# HIIGH NOTES

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### 'TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING

The Los Angeles Master Chorale's 53rd season is off to a glorious start. Our opening concert, *Lagrime di San Pietro*, an innovative collaboration with acclaimed director Peter Sellars, was a hit. The *LA Times* heralded the performance as "revelatory," a "major accomplishment for the Master Chorale, which sang and acted brilliantly." And we're only just getting started!

This month we offer a feast of holiday fare, including welcoming our acclaimed Swan Family Artist-in-Residence Eric Whitacre to the podium to conduct a not-to-be-missed concert of Christmas-inspired works. And still ahead this season, Beethoven's monumental Missa Solemnis, Stravinsky's virtuosic Les Noces and an amazing finale celebration of the 20th anniversary of Morten Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna.

Such ambitious concert programming, coupled with our in-depth education programs for L.A. youth that build community through the power of song, would not be possible without the support of our patrons – that means you! And this year, thanks to the generosity of Master Chorale board members Marian Niles and Bob Hanisee, we have the opportunity to double the impact of their combined \$100,000 contribution. Won't you accept our challenge to help us match this gift and raise an additional \$100,000 by December 31?

As an audience member, we know you care deeply for this organization and this beautiful art form. Help us reach our \$200,000 goal and make sure that we continue to bring the power of choral music to Los Angeles this holiday season and for seasons to come. Every gift helps and is most appreciated.

Happy Holidays!

Patrick Morrow, Director of Development

For information about how you can accept our year-end challenge and support the Los Angeles Master Chorale with a fully tax-deductible gift, contact us at 213-972-4355 or friends@lamasterchorale.org. Thank you.

# FESTIVAL DE CAROIS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2016 · 2PM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016 · 8PM

WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

GRANT GERSHON Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

GRANT GERSHON, conductor JENNY WONG, assistant conductor JOHN WEST, organ LISA EDWARDS, piano

Welcome Christmas	Albert Hague (1920-2001) arr. Andy Beck
Deck the Hall	
Winter Wonderland	Felix Bernard (1897-1944) arr. Greg Jasperse (b. 1968)
The Star Carol	
We Need a Little Christmas	Jerry Herman (b. 1931) arr. Jerry Rubino (b. 1952)
Aleih Neiri	Chaim Parchi (b. 1947) arr. Joshua Jacobson (b. 1948)
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (Sing-Along*)	
Silent Night	Franz Gruber (1787–1863) arr. David O (b. 1970)
Carol of the Bells.	
In the Bleak Midwinter  Jenny Wong, conductor  Christina Bristow, soprano   Jessie Shulman, mezzo soprano	Gustav Holst (1874–1934) arr. Abbie Betinis (b. 1980)
Ain't That-A Rockin'	Traditional Spiritual arr. Stacey V. Gibbs (b. 1962)
Hark the Herald Angels Sing	Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) arr. Robert Hunter

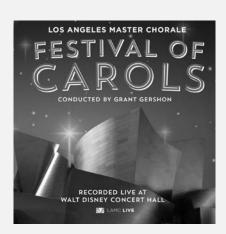
#### INTERMISSION

lt's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year
The Christmas SongBob Wells (1922-1998 Mel Tormé (1925-1999 arr. Robert Huntei
La PeregrinaciónAriel Ramirez (1921-2010 arr. Peter Knight (1917-1985
Wonderful Counselor
White Christmas
Santa Claus is Coming to Town (Sing-Along*)
Brightest and Best
One Sweet Little Baby
O, What a Beautiful City

\*Sing-Along texts can be found on page 8.

THESE CONCERTS ARE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF DON NORES.

### DID YOU LIKE WHAT YOU HEARD? PURCHASE OUR LATEST HOLIDAY ALBUM!



Take the joyous spirit of the Los Angeles Master Chorale's Festival of Carols home with you, or give it as a gift! Recorded live in Walt Disney Concert Hall, this festive selection includes gorgeous arrangements of such beloved classics as Angels We Have Heard on High, Silent Night, and Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, plus many more. Chorale recordings are available at lamasterchorale.org, the LA Phil Store, Amazon, and iTunes.

"A heartwarming a cappella Christmas card that calls to mind memories of holidays past."

K-MOZART 105.1FM

### LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

The Los Angeles Master Chorale is one of the country's leading professional choruses and one of Southern California's most vibrant cultural treasures. Hailed for its powerful performances, technical precision, and artistic daring, the Master Chorale is led by Artistic Director Grant Gershon. It is a founding resident company of The Music Center and the choir-inresidence at Walt Disney Concert Hall. Chorister positions are highly sought-after and the professional choir is a diverse and vocally dynamic group showcasing the many voices of L.A.

Presenting its own concert series each season, the Master Chorale performs choral music from the earliest writings to contemporary compositions, striking a balance between innovation and tradition. It also regularly performs with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Hollywood Bowl. Praised for its definitive performances, the choir is committed to recording the choral repertoire and has also been featured with Gershon on the soundtracks of many major motion pictures.

The Los Angeles Master Chorale serves more than 30,000 audience members of all ages annually and provides education outreach to some 9,000 students each year. lamasterchorale.org

#### LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE ARTISTS

#### SOPRANO

Tamara Revard Christina Bristow Karen Hogle Brown Hayden Eberhart Claire Fedoruk Nicole Fernandes Rachelle Fox Harriet Fraser Hilary Fraser-Thomson Alannah Garnier Colleen Graves Kelci Hahn Ayana Haviv Marie Hodgson Elissa Johnston Virenia Lind Amy Caldwell Mascio Deborah Mayhan Caroline McKenzie Lika Miyake Karen Whipple Schnurr Anna Schubert Holly Sedillos

Carrah Stamatakis

Rebecca Tomlinson

Andrea Zomorodian

Courtney Taylor

Suzanne Waters

Elyse Willis

Sunjoo Yeo

#### ALTO

Garineh Avakian

Lesili Beard

Rose Reattie Carol Binion Leanna Brand Aleta Braxton Monika Bruckner Becky Dornon Amy Fogerson Michele Hemmings Saundra Hall Hill Callista Hoffman-Campbell Leslie Inman Sharmila G. Lash Sarah Lynch Adriana Manfredi Cynthia Marty Margaurite Mathis-Clark Alice Kirwan Murray Eleni Pantages Laura Smith Roethe Jessie Shulman Niké St. Clair Ilana Summers Kimberly Switzer Tracy Van Fleet

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Matthew Brown

**Bradley Chapman** Adam Faruqi Jon Gathje Jody Golightly **Timothy Gonzales** Steven Harms Todd Honeycutt Blake Howard Jon Lee Keenan Charlie Kim Shawn Kirchner Bryan Lane Charles Lane Michael Lichtenauer Joseph Lopez Sal Malaki Michael McDonough Matthew Miles Adam Noel Anthony Ray George Sterne A.J. Teshin Matthew Thomas Matthew Tresler Adam Von Almen Nate Widelitz

#### BASS

Michael Bannett Joseph Bazyouros Mark Reasom Michael Blanchard Reid Bruton Tim Campbell David Castillo Kevin Dalbey **Gregory Geiger** Dylan Gentile William Goldman Abdiel Gonzalez Scott Graff James Hayden Kyungtae Kim Luc Kleiner David Kress Scott Lehmkuhl Scott Levin Edward Levy Ben Lin Brett McDermid Steve Pence Jim Raycroft Vincent Robles Douglas Shabe Mark Edward Smith Ryan Villaverde

Shuo Zhai

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

### **GRANT GERSHON**

#### KIKI & DAVID GINDLER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Hailed for his adventurous and bold artistic leadership and for eliciting technically precise and expressive performances from musicians, GRANT GERSHON is currently in his 16th season as the Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale. The Los Angeles Times has said the Master Chorale "has become the most exciting chorus in the country under Grant Gershon," a reflection on both his programming and performances. During his tenure Gershon has led more than 200 Master Chorale performances at Walt Disney Concert Hall. A fervent champion of new music, he has led world premiere performances of major works by John Adams, Esa-Pekka Salonen, David Lang, Louis Andriessen, Christopher Rouse, Steve Reich, Morten Lauridsen, Ricky Ian Gordon, Gabriela Lena Frank, Shawn Kirchner, and Chinary Ung, among many others. Gershon is also the Resident Conductor of LA Opera. He made his acclaimed debut with the company with La Traviata in 2008 and has subsequently conducted II Postino, Madama Butterfly, Carmen, and Florencia en el Amazonas. In New York, Gershon has appeared at Carnegie Hall and at the historic Trinity Wall Street, as well as on the Great Performers series at Lincoln Center and the Making Music series at Zankel Hall. Other major appearances include performances at the Ravinia, Aspen, Edinburgh, Helsinki, Salzburg, and Vienna Festivals, the South American premiere

of LA Opera's production of *II Postino* in Chile, and with the Baltimore Symphony and the Coro e Orchestra Del Teatro Regio Di Torino in Turin, Italy. He has worked closely with numerous conductors, including Claudio Abbado, Pierre Boulez, James Conlon, Gustavo Dudamel, Lorin Maazel, Zubin Mehta, Simon Rattle, and his mentor, Esa-Pekka Salonen. His discography includes two Grammy Award-nominated recordings: *Sweeney Todd* (New York Philharmonic Special Editions) and Ligeti's *Grand Macabre* (Sony Classical); six commercial CDs with the Master Chorale and two live performance albums: the Master Chorale's 50th Season Celebration and *Festival of Carols*, the choir's first holiday album in nearly 20 years. He has also led the Master Chorale in performances for several major motion picture soundtracks.

