

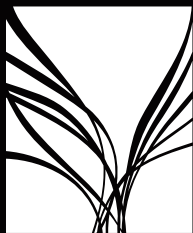
CELEBRATING **50** YEARS OF MUSIC

WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL
MAY 2, 2014



25TH ANNUAL
**HIGH SCHOOL
CHOIR FESTIVAL**

performances
MAGAZINE



LOS ANGELES
MASTER
CHORALE

ANNOUNCING A NEW SEASON FOR PASSION AND REJUVENATION.

2014 | 2015 SEASON PROGRAM

Voices of Light

Sun, Oct 19, 2014 - 7 pm

Richard Einhorn | Voices of Light/The Passion of
Joan of Arc (with film projection)

Renaissance: Reawakened

Sun, Nov 16, 2014 - 7 pm

John Taverner | Western Wind Mass
William Byrd | Sing Joyfully
Thomas Tallis | If Ye Love Me
and other 16th and 17th century works

Messiah Sing-Along

Sun, Dec 7, 2014 - 7 pm

Festival of Carols

Sat, Dec 13, 2014 - 2 pm

Rejoice! A Cappella Christmas

Sun, Dec 14, 2014 - 7 pm

Morten Lauridsen | O Magnum Mysterium
Franz Biebl | Ave Maria
Francis Poulenc | Four Motets for Christmas
and other sublime a cappella works

Handel: Messiah

Wed, Dec 17, 2014 - 7:30 pm

Sun, Dec 21, 2014 - 7 pm

Bach: St. Matthew Passion

Sat, Jan 31, 2015 - 2 pm

Sun, Feb 1, 2015 - 7 pm

J.S. Bach | Passion According to St. Matthew
with Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra
Martin Haselböck, music director
and Los Angeles Children's Chorus
Anne Tomlinson, artistic director

Songs of Ascent

Sun, Mar 8, 2015 - 7 pm

Shawn Kirchner | Songs of Ascent WORLD PREMIERE
Nack-Kum Paik | WORLD PREMIERE
with the Los Angeles Chamber Choir
Chung Uk Lee, director

The Water Passion

Sat, Apr 11, 2015 - 2 pm

Sun, Apr 12, 2015 - 7 pm

Tan Dun | Water Passion After St. Matthew

Music of Whitacre & Pärt

Sat, May 16, 2015 - 2 pm

Sun, May 17, 2015 - 7 pm

Eric Whitacre | Lux Aurumque
Sleep
Water Night

Arvo Pärt | Morning Star
Cantate Domino
Solfeggio

Artists, programs, dates and prices subject to change.

Grant Gershon

Kiki and David Gindler Music Director

Photo: David Johnston

Subscribe Today! at LAMC.ORG or 213-972-7282

A Letter from
GRANT GERSHON



Welcome to the 25th Annual
High School Choir Festival!

Dear Singers,

Today marks the culmination of months of hard work with your choir directors to prepare for an extraordinary day of music together. To think that 815 of you learned all new music, practiced for weeks, and then came together to create one colossal choir? I'm incredibly inspired by this achievement!

I'll never forget the first day I stepped onto the stage to conduct my first High School Choir Festival in 2002. The warmth, passion and sheer beauty of sound from all the singers was overwhelming! I instantly knew how important this event had become for the future of choral music in Southern California.

We now celebrate the Festival's 25th year and remember the thousands of students who have walked through those doors before you. You are now part of a longtime tradition that just keeps getting better year after year. And by the end of today, we hope you will look back on this experience with pride and accomplishment, knowing that you were here at Walt Disney Concert Hall for some very extraordinary performances – two of them world premiere choral works – and shared your voice with new friends and the city of Los Angeles.

Congratulations on your day!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grant Gershon".

Grant Gershon,
Kiki & David Gindler Music Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Gindler
CHAIRMAN

Robert Hanisee
VICE CHAIR / DEVELOPMENT

Kenneth S. Williams
VICE CHAIR /
MUSIC CENTER

Susan Erburu Reardon
VICE CHAIR /
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Stephen A. Kanter, M.D.
SECRETARY

Brian Brooks
TREASURER

DIRECTORS

Gregory J. Annick
Bryant Danner
Kathleen Drummy
Ann Graham Ehringer, Ph.D.
Annette Ermshar, Ph.D.
David P. Garza
Scott Graff
Marguerite Marsh, Ph.D.
Edward J. McAniff
Everett F. Meiners
Marian Niles
Cheryl Petersen
Frederick J. Ruopp
Philip A. Swan
Elayne Techentin
Shaun C. Tucker
Tracy Van Fleet

