



# Two American Revolutions

Saturday, April 26, 2003 8:00 p.m.

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion



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#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER**

Dear Friends:

Rarely a day goes by that I don't think with gratitude about the many people who are devoted to the Los Angeles Master Chorale, and whose dedicated support make possible an impressive array of concerts and community programs. You have been on my



mind especially in recent weeks, during a time of intense preparation for and then presentation of performances in New York, as well as following our announcement of the Chorale's 2003-04 season.

On March 18 the Chorale's "Tangos and Prayers" program was offered at The Riverside Church; later that week the singers collaborated in two performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic of John Adams' *El Niño* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. How I wish every one of you had been there for these extraordinary experiences! It is impossible to overstate the importance of these appearances and their impact on every aspect of our organization; the Saturday night *El Niño* audience included such luminaries as pianist Emmanuel Ax, author Toni Morrison, composer Tan Dun, choreographer Mark Morris, and Carnegie Hall president Robert Harth – all of whom were backstage congratulating the performers. It was a thrilling evening, made so by the virtuoso performances of all the artists involved. The Master Chorale simply outdid itself at Riverside and BAM, and I encourage you to take great pleasure from knowing that your support helped make these projects possible.

Those of us who traveled to New York have many stories to tell that illuminate our time there. None, however, is more powerful for me than Marjorie Lindbeck's about her visit to the World Trade Center site. She emerged from the subway on a gorgeous afternoon to the overwhelming enormity of that unspeakable hole in the ground. And she noticed a group of people who appeared to be singing. As she approached, she realized they were performing Morten Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium*. When Marjorie spoke to the director, he cited the power of this music and how his University of Maine ensemble wanted to offer an expression of hope at "ground zero." *Your Los Angeles Master Chorale* brought this music to the world, and you must know that it is because of your patronage that we can offer such life-changing and unforgettable musical experiences.

You are also demonstrating your belief in Grant Gershon and the Los Angeles Master Chorale by subscribing to the 2003-04 Walt Disney Concert Hall season. Many of you have renewed your subscriptions, and we thank you! The renewal deadline has been extended, but it's just a few days away. Please don't miss this opportunity to be part of one of the most exciting concert seasons in the Master Chorale's history.

The Chorale's 2002-03 season is about to wrap up with a concert of film music on June 7. On that occasion, we celebrate our first 39 seasons of music-making and say farewell to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. And we turn our gaze across First Street to the Walt Disney Concert Hall when we honor the remarkable Frank Gehry at a post-concert Gala. By attending, you have an opportunity not only to recognize the brilliant talent of this internationally-renowned architect, but also to support and celebrate with the Los Angeles Master Chorale at a literally unique moment in its long and celebrated life. Please join us for the "On Wings of Steel" gala. We're turning a corner into a future bright with unlimited possibilities – please come with us!

With deepest gratitude,

Jenny Konowster

Terry Knowles Executive Director

The Los Angeles Master Chorale is a member of Chorus America, American Council for the Arts, Association of California Symphony Orchestras, California Confederation of the Arts, and the Western Alliance of Arts Administrators.

The activities of the Master Chorale are made possible, in part, through sponsorship of the California Arts Council, the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and the generosity of donors to The Music Center Fund for the Performing Arts.

# Two American Revolutions

Saturday, April 26, 2003

~ 8:00 p.m.

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Grant Gershon, Conductor



**MODERN MUSIC** 

William Billings (1746-1800)

**BENEFICENCE** 

I AM THE ROSE OF SHARON

**CHESTER** 

DAVID'S LAMENTATION

**JORDAN** 

**MOUNT VERNON** 

Stephen Jenks

(1772-1856)

THE GOOD OLD WAY

William Walker

(1809-1875)

EUROCLYDON –

Billings

THEY THAT GO DOWN TO THE SEA

\_ . . . .

Intermission

THE DESERT MUSIC

(Texts from the poetry of William Carlos Williams)

Steve Reich (b. 1936)

Join us for Listen Up!, a pre-concert conversation with Music Director Grant Gershon and Alan Chapman of KUSC at 7:00 p.m. in the Grand Hall.

These concerts are made possible, in part, through grants from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, the California Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.









Latecomers will not be seated until the first convenient pause in the performance. Use of tape recorders, telephones, pagers, and/or cameras is prohibited in the auditorium. Programs and artists subject to change. Patrons cannot be paged during a performance.