### "INVIGORATING, INVENTIVE AND ENORMOUSLY GIFTED"

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Mr. Gershon was named Outstanding Alumnus of the USC Thornton School of Music in 2002 and is a member of the Board of Councilors for the Thornton School and the Board of Directors of Chorus America.

### WELCOME JENNY WONG

#### ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR



"JENNY WONG IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY GIFTED ARTIST"

GRANT GERSHON

We are delighted to welcome our newly appointed Assistant Conductor Jenny Wong, who makes her debut at the Festival of Carols concerts. Wong was appointed to the two-year post after a national search. In addition to conducting on upcoming Master Chorale programs, Wong will direct rehearsals, determine repertoire, and conduct the chorus' 16-voice Chamber Singers, as well as collaborate with Artistic Director Grant Gershon on all artistic matters. She will also cover Gershon for all Los Angeles Master Chorale rehearsals and main-stage performances, and will be a key part of the annual audition process, as well as taking a leadership role in education projects, including the High School Choir Festival.

"Jenny Wong is an exceptionally gifted artist," says Grant Gershon. "The Los Angeles Master Chorale will benefit greatly from her tremendous skills and keen artistic sensibilities. I look forward to working closely with her over the next two seasons."

ABOUT JENNY WONG — Wong began her conducting career at Hong Kong's Diocesan Girls' School. Since then, she has conducted, served as a music director, and performed in Germany, Austria, New Zealand, Australia, South Korea,

China, and across the United States. Her numerous accomplishments include conducting the Hong Kong Sinfonietta and Hong Kong City Chamber Orchestra. In the U.S. she was assistant conductor of the Donald Brinegar Singers, and, at the University of Southern California, she was conductor of the USC Apollo Men's Choir and recipient of the USC Chamber Singers Award. Additionally, she has served as a conducting fellow for the Oregon Bach Festival, the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the Distinguished Concerts International New York, and Hong Kong SingFest. She was one of the youngest conductors to win two consecutive World Champion titles at the World Choir Games (China, 2010) and the International Johannes Brahms Choral Competition (Germany, 2011). In 2015-16 she was the Visiting Instructor of Choral Activities at University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music, where she was Music Director of the Pacific Singers, Oriana and University Choir, taught choral conducting and sight singing, and prepared choruses for the Stockton Symphony. Prior to that, she taught choral conducting at the University of Southern California, where she completed her Master of Music degree and is ABD (All But Dissertation) for her Doctor of Musical Arts in conducting.

### **GUEST ARTISTS**

### JOHN WEST ORGAN



John West received his Master of Music degree with Honors from the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston. Mr. West has toured extensively throughout the world with performances from Russia to the far northern reaches of Alaska. South America, and throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Performance credits include appearances with the New York Philharmonic and the Distinguished Artists Series at West Point Naval Academy. Regularly featured for the American Guild of Organists, in July 2015 he presented the closing concert for the Region IX Convention. He has performed for the Royal College of Canadian Organists to rave reviews. He is a featured organist on the DVD Documentary of the Glatter-Götz-Rosales organ here at Walt Disney Concert Hall. He has two solo organ compact discs, Rev'd Up Organ! and The Roar of The Furies & The Sounds of Sirens, choral works published by Lawson-Gould and organ works published by Augsburg Fortress. Currently John is Music/Choral Director and Organist at Hollywood United Methodist Church in Los Angeles.

LISA EDWARDS PIANO



Lisa Edwards is a widely sought after pianist, keyboard collaborator, and teacher based in Los Angeles. She is currently beginning her 16th season as pianist/music assistant at the Los Angeles Master Chorale, under the direction of Grant Gershon. Positions held include faculty artist at Idyllwild Summer Arts, pianist for Vox Femina Los Angeles, organist/pianist at San Marino Community Church, organist/ pianist at Stephen S. Wise Temple, pianist at Congregation Kol Ami in West Hollywood, and is in demand as a guest artist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and other professional area orchestras and choruses. On disc, Lisa can be heard on two Nonesuch recordings of Steve Reich's music - (You Are) Variations and Daniel Variations. Obtaining her Masters of Music degree in Keyboard Collaborative Arts at the University of Southern California, she graduated with honors; and earned her Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance at the University of North Texas.

### SHAWN KIRCHNER COMPOSER



Shawn Kirchner is a composer/songwriter active in Los Angeles musical circles, whose choral works are performed throughout the world. In 2012, he was appointed Swan Family Composer-in-Residence of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, for whom he wrote Plath Songs (2013), Inscapes (2014), and Songs of Ascent (2015). His residency was the culmination of an ongoing creative partnership with Grant Gershon and was marked by the commissions and/or premieres of Tu voz (2007), Memorare (2009), Heavenly Home (2010), and Behold New Joy (2011), all of which have since entered the wider choral repertory. But it was Kirchner's carol settings that were first heard by Master Chorale audiences, beginning in 2004, and they have remained beloved staples in these holiday concerts ever since. Kirchner is best known world-wide for his setting of the Kenyan song Wana Baraka. His original songwriting ranges in style from jazz and gospel to folk and bluegrass, the latter featured on his album Meet Me on the Mountain.

### SING-ALONG TEXTS

### RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, you know Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen, But do you recall

The most famous reindeer of all?

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Had a very shiny nose, And if you ever saw it You would even say it glows. All of the other reindeer Used to laugh and call him names. They never let poor Rudolph Join in any reindeer games!

Then one foggy Christmas Eve, Santa came to say, "Rudolph with your nose so bright, Won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then how the reindeer loved him, As they shouted out with glee, "Rudolph the red-nose Reindeer You'll go down in history!"

Written by Johnny Marks

### SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

You better watch out, you better not cry, better not pout, I'm telling you why: Santa Claus is coming to town!

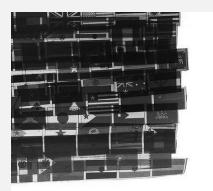
He's making a list, checking it twice, gonna find out who's naughty and nice. Santa Claus is coming to town.

He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good so be good for goodness sake.

You better watch out, you better not cry, better not pout, I'm telling you why:
Santa Claus is coming to town!

Written by John Frederick Coots and Haven Gillespie

## OWN THE RECORDING! DAVID LANG'S THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL PASSION



david lang the national anthems the los angeles master chorale

In his Pulitzer Prize-winning choral work the little match girl passion, composer David Lang gives Hans Christian Andersen's beloved but tragic heroine a voice. The Los Angeles Master Chorale sings her sad tale on this acclaimed recording that also features the premiere recording of Lang's powerful the national anthems featuring the Calder Quartet. Los Angeles Master Chorale recordings are available at lamasterchorale.org, the LA Phil Store, Amazon, and iTunes.

"The Los Angeles choir clinches the right sound for Lang – unflinching, spellbound while the Calder Quartet gives sleek accompaniment." THE GUARDIAN

### A PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE

### DONALD J. NORES, FOUNDING DIRECTOR

MAY 28, 1930 - JUNE 9, 2016

by Marshall A. Rutter



(L-R) Founding Director Roger Wagner, Don Nores, Dale Van Natta, Z. Wayne Griffen and Buzz Price, celebrating Don's service to the Master Chorale in 1969

I first met Don Nores in 1964 when he and I were 30-somethings and members of the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce. He was the liaison to the Junior Chamber board of directors, and I was chair of its Music and Fine Arts Committee. We were requested by a man who became our hero, Z. Wayne Griffin, to assist in the formation of what became the Los Angeles Master Chorale. Roger Wagner, one of the pre-eminent choral conductors of that era, wanted to form a professional chorus to be a resident company of The Los Angeles Music Center, which was then under construction. We were looking for a project, and we both loved classical music, so, hardly knowing what we were getting into, we agreed to accept the challenge and got the approval of the Junior Chamber Board to launch this daunting project.

Within months, Don proved himself to be the dedicated, determined, self-disciplined person that all of his friends and family knew him to be. He accepted this challenge, and he was going to make it work, just as all of his other earthly ventures. I was in awe of his work ethic and effectiveness.