EMERITI

Donald J. Nores
Marshall Rutter

HONORARY

Morten J. Lauridsen
Clifford A. Miller

EX-OFFICIO

Grant Gershon
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Terry Knowles
PRESIDENT & CEO

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

Grant Gershon, *The Kiki & David Gindler Music Director*

25th ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR FESTIVAL

Chamber Singers Concert & Organ Demonstration

Friday, May 2 at 11 am

Walt Disney Concert Hall

Los Angeles Master Chorale Chamber Singers

Lesley Leighton, conductor

Lisa Edwards, piano

John West, organ



Los Angeles Master Chorale Chamber Singers

SOPRANO

Tamara Bevard
Hayden Eberhart
Suzanne Waters
Elyse Marchant Willis

ALTO

Amy Fogerson
Leslie Inman
Adriana Manfredi
Tracy Van Fleet

TENOR

Daniel Chaney
Timothy Gonzales
Charles Lane
Michael Lichtenauer

BASS

Reid Bruton
Abdiel Gonzalez
Scott Graff
Vincent Robles

CHAMBER SINGERS

Media Vita

Adriana Manfredi, Irish drum

Michael McGlynn

(b. 1964)

Lament for Pasiphaë

Morten Lauridsen

(b. 1943)

Go Lovely Rose

Halsey Stevens

(1908-1989)

The Mother of God

Nick Strimple

(b. 1946)

O Magnum Mysterium

Matthew Brown

(b. 1978)

Epitaph on John Jaybird of Diss

Ralph Vaughan Williams

(1872-1958)

'Tis You That Are the Music WORLD PREMIERE

Christina Whitten Thomas

(b. 1979)

Battle of Jericho

arr. Moses Hogan

(b. 1957-2003)

ORGAN DEMONSTRATION

John West, organ

'Tis You That Are the Music was commissioned by LAMC Associate Conductor Lesley Leighton as a gift to the Los Angeles Master Chorale, honoring its commitment to commissioning new works.

CELEBRATING YEARS OF MUSIC

Festival Concert

Friday, May 2 at 1 pm
Walt Disney Concert Hall

Grant Gershon, conductor
Louise Thomas, piano
John West, organ

GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Terry Knowles, President

RECOGNITION OF DIRECTORS AND CHOIRS

Lesili Beard, Education Programs Manager

FESTIVAL CHORUS

Hanacpachap cussicuinin

Juan Pérez Bocanegra
(c. 1598-1645)

The Word Was God

Rosephanye Powell
(b. 1962)

Dirait-on

In memory of Paul Salamunovich

Morten Lauridsen
(b. 1943)

Zion's Walls

arr. Aaron Copland
(1900-1990)

FESTIVAL HONOR CHOIR

Awake, My Heart

David Dickau
(b. 1953)

i will wade out

Eric Whitacre
(b. 1970)

Hold On!

arr. Jester Hairston
(1901-2000)

FESTIVAL CHORUS

***Es Tu Tiempo* WORLD PREMIERE**

Francisco Núñez, guest conductor

Francisco Núñez
(b. 1965)

Hallelujah Chorus

From *Messiah*
John West, organ

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

Your use of a ticket acknowledges your willingness to appear in photographs taken in public areas of the Music Center and releases the Center and its lessees and others from liability resulting from use of such photographs.

Use of any phones, cameras or recording devices is prohibited in the auditorium. Program and artists subject to change.

Latecomers and members of the audience who leave during the performance will be escorted into the concert hall at the sole discretion of House Management.

PLAYING ON ES TU TIEMPO

Ramón C. Cortines
High School of Visual & Performing Arts
Music Students

PIANO

Jenny Tan

ELECTRIC BASS GUITAR
Giancarlo Arzu

PERCUSSION

Debora Bang
Kevin Buendia

DJ Dickson

Giovanni Jimenez

Es Tu Tiempo was underwritten through the generosity of Judi and Bryant Danner.

