APRIL 2010 2009 | 2010

SOUNDSCAPE: MONK & PÄRT







ANNOUNCING 2010 | 2011 SEASON



RACHMANINOFF ALL-NIGHT VIGIL Sun, Sep 26, 2010 at 7pm

Rachmaninoff | All-Night Vigil

FRENCH CONNECTIONS Sun, Nov. 7, 2010 at 7pm

Duruflé | Four Motets on Gregorian Themes Josquin | Missa Beata Virgine Janequin | 16th Century French Chansons Ravel | Trois Chansons

REJOICE! MESSIAH Sun, Dec 12, 2010, 7pm

Handel | Messiah arr. Mozart

LONDON BRIDGES Sun, Jan 30, 2011 at 7pm

Byrd | Four-Part Mass Britten | Missa Brevis in D Vaughan Williams | Five English Folk Songs Tavener | Song for Athene Britten | Hymn to St Cecilia

STORIES FROM KOREA Sun, Mar 6, 2011 at 7pm

with Jennifer Koh, violin Grey | Mugunghwa: Rose of Sharon

(world premiere) original and arranged Korean songs

THE CREATION Sun, Apr 10, 2011 at 7pm

Haydn | The Creation

ELLINGTON: BEST OF THE SACRED CONCERTS

Sun, May 22, 2011 at 7pm

with James Newton, co-conductor Jazz Orchestra, soloists and tap dancer Ellington | Best of the Sacred Concerts

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Christmas at Walt Disney Concert Hall: **HOLIDAY WONDERS** Sat, Dec 11, 2010 at 2:30pm

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fri, Apr 16, 1 pm HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR FESTIVAL Maria Guinand, Honor Choir Conductor

Sun, May 23, 7 pm AMERICANA

Guest Appearances

April 29, 30 | May 1, 2 LA Philharmonic Estévez: *Cantata Criolla*

Tue, July 6, 8 pm

A GLORIOUS CELEBRATION

Haydn: *Te Deum* Vivaldi: *Gloria* Poulenc: *Gloria*

Handel: *Hallelujah Chorus* with fireworks

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Los Angeles Master Chorale Grant Gershon | Music Director

SOUNDSCAPE: MONK & PÄRT

Sunday, April 11, at 7 pm

Walt Disney Concert Hall

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

Grant Gershon, Conductor
Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble

Miserere

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

Claire Fedoruk, SOPRANO | Kimberly Switzer, MEZZO SOPRANO Michael Lichtenauer, TENOR | Shawn Kirchner, TENOR | Scott Graff, BASS

WEST COAST PREMIERE

WEAVE

MEREDITH MONK (B. 1942)

for two voices, chamber orchestra and chorus

Orchestration by Meredith Monk/Allison Sniffin Katie Geissinger*, MEZZO SOPRANO | Theo Bleckmann*, BARITONE

From the Composer:

This new work is a continuous, woven form in which layers that seem part of the texture are gradually revealed, taking on their own life, and then are modified by the next layer that appears. Three main motifs transform and coalesce in various ways: the first is a bell-like fanning of voices; the second, a walking, ongoing progression that continually opens and changes; the third, a series of sonic cascades. This piece is dedicated to Jim Hodges, John Killacky and the memory of my mother, Audrey Marsh Monk (1911-2009).

Special thanks to Allison Sniffin not only for her prodigious skill and hard work but also for her belief in me and this work. Her support was invaluable.

... INTERMISSION ...

Night

Monk

Orchestration by Allison Sniffin with Meredith Monk Allison Sniffin*, Emily Lin, SOPRANOS | Katie Geissinger*, Adriana Manfredi, MEZZO SOPRANOS | Thomas Bogdan*, Matthew Brown, TENORS Theo Bleckmann*, Melvir Ausente, BARITONES

From the Composer:

Originally composed in 1996 for 10 voices, 2 keyboards, French horn, and violin, *Night* was inspired by the war in the former Yugoslavia and by extension the suffering of Eastern European people in the 20th century. Even though I created *Night* with a particular time and place in mind, I would like to now dedicate this performance to people anywhere who go about their daily life with courage and fortitude in the midst of unspeakable violence and natural disaster.

Selections from *Songs of Ascension*

Монк

Meredith Monk*, Tom Bogdan*, Theo Bleckmann*, Katie Geissinger*, Allison Sniffin*, Kimberly Switzer, VOCAL SOLOISTS

members of Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble Meredith Monk, SHRUTI | Ralph Morrison, Nina Evtuhov, VIOLIN Shawn Mann, VIOLA | Maurice Grants, CELLO Bohdan Hilash*, KAEHN GAO, BASS CLARINET



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Tonight's **ListenUp!** with Music Director Grant Gershon and KUSC's Alan Chapman will be held in BP Hall at 6PM. *ListenUp!* can be heard online a week after the concert at www.lamc.org.



WEAVE was jointly commissioned by Grand Center Inc. and the Los Angeles Master Chorale, with support in part from the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet the Composer, and Argosy Foundation. Tonight's concert of works by Monk and Pärt is made possible, in part, by a grant from The National Endowment for the Arts.