The Master Chorale, as we named it, had a miniscule budget its first year. It wouldn't pay for more than a few singers to sing more than a short concert nowadays. It had a staff of one part-time secretary in the Chamber of Commerce building. Don, realizing the shoe-string budget would not make a chorus and a staff possible, took control. Single-handedly, Don was the administration of the Master Chorale for several years. Yet Don was, at the same time, a full-time employee of Dillingham Ticket Company. Talk about dedication and self-sacrifice.

While prominent arts and business people held the offices of Chairman and President, Don had no title other than Director, along with two dozen other choral music supporters and advocates, including me and other Junior Chamber worker bees. Don never sought the limelight; he never sought personal acclaim or even thanks. His reward was the ensuing half-century of glorious music-making by the Master Chorale. That glorious music enriched his very devout soul. And yours, I believe.

Don and his beloved wife Joyce remained dedicated supporters of the Master Chorale until his death this past June. Don, who deserved to be Chair of the Board, remained a Director until two years ago when he took emeritus status. Joyce served on the auxiliary support group, Master Chorale Associates. Don and Joyce faithfully attended virtually every subscription concert for 51 years. They also contributed much of their worldly wealth generously, underwriting the Chorale's recording of works by Philip Glass and Esa-Pekka Salonen. They became members of the Roger Wagner Society, the Master Chorale's endowment and planned giving program named for its founding Music Director, Roger Wagner. Don and Joyce gave their all to his dream.

I remember most that Don was constantly, for half a century, a strong advocate for music in the schools. He raised a compelling voice with strongly-held opinions about marketing the Master Chorale and its concerts. He was not shy about voicing his views, sometimes a bit controversial, in committee and board meetings, as well as to the administrative staff, always politely, but forcefully, to be sure. He was a formidable advocate. Don was a master marketer for his business, so he was entitled to his opinions!

With these concerts we honor the memory of this unsung (sorry for the bad pun) hero who, more than 50 years ago, made this fledgling choral organization stand on its own feet to become America's pre-eminent independent symphonic chorus, presenting the glorious music Don and Joyce have always treasured. Don would not take no for an answer in life, business or his support and advocacy for his Los Angeles Master Chorale. Without his service to the Chorale, it might not exist today.



Don: Enjoy the Voice of Walt Disney Concert Hall! And thanks from your old friend, and all of your fans, new and old! We treasure what you helped create, and your memory will last as long as the timeless, beautiful music the Chorale brings us every concert. With great love and respect from your BFF! Marsh

# CHRISTMAS WITH ERIC WHIITACRE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016 · 7PM

WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

GRANT GERSHON Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

ERIC WHITACRE, conductor NAMHEE HAN, organ LISA EDWARDS, piano

Lux Aurumque	
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Michael Praetorius (1571–1621)	
The Rose	
Alleluia Eric Whitacre Hayden Eberhart, soprano   David Dong-Geun Kim, baritone	
Coventry Carol	
Lully Lulla Lullay	
The Chelsea Carol. Eric Whitacre	
Sainte-Chappelle Eric Whitacre	
INTERMISSION	
O Christmas Tree	
little tree Eric Whitacre	
The Lamb	
Three Christmas Motets	
Once in Royal David's City	

Contributing sponsors: Dr. Annette L. Ermshar and Mr. Dan Monahan, Jenny Soonjin Kim and Chip Baik, Jann and Kenneth Williams

### CAROLS OF LIGHT AND GOLD

by Thomas May



"This program reflects an evolution of what my sense of Christmas has become," says Eric Whitacre. It's also the first program to present the Grammy Award-winning composer and conductor in his new capacity as the Los Angeles Master Chorale's first Artist-in-Residence at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, which is a two-year post.

The Master Chorale's deep-rooted affinity for Eric Whitacre extends beyond performances of his works under Artistic Director Grant Gershon's tenure — such as the live premiere two years ago of *Glow*, his ode to winter originally created as part of Whitacre's Virtual Choir series for the Winter Dreams night show at Disney's California Adventure Park. Whitacre's innovative approach to the choral art manifests an aesthetic that is very much in sync with the Master Chorale's work under Gershon. Along with the push to innovate, Whitacre believes his mission as a composer and musical advocate today is to strive to be "relevant, and honest, and pure." And it's a message that has clearly resonated deeply, propelling Whitacre into a global phenomenon in contemporary choral music.

The Reno, Nevada-born Whitacre's formation as a young composer studying in Los Angeles first brought him into the Master Chorale's orbit in the 1990s, when Morten Lauridsen—then Composer-in-Residence—became an early supporter. Lauridsen, as Whitacre himself has stated, was his "first and biggest influence".

"What stands out about the Master Chorale is not only that these are phenomenal singers; they are also unbelievably versatile," says Whitacre. "They can turn on a dime from one style to another, and that is very unusual."

Along with the Master Chorale's artistry, the inspiration for Whitacre's selection of Christmas music derives from his own

recent experiences of living for a half-decade in London before he resettled in Los Angeles with his family. During this period, he explains, "I was exposed to the traditions in England, so the program reflects an evolution of my sense of Christmas. Much of what I do is about bridging this timeless choral art with where we are today. I love to mix the old with the new. This Christmas program does that by pairing ancient carols with something colorful and new."

"There are always two kinds of Christmases going on. There's the vibrant celebration in our modern world, which tends to be splashy. And there is this wintertime Christmas I love the most. It's warm and a little melancholy, close and intimate. That's what I'm hoping to make us feel with this program."

Setting the stage is an early work from Whitacre's own catalogue that has become one of his biggest international hits. He has said that *Lux Aurumque* wasn't conceived at first as Christmas music per se. It represents his ongoing collaboration with the poet and painter Charles Anthony Silvestri, who also hails from Nevada. Silvestri has made a name for himself working with choral and opera composers, particularly for his skill in crafting Latin texts for either liturgical or secular contexts.

Whitacre composed Lux Aurumque in Los Angeles in 2000 on a commission from the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay and later chose it to debut his Virtual Choir series — a choral project comprising YouTube performances gathered from followers around the globe. Lux Aurumque also exists in various other choral arrangements and in versions Whitacre has created for wind band — incorporating additional material from his musical Paradise Lost —as well as for orchestra.

According to Whitacre, Silvestri's Latin text is a translation of an original poem by one "Edward Esch" (a contemporary poet mysteriously unidentifiable online and absent from the Library of Congress catalogue). Whitacre's signature language of close-knit harmonies allow the singers' a cappella intonation to glow from within a darkly beautiful setting of C-sharp minor that is transformed at the end into the major.

Lo, How  $\alpha$  Rose E'er Blooming first appeared in print late in the 16th century as the German carol titled Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen. This beloved tune was already traditional by the time German Lutheran composer Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) published his version in 1609, clothing it in the warm harmonies of a chorale.

This traditional chorale style makes for a lively contrast with *The* Rose by John Paynter (1931-2010). Raised in a working-class family in South London, Paynter was a passionate advocate for choral music and music education. Composed for a choir divided into two parts with alto and baritone solos, The Rose (1969) sets an anonymous text from the 15th century. "The gradual 'unfolding' of the music symbolizes the opening of the rose (and its closing during the final stanza)," writes Paynter, who additionally suggests including "some element of theater in its presentation...The music does try to suggest the suspension of time, such as one has with the opening of a flower: it grows yet it does not appear to move (hence the lack of harmonic movement). Such movement as there is emphasizes the change in vocal colors rather than changes of harmony." Near the middle, Paynter has the main choir (Choir I) ad lib. the durations of the words they sing to a G major chord while Choir II adds on "fragmentary statements at the indication of the conductor" so as to create an effect of "bell-harmonics or the sympathetic reverberation of harmonics on strings."

Whitacre's Alleluia (2010) dates from early in his sojourn in England. Along with serving as composer-in-residence at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University, he sang bass with David Skinner and his Chapel Choir there. "I'm not an atheist, but I'm not a Christian either, and for my entire career I have resisted setting texts that could be used in a liturgical context," he explains. Even when he had previously set texts with religious references (*When David Heard*, e.e. cumming's *Three Songs of Faith*), Whitacre says his perspective was humanistic.

But during his first term at Cambridge, experiencing the full Latin Vespers proved "transformative" and made him change his mind about setting a liturgical text: "I began to see the deep wisdom in the liturgical service. I found myself suddenly open to the history and the beauty of the poetry, and it was the single word Alleluia, 'praise God,' that most enchanted me." Whitacre adapted music from an earlier pastoral symphony for wind orchestra he had composed (October) as "a simple and humble meditation on the glory of autumn." The music fit the word Alleluia perfectly. When writing out the choral lines, he recalls, "I imagined a fountain of gratitude."