#### LETTER FROM GRANT GERSHON

Exactly two hundred years of American history stand between the two Yankees featured on tonight's concert. William Billings and Steve Reich are both composers who value clear textures, direct statements and a thoroughly unsentimental approach to music making. They stand as decidedly American mavericks, reacting to a perceived decadent and overly complex European musical mainstream with works of great originality and little pretension. It is my pleasure then to introduce these two composers, who have rarely if ever shared the stage, to each other as well as to our audience.

In a true sign of the times we live in, I scoured the musical publishing world for the better part of two years searching in vain for a scholarly collection of works by William Billings, and had just about given up hope that such an edition was actually in existence when I happened to stumble upon the Complete Works of Billings, new, hardbound, in four annotated volumes on Amazon.com! I was quite astonished to see the incredible variety of anthems, odes, patriotic songs, laments, and musical jokes that this prolific part-time composer (his day job was as a tanner) had produced, all for a cappella voices. This evening's concert also includes two other vivid examples of the "shape note" tradition of singing that Billings inspired, and that still thrives within a vibrant community of *Sacred Harp* or *fasola* singers all over the country.

The Desert Music is Steve Reich's largest score to date in terms of numbers of performers, even in the newly revised "chamber" version that we are performing tonight. It is a brilliant example of what I consider the High Minimalism of the early 1980s, which also produced such monumental pieces as John Adams' Harmonium and Nixon in China. This is music of great buoyancy and light, with interlocking rhythmic cells driving a gleaming musical machine, and lush jazz-inspired harmonies providing the fuel. The piece, in 5 continuous movements, is conceived as a giant arc that reaches its apex in the central third movement. This is where the succinct poetry of William Carlos Williams becomes the most unsettling—"Say to them: Man has survived hitherto because he was too ignorant to know how to realize his wishes. Now that he can realize them, he must either change them or perish."

Sincerely, Grant

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#### **PROGRAM NOTES**

#### BY PETER RUTENBERG

Nearly 400 years ago an intrepid band of explorers set sail from England for the New World only to vanish in the ill-fated village known as Jamestown. The second attempt to "colonize" the eastern shore of North America — by the hardy souls aboard the Mayflower — would prove more successful and durable, if not the least bit easier. When the colonists reached the limit of their tolerance for England's particular brand of imperialism some 156 years later, they would declare their independence and fight a long and bloody war to insist on it. Music provided the rallying cry in that revolution just as it has in many others: indeed music's ability to stir the soul and motivate the body make it an invaluable accompaniment to important changes of power and influence, wherever and whenever they occur.

Boston's historical records don't say much about music's role in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, but by William Billings' birth in 1746, the city could boast a population of 15,000, active in trade, agriculture and a variety of enterprises. There were undoubtedly performances of secular music in the Concert Hall, which the impoverished Billings may have listened to from outside the building. Undoubtedly local taverns provided an evening's entertainment, courtesy of their less inhibited patrons and itinerant musicians. The primary churches were Congregational, Calvinist and Anglican — the first two with strict rules against choirs early on — the latter, usually with a choir and, later, an organ in the English tradition. The reform congregation was expected to sing psalms in four-part harmony and a system of singing schools arose to train singers in reading music and vocal production. Out of this practice came a desire for the advanced singers to "perform" without the masses. Initially they were not allowed to do so during services but might be permitted a hearing before or after. In time these "anthems" became an integral part of the worship and have remained so through the present day. Billings was at the forefront of this liturgical revolution until his death in 1800.

Billings is thought to have begun composing as a teenager in the early 1760s. Although not trained by any official process, there is ample evidence to suggest he was adequately self-taught, given his substantial output of hymns and anthems. His first efforts were crude by the European standards of the day, but it wasn't long before he developed a more polished and sophisticated style. The method of composition employed by Billings has a strong bearing on the resulting sound: the givens were a metric psalm or hymn text and the standard four-part harmony. First, the melody or "Air" was written for the Tenor. Then the Bass established a harmonic pattern with some counter-melodic interest. After that, the "Treble" or Soprano was written to complement the Tenor and form a suitable duet in the style of a 'descant'. Last came the "Counter" or Alto, which filled in harmonies but often exhibited limited melodic inclination and a narrow range of notes. It was customary for the tenors and sopranos to divide in half, and both sing each other's lines, so that the standard texture was really comprised of six instead of four parts. Considering Billings' own leading bass voice, it was not unusual for the bass line to be doubled an octave below. Even without the contrapuntal extravagance of the old European style or acoustics of large cathedrals, they could still

enjoy the rich and sonorous fabric created from octave doublings and nasalized resonance.