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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.

Members of the audience who leave during the performance will be shown back into the concert hall at the sole discretion of House Management.

PROGRAM NOTES

By Thomas May

SOUNDSCAPE: MONK & PÄRT

Dramatic Contemplation in Arvo Pärt

A convergence of Eastern and Western elements lies behind the great breakthrough that led Arvo Pärt to discover his mature voice. Immersion in the religious traditions of the Eastern Orthodox Church and a study of medieval choral music as it developed in the West both resulted in a dramatic transformation of his style in 1976. Silly—and meaningless—labels like "holy minimalism" notwithstanding, Pärt's radical simplicity is not easily mistaken for the work of any other composer—a paradox, in that his music is based on transcending the individual expression of the ego. (A recent example of his music, paradoxically or not, bears the title "Los Angeles": the Symphony No. 4, which was premiered last year in Disney Hall.)

Pärt's "tintinnabuli" style, based on an image of the simple triad as a kind of tolling bell, suggests a mystic's understanding of time decaying against the horizon of eternity. Pärt further transforms this style in his *Miserere* of 1989 (revised in 1992 and dedicated to Paul Hillier and the Hilliard Ensemble). Here, he juxtaposes its tendency toward contemplative intensity with a powerfully dramatic structure that evokes more familiar and secular traditions of Western concert music.

Even the sacred texts that Pärt uses in *Miserere* emphasize the dichotomy. Amid his setting of the penitential Psalm 50 in Latin (as numbered in the Vulgate), Pärt interlaces the *Dies irae*—the Western Latin poem envisioning the Day of Judgment. He begins in his characteristic style, with a lone tenor voice, followed by held silences and the clarinet's "ringing" minor triads. The soloists proceed to intone the opening verses of the Psalm (David's prayer of repentance for his adulterous transgression with Bathsheba). But an ominous roll on the timpani builds until the *Dies irae* erupts, with full chorus and Pärt's complete instrumental ensemble joining for a volcanic sequence of A minor scales in descending cascades.

This, too, comes to an end to revert to the remaining verses of the Psalm. This, the third of four sections that make up the piece, is also by far the longest. Beginning from a deep well of

near-inaudibility, the bass and then the other soloists deliver the biblical verses. Varying configurations of instruments periodically respond with interludes to the texts just sung. A climactic setting of the image of burnt offerings ("holocaustis") recalls the fear and trembling of the *Dies irae*. Pärt returns to the latter text for the final and fourth section, setting the "Rex tremendae" of the Sequence. But this second appearance contrasts starkly with the first, building in ascending scales to counterbalance the earlier apocalyptic plunge. The *Miserere* thus cuts to the core of the penitential tradition, with its awareness of human sin and personal failing against the majesty of the cosmos. A gentle organ postlude brings the *Miserere* to a contemplative close all the richer for the drama that has been experienced.

Meredith Monk: The Voice as "Soul's Messenger"

Throughout a career spanning more than four decades, Meredith Monk has trained her untiring creative urge on the unclassifiable revelations lurking "between the cracks." Her art radiates a sense of epiphany. Experiencing one of Monk's pieces is akin to what happens at the turning point in meditation when our usual, mundane way of taking in the world is reversed. Her music also frequently suggests the enactment of lost rituals or myths that reorient and liberate our "normal" process of perception, guiding us beyond the utilitarian here and now.

The voice, above all, becomes more than an instrument to convey information or routine states of being. Unpredictable patterns of phonemes and fluid vocalise—like the incantations of a shaman—replace the familiarity of language itself. All of Monk's widely ranging art is grounded in her profound understanding of the voice's flexibility and expressive depth. She points to the rootedness that comes from four generations of a family tradition of singing. Monk's great-grandfather was a cantor in Moscow, while her mother—to whose memory she has dedicated *WEAVE*—was a well-known singer of such commercial jingles as the Muriel Cigar ad.

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The range and unique character of Monk's vocal vocabulary are breathtaking—a strangely beguiling repertoire that can supply, at will, birdlike microtones, robust yodels, insectoid whispers, and dusky chants. Yet Monk's aesthetic transcends the self-conscious limitations of the avant-garde and its concern with originality for its own sake. She writes that the voice is her "soul's messenger" and has "the power to uncover subtle shades of feeling that exist between what we think of as emotions." Her compositions can sound as if they were quarried from an archeological dig—or like folk music beamed in from a distant future. Both of these impressions emanate from her pathbreaking *Dolmen Music* (1979), for example, which was her first release on the ECM label.

Monk's expressive inflections fall between the cracks of conventional Western musical notation, too. Earlier in her career, she began training her own ensemble of performers in her intuitive and highly rigorous method—often performing in unusual venues or as part of site-specific events. But the past two decades have brought opportunities to collaborate within the traditional framework of the opera house and concert hall as well.