The next pairing of ancient and modern involves two settings of the same text. The *Coventry Carol* involves an episode surrounding the birth of Jesus that is dark and grim in light of the joy associated with the Nativity: King Herod's Massacre of the Innocents (a mass infanticide ordered by the Roman-appointed ruler Herod, who ordered all young males near Bethlehem to be slaughtered, according to the Gospel of Matthew, when he learned of the prophecy that the King of the Jews had just been born). Set as a lullaby sung by the mothers of the infants about to be butchered, the *Coventry Carol* originated as part of a medieval mystery play — *The Pageant of the Shearman and Tailors* —

in Coventry, England, with the earliest surviving manuscript dating from 1534; the music, written down (possibly composed?) by Thomas Mawdyke is dated 1591. This is a rare instance of a Christmas carol derived from a medieval mystery play whose text and music still survive.

The English composer, conductor, and organist Philip Stopford (b. 1977), who sang with the Westminster Abbey choristers in his youth, composed a new setting that emphasizes the lullaby origin of the carol in his lilting rhythms for *Lully, Lulla, Lullay* (2008). The piece is written for four parts, with an optional fifth part on top near the end. Stopford notes that the pre-existing text of old is here "brought to the modern day with simple yet lush harmonies, while still harking back to medieval times with its simplicity."

The Chelsea Carol (2012), for choir and organ, is another of Whitacre's settings of an original Latin text by his friend Charles Anthony Silvestri and also dates from his London period. (He actually lived in the Chelsea area of London.) The commission, though, came from across the pond: from the Choirs of Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama and their conductor Lester Seigel, who wanted an Advent piece to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the college's Service of Lessons and Carols. Silvestri writes that for this collaboration "I chose a darker, more overtly pagan hymn to the Mother (Virgin or otherwise), adapted from an earlier version entitled Adveni Sapientia...The images here are among the multiple roles the Mother plays as the wheel of the seasons turns about us. Advent is a time of waiting, of preparation. We wait all year long for various milestones, both those natural and those declared."

Silvestri also wrote the text for *Sainte-Chapelle* (2013), which Whitacre composed in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Tallis Scholars. According to the poet, "the text is based loosely on the experience one has when standing inside the jewel-box space of Sainte-Chapelle — the petite Gothic masterpiece in the center of Paris. The windows soar up, and shine with unimaginable colors from all directions — golden yellow, lapis, vermilion, burgundy, and deep greens. *Lux* shines through these windows and is transformed into *lumen* which, when seen by the viewer, becomes *illuminatio*."

Whitacre points to another architectural inspiration: Gaudí's Sagrada Família Cathedral in Barcelona, which prompted a musical idea that went "spiraling into heaven." The occasion of writing for the Tallis Scholars suggested imitating the sonority of Renaissance singing in this five-part a cappella setting.

The beloved carol O Christmas Tree might trigger the thought: where did the practice of putting up Christmas trees come from? We know that it certainly long predates Christianity and has been associated with the winter solstice in many pagan cultures. In ancient Egypt, for example — as anyone who has experienced Los Angeles Opera's staging of Akhnaten by Philip Glass will know — the sun god Ra was especially venerated. Part of his myth entailed a triumph over illness and death, which Egyptians commemorated by decorating their homes with green palm rushes at the time of the winter solstice. Tannenbaum is German for fir tree, whose significance as an evergreen is self-evident. And it was Germans who seem to have started the tradition of Christmas tree decorations in the home in early modern times — the addition of candles being apocryphally associated with Martin Luther. But it was England under Queen Victoria that made Christmas trees especially fashionable much as Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol became a source

for much of the modern imagery of the Christmas celebration. And while the tune is a traditional folk song from at least several centuries before, the words to *O Christmas Tree* are also relatively recent, dating from the early 19th century — the work of the Leipzig composer, poet, and organist Ernst Anschütz.

Another arboreal homage is found in *little tree*, which Whitacre composed during his second year at the Juilliard School, in 1996. Vance George, then the conductor of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, commissioned a Christmas piece to be sung by a choir of 80. Whitacre recalls that his future wife — the Grammy Award-winning soprano Hila Plitmann — came up with the idea of setting e.e. cummings' poem *little tree*.

Whitacre remarks that he was startled to realize, as he began composing for his tight deadline, that he had subconsciously adopted "a completely different voice. Part of it was the nature of the poem, but most of it was residue from my first year at Juilliard. During that time I had studied composition with David Diamond, a notoriously old-school composer whose style is closest to early works of Barber and Bernstein, and I had become obsessed with intricate counterpoint and that very American sound from the 1940s. It all ended up in the music somehow."

Quintana's (b. 1965) work under the late Paul Salamunovich, who introduced the first of the *Three Christmas Motets* in 2000. Born in Libertador San Martín, Argentina, Quintana also served as Assistant Conductor during the period 2006-2010. Whitacre's friendship with Quintana dates back at least a decade. "His music reflects his personalty, which is so warm and generous," he says.

Hodie Christus Natus Est (dedicated to Salamunovich) was inspired by improvising on what Quintana calls a fun, joyous motif that he initially intended to use as a birthday gift for his wife Helène (who was a longtime mezzo with the Master Chorale). After the piece was introduced in 2000 as a Christmas motet, Quintana received a commission from Dr. Kerry Barnet and his choirs in Oklahoma City to add two more seasonal motets.

The first and third of the *Christmas Motets* exude a joyfully rhythmic energy and thus provide an effective frame for Quintana's contemplative setting of the *Ave maris stella*, which Whitacre singles out as "one of my all-time favorite chants." Quintana scores this middle motet for mixed chorus with a trio of solo women representing the "angelic choir." *Hodie* calls for two divided choirs (up to six parts in each), while *Quem vidistis pastores* is written for eight-part choir. The shadow

# THE BELOVED CAROL O CHRISTMAS TREE MIGHT TRIGGER THE THOUGHT: WHERE DID THE PRACTICE OF PUTTING UP CHRISTMAS TREES COME FROM?

Another phenomenally successful composer in the contemporary choral sphere, Sir John Tavener (1944-2013) drew inspiration from the poetry of William Blake for *The Lamb* (1982), which Blake published as part of his collection *Songs of Innocence* in 1789 (on the eve of the French Revolution) and later combined with the *Songs of Experience* of 1794. Blake's poem alludes to the Christian imagery in the Gospel of John of the sacrificial Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Like Stopford's Lully, Lulla, Lullay, The Lamb was composed in a rapid burst of inspiration, during a car ride from South Devon to London. "It came to me fully grown, so to speak, so all I had to do was to write it down," according to Tavener, who was inspired not only by Blake but by his three-year-old nephew as well. The resulting choral piece has proved to be immensely popular and has been recorded more than three dozen times. The composition involves varied configurations of a mere seven notes. Notes the composer: "Blake's child-like vision perhaps explains The Lamb's great popularity in a world that is starved of this precious and sacred dimension in almost every aspect of life. The Lamb also complements the Coventry Carol, which describes the Massacre of the Innocents."

Master Chorale audiences first heard the ensemble sing Ariel

of ancient chant serves as a unifying thread for the triptych, into which Quintana weaves rhythmic impulses evoking his native Argentina.

Another of Whitacre's personal favorites concludes the program. The Nativity classic Once in Royal David's City is a "traditional" carol of relatively recent origin. The music is by the English organist and prolific hymn composer Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876) — originally for a hymn from 1849 titled "Irby" — whose tune was recycled for a new setting written by the Dublin-born poet Cecil Frances Alexander (who married the Anglican Bishop of Derry and is also known for her hymn All Things Bright and Beautiful). The words first appeared in her collection Hymns for Little Children in 1848 and were reprinted with new piano accompaniments by Gauntlett a decade later. Once in Royal David's City became an established part of holiday rituals when it was incorporated as the opening processional for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols performed during the Christmas Eve service in the chapel at King's College, Cambridge.

Thomas May, program annotator for the Los Angeles Master Chorale, writes about the arts and blogs at memeteria.com.

### IN MEMORIAM

### RAE MACDONALD

1932-2016

This autumn we lost Rae Macdonald, a dear and long-time member of the Master Chorale family. Rae officially joined the Master Chorale staff in 1986, as the Production Manager under John Currie (and was the only professional staff member at that time). Prior to that, Rae had served as the production manager and personal assistant to Master Chorale founding music director, Roger Wagner. Rae holds the legacy of being the only staff member to have worked for all four Master Chorale music and artistic directors. In addition to her production management role, Rae sang for more than 20 years with both the Los Angeles Master Chorale and the Roger Wagner Chorale. During her time with Roger Wagner, she produced international tours for the Roger Wagner Chorale to Israel, Germany, Japan, and Korea and across the United States. Even after leaving the Master Chorale in June 2002, the indefatigable Rae continued to serve the greater Southern California choral community and was currently in her thirteenth year as the Executive Director of the Angeles Chorale. On behalf of the greater Master Chorale family, the hundreds of musicians she served, the thousands of musical scores she sorted and hundreds of performances she managed, we wish Rae's family and friends our sincerest appreciation and condolences.

