

L O S   A N G E L E S

# MASTER CHORALE

## LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE'S 33rd ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR FIRST IN-PERSON EVENT SINCE COVID PANDEMIC

### GRANT GERSHON WILL LEAD 500 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FREE PUBLIC EVENT AT THE MUSIC CENTER'S GRAND PARK

**Friday, April 29, 2022 at 11 a.m.**

<https://lamasterchorale.org/high-school-choir-festival>

**LOS ANGELES (April 8, 2022)** – Celebrating its 33rd year and returning to an in-person celebration, the Los Angeles Master Chorale's annual High School Choir Festival (HSCF), led by Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director Grant Gershon, will take place at The Music Center's Grand Park, Friday, April 29, 2022, at 11 a.m. Bringing together 500 high school students from 18 schools, the Festival will feature music from Sam Cooke and Sara Bareilles, to Reena Esmail and Handel. Sixteen singers from the Los Angeles Master Chorale, conducted by Associate Artistic Director Jenny Wong, will also perform.

Esmail, the Master Chorale's Swan Family Artist-in-Residence, will also share insight into her piece [TaReKiTa](#), and teach the mudras - expressive hand gestures - which complement the fast-paced, vibrant energy of the music. Special guest Robin Sukhadia will also give a tabla demonstration. Other special guest musicians include USC Department Chair of Choral and Sacred Music, Dr. Cristian Grases (composer of Verde Mar de Navegar), and Associate Dean of Keyboard Collaborative Arts at Chapman University, Dr. Louise Thomas, Festival pianist, and others.

The High School Choir Festival, one of the longest running arts education programs in Southern California, is designed to deepen students' exposure to and understanding of the choral art form through a year-long experience leading up to the celebratory Festival Day.

"Singing is an inherently communal activity, and the Los Angeles Master Chorale is overjoyed to return to an in-person festival, especially for the students, who will finally be able to enjoy the full benefits of this experience since the COVID-19 pandemic began," said Gershon. "This year's

festival is a testament to the dedication and perseverance of the teachers, choir directors and students involved.”

The Los Angeles Master Chorale’s 2022 High School Choir Festival is made possible by generous support from the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Cheryl Petersen and Roger Lustberg, Rosemary Schroeder, Ann Peppers Foundation, Anonymous, Walter and Holly Thomson Foundation, Judi and Bryant Danner, The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation, William H. Hannon Foundation, John and Beverly Stauffer Foundation, Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts, Sidney Stern Memorial Trust, and Friars Charitable Foundation.

**Repertoire:**

**High School Students led by Grant Gershon**

*Siyahamba*, South African Freedom Song (Anon)  
*A Change is Gonna Come*, Sam Cooke (arr. Jay Althouse)  
*Keep Your Lamps*, African American Spiritual (arr. Andre Thomas)  
*Brave*, Sara Bareilles (arranged Audrey Snyder)  
*Hallelujah*, Amen G.F. Handel from *Judas Maccabeus*  
*TaReKiTa*, Reena Esmail  
*Verde Mar de Navegar* arr. Cristian Grases

**Los Angeles Master Chorale Chamber Ensemble**

*Underneath the Stars*, Kate Rusby, arr. Jim Clements  
*Salmo 150*, Suzette Ortiz  
*Stay Alive*, arr. Tim Ribner  
*Ansanm Ansanm*, Sydney Guillaume

**Participating Schools and Choir Directors:**

Arroyo High School, Jennifer Stanley  
Azusa High School, Mary Kuo Turner  
Baldwin Park High School, Nathaniel Bailey  
Bellflower High School, Jae Shu  
Birmingham Community Charter High School, Michael Suffolk  
Crescenta Valley High School, Shannon Mack  
El Camino Real Charter High School, Corinne Brennan  
El Monte High School, Joel Whisler  
Gabrielino High School, David Pitts  
Granada Hills Charter High School, Desiree Balfour  
Mira Costa High School, Kate Crellin  
Palos Verdes Peninsula High School, Dan Doctor  
Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts, Drew Lewis  
Rosemead High School, Ruth Gray  
Rubidoux High School, Jeff Lin  
Taft Charter High School, Natalia Ramos  
Torres East LA Performing Arts Magnet, Melissa Rios  
Venice High School, Wendy Sarnoff

[ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE](#)

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

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

[ABOUT JENNY WONG, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR](#)

[ABOUT REENA ESMAIL, SWAN FAMILY ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE](#)

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