In 2006 the Master Chorale performed *Invisible Light*, the concluding a cappella section from her first "official" opera, *ATLAS*, which was premiered by Houston Grand Opera in 1991 (Monk earlier applied the term "opera" to Quarry, her epochal music theater work that was presented in 1976 at La Mama in New York.). *ATLAS* draws on the travel writings of a woman explorer from the Victorian era to trace an epic, archetypal spiritual quest. Monk's signature extended vocal technique enhances her elliptical narrative style.

Increasingly, since the millennium, Monk has been focusing on expanding her musical language—including writing for instruments. A commission from Michael Tilson Thomas for his Miami-based New World Symphony resulted in her first work for orchestra, *Possible Sky* (2003). Here, Monk began to "think instrumentally"—which, she clarifies, meant applying her intuitive sense of the voice as a complex instrument to the orchestra. The experience, she says, "opened up the possibilities of sound for instruments considered as voices." This feedback between the two realms is evident in the compositions we hear tonight by Monk.

Even the earliest of these—*Night*—reflects her recent turn toward interweaving vocal and instrumental music-making. *Night* began as the eighth sequence (subtitled "Elegy") in *The Politics of Quiet*, an eleven-part work from 1996 that loosely shares some of the preoccupations found in *ATLAS*.

Monk was especially troubled by the resurgence of genocide in postwar Europe in the former Yugoslavia, where she had spent a lot of time touring. While she was working on *Night*, she happened on a Hungarian gypsy minor scale and evolved her own version of its soulful melancholy—archaic yet painfully up to date—which is passed between instruments and voices. Their imitations of

shrieks and sliding sirens add an eerie contemporary edge. Monk later realized her original reduced scoring, featuring two keyboards, horn, and violin, would benefit from a richer orchestration. She collaborated with Allison Sniffin, one of her close associates, to create this rendering in 2005.

In Songs of Ascension, Monk continues to explore the possibilities of combining singers and instrumental players. In 2004, the Kronos quartet commissioned Monk's debut string quartet, Stringsongs. Writing it led Monk, she recalls, to think of the strings as a gathering of four voices. "So the next development, organically, was to try the mix of strings and voices." Images of breathing and ritual procession are mirrored by both in the climactic section that we hear.

Songs of Ascension also represents another of Monk's recent spiritual investigations, which are imbued by her Buddhist practice. *impermanence* (2007) transforms memory and loss into an acceptance of change as the inescapable reality. The stimulus for *Songs of Ascension* was Monk's encounter with the translation of the Psalms made by Norman Fischer into a Zen-infused language, which led her further to the image of worshippers ascending a mountain, pausing periodically to sing a psalm. She also collaborated with visual artist Ann Hamilton, whose design for a tower further enhanced Monk's fascination with the connection between worship and images of spiraling and ascent.

The full-length Songs of Ascension (which Monk recorded in November 2009, to be released later this year on ECM) was created with video and site-specific movement elements as part of an "immersive experience." But Monk's musical imagery works beautifully on its own terms. Not all cultures, she points out, equate the sacred solely with a pattern of ascent. The music of Songs encompasses both soaring patterns and textures that feature the low end of Monk's extraordinary three-octave range. Certain passages call attention to the earth-centered concept of the sacred—as we hear in the solo Monk performs, accompanied by a shruti box. Following this is the communal "Procession" concluding Songs, where drone-like breathing from the chorus and strings sets up a foundation from which individual lines leap in ecstatic figurations. "The solo voices call everyone to come on this journey," she says, "but then the chorus goes into another realm."

WEAVE develops this imagery of aspiring movement even further and makes for a rapturous counterpart to Night. Monk remarks that she decided to add a rich layer of percussion to the score—a web of sounds that are either plucked or hit, but all from tuned percussion. These patterns interact with the other instruments and voices in a continual process of transformation.

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

Grant Gershon MUSIC DIRECTOR

"...superb musicianship and a serious interest in contemporary compositions."

OUT WEST ARTS



Now in his ninth season, Grant has led more than 90 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, Gustavo Dudamel, 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



Los Angeles Master Chorale

"... gorgeous music superbly performed..."

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Music Directors:

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

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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*.

ARTIST'S IPOD:

Susan Mills, Soprano
Amelie soundtrack, Dave
Brubeck Quartet, Clannad,
Altan, Fauré, Donald Fagen,
Dougie MacLean, Nellie
McKay, Ravel, Regina
Spektor, podcasts of This I
Believe and Wait, Wait, Don't
Tell Me, recordings of rain
and thunder

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.