#### **BARRY SOCHER**

1947-2016

Violinist and composer Barry Socher, who served as longtime concertmaster for the Los Angeles Master Chorale Orchestra, recently passed away in October after a long battle with cancer.

Socher was a recently retired first violinist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, playing with the orchestra for 35 years. He was also a frequent performer with the orchestra's New Music Group and Chamber Music Society performing recitals all over Southern California. In addition to the Master Chorale, he also served as concertmaster for Pasadena Pops, Fresno Philharmonic, Ojai Festival, and Oregon Bach Festival orchestras. He was the founder and first violinist of the Armadillo String Quartet.

"He had this very wry sense of humor wedded to a truly gentle soul," Grant Gershon told the *LA Times*. Gershon studied under Socher in the mid-1970s when Socher was teaching at the Idyllwild Arts Academy. "Barry was a legendary figure, as a musician and a colorful character." That reputation stayed with him later in life, as a bushy shock of white hair and a big beard reminded people of Brahms.

We remember and thank Barry for the countless performances he served as concertmaster and the joy he brought to his music.

### THANK YOU

We wish to thank the following individuals for their generous contributions to the Los Angeles Master Chorale's 53rd Season Opening weekend celebration. All gifts provide vital support to the Master Chorale's Artistic Innovation Fund.

Joni and Miles Benickes
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Katy and Shaun Tucker
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### ERIC WHITACRE

#### SWAN FAMILY ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE



In March, the Los Angeles Master Chorale announced the exciting appointment of Grammy Award-winning composer/conductor/creative force Eric Whitacre as our first-ever Artist-in-Residence. This is a two-year post that officially begins this season with the Christmas with Eric Whitacre concert. Whitacre, who is based in Los Angeles, made his conducting debut with the Master Chorale in June with the Sonic Masterworks program. Among other projects with the Master Chorale, Whitacre will focus on audience and artistic engagement for the Chorale's 27th Annual High School Choir Festival, one of the nation's largest choral festivals, which draws 1,000 choir students from across the Southland, and the 2017 Chorus America Conference, the nation's most prominent choral gathering, which the Chorale is hosting in June. He will also spearhead a new Big Sing California project, full details of which are to be announced.

"Eric Whitacre is a true original," said President & CEO Jean Davidson of this appointment. "His singular vision, bold concepts, powerful artistry and global reach through new technologies will impact the Los Angeles Master Chorale in myriad ways."

"Over the years, the Master Chorale has shown a deep affinity for Eric's choral works," added Grant Gershon. "We are pleased to expand our relationship with him in such a meaningful way. Eric possesses a phenomenally fertile imagination, and I look forward to working closely with him as we explore new creative avenues together."

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work with Grant Gershon and the Los Angeles Master Chorale," said Whitacre. "We are incredibly fortunate to have such an exceptional group of world-class singers in Los Angeles, and I am both honored and excited to have the opportunity to develop new projects with the chorus and Grant in our community, across the United States and beyond."

ABOUT ERIC WHITACRE — Grammy Award-winning composer and conductor Eric Whitacre is one of the most popular musicians of our time. His concert music has been performed throughout the world by millions of amateur and professional musicians alike, while his ground-breaking Virtual Choirs have united singers from over 110 different countries. A graduate of the prestigious Juilliard School of Music, Eric was recently appointed Artist-in-Residence with the Los Angeles Master Chorale, having completed a five-year term as Composer-in-Residence at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University, UK. As conductor of the Eric Whitacre Singers he has released several chart-topping albums including 2011's bestselling Light and Gold. A sought-after guest conductor, Eric has conducted choral and instrumental concerts around the globe, including sold-out concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Minnesota Orchestra. In addition to several collaborations with legendary Hollywood composer Hans Zimmer, he has worked with British pop icons Laura Mvula, Imogen Heap, and Annie Lennox. A charismatic speaker, Eric has given keynote addresses for many Fortune 500 companies and global institutions including Apple, Google, the World Economic Forum in Davos, the United Nations Speaker's Programme, and two main stage TED talks.

### LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

#### SOPRANO

Tamara Bevard Karen Hogle Brown Hayden Eberhart Rachelle Fox Harriet Fraser Ayana Haviv Elissa Johnston Caroline McKenzie Zanaida Robles Karen Whipple Schnurr Anna Schubert Holly Sedillos Courtney Taylor Suzanne Waters Elvse Willis Andrea Zomorodian

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Timothy Gonzales
Steven Harms
Blake Howard
Jon Lee Keenan
Charlie Kim
Shawn Kirchner
Bryan Lane
Michael Lichtenauer
Sal Malaki
Matthew Miles
George Sterne

Nate Widelitz

#### BASS

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Mark Beasom
Michael Blanchard
Gregory Geiger
Dylan Gentile
William Goldman
Scott Graff
James Hayden
David Dong-Geun Kim
Luc Kleiner
Ed Levy
Brett McDermid
Steve Pence
Vincent Robles
Mark Edward Smith

The singers of the Los Angeles Master Chorale are represented by the American Guild of Musical Artists, AFL-ClO; Dylan Gentile, AGMA Delegate.

### **GUEST ARTISTS**

### NAMHEE HAN ORGAN



The holder of Master's and Doctoral degrees in both organ performance and applied linguistics from UCLA, Namhee Han has honed her naturally sensitive and fluid, technically robust music making working with coaches like Marie-Claire Alain, David Craighead, Jean Guillou, Paul Jacobs, Marilyn Keiser, Frederick Swann, and Luigi Ferdinando Tagliavini. Namhee has been a featured artist at National and Regional Conventions of the American Guild of Organists and has performed in the major Southland's concert venues. Constantly expanding her artistic expression repertoire, she has performed with Los

Angeles Master Chorale, Pacific Symphony, and GRAMMY Award-winning Southwest Chamber Music (harpsichord/harmonium), and regularly collaborates with instrumentalists, orchestras, and choral groups. Recent projects include playing solo and duo organ pieces for the DVD *The Story of the Walt Disney Concert Hall Organ* (disneyhallorgan.com). Namhee is the resident organist at Westwood Presbyterian Church in L.A. For more information, including performance samples, visit organmusicfromtheheart.com.

For Lisa Edwards' bio, please see page 7.

### TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

### LUX AURUMQUE

BY ERIC WHITACRE TEXT BY EDWARD ESCH

Lux.

calida gravisque pura velut aurum et canunt angeli molliter modo natum. Light,

warm and heavy as pure gold and the angels sing softly to the new-born baby.

Translated into Latin by Charles Anthony Silvestri

### LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

BY MICHAEL PRAETORIUS

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung. It came a floweret bright, Amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story proclaimed by angels bright, How Christ the Lord of glory was born on earth this night. To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger they found him, As angel heralds said.

### THE ROSE

BY JOHN PAYNTER
ANONYMOUS 15TH-CENTURY TEXT

Of a rose singë we,

Misterium mirabile

This rose is red of colour bright,
Thro' whom our joyë gan alight
Upon this Christmasse night,
Claro David germine.

Of this rose was Christ ybore, To save mankind that was forlore, And us allë from sinnës sore Prophetarum carmine.

This rose of flowerës she is flower She ne will fade for no shower; To sinful men she sent succour. *Mira plenitudine*.

This rose is so fair of hue; In maid Mary that is so true Ybornë was Lord of virtue, Salvator sine crimine.

#### ALLELUIA

BY ERIC WHITACRE

Alleluia, Amen.

#### COVENTRY CAROL

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH CAROL

Lully, Iullay, thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, Iully, Iullay.
Lully, Iullay, thou little tiny child,
Bye bye, Iully, Iullay.
O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we do sing,
By by, Iully, Iullay?
That woe is me, poor child, for thee!
And ever morn and day,

For thy parting neither say nor sing,

### LULLY LULLA LULLAY

By by, lully, lullay!

BY PHILIP STOPFORD

Lully, Iulla, thou little tiny child, By, by, Iully, Iullay. Lully, Iullay, thou little tiny child, By, by, Iully, Iullay.

O sisters too, how may we do For to preserve this day? This poor youngling for whom we sing, By, by, lully, lullay.

Herod the king, in his raging, Charged he hath this day. His men of might in his own sight All young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor child, for thee And ever morn and day For thy parting neither say nor sing, By, by, lully, lullay.

### THE CHELSEA CAROL

BY ERIC WHITACRE

TEXT BY CHARLES ANTHONY SILVESTRI

Adveni, Sapientia, Come
Donum Hinvernale - Gift o
Confirma nos vigilantes Stren
Ad quem adventurum. For H
Adveni, adveni somnifera, Come

Aevifera,

Regina solis siderum.

