

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 15, 1979, AT 2:30 P.M.  
 SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 16, 1979, AT 7:30 P.M.  
 MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 17, 1979, AT 8:30 P.M.

DOROTHY CHANDLER PAVILION

# LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE and SINFONIA ORCHESTRA

**ROGER WAGNER**, Music Director

## HOLIDAY ENCHANTMENT

Marche	Sinfonia Orchestra	Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632-1687)
Christians be Joyful — Christmas Oratorio		J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
He, Watching Over Israel (Elijah Op. 70)		F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Ave Maria (Op. 37, #6)		Serge Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
Unto Us A Child Is Born	Double Chorus	Melchior Franck (1573-1639)
In Dulci Jubilo		Edmund Najera (b. 1936)
Gloria (World Premiere)	Double Chorus	Dale Jergenson (b. 1935)
Laud To The Nativity		Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936)
	The Angel: Ann Gresham	
	Mary: Maurita Phillips-Thornburgh	
	The Shepherd: Byron Wright	
Noel Numero Dix	Pasadena Boys Choir & Chorale	Louis Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

## INTERMISSION

Christmas Cantata	Vincent Lubeck (1654-1740)
Willkommen, susser Brautigam	
Soloist: Larry Szabo, Alto	
Pasadena Boys Choir	
Masters In This Hall	arr. by Shaw & Parker
My Dancing Day	arr. Shaw & Parker
Wassail Song	arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Tower Chimes	Kristen Peterson
Ding, Dong Merrily on High	arr. Bernerd Greene
Westminster Handbell Choir	
Three Carols	Peter Warlock (1894-1930)
I Tyrley Tyrlow	
II Balulalow	
III The Sycamore Tree	
The Christmas Story (Saint Luke's)	arr. Roger Wagner
Narrator: Lee Meriwether	
We Three Kings	John Henry Hopkins (1820-1891)
What Child is This	Traditional English Tune "Greensleeves"
Oh Little Town of Bethlehem	Lewis Redner
Gesu Bambino	Pietro Yon (1886-1943)
Angels We Have Heard on High	French Carol
The Virgin's Slumber Song	Max Reger (1876-1916)
Joy to the World	Lowell Mason (1792-1872)
Silent Night	Franz Gruber (1787-1863)



**Roger Wagner**  
 Conductor

**Lee Meriwether**  
 Narrator

**Dorothy Wade**  
 Concert Master

**Ann Gresham**  
 Soprano

**Maurita Phillips-Thornburgh**  
 Soprano

**Byron Wright**  
 Tenor

**Pasadena Boys Choir**  
**John Barron**, Music Director

**Westminster Handbell Choir**  
**Bernerd Greene**, Music Director

The Musical presentations on this program are made possible, in part, through the sponsorship of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and the Los Angeles County Music and Performing Arts Commission.

*Latecomers will not be seated until the first convenient pause in the performance. / Invited guests are welcome backstage after the performance, use performers' entrances. Grand Ave. side of Plaza for Pavilion, corner of Temple & Grand for Ahmanson, and rear of theatre for Forum. / Use of tape recorders and/or cameras prohibited in auditorium. / Your use of a ticket constitutes acknowledgement of willingness to appear in photographs taken in public areas of The Music Center and releases The Music Center Operating Co., its lessees and all others from liability resulting from use of such photographs. / Program and artists subject to change. / Patrons cannot be paged during a performance. Individuals expecting emergency calls must leave their seat numbers with the House Manager.*

# WHO'S WHO

**ROGER WAGNER**, Founder/Director of the Roger Wagner Chorale and Founder/Director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale and Sinfonia Orchestra, has become a legend in his own time, known the world over as a symbol of the highest achievements in choral art. Dedicated to choral music since early childhood, his international reputation in that area has been enhanced by his work as a composer, arranger, and symphonic conductor, and he is a highly regarded authority on the religious music of the Medieval and Renaissance periods. He has been knighted twice for his contributions to sacred music. Radio, television, motion pictures, and recordings have all figured prominently in his long and illustrious career. He has recorded over 60 albums and received the Grammy Award for his album, *Virtuoso*. In addition to directing his own Sinfonia Orchestra and the Los Angeles Master Chorale, he has served as guest conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and has appeared with leading orchestras all over the world.

