impartiality, Sovereign, with heart unmatched, adored of men,

Until Spring's cuckoo with bedraggled plumes

Tempted her pity and her truth betrayed.

Then she who shone for all resigned her being,

And this must be a night without a moon.

Dying sun, shine warm a little longer!

II. Like Snow

She, then, like snow in a dark night,

Fell secretly. And the world waked

With dazzling of the drowsy eye,

So that some muttered 'Too much light,'

And drew the curtains close. Like snow, warmer than fingers feared,

And to soil unfriendly; Holding the histories of the

In yet unmelted tracks.

III. She Tells Her Love While Half Asleep

She tells her love while half asleep,
In the dark hours,

With half-words whispered low:

As Earth stirs in her winter sleep

And puts out grass and flowers Despite the snow, Despite the falling snow.

IV. Mid-Winter Waking

Stirring suddenly from long hibernation I knew myself once more a poet Guarded by timeless

principalities Against the worm of death, this

hillside haunting;

And presently dared open both my eyes.

O gracious, lofty, shone against from under,

Back-of-the-mind-far clouds like towers;

And you, sudden warm airs that blow

Before the expected season of new blossom,

While sheep still gnaw at roots and lambless go—

Be witness that on waking, this mid-winter.

I found her hand in mine laid closely

Who shall watch out the Spring with me.

We stared in silence all around us

But found no winter anywhere to see.

V. Intercession in Late October

How hard the year dies: no frost yet.

On drifts of yellow sand Midas reclines,

Fearless of moaning reed or sullen wave.

Firm and fragrant still the brambleberries.

On ivy-bloom butterflies wag.

Spare him a little longer, Crone, For his clean hands and love-submissive heart.

Cloudburst

by Eric Whitacre Poem by Octavio Paz (adapted by the composer)

El cántaro roto

La lluvia...

Ojos de agua de sombra, ojos de agua de pozo, ojos de agua de sueño.

Soles azules, verdes remolinos picos de luz que abren astros

como granadas.

Dime, tierra quemada, no hay agua? hay sólo sangre, sólo hay polvo, sólo pisadas de pies desnudos sobre la espina?

La lluvia despierta...

Hay que dormir con los ojos abiertos, hay que soñar con las manos,

soñemos sueños activos de río buscando su cauce, sueños de sol soñando sus mundos, hay que soñar en voz alta, hay que cantar hasta que el canto eche raíces, tronco, ramas, pájaros, astros,

hay que desenterrar la palabra perdida, recordar lo que dicen la sangre y la marea, le tierra y el cuerpo, volver al punto de partida...

translation by Lysander Kemp

Poems for Mid-Winter Songs on Poems by Robert Graves used by permission, A. P. Watt, Ltd. (London), literary agent for Robert Graves

The broken water-jar

The rain...

Eyes of shadow-water, eyes of well-water, eyes of dream-water.

Blue suns, green whirlwinds, birdbeaks of light pecking open pomegranate stars.

But tell me, burnt earth, is there no water? Only blood, only dust, only naked footsteps on the thorns?

The rain awakens...

We must sleep with open eyes,

we must dream with our hands, we must dream the dreams of a river seeking its course, of the sun dreaming its worlds, we must dream aloud, we must sing till the song puts forth roots, trunk, branches, birds, stars,

we must find the lost word,

and remember what the blood, the tides, the earth and the body say, and return to the point of departure...

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2:00 PM Eschenbach Conducts Dvorák

LA Phil / WDCH

1:00 PM Parade

CTG / Mark Taper Forum & 6:30 PM

7:30 PM An Evening with Kris Kristofferson

LA Phil's Songbook Series

LA Phil / WDCH

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Chamber Music Society 8:00 PM

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8:00 PM Parade

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

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CTG / Mark Taper Forum

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5

Dudamel Conducts Verdi's Requiem 8:00 PM

LA Phil / WDCH

8:00 PM Parade

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

8:00 PM Dudamel Conducts Verdi's Requiem

LA Phil / WDCH

8:00 PM

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

2:30 PM Parade

& 8:00 PM CTG / Mark Taper Forum

8:00 PM **Dudamel Conducts Verdi's Requiem**

LA Phil / WDCH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 1:00 PM

& 6:30 PM CTG / Mark Taper Forum

2:00 PM **Dudamel Conducts Verdi's Requiem**

LA Phil / WDCH

Lang Lang in Recital 7:30 PM

Colburn Celebrity Series

WDCH

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10

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Members of the LA Phil

WDCH

8:00 PM

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

8:00 PM Parade

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

8:00 PM Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra

LA Phil's Baroque Variations

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

8:00 PM **Dudamel and Upshaw** LA Phil / WDCH

Parade

8:00 PM

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

8:00 PM Dudamel and Upshaw (Casual Friday)

8:00 PM Mary Poppins

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

8.00 PM Parade

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

World City featuring Barynya 11:00 AM

& 12:30 PM Music Center / WDCH,

W. M. Keck Auditorium

2:00 PM Mary Poppins

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

2:30 PM Parade

& 8:00 PM

CTG / Mark Taper Forum & 8:00 PM

8:00 PM **Dudamel and Upshaw**

LA Phil / WDCH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 1:00 PM

& 6:30 PM CTG / Mark Taper Forum

2:00 PM **Dudamel and Upshaw**

LA Phil / WDCH

6:30 PM Mary Poppins

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

7:30 PM Organ Recital Jean Guillou

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

8:00 PM Charlie Haden Family

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WDCH

8:00 PM Mary Poppins

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 8:00 PM

Mary Poppins

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8:00 PM **Dudamel and Shaham**

LA Phil / WDCH

8:00 PM **Mary Poppins**

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Dudamel and Shaham (Casual Friday) 8:00 PM

LA Phil / WDCH

8:00 PM Mary Poppins

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

2:00 PM **Dudamel and Shaham**

LA Phil / WDCH

2:00 PM Mary Poppins

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre & 8:00 PM

7:30 PM Tamerlano

9:30 PM

LA Opera Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Eureka! West Coast, Left Coast Festival Opening Event

WDCH

1:00 PM **Mary Poppins** & 6:30 PM CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

2:00 PM **Dudamel and Shaham**

LA Phil / WDCH

Composers from the Left Coast West Coast 7:00 PM

LAMC / Walt Disney Concert Hall

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 7:30 PM

Tamerlano

LA Opera Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

8:00 PM Berliner Philharmoniker

LA Phil's Visiting Orchestras

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

8:00 PM

8:00 PM

2:00 PM

2:00 PM

7:30 PM

8:00 PM Berliner Philharmoniker

LA Phil's Visiting Orchestras

Mary Poppins

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

2:00 PM **Mary Poppins**

& 8:00 PM CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

7:30 PM

LA Opera Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Mary Poppins 8:00 PM

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

West Coast, Left Coast Dudamel Conducts Salonen and Adams

LA Phil / WDCH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

2:00 PM **Mary Poppins**

& 8:00 PM CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

> Tamerlano LA Opera Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

West Coast, Left Coast Dudamel 8:00 PM

LA Phil / WDCH

Conducts Salonen and Adams

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 1:00 PM

Mary Poppins & 6:30 PM CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

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LA Opera / Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

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Conducts Salonen and Adams LA Phil / WDCH

West Coast, Left Coast Dudamel

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