Adveni adveni lunifera

Adveni, adveni lunifera,

Glacifera,

Regina mater temporum.

Sancta domina Regina! Sancta domina argentea! Sancta domina purissima!

Adveni, adveni florifera,

Solifera,

Regina lucis candida.

Adveni, adveni messifera,

Nivifera,

Regina somnis magistra.

Adveni, Mater! Adveni ad nos! Adveni, Domina! Come thou, Wisdom, Gift of Winter -Strengthen us to wait For Him who is to come.

Come thou, come dream-bearer,

Time-bringer,

Queen of sun and stars.

Come thou, come moon-bearer,

Frost-bringer,

Queen and Mother of all seasons.

Holy lady, queen! Holy lady of silver! Purest, holy lady!

Come thou, come flower-bearer,

Sun-bringer,

Queen of brightest light.

Come thou, come sheaf-bearer,

Snow-bringer,

Queen, the mistress of dreams.

Come thou, Mother! Come to us! Come, Lady!

### SAINTE-CHAPELLE

BY ERIC WHITACRE

TEXT BY CHARLES ANTHONY SILVESTRI

Virgo castissima An innoce Advenit in capellam; Entered to Et angeli in vitro And the a

Molliter cantaverunt,
"Hosanna in excelsis!"

Illa castissima

Susurravit,
"Sanctus! Sanctus!"

Lux implevit spatium, Multiformis colore; Et audivit vocem suam

Resonare,

"Sanctus! Sanctus! Sanctus!"
Molliter angeli cantaverunt,
"Dominus Deus sabaoth,
Pleni sunt coeli et terra

Gloria tua!

Hosanna in excelsis! Hosanna in excelsis!"

Vox in lumen se transformat,

Et lumen canit,

"Sanctus! Sanctus! Sanctus!"

Lumen canit molliter,
"Dominus Deus sabaoth,

Pleni sunt coeli et terra Gloria tua!"

Virgo castissima Advenit in capellam; Et angeli in vitro Molliter cantaverunt. An innocent girl Entered the chapel; And the angels in the glass

Softly sang,

"Hosanna in the highest!"

The innocent girl
Whispered,
"Holy! Holy! Holy!"
Light filled the chamber,
Many-coloured light;
She heard her voice

Echo,

"Holy! Holy! Holy!"

Softly the angels sang,

"Lord God of Hosts,

Heaven and earth are full

Of your glory!

Hosannah in the highest!
Hosannah in the highest!"

Her voice becomes light, And the light sings, "Holy! Holy! Holy!"

The light sings softly,

"Lord God of Hosts,

Heaven and earth are full

Of your glory!"

An innocent girl

Entered the chapel;

And the angels in the glass

Softly sang.

#### O CHRISTMAS TREE

TEXT BY ERNST ANSCHÜTZ

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, How lovely are your branches. O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, How lovely are your branches. Your boughs so green in summertime Stay bravely green in wintertime. O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, How lovely are your branches.

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, How brightly shine your candles. O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, How brightly shine your candles. And from each bow a tiny light Adds to the splendor of the sight. O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, How brightly shine your candles.

#### LITTLE TREE

BY ERIC WHITACRE
TEXT BY E. E. CUMMINGS

....

little tree

little silent Christmas tree you are so little

vou are more like a flower

who found you in the green forest

and were you very sorry to come away?

see i will comfort you because you smell so sweetly

i will kiss your cool bark and hug you safe and tight

just as your mother would, only don't be afraid

look the spangles

that sleep all the year in a dark box

dreaming of being taken out and allowed to shine, the balls the chains red and gold the fluffy threads,

put up your little arms

and i'll give them all to you to hold every finger shall have its ring

and there won't be a single place dark or unhappy

then when you're quite dressed

you'll stand in the window for everyone to see

and how they'll stare! oh but you'll be very proud

and my little sister and i will take hands and looking up at our beautiful tree

we'll dance and sing

"Noel Noel"

"little tree" from Tulips & Chimneys by e.e. cummings, edited by George James Firmage. Copyright © 1973, 1976 by George James Firmage.

by George James Firmage

### THE LAMB BY JOHN TAVENER TEXT BY WILLIAM BLAKE

Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, & bid thee feed.
By the stream, & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb.
He is meek, & he is mild;
He became a little child.
I, a child, & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

### ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY BY H.J. GAUNTLETT TEXT BY CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER

Once in royal David's city, Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her Baby, In a manger for His bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little Child.

For he is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us he grew, He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us he knew: And he feeleth for our sadness, And he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own redeeming love, For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heaven above; And he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, We shall see him; but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high; When like stars his children crowned All in white shall wait around.

### THREE CHRISTMAS MOTETS BY ARIEL QUINTANA

Hodie Christus natus est, Alleluia! Today Christ is born, Alleluia!

Ave, maris stella, Dei Mater alma, Atque semper Virgo, Felix caeli porta.

Monstra te esse matrem, Suman per te preces, Qui pro nobis natus, Tulit esse tuus.

Virgo singularis, Inter omnes mites, Nos culpis solutos, Mites fac et castos. Vitam praesta puram, Iter para tutum: Ut videntes Iesum, Semper collaetemur.

Amen.

Alleluia.

Hail, Star of the Sea,
Nurturing Mother of God,
And ever Virgin,
Happy gate of Heaven.
Show thyself to be a Mother:
Through thee may he receive prayer,
Who, being born for us,
Undertook to be thine own.
O unique Virgin,

Make us, set free from our sins, Meek and chaste. Bestow a pure life, Prepare a safe way: That seeing Jesus, We may ever rejoice.

Meek above all others,

Amen.

Quem vidistis, pastores? dicite, annunciate nobis: in terris quis apparuit? Natum vidimus et choros Angelorum collaudantes Domino.

Mariam et Joseph vidimus, in terra stratos supplices et ratum carum pariter adorantes humiliter, gratia Deo, qui decit nobis victoriam per Jesum Christum, salvatorem nostrum.

Whom do you see, Shepherds? Tell us, proclaim to us: who has appeared on the earth?
We saw the newborn child and choirs of Angels praising the Lord.

We see Mary and Joseph, prostrate suppliants upon the earth and in humble adoration, thanks be to God, who delivered to us victory through Jesus Christ, our savior.

Alleluia.

# MESSIAH SING-ALONG

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016 · 7:30PM
WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

GRANT GERSHON Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

GRANT GERSHON, conductor
ANNA SCHUBERT, soprano
GARINEH AVAKIAN, mezzo soprano
ARNOLD LIVINGSTON GEIS, tenor
DAVID DONG-GEUN KIM, baritone
ABBOTT BROWN, conductor of Hallelujah Chorus

### MESSIAH GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759)

### Part the First 03. Aria (Mr. Geis) ...... Ev'ry valley shall be exalted 04. Chorus ...... And the glory of the Lord 09. Aria/Chorus . . . . . O Thou that tellest good tidings to Zion 13. Pifa (Ms. Schubert) Pastoral Symphony 15. Recitative (Ms. Schubert) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . And the angel said unto them 16. Recitative (Ms. Schubert) . . . . . . . . . . . . And suddenly, there was with the angel

### INTERMISSION

Part the Second
22. Chorus
23. Aria (Ms. Avakian)
24. Chorus
25. Chorus
26. Chorus
27. Recitative (Mr. Geis)
28. Chorus
42. Recitative (Mr. Geis)
43. Aria (Mr. Geis)
44. Chorus Hallelujah
Part the Third
45. Aria (Ms. Schubert)
46. Chorus
Chorus
Chorus
Chorus Even so in Christ
47. Recitative (Mr. Kim)
48. Aria (Mr. Kim)
53. Chorus

### JOIN US FOR POST-CONCERT CAROLING!

If you wish to carol in BP Hall after the performance, please make your way down to the Front Orchestra Section to wait just a few minutes while the lobbies clear.

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### LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE AND ORHESTRA

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A LTO Leanna Brand Amy Fogerson Leslie Inman Kimberly Switzer Tracy Van Fleet

TENOR Timothy Gonzales Charles Lane Matthew Miles Todd Strange

BASS
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Abdiel Gonzalez
Luc Kleiner
Scott Lehmkuhl
Edward Levy

VIOLIN I
Joel Pargman,
Concertmaster
Carrie Kennedy,
Associate Concertmaster
Nina Evtuhov,
Assistant Concertmaster
Margaret Wooten
Flo Titmus

VIOLIN II
Jayme Miller,
Principal
Cynthia Moussas,
Associate Principal
Tamara Hatwan
Elizabeth Hedman
Lilliana Filipovic
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Dane Little
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Associate Principal
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Don Ferrone,
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### SOLOISTS

### ANNA SCHUBERT SOPRANO



Anna Schubert attended Chapman University as a Provost Scholar, where she received the Opera Award from the Hall-Musco School of Music. Ms. Schubert now performs regularly as a soloist and an ensemble singer in Los Angeles. Her concert solo performances include Handel's Messiah and Alexander's Feast, Mozart's Requiem, Vesperae solennes de confessore, Exsultate Jubilate

and Mass in C Minor, and Orff's Carmina Burana. As an opera singer, she has performed the roles of Pamina (Die Zauberflöte), Madame Herz (The Impresario), Suor Genovieffa (Suor Angelica), and premiered the role of "L" in Anne LeBaron's LSD: The Opera. Anna is also an active studio singer and can be heard in various film/TV soundtracks, including Minions, Creed, Keanu, The Accountant, Storks, Sing, and X-Men: Apocalypse. In 2017, Ms. Schubert will make her Opera Omaha debut, singing the role of the Controller in Jonathan Dove's Flight.