GRANT GERSHON

The Kiki & David Gindler
MUSIC DIRECTOR



Photo: David Johnston

Now in his thirteenth season as Music Director, Grant has led more than 100 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: *Plath Songs* by Shawn Kirchner; *Los Cantores de las Montañas* by Gabriela Lena Frank; *Mugunghwa: Rose of Sharon* by Mark Grey; *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:

LA Philharmonic, LA Chamber Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Minnesota Opera, Utah Opera, 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 assignments:

Resident Conductor at LA Opera; made his Santa Fe Opera debut in 2011 conducting Peter Sellars' new production of Vivaldi's *Griselda*; led the world premiere performances of Daniel Catán's *Il Postino* with LA Opera in September 2010 and on tour in Santiago, Chile in 2012; led LA Opera performances of *La Traviata* in 2009, *Madame Butterfly* in 2012 and *Carmen* in 2013; conducted *La Traviata* at Wolf Trap in 2013; conducted *The Gospel According to the Other Mary* with LAMC and Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival in 2013

Previous assignments:

Assistant Conductor for the LA Philharmonic, Berlin Staatsoper, Salzburg Festival, Festival Aix-en-Provence

Member of: USC Thornton School of Music Board of Councilors, Chorus America Board of Directors

On disc: Two Grammy Award®-nominated recordings: *Sweeney Todd* (New York Philharmonic Special Editions) and Ligeti's *Grand Macabre* (Sony Classical); *Górecki: Miserere* (Decca), *A Good Understanding* (Decca), *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, James Conlon

On film/tv:

PBS Great Performances production and DVD of *Il Postino*, released October 16, 2012; 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 José Carreras on *The Tonight Show*

LESLEY LEIGHTON

ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR



Photo: Alex Berliner

Official Position: Associate Conductor of the Los Angeles Master Chorale

Hometown: Los Angeles, California

Education: BA in choral conducting from Loyola Marymount University with Paul Salamunovich; MM in vocal performance from the University of Southern California with Judith Oas Natalucci; DMA in choral conducting from the University of Southern California with Jo-Michael Scheibe

Other conducting positions: Artistic Director of the Los Robles Master Chorale (LRMC), Music Director of the New West Symphony Chorus, and Interim Director of Choral Activities at La Sierra University

As a conductor/clinician: prepared the Verdi Requiem for New West Symphony, 2014; adjudicated a High School Choir Festival for the San Bernardino County Music Educators Association, 2014; served on the faculty of Choirs of America Western Division Choral Festival, 2014; guest conductor, Santa Clara Chorale, 2013; El Dorado Opera (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*, 2012, 2013); will present two larger world premiere works by composers Jordan Nelson and Jasper Randall with Los Robles Master Chorale, May 2014; will present a staged version of the Stravinsky *Symphony of Psalms* with the La Sierra University choral and orchestral departments, May 2014

As a professional singer: has performed with many of the world's most eminent conductors, including Pierre Boulez, Zubin Mehta, Lorin Maazel, Simon Rattle, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Roger Norrington, Gustavo Dudamel and Grant Gershon; opera credits include principal appearances with New York City Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Köln Opera, and Glyndebourne;

has sung on more than 40 film soundtracks including *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, *X-Men: First Class*; *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*; 2012; *The Seeker: The Dark is Rising*; *Ice Age: Continental Drift*; *Frozen* and *Godzilla*; most recently performed as soprano soloist on the Verdi Requiem for New West Symphony in March 2014

As an educator: in addition to appearing as an adjudicator and guest clinician, has taught five years of chorus at the high school level, four years at the university level and inaugurated Los Robles Master Chorale's annual High School Choral Festival, High School Leadership Workshop and its Young Composers Competition; currently on faculty at La Sierra University during the 2013-14 academic year

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE



Photo: Steve Cohn

Giving a voice to Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Grammy-nominated Los Angeles Master Chorale is led by Music Director Grant Gershon. The *New York Times* calls the choir "inspired," and The *New York Observer* declares it "a superb vocal ensemble." The Chorale is currently in its 50th season as a resident company of The Music Center of Los Angeles County and its 11th as the resident chorus at Disney Hall. Presenting its own concert series each season, it performs choral music from the earliest writings to the most recent contemporary compositions. To date, the choir has commissioned 42 and premiered 88 new works, of which 57 were world premieres, and has been awarded three ASCAP/Chorus America Awards for Adventurous Programming as

well as Chorus America's prestigious Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence. The Chorale has performed in more than 300 concerts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at both Disney Hall and the Hollywood Bowl, and recently toured with the orchestra to Europe and New York City. It has also appeared at the Ojai Music Festival, the Great Performers series at Lincoln Center and the Overture Center in Madison, Wisconsin, as well as in leading venues throughout the Southland. Its discography includes five CDs under Gershon's baton. The latest, released in 2012 on Decca, features three works by Polish composer Henryk Górecki. LAMC previously released three CDs under Music Director Emeritus Paul Salamunovich on RCM, including the

Grammy-nominated *Lauridsen - Lux Aeterna*. The Chorale is also featured with Gershon on the soundtracks of such major motion pictures as *Lady in the Water* and *License to Wed*. Serving more than 30,000 audience members of all ages annually, the Los Angeles Master Chorale also provides education outreach to some 6,000 students each year.