Billings is credited with six publications and a number of individual issues: The New-England Psalm-Singer (1770), The Singing Master's Assistant (1778), Music in Miniature (1779), The Psalm-Singer's Amusement (1781), The Suffolk Harmony (1786), and The Continental Harmony (1794). The Billings selections on this program are all drawn from the 1778, 1781 or 1786 collections

The term *shape note* singing refers to various systems of notation developed in the United States from 1800 in which the printed note heads were of different shapes (triangle, diamond, etc.), corresponding to an abbreviated form of solfeggio using some of the standard seven syllables *do re mi fa sol la ti*. Their purpose was to facilitate the learning of hymns and psalms. *The Sacred Harp (1844)* is perhaps the best known collection published in this format. New Englander **Stephen Jenks** (1772-1856) continued the tradition of Daniel Read in the generations after Billings, writing and publishing several shape-note hymn books, and later moving to Ohio to make musical instruments. South Carolinian **William Walker** (1809-1875) was responsible for compiling *Southern Harmony* (1835) — his first and most famous book of shape-note tunes — which is notable for its pre-Civil War popularity and for being the first book to include the hymn *Amazing Grace* set to the tune 'New Britain' still used today.

In the mid-20th century composer **Steve Reich** began a revolution of his own in American music which is known by the generic term 'minimalism'. While this word is intended to describe a compositional system

that relies on 'minimal' thematic material varied by cyclic repetition, there is nothing sparse or unextrapolated in its design or execution. Indeed, it is vigorous, powerful and engaging in the sheer level of activity that takes place on its musical soundscape. The Desert Music, written between 1982-84 to brief texts by William Carlos Williams, is distinguished by triplelayers of tempos, wide leaps and stratospheric registers, while the choral writing is somewhat darker and more chordal than his earlier work, Tehillim. The central, slow movement delivers the work's 'message' — an admonition against technological advance — leading to a striking image created by the finale's opening. Author K. Robert Schwarz describes it thus: "the sustained chords are voiced so as to create an immense sixoctave span from double-bass to piccolo. As the bustling counterpoint intertwines within these chords, the visual image that arises is of a solitary human running across a vast desolate plain - a desert at once intimidating and exhilarating." This image and Williams' text will undoubtedly resonate more profoundly in the context of current events. (Note: some of the information about Billings is paraphrased or adapted from The Complete Works of William Billings published by the American Musicological Society; that about the remaining composers is paraphrased from articles in Grove.com.)

Peter Rutenberg is producer of the Master Chorale's latest album, Glass • Salonen, as well as Argento • Duruflé and the Grammy-nominated Lauridsen Lux Aeterna CD. He produced The First Art national radio series for nine years and is founding music director and conductor of Los Angeles Chamber Singers & Cappella, now in its thirteenth season. This is Mr. Rutenberg's fifth season as the Chorale's Program Annotator.

#### THE DESERT MUSIC

Texts by William Carlos Williams (1883-1963)

#### Part I

Begin my friend, for you cannot, you may be sure, take your song which drives all things out of mind, with you to the other world.

#### Part II

Well, shall we think or listen? Is there a sound addressed not wholly to the ear?

We half close our eyes. We do not hear it through our eyes. It is not a flute note either. It is the relation of a flute note to a drum. I am wide-awake. The mind is listening.

#### Part III

Say to them: "Man has survived hitherto because he was too ignorant to know how to realize his wishes. Now that he can realize them, he must either change them or perish".

It is a principle of music to repeat the theme. Repeat and repeat again, as the pace mounts. The theme is difficult, but no more difficult than the facts to be resolved.

#### Part IV

Well, shall we think or listen? Is there a sound......

#### Part V

Inseparable from the fire, its light takes precedence over it. Who most shall advance the light! Call it what you may!