### GARINEH AVAKIAN MEZZO SOPRANO



Garineh Avakian (mezzo soprano) is originally from Los Angeles, California. She graduated with a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance from the University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's in Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and also a Graduate Certificate Diploma from the University of Southern

California, Thornton School of Music. She minored in both piano and conducting during her graduate studies. Dr. Avakian has been on voice faculty and has taught Advanced Music Theory/ Musicianship, Piano, and Voice at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy College and Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Hollywood. Dr. Avakian has served on faculty as a full-time Visiting Assistant Professor in Voice and Commercial Piano at the University of Texas at El Paso. In 2014/15 Dr. Avakian was the Music/Choral Director at Maranatha High School in Pasadena and an Adjunct Professor in Voice at El Camino College. Currently Dr. Avakian is a full-time tenure track Assistant Professor in Voice and Choral Music at Los Angeles Pierce Community College in Woodland Hills.

### ARNOLD LIVINGSTON GEIS TENOR



Arnold Livingston Geis graduated in May 2014 with a Master of Music degree in vocal arts from USC and immediately began working as a full-time professional singer making a career singing in films, television, concerts, and on the opera stage. In 2015, Mr. Geis made his mainstage debut with LA Opera under the baton of Plácido Domingo and ended his season as Parpignol in Lα bohéme with conductors

Speranza Scapucci and Gustavo Dudamel in May-June, 2016. Mr. Geis began his 2016/17 season with Peter Sellars' dramatic staging of Lagrime di San Pietro, then traveled to New York to reprise his role of Corpsman Harris in the East Coast premiere of the opera Fallujah by Tobin Stokes with New York City Opera. He will return to Walt Disney Concert Hall in January, 2017 as the tenor soloist in Beethoven's Missa Solemnis. Throughout the season, Mr. Geis performs as an education outreach artist for both Long Beach and Orange County Operas.

### DAVID DONG-GEUN KIM BARITONE



Baritone David Dong-Geun Kim studied with David Adams at the College-Conservatory of Music at University of Cincinnati and James Taylor at the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University. As a soloist of Baroque church music, Mr. Kim has worked with many renowned conductors such as Helmuth Rilling, who invited him to the Taipei Bach Festival for the performance and discovery concerts of the *St. John* 

Passion, and Philipp Amelung, with whom he performed two concerts of the *Christmas Oratorio* at Thomaskirche Leipzig. He appeared as a Festival Soloist at the Oregon Bach Festival for the 2009 and 2010 seasons. A recording of Mendelssohn's and Bach's Magnificat settings, conducted by Simon Carrington, was released in 2009. Mr. Kim has extended his career as an oratorio soloist, choral conductor, and music arranger since settling in Los Angeles in 2014. He serves as music director at New Life Vision Church and Bliss Youth Chamber Orchestra.

OCTOBER 29 & 30, 2016

# LAGRIME DI SAN PIETRO

DECEMBER 3 & 10. 2016

### FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

**DECEMBER 4, 2016** 

# CHRISTMAS WITH ERIC WHITACRE

**DECEMBER 18, 2016** 

### 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MESSIAH SING-ALONG

JANUARY 21 & 22, 2017

### BEETHOVEN'S MISSA SOLEMNIS

MARCH 26, 2017

### STRAVINSKY'S TES NOCES

APRIL 30, 2017

### WADE IN THE WATER

JUNE 17 & 18, 2017

### LUX AETERNA 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**GUEST APPEARANCES** 

HAYDN'S CREATION December 8, 2016 - 8 pm December 9, 2016 - 8 pm December 10, 2016 - 2 pm December 11, 2016 - 2 pm

Los Angeles Philharmonic Walt Disney Concert Hall Gustavo Dudamel, conductor ADAMS' EL NIÑO December 16, 2016 - 8 pm December 18, 2016 - 2 pm

Los Angeles Philharmonic Walt Disney Concert Hall Grant Gershon, conductor ADAMS' NIXON IN CHINA March 3, 2017 – 8 pm March 5, 2017 – 2 pm

Los Angeles Philharmonic Walt Disney Concert Hall John Adams, conductor BEETHOVEN'S SYMPHONY NO. 9 April 22, 2017 - 8 pm April 23, 2017 - 7 pm

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra Alex Theater Jeffrey Kahane, conductor JANÁČEK'S GLAGOLITIC MASS May 26, 2017 – 8 pm May 27, 2017 – 2 pm May 28, 2017 – 2 pm

Los Angeles Philharmonic Walt Disney Concert Hall Gustavo Dudamel, conductor LOS ANGELES

### MASTER CHORALE

WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL



TRIBUTE TO MORTEN LAURIDSEN SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2017

LUX AETERNA 20TH ANNIVERSARY

GALA PERFORMANCE AND CELEBRATION

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# AN INTERVIEW WITH SONIA RANDAZZO



We sat down recently with our committed supporters and asked them a few questions regarding their connection to the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Sonia Randazzo, a member of our Gala Committee, shares with us her story.

### Q: How did you first become involved with the Los Angeles Master Chorale?

A: My first introduction to the Los Angeles Master Chorale was by the Schultz family, who were longtime supporters. I was later invited to several Master Chorale Galas and had the wonderful experience of hearing the famous Surround Sing that happens at all the Master Chorale Galas; I was so thrilled! It is something that must be experienced once in a lifetime. The next season, I became a subscriber.

### Q: What is your most memorable experience with the Master Chorale?

A: That is a difficult question. I believe that the most memorable experience for me is not one but many. Although I do not have one moment to share, my favorite moments occur when I am sitting in the audience where I completely connect with the music and am moved to enormous joy by the beautiful voices.

### Q: What makes the Los Angeles Master Chorale shine in comparison to other vocal ensembles and choirs?

A: The Los Angeles Master Chorale and Artistic Director Grant Gershon would easily be described as a world-class, superb ensemble. We are fortunate they are a resident company of The Music Center of Los Angeles. The first concert I attended was an evening where *Carmina Burana* was performed. I had not

heard the piece before so I did not know what to expect...and I was amazed. It was a fabulous evening of glorious voices. So, to answer your question about comparison, I could not imagine another vocal ensemble making more incredible music. They are one of a kind!

### Q: How are you connected with the Master Chorale now?

A: I was invited to join to 50th Anniversary Gala Committee and have been involved ever since. I have met some wonderful people on the Gala Committee which makes it quite an enjoyable experience.

### Q: What inspires you to support the arts?

A: I have always been a supporter of the arts with music at the forefront. Perhaps it is because as a child I was part of the Meglin Kiddies, a well-known troupe of acting, music and dance performers consisting of children up to the age of 16. This is where I was introduced to performing for audiences at an early age. As a mother, I encouraged my daughter to study a musical instrument; I took her to selected performances at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion before Walt Disney Concert Hall was built. We made those evenings very exciting for her by including a special dinner and a pretty dress; it was very successful. Now, she is a mother and I see that pattern with my two grandchildren.

# DONOR RECOGNITION 2016/17 SEASON

Thank you! The Los Angeles Master Chorale is pleased to recognize and thank the individuals, foundations, corporations, and government agencies who generously provide resources necessary to sustain our world-class professional choral ensemble and award-winning education programs.

The following lists include individual donors who have contributed \$150 or more to the annual fund and special events, and institutional funders of \$1,000 or more from August 2015 to November 2016.

Your tax-deductible gifts are an investment in the artistic and educational programs of the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Support the music you love by making a donation today!

For more information, contact Lindsey Lansburgh at 213-972-3138 or ||lansburgh@lamasterchorale.org.

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Founded in 2012 with a generous gift from Kiki and David Gindler, the Artistic Director's Circle joins together distinguished Los Angeles Master Chorale supporters who share a passion for the group and the bold vision of Artistic Director Grant Gershon. As key stakeholders, members of the Artistic Director's Circle play a vital role in supporting core institutional programming and special initiatives through significant contributions of \$50,000 and above; and, in partnership with the Artistic Director, enjoy exciting opportunities throughout the season designed to enhance their association with the Master Chorale and its supported programs.

