

L O S   A N G E L E S

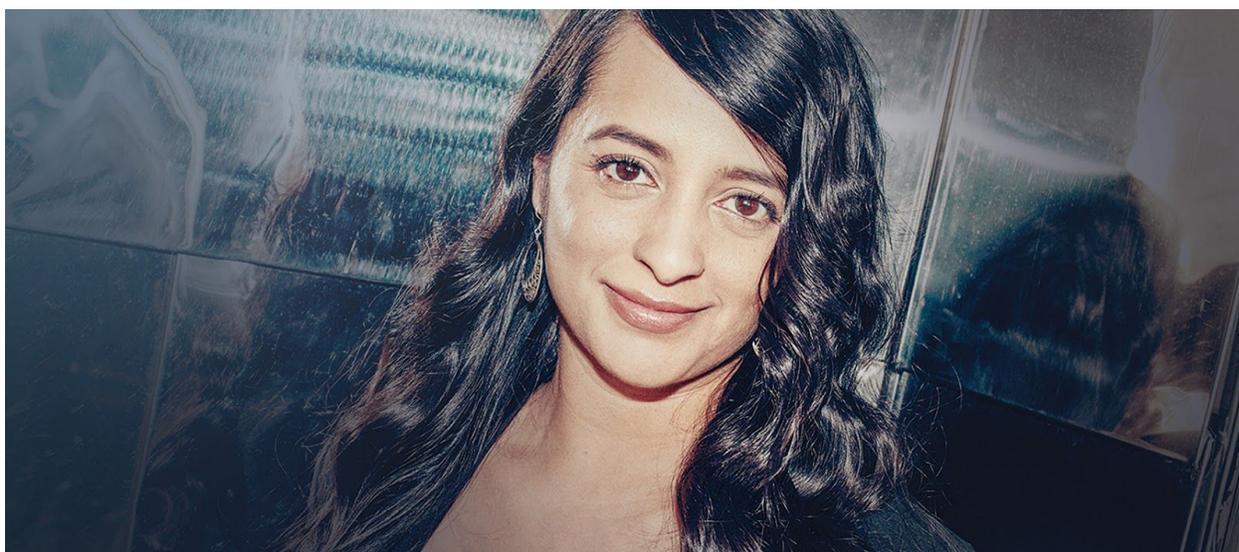
# MASTER CHORALE

GRANT GERSHON, KIKI &amp; DAVID GINDLER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## Los Angeles Master Chorale Announces 2020-21 Season

**Monumental and Personal Expressions of Spirituality  
Showcase the Unifying Power of Singing**

**Composer Reena Esmail Appointed Swan Family  
Artist-in-Residence**



### **2020-21 Season Highlights:**

**Haydn's** famous masterpiece, ***The Creation***, with texts from Genesis and Milton's *Paradise Lost*, featuring soloists Sarah Shafer, Arnold Livingston Geis, and Justin Hopkins, opens the season

**Handel's *Dixit Dominus*** and **Arvo Pärt's *Te Deum*** offer two distinctive settings of sacred texts that capture the spiritual experience expressed through music

**Lo, How a Rose** pays tribute to the classic Renaissance Christmas carol by **Michael Praetorius**, with works by **Ariel Ramirez** and **Elinor Remick Warren**, and new commissions by **Dale Trumbore** and **Saunder Choi**

Two beloved holiday traditions return: **Handel's** perennially popular ***Messiah***, performed in its entirety, and the highly anticipated ***Messiah sing-along***, celebrating its **40th year**

Guest conductor **Rollo Dilworth** leads **United We Sing**, a program showcasing the breadth and vitality of the many shared cultures that reflect the musical ethos of America, with music from **Alice Parker**, **Sydney Guillaume**, **Albert McNeil** and **Mary Lou Williams**

Associate Conductor **Jenny Wong** to conduct **Reena Esmail's *I Rise: Women in Song*** and **James MacMillan's *Stabat Mater***

Season to conclude with **Bach's** monumental **B-minor Mass** with **Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra** and soloists, including tenor **Nicholas Phan**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE NOW**  
**212-972-7282 | LAMASTERCHORALE.ORG**

(Los Angeles, CA) February 20, 2020 – The Los Angeles Master Chorale, led by Grant Gershon, Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director, today announced its 2020-21 season that showcases the immense power of voices united in song, including monumental testaments to the power of music by Bach, Haydn, and Handel; an exploration of American music; and a program that features newly appointed Swan Family Artist-in-Residence Reena Esmail's inspiring *I Rise: Women in Song*. This is a season that opens hearts to the glory of singing and celebrates the expression of spirituality through music.