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MASTER CHORALE PERFORMERS

SOPRANO

Tamara Bevard
Vicky Brown
Claire Fedoruk
Rachelle Fox
Marie Hodgson
Susan Judy
Lesley Leighton
Emily Lin
Marguarite Mathis-Clark

Marguarite Mathis-Clark Susan Mills Marnie Mosiman

Sun Joo Yeo

ALTO

Nicole Baker Leanna Brand Amy Fogerson Saundra Hall Hill Michele Hemmings Farah Kidwai Adriana Manfredi Alice Murray Drea Pressley Niké St. Clair Kimberly Switzer Kristen Toedtman Tracy Van Fleet

TENOR

Andrew Brown
Matthew Brown
Daniel Chaney
Pablo Corá
Jody Golightly
J. Wingate Greathouse
Shawn Kirchner
Michael Lichtenauer
Dominic MacAller
Christian Marcoe
Sean McDermott

BASS

Melvir Ausente Joseph Bazyouros Kevin Dalbey Greg Davies Michael Freed Dylan Gentile Abdiel Gonzalez Scott Graff Stephen Grimm Steve Pence Jim Raycroft Burman Timberlake

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

MASTER CHORALE ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN 1 Ralph Morrison Concertmaster Amy Wickman Yan To Marisa Sorajja

VIOLIN 2 Nina Evtuhov Principal Jeff Gauthier Linda Stone Liliana Filopovic

VIOLA Shawn Mann Principal Brett Banducci Kathryn Reddish Andrea Whitt

CELLO Maurice Grants Principal Delores Bing

BASS Peter Doubrovsky Principal Gabriel Golden

FLUTE Lisa Edelstein Principal Julie Long

OBOE Joel Timm Principal Michelle Forrest

CLARINET Gary Bovyer Principal Jay Mason Bohdan Hilash

BASSOON John Steinmetz Principal William Wood

HORN Jon Titmus Principal Danielle Ondarza

TRUMPET Marissa Benedict Principal

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ELECTRIC GUITAR Tom Rizzo Principal

BASS GUITAR Ken Wild

PERCUSSION Michael Englander Principal Scott Higgins John Magnussen

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COMPOSER

Arvo Pärt



B. September 11, 1935 in Paide, Estonia

Musical Studies: began in 1954 at the Tallinn Music Secondary School, but were interrupted less than a year later while he fulfilled his National Service obligation as an oboist and side-drummer in an army band; joined the Tallinn Conservatory in 1957

Early compositional style: serialism, collage techniques

Current style: emerged in 1976 after one of his self-imposed "silences" from composition; he calls it "tintinnabuli"

Emigrated: in 1980; has lived in West Berlin since 1981. Since then his music has concentrated on religious texts.

Awards: in 1996, election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters; in 2000, International Composer for the Year by the Royal Academy of Music in London; in 2003, the "Contemporary Music Award" at the Classical Brit Awards at the Royal Albert Hall

Did you know LA Master Chorale has a blog?

That's right...and it's called *Our Voice*. In it you'll find notes from Grant about repertoire and the rehearsal process, excerpts of concert program notes, links to articles and reviews, composers' notes, musings from Los Angeles Master Chorale singers...and all sorts of information to enhance your concert experience. Visit *Our Voice* by linking from our website's home page (www.lamc.org) or going directly to the blog (www.lamc.org/ ourvoice/). And if you have ideas about what you'd like to see there, please email them to Amy Fogerson, Program Book Coordinator, at afogerson@lamc.org.

GUEST ARTISTS

Meredith Monk Ensemble



MEREDITH MONK is a composer, singer, and creator of new opera and music theater works. A pioneer in what is now called "extended vocal technique" and "interdisciplinary performance," Monk has been hailed as a "magician of the voice," and "one of America's coolest composers." Her groundbreaking exploration of the voice as an instrument, as an eloquent language in and of itself, expands the boundaries of musical composition, creating landscapes of sound that unearth feelings, energies, and

memories for which we have no words. During a career that spans more than 40 years, she has been acclaimed by audiences and critics as a major creative force in the performing arts.

Monk has received numerous awards, including the prestigious MacArthur "Genius" Award in 1995, two Guggenheim Fellowships, a Brandeis Creative Arts Award, three Obies (including an award for Sustained Achievement), two Villager Awards, two "Bessie" Awards for Sustained Creative Achievement. In 2006 she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and named a United States Artists Fellow. Her music has also been heard in numerous films, including *La Nouvelle Vague* by Jean-Luc Godard and *The Big Lebowski* by Joel and Ethan Coen. In 2000, Monk began a publishing relationship with Boosey & Hawkes, making her scores, including the recently released *Piano Album*, available to the public.

In 1965 Monk began her innovative exploration of the voice as a multi-faceted instrument and subsequently composed and performed many solo pieces for unaccompanied voice and voice/keyboard. In 1978 she formed Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble to further expand her musical textures and forms.

Monk's first orchestra piece, Possible Sky, was commissioned by Michael Tilson Thomas for the New World Symphony and premiered in April 2003 in Miami. Stringsongs, her first composition for string quartet (commissioned by the Kronos Quartet), had its world premiere at the Barbican Center in London in January 2005. In November 2005, Meredith's 40th year of performing and creating new music was celebrated by a four-hour marathon at Zankel Hall with performances by Björk, Bang on a Can All-Stars, DJ Spooky, John Zorn, the Pacific Mozart Ensemble, Ursula Oppens and Bruce Brubaker, and The Roches, among others. Another marathon, Meredith Monk Music @ The Whitney was presented at the Whitney Museum in 2009, followed by the site-specific Ascension Variations at the Guggenheim Museum featuring over 120 performers. Monk's CD, impermanence, was released on the ECM label in March 2008 and nominated for a 2008 Grammy Award®. Beginnings, a collection of her archival recordings from 1966-1980, was recently released on the Tzadik label. Her new music theater work, Songs of Ascension, which premiered in October 2008, was performed at BAM's Next Wave Festival in October 2009, and is currently touring internationally.