A long list of distinctions and signal honors on the local, national, and international level have accentuated Dr. Wagner's unique contributions to the world of music. In 1953 Wagner and his Chorale were invited to participate at the coronation festivities of Elizabeth II in London. In 1959 and again in 1964 he and the Chorale were selected to represent the United States in concerts throughout Latin America. In 1966 the U.S. State Department, through its Cultural Exchange Program, again sent the Chorale on tour to the Middle East, Turkey, Yugoslavia, France, and Italy. In Rome, he and the Chorale had the honor of singing for Pope Paul VI at an audience in St. Peter's Basilica—the first non-Italian choir to do so in 25 years. In January 1973, Roger Wagner shared the podium with Eugene Ormandy to conduct the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Los Angeles Master Chorale at the Presidential Inaugural Concert at Kennedy Center. In May 1973, Dr. Wagner served as guest conductor of major symphonies during a month-long tour of the major capitals of South America, and in July he conducted the Los Angeles

Philharmonic and his Chorale in Bach's *B Minor Mass* at the Hollywood Bowl. In May 1974, he conducted a triumphal tour of the Soviet Union with the Master Chorale, making a notable impact on the Soviet musical world. In July 1976, Dr. Wagner conducted the New Philharmonic Orchestra and the Chorale of Radio France in concerts in Paris, during the Festival de Paris. The prestigious Paris publication, "Le Monde," wrote: ". . . under his dynamic direction, Roger Wagner emerged extremely precise, devoid of all stiffness and complaisance." Roger Wagner and his Chorale were invited to participate in the Israeli Festival in August 1976. The Chorale was critically acclaimed for its performance in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Caesarea and Haifa. In commemoration of the Chorale's outstanding participation in the Israeli Festival, Wagner was awarded the Knesset silver medal of the State of Israel. In July and September 1977, Wagner conducted the New Philharmonic and Radio France Chorale in two performances in the Royal Chapel of Versailles. In the summer of 1978 he shared the podium with Loren Maazel and accompanied Olivier Messiaen on a tour of Japan with the French National Orchestra and Radio France Chorus. In July 1979, he toured twelve South American countries with his Chorale.

Dr. Wagner is senior lecturer with a full professorship in the Music Department at UCLA, where he serves as Director of Choral Activities.

**THE LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE AND SINFONIA ORCHESTRA**, founded by Roger Wagner and the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, became a resident company of the Music Center in 1964. Dr. Wagner has been music director for the organization since its formation. Currently in its 16th season, the 125-voice ensemble is one of the finest in the United States and includes in its select membership the most outstanding professional talent in the Southland. The Sinfonia Orchestra membership is drawn from professional ranks in the Los Angeles area and is one of the finest in the United States. The Master Chorale presented its first concert season at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in 1965, receiving significant critical acclaim. Under the dedicated leadership of Dr. Wagner, the Chorale has continued to present an annual con-

cert season of the world's greatest choral masterworks at the Music Center, giving Los Angeles a unique reputation as the only city in the country which supports its own professional resident chorus in an annual series of choral programs.

Last season the Chorale joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the inaugural concert under the baton of its distinguished and newly appointed director, Carlo Maria Giulini, in an unforgettable performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, which was carried live on public television and transmitted via satellite throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Mexico. Joining the Philharmonic again this year under Maestro Giulini, the Chorale participated in four performances of the 1979-80 season opener (Verdi's *Requiem*) and is also scheduled for three performances of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* next April.



**LEE MERIWETHER** was born in Los Angeles, but grew up in Phoenix and San Francisco. She studied radio, television, theater arts and English for a year at City College of San Francisco, where a fraternity entered her in the Miss San Francisco pageant. She won that title, then the Miss California and Miss America crowns. During the year that she spent making personal appearances as the 1955 Miss America, she also made her television acting debut on "Philco Playhouse" in two plays written especially for her. Then she applied her \$5,000 pageant scholarship to studying acting in

classes taught by Lee Strasberg and Curt Conway.

Meanwhile, Miss Meriwether established herself as a major television personality during a 14-month assignment as women's editor on Dave Garroway's *Today* show. She also acted in television dramas, stock plays, and a science fiction film, *4-D Man*.

Miss Meriwether's television credits include continuing roles on two daytime dramas, *The Clear Horizon* and *The Young Marrieds*, and the science fiction series *Time Tunnel*. She has had guest roles on many other shows—*The FBI*, *Twelve O'Clock High*, *Perry Mason*, *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*, *Mission: Impossible* and *Dragnet*—and was a regular on *The New Andy Griffith Show*.