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

2014 HONOR CHOIR PARTICIPANTS*

SOPRANO

Connie Bahng
Deanna Carter
Helen Chhea
Rebecca Chung
Viane Escobar
Kathryn Fisher
Odallys Garcia
Melissa Gonzales
Seo Young Jang
Joselin Lopez
Ana Morales
Grace Mouton
Ruth Mwangi
Evelyn Onyango
Angie Portillo
Kiana Ramirez
Emely Ramos
Tiana Simons
Erica Steuer
Kaitlin Yi

ALTO

Precious Anyanwu
Paola Aparicio
Natalie Baroutgian
Hannah Borenstein
Amanda Castro
Erin Flores
Chelsea Fomin
Dana Hall
Sheila Hernandez
Sydney Hsueh
Shannon Hughey
Susanna Liang
Elizabeth Luna
Samantha Meth Soliman
Leanna Rongavilla
Sabrina Rosales
Amber Solorio
Daeanera Tuana
Vanessa Valdez
Christine Wheeler

TENOR

Alexis Aguirre
Manfred Anaya
Michael Angeles
Brandon Carter
Bobby Duong
Alexander Erickson
Christian Gatica
David V. Gonzalez
Patrick Lines
Brendan Ly
Zachary Magdaleno
Andrian Manila
Andrew Martinez
Benjamin Mercado
Eric Novelo
Kyle Robinson
Hiroshi Sugimoto
Joshua Tessler
Joseph Witrago

BASS

Jose Aceves
Daniel Andrade
Samuel Arellano
Ishmael Baluyot
Christian Bernal
Nicholas Bratcher
Marco Cid
Cameron Courter
Samuel Derro
Joseph Diaz
Hector Espinosa
Taylor Gamboa
Ryan LeGrand
Nick Leonard
Daniel Padilla
Daniel Quon
Isai Rangel
Osiris Reyes
Klenn Sabate
Dean Yoon

We are happy to announce that this year's Honor Choir will reprise *Es Tu Tiempo* by Francisco Núñez with the Los Angeles Master Chorale on our next concert:

TODAY, TOMORROW & BEYOND

Sunday,
June 8 at 7 pm
Walt Disney Concert Hall

Go to LAMC.org for more information and tickets.

*As of April 18, 2014

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

AGOURA HIGH SCHOOL
Las Virgenes Unified School District
Chad Bloom, Director
Brian Mercer, Principal

ARLETA HIGH SCHOOL
Los Angeles Unified School District
Greg Broadous, Director
Sandra Gephart Fontana, Principal

ARROYO HIGH SCHOOL
El Monte Union High School District
Jennifer Stanley, Director
Angie Gonzales-Hernandez,
Principal

BELLFLOWER HIGH SCHOOL
Bellflower Unified School District
Carolyn Kelley, Director
Michael Lundgren, Principal

BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL
Charter School
Michael Suffolk, Director
Bill Parks, Principal

CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL
Whittier Union High School District
Dan Hawkins, Director
William Schloss, Principal

CHARTER OAK HIGH SCHOOL
Charter Oak Unified School District
Rebecca Schmalzbach, Director
Kathie Wiard, Principal

COVINA HIGH SCHOOL
Covina-Valley Unified School District
Susan Silver, Director
Claudia Karnoski, Principal

DUARTE HIGH SCHOOL
Duarte Unified School District
Claire A. Hsu, Director
Robin Nelson, Principal

EAGLE ROCK HIGH SCHOOL
Los Angeles Unified School District
Rachel Lee, Director
Roberto Lopez, Principal

EL MONTE HIGH SCHOOL
El Monte Union High School District
Joel Whisler, Director
Robin Torres, Principal

FULLERTON UNION HIGH
SCHOOL
*Fullerton Joint Union High School
District*
Scott Hedgecock, Director
Rani Goyal, Principal

GLENDALE HIGH SCHOOL
Glendale Unified School District
Grace Sheldon-Williams, Director
Dr. Monica Makiewicz, Principal

GLENDORA HIGH SCHOOL
Glendora Unified School District
Dr. Brian Trevor, Director
Paul Lopez, Principal

GRANADA HILLS CHARTER
HIGH SCHOOL
Charter School
Sarah White, Director
Brian Bauer, Principal

LOUISVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
Los Angeles Archdiocese
Maura Crawley, Director
Kathleen Vercillo, Principal

LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL OF
LOS ANGELES
Los Angeles Archdiocese
Steven Speciale, Director
Frank Kozakowski, Principal