THEO BLECKMANN A jazz singer and new music composer of eclectic tastes and prodigious gifts, Grammy Award®-nominated Theo Bleckmann makes music that is accessibly sophisticated, unsentimentally emotional, and seriously playful, leading his work to be described as "from another planet" (New York Times), "magical, futuristic," (AllAboutJazz), "limitless" (Citypaper, Philadelphia) "transcendent" (Village Voice) and "brilliant" (New York Magazine). Bleckmann has released a series of gorgeous and irreverent albums on

Winter & Winter, including recordings of Las Vegas standards, of Berlin Kabarett, and of popular "bar songs" (all with pianist Fumio Yasuda), a recording of newly-arranged songs by Charles Ives (with jazz/rock collective Kneebody), and his upcoming acoustic Solos for Voice and Toys, *I dwell in possibility*. Bleckmann has additionally collaborated with musicians and composers, including Laurie Anderson, Philip Glass, John Hollenbeck, Sheila Jordan, Phil Kline, David Lang, Kirk Nurock, Ben Monder, Michael Tilson Thomas, Julia Wolfe, John Zorn, the Bang on a Can All-Stars, and, most prominently, Meredith Monk, with whom Bleckmann worked as a core ensemble member for fifteen years. He has recently been interviewed by Terry Gross on NPR's *Fresh Air*.

TOM BOGDAN sings a broad spectrum of music and has received critical acclaim for performances ranging from opera to cabaret. He first performed with Meredith Monk in ATLAS, an opera in 3 parts, and has been a member of her Vocal Ensemble since 1990. Ms. Monk wrote New York Requiem especially for him and he has performed it in New York and throughout Eastern Europe. He has participated in the premieres of more than 50 new works. Crossing many musical boundaries, his eclectic cabaret shows have delighted critics and audiences alike and his L'Amour Bleu, a musical masque on gay themes, was produced by the Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, NYC for three seasons in a row. His many recording credits include the recently released Cantata by Stravinsky with Robert Craft conducting. He is a Fulbright Scholar, and received a grant to teach Meredith Monk's music in Hungary. He currently teaches voice at Bennington College, VT.

KATIE GEISSINGER has been working with Meredith Monk since 1990, in concert and in pieces such as ATLAS, The Politics of Quiet (for which she is a Bessie recipient), mercy, and the Grammy Award®nominated impermanence. She premiered the Bang on a Can/Ridge Theater/Ben Katchor collaboration The Carbon Copy Building, an Obie-winner that was released on Cantaloupe, and performed in the world tour of Philip Glass and Robert Wilson's Einstein on the Beach (Elektra Nonesuch), which was recently revived in concert at Carnegie Hall. Other Carnegie Hall appearances include Bach's Magnificat with the conductor-less Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the Witch in Honegger's Le Roi David, and Golijov's Ainadamar. Katie has performed on Broadway in Baz Luhrmann's production of La Bohème and in Coram Boy, and off-Broadway in many Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Other appearances at BAM include Jonathan Miller's staged productions of Bach's St. Matthew Passion. Katie recently returned from the workshop of Philip Miller's The Hottentot Venus at MASSMoCA.

ALLISON SNIFFIN Multi-instrumentalist, singer, composer, and member of Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble since 1996, Sniffin has performed in *The Politics of Quiet, A Celebration Service, Magic Frequencies, mercy, Turtle Dreams, Book of Days* and *impermanence*. In addition to performing in Monk's Ensemble, she has engraved, prepared or orchestrated a number of Monk's works including *Possible Sky, Stringsongs* and *Night*, and edited a book of her piano music. A recipient of awards from Meet the Composer and Concert Artists' Guild, Sniffin's music has been performed by New York Philharmonic-based duo Lambchops and by the Metamorphosis Orchestra. With a grant from Open Meadows Foundation she was commissioned by Melodia Women's Choir of NYC to create a work based on the writings of Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, which premiered at Merkin Hall in New York in November 2006.

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21ST ANNUAL LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR FESTIVAL

A performance of the Americas and Americans Festival at Disney Hall

Friday, April 16, 2010 1:00 pm

Free tickets available at lamc.org/HSCFtickets or 213.972.7282

Make plans now to attend the 21st annual High School Choir Festival and hear 900 exuberant high school singers artfully led by **Grant Gershon** and guest conductor **María Guinand**. The Festival Concert features a massed choir comprising students from 26 Southern California high schools singing choral music of the Americas including **Morten Lauridsen's** sublime *Dirait-on* – with the composer at the piano. This year, for the first time, internationally celebrated conductor María Guinand will lead an 80-voice honor choir featuring students from each of the participating choirs. The one-hour afternoon concert is free, but tickets are required and are available at LAMC.org/HSCFtickets or 213.972.7282.