Her films include *The Courtship of Eddie's Father*, *Namu*, *the Killer Whale*, *Batman*, *The Legend of Lylah Clare*, *The Undeclared*, *House Made of Dawn* and *Angel in My Pocket*. On stage, she has appeared in a production of *A Hatful of Rain* in upper New York State, *Dial M for Murder* in Chicago, and in many little theater productions in Hollywood.

Miss Meriwether lives with her two daughters, Kyle and Lesley, a basset hound named Mumbles, four cats and three turtles in a ranch-style home in Granada Hills.



**MAURITA PHILLIPS-THORNBURGH** is currently Master Voice Teacher and

Artist in Residence at California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, California. A well established soprano in the Southland she recently performed the Los Angeles premier of *Sunlike* by Gerhard Samuel, and collaborated with composer Harold Budd and bass baritone Marvin Hayes in the premier performance of *Past Regrets and Future Sorrows*. Ms. Thornburgh is the soprano of choice of Sir David Willcocks and Herbert Blomstadt when in this country and has been featured soloist at the Ojai Festival and on national as well as international tours with the Roger Wagner Chorale. She has appeared with the Ventura Symphony and choral group as soloist in the *Mass B Minor*, by J. S. Bach; and *Pierrot Lunaire*, by Arnold Schoenberg, as well as *Ancient Voices of Children* by George Crum, with her son Eric singing the boy soprano roll.



A native of Wichita, Kansas, **ANN GRESHAM** received her music training at California Lutheran College and California State University at Northridge, where she graduated with honors in Music Performance. She has also studied piano, organ and violin, as well as all forms of dance and mime. Honors include Vocalist of the

Year Award at CalState-Northridge; Vocalist of the Year Award at California Lutheran College; Young Artist Award, California Lutheran College-Conejo Symphony Society; and Jarman Fine Arts Award, Moorpark Center of Fine Arts.

Her performing background covers a wide range of assignments under such noted conductors as Roger Wagner, John Alexander, Lawrence Christianson, and David Scott; and extensive experience in local opera productions.



**BYRON WRIGHT** is currently fulfilling requirements for a masters degree in music at California State University-Northridge. In 1975 he was chosen as a finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Auditions. As a concert artist, Mr. Wright has performed with the Portland and Seattle symphonies, participated in the Carmel Bach Festival, and performed with the Ojai Festival. He has toured nationally and internationally with the Roger Wagner Chorale. As a concert soloist, Mr. Wright has performed with the L.A. Philharmonic, the L.A. Master Chorale, and the Irvine Master Chorale. He is presently soloist at Immanuel Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles.

The **PASADENA BOYS CHOIR** has been captivating audiences with its youthful charm since 1925, when it was first founded by Dr. John Henry Lyons.

Dr. Lyons was the coordinator for music education in the Pasadena Unified School District, and guided the Pasadena Boys Choir for over a quarter-century. In 1951, Dr. Lyons retired from the city schools, and the Choir was disbanded shortly thereafter.

In 1972, John R. Barron, the current director, and a number of local citizens were instrumental in reestablishing The Pasadena Boys Choir, and a non-profit charter was received from the State of California, establishing the organization as an independent, non-profit educational institution.

Boys who are between the ages of 7½ and 13 are considered for membership in the Choir two times each year. If a boy is accepted for membership, he may remain in the Choir until his 15th birthday, at which time he is graduated from the program.

In addition to the ongoing training program during the school term, and a one-month residential summer program in northern California during



the month of August, the choirboys have opportunities for occasional travel. During the summer of 1980, members of the Choir will embark

upon a one-month tour of England, where they will have the opportunity to sing in some of Great Britain's historic cathedrals and concert halls.



The **WESTMINSTER HANDBELL CHOIR** comes to us from Faith United Presbyterian Church in Highland Park. They have performed in over fifty churches in California, Arizona, and Colorado. Other credits include the Goodwill Christmas show, and

many hospital and benefit programs throughout the Los Angeles area. The Westminster Handbell Choir is comprised of young people ranging from 12 to 18 years of age. They are members of Youth Club International, a program designed to teach young

people Music and participation in their own church program. They will be featured in the upcoming production of *The Nativity* by D. M. McWilliams at Faith United.

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