## Los Angeles Master Chorale

| SOPRANO          | Michelle Fournier | BASS                    | STAGE MANAGER                  |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Claire Fedoruk*  | Kyra Humphrey     | Crispin Barrymore       | Paul Geller                    |
| Sara Camp*       | Alice Murray*     | Mark Beasom             |                                |
| Marie Hodgson*   | Nancy Sulahian*   | Paul Cummings*          | The singers of the Los Angeles |
| Karen Hogle*     | Kimberly Switzer* | Gregory Geiger*         | Master Chorale are represented |
| Hyun Joo Kim*    |                   | Michael Geiger*         | by the American Guild of       |
| Susan Mills*     | TENOR             | Lew Landau              | Musical Artists, Amy Fogerson, |
| Rachelle Skloff* | David Bunker      | Jim Raycroft*           | AGMA Delegate.                 |
| Diane Thomas*    | Pablo Cora*       | David Schnell*          |                                |
| Sun Joo Yeo*     | Jody Golightly*   | Burman Timberlake*      |                                |
|                  | Stephen Harms     | *Indicates Desert Music |                                |
| ALTO             | Shawn Kirchner*   |                         |                                |
| Nicole Baker*    | Dominic MacAller* | REHEARSAL PIANIST       |                                |
| Leanna Brand*    | Christian Marcoe  | Cathy Miller Popovic    |                                |
| Aleta Braxton    | Kevin Sr. Clair*  |                         |                                |
| Amy Fogerson*    | George Sterne*    |                         |                                |
|                  |                   |                         |                                |

## LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE ORCHESTRA

| VIOLIN I                       | BASS                           | PERCUSSION                | LIBRARIAN                   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ralph Morrison, Concertmaster  | Donald Ferrone, Principal      | Theresa Dimond, Principal | Bob Dolan                   |
| Jayme Miller                   | Ann Atkinson                   | Timm Boatman              |                             |
| Margaret Wooten                |                                | Scott Higgins             | SOUND DESIGN                |
|                                | FLUTE                          | John Magnussen            | Fred Vogler                 |
| VIOLIN II                      | Geri Rotella, <i>Principal</i> | Marie Matson              |                             |
| Steve Scharf, Principal        | Sara Weisz                     | Aaron Smith               | The members of the          |
| Florence Titmus                | Lisa Edelstein                 | Jon Wakefield             | Los Angeles Master Chorale  |
| Susan Jensen                   | Sara Andon                     |                           | Orchestra are represented   |
|                                |                                | TYMPANI                   | by the American Federation  |
| VIOLA                          | HORN                           | Mark Zimoski, Principal   | of Musicians, Steve Scharf, |
| Kazi Pitelka, <i>Principal</i> | Jon Titmus, Principal          | Michael Englander         | contractor.                 |
| Samuel Formicola               | Kristy Morrell                 |                           |                             |
| Renita Koven                   |                                | KEYBOARD                  |                             |
|                                | TRUMPET                        | Gloria Cheng, Principal   |                             |
| CELLO                          | Roy Poper, Principal           | Jon Blacklow              |                             |
| John Walz, <i>Principal</i>    | William Bing                   | Cathy Miller              |                             |
| Nadine Hall                    |                                | Lisa Sylvester            |                             |
| Todd French                    | TROMBONE                       |                           |                             |
|                                | William Booth, Principal       | CONTRACTOR                |                             |
|                                | Amy Bowers                     | Steve Scharf              |                             |
|                                | Terry Cravens                  |                           |                             |
|                                |                                |                           |                             |

#### ARTIST PROFILES





GRANT GERSHON, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Renowned conductor Grant Gershon became Music Director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale in July 2001, bringing a wealth of artistic accomplishments to this

prestigious post. His first season at the helm of the Master Chorale in 2001-02 garnered critical acclaim and tremendous media attention. A gifted conductor, pianist and vocalist, Gershon is equally at home conducting and performing choral and symphonic music, opera, and musical theater. He recently completed a term as assistant conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, which he led in performances with such soloists as Evelyn Glennie, Marcus Roberts, and Frederica von Stade. He also served as Assistant Conductor with L.A. Opera, where he collaborated in over 40 productions and garnered a reputation as one of the country's exceptional vocal coaches.

Gershon has been guest conductor of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, the New York Choral Artists, and the London Sinfonietta Voices, as well as the choruses of the Festival Aix-en-Provence and Paris' Theatre du Châtelet. He has appeared as guest conductor of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Houston Grand Opera, Juilliard Opera Theater, and the Finnish chamber orchestra *Avantil*. Gershon has led performances at the Edinburgh, Vienna and Helsinki Festivals, and in August 2002 conducted acclaimed performances of Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* at the Chicago Symphony's Ravinia Festival.