DETAILS

Festival Concert: Fri, Apr 16, 2010 at 1 pm

Walt Disney Concert Hall Grant Gershon, conductor María Guinand, guest conductor

PROGRAM

Festival Chorus

Hanacpachap cussicuinin, Juan Pérez Bocanegra Salmo 150, Ernani Aguiar Alleluia, Randall Thompson Dirait-on, Morten Lauridsen Muié Rendêra, C.A. Pinto Fonseca Good News, The Chariot's Comin', Moses Hogan

Honor Choir

Arroz con leche, Carlos Guastavino Zion's Walls, Aaron Copland/Glenn Koponen Joy, Ricky Ian Gordon María Guinand is the conductor of the world-famous Schola Cantorum de Venezuela. She has prepared choruses for the world premiere performances and recordings of works by Osvaldo Golijov (La Pasión según San Marcos) and John Adams (A Flowering Tree). As an educator, she has been an integral leader and contributor to Construir Cantando, the choral component of Venezuela's El Sistema music program for economically disadvantaged children and youth of Venezuela. She and her ensemble will perform this spring during the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Americas and Americans Festival at Walt Disney Concert Hall

SOLOISTS

Claire Fedoruk



Seasons with Chorale: 7 Hometown: Eugene, OR

Previous Chorale solos: Haydn's The Creation, J.S. Bach's Weinachtsoratorium, Handel's Messiah, Benjamin Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb, Reich's Tehillim at Lincoln Center, Velasco's La Púrpura de la rosa, Andriessen's De Stijl (with the LA Philharmonic)

Education: BM, Pacific Lutheran University, MM, Eastman School of Music, DMA in Early Music Performance, USC

Performs regularly with: Concord Ensemble, Musica Angelica, Los Angeles Chamber Singers/Cappella

Opera performances: Amor, Fortuna (*L'Incoronazione di Poppea*), Foothill Master Chorale

As a soloist: The Concord Ensemble, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orange County High School for the Performing Arts Symphony at the Cerritos Center, Pasadena Master Chorale, Occidental/Foothill Master Chorale, Pasadena Symphony, Glendale Symphony.

Recordings: You Are (Variations) and Daniel Variations (Nonesuch) with LAMC; Evening Wind and the Grammy Award®-winning Padilla: Sun of Justice (RCM) with Los Angeles Chamber Singers; albums for LeAnn Rimes and Josh Groban

Film credits include: Slackers, Click, Lady in the Water, License to Wed, Horton Hears a Who, Race to Witch Mountain, Wolverine, Avatar, and Percy Jackson

Emily Lin SOPRANO



Seasons with Chorale: 17
Hometown: Taipei, Taiwan

Education: BS in Electrical Engineering, University of Southern California

Recent solo appearances: Ligeti's *Clocks and Clouds* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic

Opera Performances: Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*; productions with Opera Pacific chorus

Recordings: With LAMC, Steve Reich's You Are (Variations), Steve Reich's Daniel Variations, Glass-Salonen

Film credits include: Click, Lady in the Water

Kimberly Switzer MEZZO SOPRANO



Seasons with Chorale: 9
Hometown: Fullerton, CA

Previous Chorale solos: Velasco's *La Púrpura de la rosa*

Education: BM vocal performance at CSU Long Beach

As a soloist: Ojai Music Festival, assorted LAMC short solos

Appears regularly with: jazz quintet Pacific Swingline

As a educator and conductor: teaches general music to grades K-6 at St. Bonaventure Elementary School in Huntington Beach; conducts the contemporary ensemble at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

in Huntington Beach; cantors at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Newport Beach

Recordings: Glass-Salonen and Steve Reich's You Are (Variations) with LAMC.

Has toured with: LAMC

Film/Television credits include: Avatar, Click, Little Mermaid 3, Meet Dave, National Treasure: Book of Secrets, Percy Jackson & the Olympians, Race to Witch Mountain, Wanted, Wolfman, X-Men Origins: Wolverine, 2012

Matthew Brown



Seasons with Chorale: 1

Hometown: Taft, CA

Education: DMA & MM in composition from USC Thornton School of Music; BA in composition from Pepperdine University

Performs regularly with: Los Angeles Chamber Singers' Cappella, De Angelis Vocal Ensemble

Recordings: Christmas by Kimberley Locke (background vocals); Voodoo Queen by Reneé Wilson (choral arrangements)

Awards and Honors: 2010 VocalEssence Essentially Choral Commission, 2007 Jimmy McHugh Composition Prize, 2007 VocalEssence Welcome Christmas Competition, 2003 Hans J. Salter Endowed Music Award

Adriana Manfredi MEZZO SOPRANO



Seasons with Chorale: 9 Hometown: Costa Mesa, CA

Previous Chorale solos: Bach's St. Matthew Passion, Britten's Ceremony of Carols, Haydn's Harmoniemesse