MARK KEPPEL HIGH SCHOOL
Alhambra Unified School District
Tony Azeltine, Director
Jacinth Cisneros, Principal

MONTEBELLO HIGH SCHOOL
Montebello Unified School District
Jessie Flasschoen, Director
Jeffrey Schwartz, Principal

NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL
*Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School
District*
Nancy Lanpher, Director
Dr. Ryan Smith, Principal

RAMÓN C. CORTINES HIGH
SCHOOL OF VISUAL AND
PERFORMING ARTS
Los Angeles Unified School District
Desiree Fowler, Director
Kim Bruno, Principal

SAN GABRIEL HIGH SCHOOL
Alhambra Unified School District
Cecilia Revilla, Director
Jim Schofield, Principal

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
Torrance Unified School District
Elizabeth Turner, Director
Dr. Scott McDowell, Principal

TAFT HIGH SCHOOL
Los Angeles Unified School District
Tom Pease, Director
Delia Estrada, Principal

TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL
Torrance Unified School District
C. David Wright, Director
Karim Girgis, Principal

VENICE HIGH SCHOOL
Los Angeles Unified School District
Wendy Sarnoff, Director
Dr. Elsa Mendoza, Principal

WEST TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL
Torrance Unified School District
Kathleen Jensen, Director
Pam Metz, Principal

WILSON HIGH SCHOOL
Long Beach Unified School District
Curtis Heard, Director
Dr. Sandy Blazer, Principal

COMPOSER'S NOTE



'Tis You That Are The Music

Music by Christina Whitten Thomas
Text by Amy Lowell

Amy Lowell's poem suggests that music is a reflection of an individual's unique resonance and if we connect with our internal harmony, we can find our place in the Earth's natural rhythm. The choir captures this reflective quality through imitative entrances, coming together on the phrase "your spirit's harmony, which clear and strong sings but of you." The poem also invites madrigalistic word painting in phrases such as "one music with a thousand cadences."

- Christina Whitten Thomas

About Composer

FRANCISCO J. NÚÑEZ

For this special anniversary year the Master Chorale welcomes Francisco J. Núñez, a composer, conductor, visionary leader in music education, and the artistic director and founder of the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award-winning Young People's Chorus of New York City.

His contributions to the arts have garnered many awards, including a MacArthur "genius" Fellowship presented to individuals for their "exceptional originality in and dedication to their creative pursuits."

Music Director Grant Gershon met Francisco Núñez six years ago while serving on the board of Chorus America. They became fast friends and in summer 2012, Grant emailed Francisco to ask if he would be interested in composing a new work to commemorate the 25th Annual High School Choir Festival. After an emphatic "Yes!" Francisco began to contemplate the subject matter for his next composition.

He thought, "What do graduating seniors want to sing about? So often graduating seniors look back at their lives and are so excited to move forward while at the same time they are eager and inspired to tell their younger friends to continue to try hard, persevere and never stop dreaming about the future.

"The piece reflects their feeling of remembrance, joy, and accomplishment, but also feelings of loss. These are experiences that will never happen again. They love the idea of growing up and leaving a legacy - the feeling that 'I've gone through it all, and I want to share what I've learned with you. *Es tu tiempo*. It's your time."

Es tu Tiempo mirrors the rhythms of the streets in Los Angeles, where its people come from so many backgrounds and across borders to make up the special urban energy and sounds of the city. Gospel and rap collide with mariachi, conga beats, and even an electric bass guitar. The text in English, Spanish, and joyful shouts speak of wistful remembrances and inspired dreams of tomorrow, while *los angelitos* (little angels) keep watch day and night.



Photo: Stephanie Berger

This commission is generously sponsored by Judi and Bryant Danner and will be reprised on the final concert of the Los Angeles Master Chorale's 50th Anniversary Season on June 8. Students participating in the Festival Honor Choir will join the Master Chorale singers on stage for the performance of this extraordinary new work!