As a pianist, Gershon has appeared in recitals with Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Peter Schreier, Audra McDonald, Rodney Gilfry, and Sanford Sylvan. His recording with tenor John Aler, entitled "Songs We Forgot to Remember," was released on Delos Records, and he is featured on a Nonesuch release of music by Ricky Ian Gordon. An ardent champion of new music, Gershon conducted the world premiere performances of John Adams' opera/theater piece *I Was Looking at the Ceiling and Then I Saw the Sky*, directed by Peter Sellars, and was vocal director on the Nonesuch recording of the work.

California-born and -educated, Gershon holds the Bachelor of Music degree *cum laude* from the University of Southern California — which named him "Thornton School of Music Outstanding Alumnus of the Year" in May 2002 — and continued his studies at the Aspen and Tanglewood Festivals.

#### STEVE REICH (1936), COMPOSER

Steve Reich was recently called "...America's greatest living composer." (The Village Voice). From his early taped speeches It's Gonna Rain (1965) and Come Out (1966) to his and video artist Beryl Korot's digital video opera Three Tales (2002), Mr. Reich's path has embraced not only aspects of Western Classical music, but the structures, harmonies, and rhythms of non-Western and American vernacular music, particularly jazz. "There's just a handful of living composers who can legitimately claim to have altered the direction of musical history and Steve Reich is one of them," states The Guardian (London).

Born in New York and raised there and in California, Mr. Reich graduated with honors in philosophy from Cornell University in 1957. For the next two years, he studied composition with Hall Overton, and from 1958 to 1961 he studied at the Juilliard School of Music with William Bergsma and Vincent Persichetti. Mr. Reich received his M.A. in Music from Mills College in 1963, where he worked with Luciano Berio and Darius Milhaud.

In 1966 Steve Reich founded his own ensemble of three musicians, which rapidly grew to 18 members or more. Since 1971, Steve Reich and Musicians have frequently toured the world, and have the distinction of performing to sold-out houses at venues as diverse as Carnegie Hall and the Bottom Line Cabaret.

Over the years, Steve Reich has received commissions from groups as diverse as the San Francisco Symphony; guitarist Pat Metheny; and the Kronos Quartet to name a few. The Master Chorale commissioned and will premier his latest work at Walt Disney Concert Hall on May 23, 2004. His music has been performed by many major orchestras and ensembles around the world, including the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas, the New York Philharmonic conducted by Zubin Mehta; the Ensemble Modern conducted by Bradley Lubman, and the Theater of Voices conducted by Paul Hillier.

Several noted choreographers have created dances to Steve Reich's music, including Jerome Robbins for the New York City Ballet ("Eight Lines"), Laura Dean, who commissioned "Sextet", Eliot Feld, Alvin Ailey, and Lar Lubovitch.

In 1994 Steve Reich was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.



#### WILLIAM BILLINGS (1746-1800), COMPOSER

Bizarre of appearance (one-eyed, one-legged, and unkempt) and colorful of career (by turns as tanner, teacher, and civil servant), Billings was America's first major composer. *The New-England Psalm-Singer*, a collection of 120 vocal works (with frontispiece engraved by Paul Revere), was the first published edition of American music; *The Singing Master's Assistant* enjoyed immense circulation, in part, owing to its politically inflammatory lyrics. "Chester," Billings's famous and stirring Revolutionary hymn, might well be compared in function and effect to Martin Luther's *Ein' feste Burg*.

Self-taught in composition, Billings drew on British models to develop a stark, primitive style of vocal composition appropriate to the stern New England church. The harmonies are simple and open; the setting of texts (his own, and those of Isaac Watts and others) scrupulous and sometimes pictorial. Often there is sharp metric and textural contrast—the latter notable in the fuging-tunes, where the middle section is in imitative counterpoint. The introductions to his tune books, designed for use in the New England singing-schools, summarize his musical philosophy. Billings was dubbed, wrongly, "the rival of Handel" and, rightly, "the father of our New England music."

#### STEPHEN JENKS (1772-1856), COMPOSER

Between 1799 and 1818 Stephen Jenks was named as author or coauthor of ten printed collections of sacred music and as composer of 125 pieces in these collections. Jenks was a prolific exponent of the American music idiom developed by Daniel Read and other Connecticut composers during the late eighteenth century. Virtually unknown in the cities of the American seaboard, he flourished in the hinterland of New England and New York, where he taught singing schools and cultivated a network of pupils and fellow teachers, whose compositions he published. In 1829 he moved to northern Ohio, where he farmed and made percussion instruments.