Education: Oberlin College, California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) Has appeared as a guest artist with: Long Beach Opera, Los Angeles Chamber Singers, Eighteen Squared, CalArts New Century Players

As a guest soloist: Tehillim by Steve Reich at Skirball Cultural Center

Opera Roles: The Frog/ Woodpecker in Janáček's *The* Cunning Little Vixen; Cherubino in Mozart's Le nozze di Figaro

Movie soundtracks include: Lady in the Water, Click

Has toured with: Helmuth Rilling, Bachakademie Festival Ensemble Stuttgart/Berlin

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Shawn Kirchner **TENOR**



Seasons with Chorale: 9

Hometown: Cedar Falls, Iowa

Previous Chorale solos: Ariel Ramirez' Misa Criolla; solo sextet for LAMC's 2006 collaboration with Meredith Monk

Education: MA in Choral Conducting (University of Iowa), BA in Peace Studies (Manchester College), Dalian Foreign Language Institute, China

Performs regularly: as a jazz pianist with the Shawn Kirchner Quartet and as pianist/organist/ composer-in-residence at the La Verne Church of the Brethren

Has appeared as a guest artist with: The Concord Ensemble, Los Robles Master Chorale, Pasadena Master Chorale

Has toured with: LAMC to Lincoln Center for Steve Reich's 70th birthday celebration performance of You Are (Variations)

Recordings: Velvet Light, a collection of his original Christmas choral arrangements; Meet Me on the Mountain, original bluegrass/country songs inspired by the film Brokeback Mountain; LAMC's You Are (Variations), Daniel Variations, Glass-Salonen

Film/Television credits include: Lady in the Water, License to Wed, National Treasure II, Horton Hears a Who, X-Men Origins: Wolverine, Race to Witch Mountain, Avatar, Percy Jackson, and Sex and the City

Awards and Honors: commissioned by LAMC to write Tu Voz (text by Pablo Neruda) for the 2007 High School Choir Festival

Michael Lichtenauer Melvir Ausente TENOR



Seasons with Chorale: 5

Hometown: Shawnee, KS

Previous Chorale solos: Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb, Biebl's Ave Maria, Andriessen's City of Dis, Chinary Ung's Spiral XII: Space Between Heaven and Earth, Respighi's Lauda per la Natività del Signore, Charpentier's Messe de minuit pour Noël

Education: BS in Journalism, University of Kansas

Performs regularly with: Millenium Consort Singers, Jacaranda Chamber Singers

Sang for 7 seasons with: the Grammy Award®-winning Chanticleer, including performances with Dawn Upshaw and Frederica von Stade

Recordings: with LAMC, Reich's Daniel Variations; with Chanticleer include Sound In Spirit, Evening Prayer: Purcell Anthems and Sacred Songs, Our American Journey, Lamentations and Praises, Christmas with Chanticleer, Colors of Love, Matins for The Virgin of Guadalupe, Wondrous Love; with Kansas City Chorale include Ring Out To The Heavens, Rachmaninoff's Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, Fern Hill, Nativitas

Film and Television Credits:

More than 30 soundtracks including The Watchmen, The Day The Earth Stood Still, Horton Hears a Who, The Simpsons, License to Wed, Spiderman 3, Fantastic Four, Battlestar Galactica, Medium, 2012, Avatar, Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Wolfman, Sex and the City 2

Awards and Honors: Grammy Awards®, Best Small Ensemble Performance, Chanticleer, 1999 & 2002

BARITONE



Seasons with Chorale: 1

Hometown: Bacolod City, Philippines

Education: BM in Choral Conducting; Diploma in Creative Performance in Music and the Arts

Performs Regularly with: Sole Voce of Los Angeles (Conductor); Temple City SDA Church (Music Director); Vocalese; Our Lady of Angels Cathedral Choir

Opera Performances: Il Trovatore with El Paso Opera

As a soloist: Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs with the El Paso Chorale; Dubois' The Seven Last Words of Christ with the White Memorial Church Choir

Recordings: Acclamation and Iyo Kailan Pa Man with the Philippine Madrigal Singers; WYC 2008 Collection with the World Youth Choir

Has toured with: Philippine Madrigal Singers and World Youth

Awards and Honors: Grand Prize Winner, European Gran Prix for Choral Singing 2007 with the Philippine Madrigal Singers

Scott Graff **BASS**



Seasons with Chorale: 9

Hometown: Portland, OR

Previous Chorale solos: Handel's Messiah, Virgil in Louis Andriessen's The City of Dis, Pa in Ricky Ian Gordon's Choral Suite from The Grapes of Wrath

Education: MFA in Vocal Performance, California Institute of the Arts; AB in Religious Studies, Occidental College

Performs regularly with: The Concord Ensemble, Los Angeles Chamber Singers, Millennium Consort, Jacaranda Chamber Singers