For a list of benefits and requirements for membership, contact Patrick Morrow, Director of Development, at 213-972-3114 or pmorrow@lamasterchorale.org.

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Every year at the Master Chorale's annual fundraising Gala, a rare and highly sought-after opportunity is put up for auction to help raise funds for our artistic and education programs — the chance to guest conduct over 2,000 voices from the stage at Walt Disney Concert Hall during the Hallelujah Chorus of the annual Messiah Sing-Along.

At our "Broadway on Grand" Gala in March of 2016, former Master Chorale Board Chairman and Artistic Director Circle member Abbott Brown, who attended the event with his wife Jerrie Paula Ortega-Brown, found himself engaged in a fierce bidding war over the coveted honor of wielding the baton. Ultimately, Abbott emerged victorious, and on Sunday, December 18, he will join the ranks of a prestigious list of guest

conductors who have come before him, including current Master Chorale Board Chairman David Gindler and former Music Center Board Chairman Kent Kresa.

To prepare Abbott for his Disney Hall debut, he will receive private coaching from the maestro himself, Artistic Director Grant Gershon. Abbott will also be treated to a pre-concert dinner in the elegant Founder's Room and a post-concert reception for him and his admiring friends and fans.

This prestigious honor is only available to the winning bidder at our annual Gala auction. This year's Gala honoring Morten Lauridsen will take place on Sunday, June 18, 2017. For more information visit lamasterchorale.org.

### ROGER WAGNER SOCIETY ENDOWMENT AND PLANNED GIVING

The Los Angeles Master Chorale established the Roger Wagner Society to honor and recognize individuals who have expressed their commitment to the art of choral music by making a gift to the Master Chorale's endowment or a planned gift benefitting the Los Angeles Master Chorale. Through this support, Society members ensure the long-term fiscal stability of the Master Chorale by creating a lasting legacy that will help preserve a vital cultural resource for future generations. The Society is named for the late Roger Wagner, who founded the Los Angeles Master Chorale in 1964 and served as its Music Director until 1986.

Michael Breitner Abbott Brown Raun and Jerry Burnham Colburn Foundation William Davis in honor of Ted McAniff Ann Graham Ehringer, Ph.D. Kathie and Alan Freeman Kiki and David Gindler Denise and Robert Hanisee Geraldine Healy\* Violet Jabara Jacobs\* Stephen A. Kanter Joyce\* and Kent Kresa Marjorie and Roger\* Lindbeck Lesley Leighton Los Angeles Master Chorale Associates Patricia A MacLaren Drs. Marguerite and Robert\* Marsh Jane and Edward J. McAniff Nancy and Robert Miller Patrick Morrow

Raymond R. Neevel\*

Joyce and Donald J.\* Nores

Roger Lustberg Anne Shaw and Harrison Price\* Elizabeth and Hugh Ralston Susan and George Reardon Elizabeth Redmond\* Penelope C. Roeder, Ph.D. Phyllis and Larry\* Rothrock Marshall Rutter and Terry Knowles Carolyn and Scott Sanford Martha Ellen Scott\* Barbara and Charles Schneider\* Dona\* and David Schultz Nancy and Ralph Shapiro in honor of Peter Mullin Nancy and Richard Spelke George Sterne and Nicole Baker Francine and Dal Alan Swain Philip A. Swan Laney and Tom Techentin Madge van Adelsberg\* Robert Wood\* \*Deceased

Cheryl Petersen and

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Jean Davidson,

President and Chief Executive Officer

Eric Whitacre,

Swan Family Artist-in-Residence

Jenny Wong,

Assistant Conductor

Lisa Edwards.

Pianist/Musical Assistant

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Kevin Koelbl,

Director of Artistic Production

Susie McDermid,

Production Assistant

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Patrick Morrow,

Director of Development

Lindsey Lansburgh,

Annual Fund Manager

Julie Gaeta,

Institutional Giving Manager

Desirée Gagnon,

Manager, Special Events

#### Education

Lesili Beard,

Director of Education

Doug Cooney,

Teaching Artist

Christy Crowl,

Teaching Artist

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Amy Fogerson, Teaching Artist

Alice Kirwan Murray,

Teaching Artist

David O

Teaching Artist

Brett Paesel.

Teaching Artist

#### Finance & Administration

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Chief Financial Officer

Allie Fukushima, Accounting and Compensation Specialist

Esther Palacios

Executive Assistant/Board Liaison

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Director of Marketing

Jennifer Scott,

Director of Public Relations

Hayden Eberhart,

Program Book Coordinator

#### Consultants

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Design Firm

Gary Murphy,

Public Relations

Dream Warrior Group,

Web Design

Smash Event,

Gerry Huffman SingerLewak

Auditor

Jackson Lewis,

Counsel

Theater Direct,

Ticket Services

### Walt Disney Concert Hall

Greg Flusty, House Manager

Jeff Wallace.

Stage Manager

Ronald Galbraith,

Master Carpenter

John Phillips,

Property Master

Terry Klein,

Master Electrician

Kevin F. Wapner,

Master Audio/Video

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Use of any phones, cameras or recording devices is prohibited during the

performance. 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 escorted back into the concert hall at the sole discretion of House Management.

All Los Angeles Master Chorale photos: Marie Noorbergen / Tao Ruspoli; Eric Whitacre photo: Marc Royce

### DECEMBER

### THU 01 DEC / 8:00PM

The Beauty Queen of Leenane CENTER THEATRE GROUP Mark Taper Forum Thru 12/18

### THU 01 DEC / 8:00PM

**Dudamel & Russian Masters** LA PHIL Walt Disney Concert Hall

### THU 01 DEC / 5:30AM

**Grand Park Lights** Up The Holidays **GRAND PARK** Thru 12/25

### FRI 02 DEC / 12:15PM

;LUNCHTIME! Yoga reTREAT LA OPERA **GRAND PARK** Thru 5/31

### FRI 02 DEC / 8:00PM

Wonderful Town LA OPERA **Dorothy Chandler Pavilion** Thru 12/4

### **SAT 03 DEC / 8:30PM**

The Music of Mark Trayle REDCAT

### **SAT 03 DEC / 2:00PM**

Festival of Carols LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE Walt Disney Concert Hall Thru 12/10

### SAT 03 DEC / 11:00PM

Toyota Symphonies for Youth: Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE Walt Disney Concert Hall

### SUN 04 DEC / 7:00PM

Christmas with Eric Whitacre LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE Walt Disney Concert Hall

### SUN 04 DEC / 6:30PM

Amelie, A New Musical CENTER THEATRE GROUP Ahmanson Theatre Thru 1/15

### MON 05 DEC / 8:30PM

Betzy Bromberg: Glide of Trasparency **REDCAT** 

### MON 05 DEC / 8:00PM

CHINA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Walt Disney Concert Hall

#### THU 08 DEC / 8:00PM

Dudamel Conducts Haydn's Creation LA PHIL Walt Disney Concert Hall Thru 12/11

### FRI 09 DEC / 8:30PM

CalArts Winter Dance **REDCAT** Thru 12/10

### WED 14 DEC / 8:30PM

Stew & Heidi: Notes of a Native Song REDCAT Thru 12/17

### THU 15 DEC / 8:00PM

Handel's Messiah LA PHIL Walt Disney Concert Hall Thru 12/17

### FRI 16 DEC / 6:00PM

The Music Center's Holiday Sing-Along THE MUSIC CENTER The Music Center Plaza

### FRI 16 DEC / 8:00PM

Adams @ 70: El Niño LA PHIL Walt Disney Concert Hall Thru 12/18

### FRI 16 DEC / 1:00PM

Debbie Allen's Hot Chocolate Nutcracker THE MUSIC CENTER Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Thru 12/17

### **SAT 17 DEC / 11:30AM**

Holiday Sing-Along LA PHIL Walt Disney Concert Hall

### SUN 18 DEC / 7:30PM

36th Annual Messiah Sing-Along LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE Walt Disney Concert Hall

### TUE 20 DEC / 8:00PM

A Chanticleer Christmas LA PHIL Walt Disney Concert Hall

### WED 21 DEC / 8:00PM

Sweet Honey in the Rock: Celebrating the Holidays LA PHIL Walt Disney Concert Hall

### THU 22 DEC / 8:00PM

Swinging Christmas with The Arturo Sandoval Big Band LA PHIL Walt Disney Concert Hall

### FRI 23 DEC / 3:00PM / 8:00PM

White Christmas Sing-Along LA PHIL Walt Disney Concert Hall

### SAT 31 DEC / 7:00PM / 10:30PM

New Year's Eve with Pink Martini LA PHIL Walt Disney Concert Hall

### SAT 31 DEC / 8:00PM

Grand Park + The Music Center's N.Y.E.L.A. Grand Park/The Music Center Plaza



Visit musiccenter.org for additional information on all upcoming events.