Stephen Jenks' sacred tunebooks and his many published compositions establish him as an important figure in American sacred music of the early nineteenth century. His large manuscript tunebook shows that he continued to compose as late as 1850 and that he grappled with the changing styles of nineteenth-century hymnody. His compositions reveal the stylistic growth of a composer, trained in the eighteenth century, who attempted over many years to assimilate new

developments. Many of his compositions found a place in shape-note tunebooks of the period 1800-1860; several of these, including Evening Shade, Mount Vernon, Babel's Streams, North Salem, and Liberty are favorites in the Sacred Harp tradition.

#### WILLIAM WALKER (1809-1875), COMPOSER

William Walker was born in South Carolina and was a composer and tunebook compiler. His *Southern Harmony* (New Haven, 1835), in four-shape notation, became widely popular and is still used in western Kentucky. His other publications included The Southern and Western Pocket Harmonist (Philadelphia, 1846), in four-shape notations, and *The Christian Harmony* (Philadelphia, 1867), both in seven-shape notation. *The Christian Harmony* is still in use today.

#### WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS (1883-1963), POET

Williams Carlos Williams was born in Rutherford, New Jersey, in 1883. He began writing poetry while a student at Horace Mann High School, at which time he made the decision to become both a writer and a doctor. He received his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, where he met and befriended Ezra Pound. Pound became a great influence in Williams' writing, and in 1913 arranged for the London publication of Williams' second collection, *The Tempers*. Returning to Rutherford, where he sustained his medical practice throughout his life, Williams began publishing in small magazines and embarked on a prolific career as a poet, novelist, essayist, and playwright. Following Pound, he was one of the principal poets of the Imagist movement.

Continuing to experiment with new techniques of meter and lineation, Williams sought to invent an entirely fresh—and singularly American—poetic, whose subject matter was centered on the every-day circumstances of life and the lives of common people. His influence as a poet spread slowly during the twenties and thirties, and received increasing attention in the 1950s and 1960s as younger poets, including Allen Ginsberg and the Beats, were impressed by the accessibility of his language and his openness as a mentor.

His major works include Kora in Hell (1920), Spring and All (1923), Pictures from Brueghel and Other Poems (1962), the five-volume epic Paterson (1963, 1992), and Imaginations (1970). Williams' health began to decline after a heart attack in 1948 and a series of strokes, but he continued writing up until his death in New Jersey in 1963.



#### LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

The Los Angeles Master Chorale's 2002-03 season marks Grant Gershon's second as Music Director and the Chorale's last in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion before taking up residence at Walt Disney Concert Hall next fall. Recognized not only as one of Los Angeles' cultural treasures but also as one of the world's premier choruses, the Los Angeles Master Chorale has played a leading role in the ongoing resurgence of interest in choral music. It was the first organization in the nation to offer a complete season of great choral works and is distinguished as one of the largest independent choral organizations in the United States. The Chorale gave its inaugural performance at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in January 1965 and every year since has presented a full season of concerts.

In addition to presenting its own season, the Chorale often collaborates with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, appearing in four subscription programs during the 2002-03 season and having joined the Philharmonic in March 2003 performances in New York City. On March 18, 2003, the Chorale performed a concert of Latin American music, including the East Coast premiere of Tania León's Rezos ("Prayers"), at The Riverside Church in New York City. The Los Angeles Master Chorale is featured on the soundtracks of numerous major motion pictures, including A.I. Artificial Intelligence, My Best Friend's Wedding, Twister, Air Force One, and Batman & Robin.

Extending its reach to young people in the community, the Master Chorale annually brings 1200 singers together at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion for its High School Choir Festival, taking place this season on April 29, 2003. In addition, the Master Chorale's Chamber Singers present in-school performances, and the current season includes the continuation of a very successful elementary school residency program, *Voices Within.* 

The Chorale has released three acclaimed CDs under the baton of Music Director Emeritus Paul Salamunovich on RCM, including the Grammy-nominated Lauridsen-Lux Aeterna, Christmas, and a recording of Dominick Argento's Te Deum and Maurice Durufle's Messe "Cum Jubilo" with baritone Rodney Gilfry and organist Frederick Swann. The Chorale's fourth RCM recording, and its first with current Music Director Grant Gershon, was released in September 2002 and features Esa-Pekka Salonen's first choral work, Two Songs to Poems of Ann Jäderlund, and Philip Glass' Itaipu.