Opera performances: George Frideric Handel's Semele, Seven Small Operas (including a staged version of Claudio Monteverdi's madrigal Lagrime d'Amante al Sepolcro dell'Amatai), Il Turco in Italia and Il Tabarro by Giacomo Puccini, Volo di Notte by Luigi Dallapiccola, and From the House of the Dead by Leoš Janáček (Long Beach Opera); La Descente d'Orfeé aux Enfers (Catacoustic Consort in Cincinnati); Michael Webster's Hell

As a soloist: Musica Angelica, Catacoustic Consort, The Concord Ensemble, Millennium Consort, Carmel Bach Festival, Los Angeles Baroque Orchestra

Recordings: Grammy Award®winning Padilla: Sun of Justice with the Los Angeles Chamber Singers

Has toured with: The Concord Ensemble

Film credits include: Soundtracks for Avatar, 2012, X-Men Origins: Wolverine, Horton Hears a Who, National Treasure II, Click, License to Wed, Lady in the Water

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8:00 PM Bychkov Conducts Mahler's 5th

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FRIDAY, APRIL 2

11:00 AM Bychkov Conducts Mahler's 5th LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

8:00 PM

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

1:00 PM Götterdämmerung

LA Opera / Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

2:00 PM Dreamairls

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre & 8:00 PM

8:00 PM Bychkov Conducts Mahler's 5th

LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

1:00 PM Dreamgirls

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

Americas and Americans:

Chamber Music Members of the LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

Adès Conducts Adès 8:00 PM

LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago 7:30 PM

Glorva Kaufman Presents Dance at the Music Center / Ahmanson Theatre

8:00 PM Adès Conducts Adès

LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

TSFY: Americas and Americans: 11:00 AM

A Celebration of Dance LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

2:00 PM Adès Conducts Adès

LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago 7:30 PM

> Glorva Kaufman Presents Dance at the Music Center /

Ahmanson Theatre

7:30 PM The Stiamatized

LA Opera / Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

1:00 PM Götterdämmerung

LA Opera / Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

2:00 PM **Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**

Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at the Music Center /

Ahmanson Theatre

7:00 PM Soundscape: Monk & Pärt

LA Master Chorale / Walt Disney Concert Hall

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

8:00 PM Green Umbrella:

Andriessen's La Commedia LA Phil New Music Group / Walt Disney Concert Hall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

8:00 PM Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

8:00 PM St. Louis Symphony

Presented by the LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

8:00 PM Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo 8:00 PM

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

8:00 PM Trpceski Plays Rachmaninoff

LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

11:00 AM TSFY: Americas and Americans:

A Celebration of Dance

LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

1:00 PM Götterdämmeruna

LA Opera / Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

8:00 PM Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

Trpceski Plays Rachmaninoff 8:00 PM

LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

1:00 PM Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo & 6:30 PM CTG / Mark Taper Forum

2:00 PM The Stigmatized

LA Opera / Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

2:00 PM Trpceski Plays Rachmaninoff

LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

7:30 PM Organ Recital Sophie-Véronique

Cauchefer-Choplin Presented by the LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

MONDAY, APRIL 19

8:00 PM Pat Metheny "The Orchestrion Tour"

Presented by the LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

Emanuel Ax in Recital 8:00 PM

Presented by the LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

5:30 PM Götterdämmeruna

LA Opera / Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

8:00 PM Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo CTG / Mark Taper Forum

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

7:30 PM The Stigmatized

LA Opera / Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

8:00 PM Americas and Americans:

Dudamel Conducts Bernstein

LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo 8:00 PM CTG / Mark Taper Forum

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Americas and Americans: 8:00 PM

Dudamel Conducts Bernstein LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

8:00 PM Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

World City—The Kahurangi Maori 11:00 AM

& 12·30 PM Dance Theatre

Walt Disney Concert Hall W.M. Keck Amphitheatre

2:30 PM Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo & 8:00 PM CTG / Mark Taper Forum

7:30 PM The Stiamatized

LA Opera / Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

8:00 PM Americas and Americans: Golijov's St. Mark Passion Presented by the LA Phil /

Walt Disney Concert Hall

8:00 PM Spotlight Awards Gala Performance

Music Center / Ahmanson Theatre

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

Götterdämmeruna 1:00 PM

LA Opera / Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Americas and Americans: 2:00 PM

Golijov's St. Mark Passion LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

7:00 PM Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

7:30 PM Dudamel: Adams and Mahler LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

8:00 PM

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo 8:00 PM

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

8:00 PM 39 Steps

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo 8:00 PM

CTG / Mark Taper Forum

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

Very Special Arts Festival 9:00 AM

Music Center Plaza

8:00 PM 39 Steps

8:00 PM

8:00 PM

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

Americas and Americans: Dudamel Conducts Estévez

LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

8:00 PM Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo CTG / Mark Taper Forum

FRIDAY, APRIL 30 8:00 PM 39 Steps

CTG / Ahmanson Theatre

8:00 PM Americas and Americans:

Dudamel Conducts Estévez

LA Phil / Walt Disney Concert Hall

Bengal Tiger...Baghdad Zoo CTG / Mark Taper Forum

For more information, call (213) 972-7211 or visit musiccenter.org.