

MASTER CHORALE

W A L T D I S N E Y C O N C E R T H A L L

From choir kid to Chorale star, Evan Roberts has built a life around music. Growing up in a children's chorus, he discovered the power of harmony and community at an early age. Today, he shares that same joy with the next generation as the Choral Director at one of Los Angeles's top arts high schools – and as a singer with the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

We sat down with Evan to learn more about his musical journey and what choral music means to him.

Meet Evan Roberts

Hi all! I'm Evan Roberts and this is my third season with the Chorale. I'm an LA native who's been singing in choirs here since the age of four. I didn't realize it at the time, but I was connected to the Chorale from a very early age—and in more ways than one. My first choral experience was at San Marino Community Church—where, amusingly enough, our own LAMC pianist [Lisa Edwards](#) was (and still is!) the organist.

I spent years studying piano at the Colburn School, just across the street from Disney Hall, and also sang in the Colburn Children's Chorus under Mark Williams. Shortly after, I transitioned to the Los Angeles Children's Chorus under Anne Tomlinson. With LACC, I had my first opportunities to walk through the Disney Hall artist entrance I'm using again twenty years later singing with the Chorale. It's surreal now to share the stage with many of the same incredible people.

After studying voice in New York, I turned my focus to choral conducting. Today, I'm proud to serve as Choral Director at both Cal State LA and the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts—the latter of which I nearly attended as a kid. I'm especially excited that my high school choir will be joining the LAMC [High School Choral Festival](#) this year. Teaching and performing remain my greatest joys, and I'm deeply grateful for the chance to continue growing and making music with this extraordinary ensemble.

Do you remember a moment from your childhood choir days that made you realize music would always be a part of your life?

I could point to dozens upon dozens of peak choral experiences from my childhood. I've cried on stage from musical beauty more times than I can count. I was an emotional kid—still am—and choir was where I was given absolute permission to feel. It's honestly hard to think of a time in my life when I didn't know I'd be singing forever. I knew it before I ever went on a national or international choir tour, before I sang with LACC, before I stepped onto the stages of Disney Hall or the Hollywood Bowl. Singing isn't just something I do; it's who I am, and it's been that way for as long as I can remember.



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If I had to choose one moment, I'd point to the vivid memories of wandering my grade school hallways, searching for the spots with the best acoustics so I could sing and listen to my voice echo back to me. In hindsight, I suppose that's not entirely ordinary behavior. I'd harmonize with myself constantly, just for the joy of it. I remember classmates telling me that singing "wasn't for boys," or that my sounds were annoying them—but I never paid them much attention. I felt those moments of resistance, but I kept singing anyway. Looking back, that's when I knew I was in it for the long haul.

How do you see your young singers grow – musically or personally – through choral music?

At LACHSA, ensemble singing provides a vital balance to the school's many solo vocal opportunities. Seeing students embrace that balance, and discover the joy of true collaboration, is the most meaningful part of my work. This year in particular, I've given students a greater voice in repertoire selection in choir, and I've been inspired to see them take ownership—rehearsing pieces independently, without direction from me. We're at a point in the semester where I'm finally starting to see it on the faces of my first-year students—a moment when they realize just how meaningful it is to be part of a musical experience that can only happen together.

Our choir brings together freshmen through seniors—a wide range of artistic and emotional maturity—which can be challenging, but also incredibly rewarding. Over the past year, I've seen how effective mentorship models can transform that diversity into real strength. I've always believed that students learn best when they learn from each other. In rehearsal, I see myself more as a facilitator than a sole authority. It has always seemed strange and ironic to me that singers aren't always given a genuine "voice" in the choral process, so our student leadership model intentionally promotes shared knowledge and mutual respect. The result is a community where students grow as leaders, as artists, and as collaborators—and I feel deeply blessed to be part of it.

What does it mean to you to be a member of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, and how does that connect to your early experiences in a children's chorus and your current position as a high school choir director?

Unless you've sung with the Los Angeles Children's Chorus, it can be hard to grasp the remarkable artistic level we achieved as young singers. Being part of the Concert Choir for three years remains one of the greatest privileges of my life, and I continue to draw on that education every day in my work as a choral educator. I've sung in countless choirs since then, but LACC set a standard that has always stayed with me.



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It wasn't until my first rehearsal with the Master Chorale a couple of years ago that I felt that same spark again—the sense of everyone united in pursuit of musical excellence. Grant and Jenny are absolute gems, the administrative team is extraordinary, my colleagues are inspiring, and I feel deeply grateful. As someone who constantly seeks meaningful choral experiences, the Chorale means absolutely everything to me.

I mentioned earlier that I'll be bringing my students for the High School Choral Festival this May. If I wasn't clear enough before, I'll say it again—I'm really excited about this! When I was a kid, I was told I could probably sing for a living if I worked hard enough—but no one ever told me that I could make a career solely as a choral singer. Now that I know it's possible, I find myself wanting to tell every single one of my students that. I don't usually promote myself to them, but when a few of them end up attending the Chorale and seeing what I do, it gives me hope. Hope that, decades from now, some of them will become my colleagues—just as some of my current Chorale mentors are for me.

What would you say to someone considering a gift to support the Master Chorale, specifically this 2025/26 concert season and as a current singer?

Growing up, I had no idea how much of an impact this organization would have on my education. It reached me as a kid when I wasn't even looking for it—and it changed the course of my life. Gifts to the Master Chorale don't just sustain the organization, they sustain the artistic growth, leadership and community of our entire city. As my career has grown, I've continued to uncover the layers of support this organization provides, especially in arts education. Programs like the [Oratorio Project](#), which I'm not even directly involved with, are so awe-inspiring and so vital to the young people of this city. I deeply admire the breadth of what this organization accomplishes.

The Chorale isn't just about concerts, it's about creating a space where people come together to pursue excellence and connect through music, old and new. From my earliest experiences in choral music, I know how rare and meaningful an experience like this is, and I want to hold onto it forever. Donor support makes it all possible. It allows us to explore ambitious repertoire, collaborate with incredible artists, and provide opportunities for the next generation of singers – including high school students like mine, who might never have imagined a future in choral music.

A donation to the Master Chorale touches every moment on stage, and it's impossible to predict exactly who it will reach. You're keeping a tradition of artistic excellence alive and giving every one of us the chance to be part of something greater than ourselves. That's what I've devoted my life to—and I hope you join us this season. We're doing some truly incredible work.



L O S A N G E L E S

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Stories like Evan's remind us that every gift helps nurture the next generation of singers, educators, and music lovers. Your support keeps choral music thriving on stage and in classrooms across our community.

Join us in [supporting the Los Angeles Master Choral](#) through our Fall Membership Campaign.

Your generosity today helps create tomorrow's choral stars.

We are deeply grateful for your support.