#### **DESTINATION DISNEY**

Everything is on schedule for completion of our new home, the highly anticipated Walt Disney Concert Hall! Most recently, the organ, with some 2000 pipes, has been installed and is awaiting the intricate process of voicing and tuning. In addition, the fully-grown trees in the public gardens are thriving and blooming, the perimeter fencing will soon be removed, and seat installation is approximately 80% complete. (You might be interested to know that the fabric selected for this seating is a design created by Architect Frank Geary in honor of Lillian Disney, who had a passion for lilies.)

We can hardly wait to see the looks on your faces when you walk into this magnificent space on November 16 for the first concert of our unforgettable 2003-2004 Season. To subscribe or for additional information, please call Trent Steelman at 213-972-3111.

#### **News & Events**

#### **KCSN**

The Los Angeles Master Chorale gratefully acknowledges the media support of KCSN 88.5FM, member-supported



radio of California State University Northridge, in a partnership to bring the musical arts into the lives of others. KCSN offers a wide array of programming including classical music, radio theatre, kid's music, cutting edge interviews and much more. Tune in for your daily dose of culture. Who knows, you may even hear an interview with our Music Director, Grant Gershon, or your favorite piece from the Master Chorale's latest recording, *Glass • Salonen*.

The Los Angeles Master Chorale welcomes members of KCSN to tonight's performance of *Two American Revolutions*.

We are pleased to welcome tonight members of the Development Council of the School of Education at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN:

The School of Education at California State University, Dominguez Hills is pleased to have chosen the Los Angeles Master Chorale at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion as a fund-raising event tonight.

The School of Education, CSUDH prepares the largest number of teachers in the state. We are very proud of the fact that almost all of these newly-prepared teachers accept teaching positions in the Los Angeles Basin, and we are also very pleased that the teachers who we prepare become a stable teaching force in their home communities.

The Development Council is composed of educators, civic, business, and corporate partners. The major goal of the Development Council is to raise funds for exceptional students who are committed to teaching in greater Los Angeles. If you have an interest in impacting the quality of teaching specific to Los Angeles, please contact us at 310-243-3065.

We extend our sincerest thanks to the Los Angeles Master Chorale for your partnership and for the efforts that you have put forth in support of the School of Education in making this an event to remember!

> Dr. Billie G. Blair, Dean School of Education California State University, Dominguez Hills

# THE LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE INAUGURAL SEASON AT WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

On November 16, we will step inside the highly anticipated Walt Disney Concert Hall to hear the first of eight programs of music spanning centuries and showcasing the Chorale in its new home. And we'll know in ways not before possible the magnificent sound of the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

It's the season we've looked forward to for a very long time, and it's almost here. Please join us!

For seven glorious months, Music Director Grant Gershon and the Chorale are going to knock your socks off with repertory and performances you'll never forget: A new work from Bobby McFerrin to launch a new era in Walt Disney Concert Hall. To celebrate the holidays, our ongoing exploration of Bach's Christmas Oratorio paired with Poulenc's magnificent Gloria. The transcendent and ethereal music of John Tavener. An extraordinary evening presenting the best of Duke Ellington's Sacred Concerts. Beethoven's Missa solemnis, with all its thunder and grace. Bach Cantatas led by the master, Helmuth Rilling. A new work from one of America's leading and boldest composers, Steve Reich. And the genius of Stephen Sondheim illuminated by a new generation of Broadway composers. Plus – for the first time ever – four programs will be repeated as non-subscription concerts! Can you imagine a more exciting season to usher in a new era for the Los Angeles Master Chorale?

Please visit the information table in the lobby this evening, or visit our website at www.lamc.org for more details. And subscribe now to the Los Angeles Master Chorale's 2003-04 season in Walt Disney Concert Hall – a season of music you'll never forget!



# THE MASTER CHORALE TAKES MANHATTAN

Following the Master Chorale's March performance at New York's Riverside Church, Chorale friends Bob and Henrietta Jewett hosted a post-concert reception at the Sea Grill located in Rockefeller Center, celebrating the Master Chorale's first New York solo appearance.



Grant Gershon joins reception hosts Bob and Henrietta Jewett with composer Tania León at the Sea Grill in Rockefeller Center.



Board Member Marshall Rutter and Executive Director Terry Knowles congratulate Grant Gershon and composer Tania León on the East Coast premiere of León's *Rezos*. *Rezos* was commissioned by Mr. Rutter and Ms. Knowles and received its world premiere at our March 8 concert in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.