UP NEXT

Today, Tomorrow & Beyond
Sun, Jun 8, 2014 – 7 pm

Walt Disney Concert Hall

Grant Gershon, conductor

Lesley Leighton, associate conductor

Shawn Kirchner | Inscapes WORLD PREMIERE

David Lang | the national anthems WORLD PREMIERE
with the Calder Quartet

Francisco Núñez | *Es Tu Tiempo*
Reprised
with LAMC's High School Choir Festival Honor Choir

Gabriela Lena Frank | *Los Cantores de las Montañas*
Reprised with *Huayucaltia*

Esa-Pekka Salonen | *Iri da iri* WORLD PREMIERE
commissioned by the singers of the LA Master Chorale

Setting our sights squarely on the future, we cap our 50th Season with five composers at the leading edge of choral music. North, East, South and West - these works will take you to opposite ends of the stylistic spectrum with a reprise of Gabriela Lena Frank's majestic *Los Cantores de las Montañas*, plus world premieres by Pulitzer Prize winner David Lang, MacArthur Fellow Francisco Núñez, LA Philharmonic Conductor Laureate Esa-Pekka Salonen and our very own Swan Family Composer in Residence, Shawn Kirchner. It's an exciting evening where you'll be the first to hear these new works introduced into the choral repertoire.

TICKETS START AT \$29!

LAMC.ORG OR 213-972-7282 (M-F, 10-5)

25 YEARS REALLY ADD UP!

HISTORY OF THE HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR FESTIVAL

Since its inception in 1964, the Los Angeles Master Chorale benefited from the extraordinary support of the Master Chorale Associates – a group of choral music advocates who helped to promote the Master Chorale’s concerts at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion as well as raise crucial funds for the organization by hosting annual benefit galas and fundraisers.



In 1988, on the eve of the Master Chorale’s 25th anniversary, enthusiastic supporters from the Palos Verdes Peninsula and surrounding areas hosted a salon at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Turnacliff to revitalize the South Bay chapter of the Master Chorale Associates. Recognizing that the Master Chorale greatly needed an impactful education outreach program and with the goal of fostering a love of choral music in schools, the Associates planned an event that would bring together students for a celebratory day of singing under the baton of LAMC’s second music director, John Currie.

Longtime Master Chorale subscriber and supporter Phyllis Rothrock led the charge! Rothrock served as a college counselor for the Los Angeles Unified School District for 23 years and was a passionate advocate for music. “The arts need to be just as visible as sports,” she would say. “The annual High School Choir Festival is such an inspiring day. It brings together singers of various backgrounds and shows that choral music transcends language and cultural differences. We believe in the positive impact music can have on students’ lives, and we want to ensure this program in the future.” With her leadership, the Associates organized, raised funds and volunteered their time to accomplish the complex task of shepherding hundreds of high school students through a highly choreographed day of singing.

It may come as a surprise that the LA Master Chorale’s very first High School Choir Festival was not performed at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the venue which the Master Chorale had called home since 1964 and the very center of the city. But in fact, the first Festival began as a much more localized event at the Norris Theater in Rolling Hills Estates with “only” 440 students from 10 schools in the South Bay area. Carson High School music director Kerry Burtis remarked, “There are lots of festivals where each choir performs alone, but not where you can sing in a mass choir with a great conductor.” Music Director John Currie worked with each school individually before the Festival. “His coming to the class really sparked the students,” said choral director Kathleen Jensen of West High School. “I was a little bit concerned that the director of such a prestigious group would have trouble relating to high schoolers, but his attitude was relaxed. Many of my girls said they just loved his accent” (Referring to Currie’s distinct Scottish brogue).


John Currie conducted the High School Choir Festival for two years before handing the baton over to the Master Chorale’s next music director, Paul Salamunovich. Still a South Bay-centric event, the Festival took place at El Camino College with even more schools participating. Salamunovich’s own musical interests were rooted in the Los Angeles Youth Choir, which

*Phyllis Rothrock,
founding volunteer*



The **first** annual High School Choir Festival, in 1990, had **only 10 participating schools**, compared to 25 today!

Two high schools from the **first 10** are represented today (Torrance High School & West Torrance High School)



125 different
high schools
have participated

113 different pieces
have been performed

More than
**one million pages of
music** printed

12 different
languages have
been **performed**,
including Swahili,
Korean, Quechua and
nonsense syllables

Nearly
20,000 students
have sung

More than
160 different
**High School Choir
Directors** have
participated

he joined as a young man in the 1940s. The choir was formed by his mentor and LAMC's first Music Director Roger Wagner and inspired Salamunovich's passion for the Festival, which soon outgrew the South Bay venues and blossomed in its new home at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in 1995.

Two years later, the Los Angeles Master Chorale Chamber Singers were established. The Singers performed a musical set for the students that both inspired and offered a glimpse of what a professional career in singing could be like. At the end of the performance, the students and Chamber Singers joined together to sing the Festival finale - that year *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* - and the tradition of incorporating the Chamber Singers in the Festival has continued all the way through to today.