“From our earliest days to modern times, our single greatest unifying force has been the power of our collective voices,” says Gershon. “The Los Angeles Master Chorale’s 2020-21 season showcases the breadth and impact of the choral repertoire, from the most famous classics to essential contemporary works by today’s composers, including our new Swan Family Artist-in-Residence, Reena Esmail. This season offers the opportunity for everyone, whether a

first time concert-goer or seasoned patron, to enjoy the versatility of the Master Chorale, and to share our universal connectedness through music.”

“The Los Angeles Master Chorale’s expansive artistry is truly on display this season, as we present choral masterworks alongside modern expressions that reflect the world today.” says Davidson. “We are especially thrilled to welcome composer Reena Esmail to the Master Chorale family as our new and first female Swan Family Artist-in-Residence. Reena is an inspiration, and the Master Chorale’s performance of her beautiful work, *I Rise: Women in Song*, marks the beginning of what will be a very fruitful collaboration.”

The Los Angeles Master Chorale begins its 2020-21 season with Haydn’s grand oratorio, *The Creation*, depicting the biblical creation story with texts from Genesis and *Paradise Lost*. The mysterious opening notes represent the universe before time itself, and what follows is some of Haydn’s most beautiful and dramatic music. It all adds up to what Gershon calls “one of the most joyous and literally life-affirming works ever written.”

Says Rick Phillips of the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir: “*The Creation* was composed at a time when most people were creationists, before advances in science had presented a credible alternative to the biblical explanation of our roots. As a result, the oratorio is occasionally criticized today for its dated, naïve and simplistic view of the world. But Haydn’s genius emerges in how he depicts in music the simple, awe-struck wonders of God and Nature. Haydn had a great theatrical sense, with the ability to colour and animate subjects in music, and in no work is this more evident than in *The Creation*.”

The Master Chorale’s Lo, How a Rose concert pays tribute to the classic Renaissance Christmas carol by Michael Praetorius, a piece that depicts with delicate grace the beauty and comfort of the nativity. Among several gorgeous arrangements of this carol will be a version by composer Shawn Kirchner, who updates the sound while amplifying the carol’s underlying message. The concert also features an interpretation by Argentine composer Ariel Ramirez and new commissions by Los Angeles-based Filipino composer Saunder Choi and American composer Dale Trumbore.

Two distinctive settings of sacred texts show the variety of the spiritual experience that can be expressed through music. Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, one of the composer's earliest works, is full of vocal fireworks and virtuosity reflecting the composer's youthful passion. Arvo Pärt's *Te Deum*, based on an early Christian hymn from the late 4th century BCE, is music of profound humility and faith, conveying inner peace through the resonance of the human voice. Gershon notes this is his "single favorite piece of Pärt," and was last performed by the Master Chorale on June 3, 2007.

Guest conductor Rollo Dilworth leads United We Sing, a program that showcases the breadth and vitality of the many shared cultures that make America what it is today. Dilworth, one of choral music's most dynamic leaders, returns to the Master Chorale after appearing as guest conductor in 2018's Big Sing California, the biggest choral event in California history.

The Los Angeles Master Chorale's Associate Conductor, Jenny Wong, leads Reena Esmail's *I Rise: Women in Song*, which pays tribute to Emily Dickinson, Eleanor Roosevelt, Maya Angelou and Arlene Geller; and James MacMillan's *Stabat Mater* which received its US premiere at the 2019 Lincoln Center White Light Festival in November, and was the first piece to have been live streamed from the Sistine Chapel. Reena Esmail, the Master Chorale's newly appointed Swan Family Artist-in-Residence, comments: "Each of the movements of *I Rise: Women in Song* is inspired by the words of a female author who has shaped our world with her thoughts and actions. Some of the movements are sweet, subtle, and nostalgic. Others are fiery and bold. Some coalesce into their shape as they move along, and others unravel towards their ends. Each movement is a reflection on a single facet of the multifaceted experience of being a woman in this world."

The B-minor Mass is a monumental testament to Bach's artistry; its sheer power astounds us, and its beauty brings us to tears. Bach spent his final years composing and compiling a lifetime's worth of his most powerful music into this single work—it's a kind of greatest-hits mass—that today is regarded as what Robert Shaw called "the most remarkable musical allegory of human existence—its pain, aspiration and promises." Gershon notes that this is "the greatest choral piece there is." This performance will feature the Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra, "Southern California's most important early music ensemble" (*Los Angeles Times*).



**LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE**  
**2020-21 SEASON IN WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL**

**HAYDN'S CREATION**

Sunday, October 18, 2020 – 7 pm

Haydn | *Die Schöpfung (The Creation)*

Grant Gershon, conductor  
 Sarah Shafer, soprano  
 Arnold Livingston Geis, tenor  
 Justin Hopkins, bass  
 100 voices, orchestra

**HANDEL/PÄRT**

Saturday, November 14, 2020 – 2 pm

Sunday, November 15, 2020 – 7 pm

Handel | *Dixit Dominus*  
 Arvo Pärt | *Te Deum*

Grant Gershon, conductor  
 48 voices, Baroque orchestra

**FESTIVAL OF CAROLS**

Saturday, December 5 – 2 pm

Saturday, December 12 – 2 pm

From the most spectacular arrangements of traditional carols to today's favorites, Festival of Carols is a delight for all ages.

Grant Gershon, conductor  
80 singers, piano, organ

### [LO, HOW A ROSE](#)

Sunday, December 6 – 7 pm

Music by Abbie Betinis, Shawn Kirchner, Rosephanye Powell, Michael Praetorius, Ariel Ramirez, Elinor Remick Warren, and Judith Weir, and premieres of commissions by Saunder Choi and Dale Trumbore

Grant Gershon, conductor  
62 singers, organ, piano, saxophone

*This program is made possible with generous support from the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.*

### [HANDEL'S MESSIAH](#)

Sunday, December 20 – 7 pm

It's so much more than the Hallelujah chorus. Almost three centuries since its debut, *Messiah* still "strikes like a thunderbolt," as Mozart put it. Hear it like never before with the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Grant Gershon, conductor  
48 singers, chamber orchestra, soloists

### [40th ANNUAL MESSIAH SING-ALONG](#)

Monday, December 21, 2020 – 7:30 pm

Be part of this highly anticipated holiday tradition at the Los Angeles Master Chorale and join the ensemble in singing *Messiah* in Walt Disney Concert Hall. With a VIP ticket, you'll be able to be a part of the action on stage. You may bring your own score or purchase one in the lobby.

Grant Gershon, conductor  
The audience is the chorus, chamber orchestra, soloists

### [UNITED WE SING](#)

Sunday, January 31, 2021 – 7 pm

Music by Brent Michael David, Rollo Dilworth, Melissa Dunphy, Sidney Guillaume, Rafael Hernández, Al McNeil, Alice Parker, Mary Lou Williams

Rollo Dilworth, conductor  
100 singers, piano, percussion

*This program is made possible with generous support from the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.*

### **IRISE**

Sunday, March 14, 2021 – 7 pm

MacMillan | *Stabat Mater*  
Esmail | *I Rise: Women in Song*

Jenny Wong, conductor  
48 singers, string orchestra

*This program is made possible with generous support from the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.*

### **BACH'S B-MINOR MASS**

Saturday, May 8, 2021 – 2 pm  
Sunday, May 9, 2021 – 7 pm

Bach | Mass in B Minor

Grant Gershon, conductor  
Nicholas Phan, tenor  
Other soloists TBA  
48 singers, soloists, with Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra

### **2020-21 SUBSCRIPTION TICKET INFORMATION**

Subscriptions for the 2020-21 season start at \$117 and are available now by phone, 213-972-7282, or online at [lamasterchorale.org/subscribe](http://lamasterchorale.org/subscribe). Single tickets will be available in August 2020.

*All programs, artists and dates are subject to change.*

### **LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ENGAGEMENTS**

#### **2020**

Nov. 19-22 Adams | *Nixon in China*  
Gustavo Dudamel, conductor

Dec. 18-20    Bach | *Jauchzet, frohlocket* from the Christmas Oratorio  
Bach | Cantata No. 6 from the Christmas Oratorio  
Ton Koopman, conductor

## 2021

Jan. 7-10     Berlioz | *Romeo and Juliet*  
Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor

Feb. 26-28    Adams | *Girls of the Golden West*  
John Adams, conductor

Mar. 25-28    Rachmaninoff | *The Bells*  
Gustavo Dudamel, conductor

Apr. 1-3       Verdi | Four Sacred Pieces  
Gustavo Dudamel, conductor

Jul. 7           Orff | Carmina Burana  
Gustavo Dudamel, conductor

Jul. 14         Beethoven | "O welche Lust" (Prisoners' Chorus) from *Fidelio*  
Beethoven | *Choral Fantasy*  
Paolo Bortolameo, conductor

[ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE](#)

[ABOUT GRANT GERSHON, KIKI & DAVID GINDLER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR](#)

[ABOUT JEAN DAVIDSON, PRESIDENT & CEO](#)

### LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE MEDIA CONTACT:

Lisa Bellamore  
Crescent Communications  
lbellamore@gmail.com | 323-500-3071

High resolution photos available to download from our [online press room](#).

###