Maestro Gershon and Chorale Members Hyun Joo Kim and Jinyoung Jang enjoy the post-concert celebration at the Sea Grill.



"The Three Altos!" Three of the Master Chorale's very own altos—Amy Fogerson, Diana Zaslove and Helène Quintana—enjoy the festivities at the Sea Grill after the Master Chorale's reprise concert of "Tangos and Prayers" at The Riverside Church.

Bravo! to the following annual donors of the Los Angeles Master Chorale who have contributed so generously to provide a foundation of strength for our Music Director, Grant Gershon, and the Los Angeles Master Chorale and Orchestra. Please join us in thanking and honoring the following individuals, businesses and foundations whose generosity is the power behind the music. Your gifts give wings to Grant Gershon's artistic vision for choral music. Thank you!

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Donors to the Los Angeles Master Chorale receive benefits according to their level of giving. These benefits include invitations to rehearsals, complimentary concert parking, invitations to the Founders, private receptions with the Music Director, and tours of the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Donations are reported to the Music Center for additional Music Center benefits. We welcome and need your support, too! For further information about benefits of being a donor, please call Marjorie Lindbeck at 213-972-3114, or you may mail your donation to LAMC, 135 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012. For Online Donations, please visit www.lamc.org.



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Generous friends who have included the Master Chorale in their estate plans or made endowment gifts.

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Volunteer support for the Los Angeles Master Chorale

#### THE MASTER CHORALE ASSOCIATES DONORS

The Los Angeles Master Chorale Associates would like to express their sincere gratitude to the following individuals who have graciously contributed to the 14th Annual High School Choir Festival, which will be held April 29, 2003.

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#### 14TH ANNUAL LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR FESTIVAL TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2003

Founded in 1989 by the Los Angeles Master Chorale Associates, the High School Choir Festival is unique among festivals. This non-adjudicated festival strives to nurture choral programs at the high school level in the Los Angeles County area by engaging selected choirs in this year-long project.

On Tuesday, April 29, 2003, more than 1000 students from 35 high schools will join Music Director Grant Gershon in this annual Los Angeles tradition. This will be the final Festival in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion as the Master Chorale prepares for its anticipated move to the Walt Disney Concert Hall in the Fall of 2003. Please join us! Tickets are free, and available at the door beginning at 9:00 am. For more information, please call 213.972.3113.

Participating schools in the 14th Annual Los Angeles Master Chorale High School Choir Festival are as follows:

Alhambra High School, Alhambra Antelope Valley High School, Lancaster Arroyo High School, El Monte Bell Gardens High School, Bell Gardens Bishop Montgomery High School, Torrance Burroughs High School, Burbank Cajon High School, San Bernardino Century High School, Santa Ana Chaffey High School, Ontario Claremont High School, Claremont Crown City Vocal Ensemble, Pasadena Eagle Rock High School, Los Angeles Fullerton Academy of the Arts, Fullerton Gabrielino High School, San Gabriel Glendale High School, Glendale Granada Hills High School, Granada Hills Grant High School, Valley Glen Hawthorne High School, Hawthorne Keppel High School, Alhambra

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# IT'S A WRAP!

A SALUTE TO FILM COMPOSERS

SATURDAY, JUNE 7 AT 7PM

DON'T MISS OUR FINAL CONCERT AT THE DOROTHY CHANDLER PAVILION! Featuring

great choral music from the movies, highlights of this unforgettable evening include John Williams' *Dry Your Tears Afrika* from "Amistad", James Horner's *Suite* from "Titanic" and Patrick Doyle's *Non Nobis Nomine* from "Henry V".

# TICKETS START AT JUST \$25!

Grant Gershon

Music Director



CALL: **ticketmaster** 213.365.3500

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Monday - Saturday: 10am to 6pm

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Immediately following the performance, join us for a benefit gala honoring Walt Disney Concert Hall architect Frank O. Gehry. For gala information call 213.972.3114.

### LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| EVENT                                   | :                                      | TIME                            | PLACE   |
|---|--|---------------------------------|---|
| APRIL<br>29                             | 14th Annual High School Choir Festival | 1:00 pm                         | Dorothy Chandler Pavilion                     |
| JUNE 7 It's a Wrap! 7 On Wings of Steel |  | 7:00 pm<br>Gala Benefit honorin | Dorothy Chandler Pavilion<br>g Frank O. Gehry |