By the end of Paul Salamunovich's tenure with the Master Chorale, the Festival swelled to 28 high schools and over 1,000 student singers. One year, there was even a guest appearance by world renowned composer/conductor Jester Hairston, whose popular arrangements of African American spirituals became a staple of the choral repertoire. Upon Salamunovich's retirement in 2001, the students from all of the participating schools offered a surprise and heart-warming musical tribute by singing John Rutter's *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* - one of his favorite arrangements - to the out-going music director. Although Mr. Salamunovich recently passed away in April 2014, his mark on the Festival will be indelibly imprinted in the memories of the students who were fortunate enough to sing for him.

In 2002, Grant Gershon - the fourth Music Director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale - was next to make his Festival debut at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and introduced his own brand of signature programming, which included an eclectic mix of music like Renaissance composer Palestrina's *Tu es Petrus*, alongside new music such as Broadway composer Ricky Ian Gordon's *New Moon and Joy*. Gershon remembers, "I attended the Festival in Paul's last season and I was awed by the power of this event. I continue to be amazed by the beauty and passion of these young singers, and I'm humbled by the dedication of their tireless choir directors!" This time in the Master Chorale's history marked a tremendous period of growth for the organization, including a full time staff member who was hired to oversee all education activities.

Then it was a whole new ball game when Walt Disney Concert Hall opened its doors to the High School Choir Festival for the first time in 2004. The logistics were daunting: where do you position hundreds of students in an auditorium with multiple seating sections that surround the stage? Though it presented some challenges, the new features of Disney Hall immediately enhanced the Festival with its superb acoustics, allowing students to much better hear their fellow singers, and a "wrap around" seating formation that brought the entire group closer to each other and the conductor.



Mary Breden conducts students in a musical tribute to Paul Salamunovich, who was very moved by the surprise.



7 different pieces by Handel have been performed (including 3 performances of the Hallelujah Chorus)



This will be the **4th performance of Dirait-on** at the High School Choir Festival (with previous years being 1999, 2000 and 2010)

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger addressing students in 2006



Composer/Arranger Jester Hairston with students in 1994



One High School Choir Festival participant is a **current member of LAMC** (soprano Ayana Haviv)



"The students audibly gasped the first time they walked into Walt Disney Concert Hall," remembers Andrew Brown, the Master Chorale's General Manager. "They were so excited and pumped up before the performance that they could barely contain themselves. At one point, they broke into the 'wave' before the morning rehearsal started. I think that was the first time a stadium wave was ever performed in Disney Hall!" The media frenzy over the iconic new venue placed a spotlight on the Festival and garnered special attention from composers, educators and elected officials. In fact, even Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger stopped by in 2006 to speak to the students from the stage about the importance of their arts education programs and to congratulate them on their year-long culmination.

A new tradition emerged in 2007 when a new work was commissioned for and performed by the students of the High School Choir Festival. The Master Chorale's Swan Family Composer in Residence, Shawn Kirchner, composed *Tu Voz* (Your Voice) to commemorate the 18th Annual Festival. This began a string of new premieres for both the Festival Chorus and the LA Master Chorale Chamber Singers in following years. New works included Ricky Ian Gordon's *Prayer* in 2009 and *Yama No Mizu* by Lauren McLaren. LAMC's Associate Conductor Lesley Leighton commissioned the latter for the Chamber Singers in 2013 to offer students the experience of hearing a new choral work performed for the very first time.

Another modification to the Festival at this time was the transition from a showcase of individual high school choruses to one, unified Festival Honor Choir. Through a nomination process, selected students from participating schools were offered an opportunity to sing in an ensemble that performs challenging repertoire that rivals some of the most seasoned choirs. In 2010, acclaimed guest conductor María Guinand conducted the Festival's first honor choir, which benefited from her vast choral knowledge and experience from conducting multiple ensembles in her native Venezuela and guest conductorships all over the world.

Today, the Festival is in its 25th year. This year offers not one, but two world premieres: *'Tis You That Are the Music* by Christina Whitten Thomas for the LAMC Chamber Singers and *Es Tu Tiempo* (It's Your Time) by Francisco Núñez for the Festival Chorus. So today we write another page in the Festival history books with hundreds of students joining together for a celebratory day of singing, continuing the great tradition of choral music in Southern California.



Students who participated in the **first Festival in 1990** would be in their **early 40s today!**

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR DONORS

THANK YOU JUDI AND BRYANT DANNER

The Danners attended their first High School Choir Festival six years ago and became instant fans of the annual event. "We feel that the enthusiasm and choral sound at the Festival create powerful impressions and indelible memories." Mr. Danner says. "In fact, our daughter still remembers to this day how it felt to sing in a high school choir event at the Music Center more than 30 years ago when Paul Salamunovich was the Assistant Conductor of the Master Chorale."

Since then, the Danners have become generous sponsors of various aspects of the Festival, including the cost of musical scores that are placed in the hands of students at the beginning of each school year. To celebrate the Festival's 25th anniversary milestone, the Danners went one step further and underwrote the new commissioned work by Francisco Núñez.

"We believe this will be another indication to the Festival participants - and to everyone who will experience this new piece beyond the walls of Walt Disney Concert Hall - that they are engaged in something that is constantly being reborn, by creating new music and words to reflect the important ideas of today."

- the Danners



Photo: Howard Pasamanick

The Los Angeles Master Chorale celebrates and thanks the Danners for their extraordinary generosity by underwriting composer Francisco Núñez's *Es Tu Tiempo* for today's Festival!



Photo: Francis Chee

In Memory of ANNE EASTWOOD & BONNIE GRINSTEAD

In 2013, we lost two dedicated advocates of the High School Choir Festival. Anne Eastwood was the Festival's resident photographer and historian. Her photos, numbering in the hundreds, are now in the LA Master Chorale's archives. Bonnie Grinstead volunteered her time for more than a decade to help make the Festival a rousing success and will be remembered for her love and support of this annual celebration.

**Donations In Memory of
Bonnie Grinstead**
Robert and Barbara Mancini
Floyd and Chris Nores

THANK YOU!

The Los Angeles Master Chorale wishes to acknowledge the generosity of the following foundations and government agencies that help to underwrite the Chorale's Educational Outreach programs including the High School Choir Festival:

ASCAP Foundation
California Arts Council
City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund
Edison International
Employees Community Fund of Boeing CA
Green Foundation
Harry Bronson & Edith R. Knapp Foundation
John and Beverly Stauffer Foundation
Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation
Lon V. Smith Foundation
Metropolitan Associates
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP -Paul Davis MTO Associate Fund
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
The Rose Hills Foundation
Thornton S. & Katrina D. Glide Foundation
William H. Hannon Foundation



SPECIAL THANKS

Judi and Bryant Danner
Performances Magazine,
Jeff Levy and Ellen Melton
King Design Office,
Adam King, Emily King
Commercial Music Lab,
Jenny Amaya
Derek Luu
Julie McManus
Jonathan Kenion
Honor Choir
Rehearsal Host Schools
Ramón C. Cortines School of
Visual and Performing Arts
Desiree Fowler and Stormy Sacks
Loyola High School of Los Angeles
Steven Speciale

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Cris Scaglione
Jonnie Owens
Sally Chou
Janet Joe
Marjorie Poe
Christine Fox
Kateri Alirio
Saundra Hall Hill
Alice Dryden
Rachyl Underwood



Los Angeles Master Chorale
135 North Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-972-3110 tel.
213-972-3136 fax
lamc@lamc.org
tickets@lamc.org

ADMINISTRATION

Artistic Staff

Grant Gershon, The Kiki & David Gindler Music Director
Paul Salamunovich, Music Director Emeritus
Lesley Leighton, Associate Conductor
Shawn Kirchner, Swan Family Composer in Residence
Lisa Edwards, Pianist/Musical Assistant

Administrative Staff

Lesili Beard, Education Programs Manager
Andrew Brown, General Manager
Patrick Brown, Director of Marketing
Suzanne Brown, Controller
Allie Fukushima, Administrative Assistant/Finance
Hayden Eberhart, Program Book Coordinator
Julie Gaeta, Institutional Giving Manager
Desirée Gagnon, Special Events Planner
Noelle Johnson, Annual Fund Manager
Terry Knowles, President & CEO
Kevin Koelbl, Artistic Personnel & Production Manager
Patrick Morrow, Director of Development
Esther Palacios, Administrative Assistant
Karen Sarpolus, Box Office Manager
Andrew Tomasulo, Box Office Assistant

Consultants

Ad Lib Communications
Libby Huebner, Publicist
Marjorie Lindbeck, 50th Season Consultant
King Design Office, Print & Web

Walt Disney Concert Hall

Greg Flusty, House Manager
Paul Geller, Stage Manager
Ronald Galbraith, Master Carpenter
John Phillips, Property Master
Terry Klein, Master Electrician
Kevin F. Wapner, Master Audio/Video

The Los Angeles Master Chorale is supported, in part, through grants from the California Arts Council, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.



FOR TICKETS

Phone: 213-972-7282 (M-F, 10-5)

Online: LAMC.ORG



LOS ANGELES
**MASTER
CHORALE**

AT WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL