

PRESS RELEASE

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L O S A N G E L E S

MASTER CHORALE

**Los Angeles Master Chorale to perform cinematic scores
alongside opera classics May 4 & 5 in
Great Opera & Film Choruses concerts at
Walt Disney Concert Hall**



L-R: Composer Michael Abels (*Get Out, Us*), composer Pinar Toprak (*Captain Marvel*), and conductor Grant Gershon.

Saturday, May 4 – 2 PM

Sunday, May 5 – 7 PM

**Concerts conducted by Grant Gershon, Kiki & David Gindler
Artistic Director**



135 NORTH GRAND AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-3013
213-972-3122 | LAMASTERCHORALE.ORG

Concerts feature the first live performances of “The Last Jedi” from John Williams’ *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*

U.S. Premiere of Suite from *How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World* by John Powell

Additionally featured is film music by Michael Abels, Danny Elfman, Germaine Franco, Michael Giacchino, Heitor Pereira, and Pinar Toprak

***ListenUp!* pre-concert talks to feature film composers Michael Abels (*Us & Get Out*) & Pinar Toprak (*Captain Marvel*)**

Opera choruses by Puccini, Verdi, Philip Glass, Leoncavallo, and Wagner

Limited tickets available for Sunday night Season Wrap Party with the Master Chorale singers and film composers

**CONCERT TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM \$29
SEASON WRAP PARTY TICKETS \$75
PHONE 213-972-7282 | LAMASTERCHORALE.ORG**

(Los Angeles, CA) April 1, 2019 – Thousands of movie lovers have seen the acclaimed films ***Us***, ***How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World***, and ***Captain Marvel*** in recent weeks. In May the Los Angeles Master Chorale gives fans the chance to *hear* them, performing music by composers **Michael Abels**, **John Powell**, and **Pinar Toprak** in a concert celebrating film scores and opera ensemble writing called **Great Opera & Film Choruses** at Walt Disney Concert Hall. There will be two performances; **Saturday, May 4 at 2 PM** and **Sunday, May 5 at 7 PM** with many of the Los Angeles-based film composers expected to be in attendance.

Abels and Toprak will join conductor **Grant Gershon**, the Master Chorale’s Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director, Artistic Consultant **Edie Lehmann Boddicker**, and Classical KUSC’s **Alan Chapman** for a *ListenUp!* pre-concert talk an hour before each concert. The talks are free to attend for ticketholders. Concert tickets are available by phone 213-972-



7282, online at lamasterchorale.org, or in-person at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Box Office Monday – Saturday, 10 AM – 6 PM.

The Master Chorale’s Great Opera & Film Choruses concerts showcase the talents of the professional ensemble whose singers are frequently engaged to sing on film and television soundtracks. Many of the singers also perform as opera choristers with LA Opera and as opera soloists around the country. Great Opera & Film Choruses will feature the full vocal force of the 100-member Master Chorale and the Los Angeles Master Chorale Orchestra.

THE FILM CHORUSES



John Williams conducts his orchestra and members of the Los Angeles Master Chorale at the recording of the soundtrack for *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*. Photo courtesy of Lucas Films.

- The first live performances of “The Last Jedi” from ***Star Wars: The Last Jedi*** by **John Williams** in a special arrangement created for the Master Chorale. Gershon and 64 members of the Master Chorale featured on the soundtrack for the film, recording with Williams and his orchestra in April 2017 at Sony Pictures Studios.



- The U.S. premiere of Suite from ***How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World*** by **John Powell**. (The world premiere was performed in Prague in February.) Powell's soundtrack for the third installment of the trilogy reached over 7,500,000 plays in six weeks after being released.
- "Sikiliza Kwa Wahenga" from ***Get Out*** and Anthem from ***Us*** by **Michael Abels**. Abels, who is the co-founder of the Composers Diversity Collective, [recently spoke to NPR's Morning Edition](#) about working with director Jordan Peele on these scores.
- "Ice Dance" from ***Edward Scissorhands*** and the Main Theme from ***Alice in Wonderland*** by **Danny Elfman**. Performances of Elfman's scores for Tim Burton's films have become popular live concert events worldwide.
- "Proud Corazón" from ***Coco*** and "Dove's Loophole" from ***TAG*** by **Germaine Franco**. "Proud Corazón" will feature soloist 12-year-old **Angel Garcia** whose [performance of Bruno Mars' Just the Way You Are in Spanish on America's Got Talent](#) in 2018 has been viewed over half a million times on YouTube.
- Suite from ***Star Trek*** by **Michael Giacchino**.
- "Papa Mama Loca Pipa" from ***Despicable Me 3*** and "Clouds Lifted" from ***Smallfoot*** by **Heitor Pereira**.
- The Main Theme from ***Captain Marvel*** by **Pinar Toprak**. Toprak has been [widely celebrated as the first female composer to score a Marvel movie](#).

Gershon says the breadth of compositional talent is exhilarating: "So often concerts focused on film scores can be exercises in nostalgia, but this program demonstrates the vitality, diversity, and extraordinary talent that is found in the film world right now. It is a thrill for me



and the Master Chorale to present live performances of the choruses from these works, further showcasing the remarkable talents of these composers. I am especially thrilled that Michael Abels and Pinar Toprak, who are both riding such huge waves of success with *Us* and *Captain Marvel*, can join us for our *ListenUp!* talks, giving audiences a special opportunity to learn more about their craft.”

He says the concerts provide an opportunity to celebrate the music in its own right and, as such, the concert performances will not feature film clips.

Gershon acknowledged the invaluable assistance the Master Chorale has received from noted vocal contractor **Edie Lehmann Boddicker** as an artistic consultant for the concerts: “Edie’s expertise and connections undoubtedly took this concert to an entirely new level of relevance and excitement. She not only opened doors for us with composers who are nothing short of legendary, but she also was a true partner in shaping the film section of this concert program.”

THE OPERA CHORUSES

As the title suggests, Great Opera & Film Choruses is not limited to scores from the silver screen, but also features popular ensemble pieces from the opera stage:

- “Va pensiero” from ***Nabucco*** by **Giuseppe Verdi**.
- Bell Chorus from ***Pagliacci*** by **Leoncavallo**.
- Pilgrims’ Chorus and Finale from ***Tannhäuser*** by **Richard Wagner**.
- Humming Chorus from ***Madama Butterfly*** by **Giacomo Puccini**.
- Funeral Chorus from ***Akhmaten*** by **Philip Glass**.





Members of the LA Opera Chorus performing Philip Glass' *Satyagraha*, conducted by Grant Gershon.
Photo: Cory Weaver.

Many of the Master Chorale singers are members of the LA Opera Chorus and Gershon also holds the position of Resident Conductor for LA Opera. He made his acclaimed debut with the company with *La Traviata* in 2009 and has subsequently conducted *Il Postino*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Carmen*, *Florencia en el Amazonas*, *Wonderful Town*, *The Tales of Hoffmann*, and *The Pearl Fishers*. Last year he conducted the celebrated West Coast premiere of Philip Glass' *Satyagraha*, the *Los Angeles Times* declaring: "Gershon, who is the real hero of this *Satyagraha*, makes Glass' trademark repetitions sizzle while at the same time creating broad lyric arches."

In 2017 Gershon made his San Francisco Opera debut conducting the world premiere of John Adams' *Girls of the Golden West* directed by Peter Sellars. In March he made his Dutch National Opera debut conducting the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra in performances of *Girls of the Golden West*. He also frequently conducts the National Symphony Orchestra at



Wolf Trap Opera. Opera productions he conducts are universally lauded for the excellence of the choruses.

“There can be no doubt that some of the most exciting choral music is found in opera. The best opera composers know that the chorus is an integral part of the score, driving the action and providing some of the most thrilling moments on the opera stage,” says Gershon. “With this selection, we aim to provide some of those thrills while shining the spotlight on the remarkable talent it takes to achieve ensemble excellence. When you are part of the chorus, it is not about the individual voice but the collective whole, and I believe the Master Chorale singers are the best in the world at achieving great moments together on stage.”

SEASON WRAP PARTY
SUNDAY, MAY 5 – 9:30 - 11 PM

Concertgoers are invited to join the singers of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, Grant Gershon, concert soloists, and the film composers attending the Sunday night concert for a post-concert **Season Wrap Party** in BP Hall located within Walt Disney Concert Hall. The event celebrates the culmination of the Master Chorale’s 2018-19 concert season and includes:

- a **champagne toast** with desserts from Patina
- live music and dancing with Latin-guitar-world-fusion band **Incendio**

Tickets are \$75 per person and available from the box office or online.

Note: Season Wrap Party tickets do not include concert admission.

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[**ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE**](#)

[**ABOUT GRANT GERSHON**](#)



CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT:

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE
GREAT OPERA & FILM CHORUSES

Grant Gershon, conductor

Angel Garcia, soloist
100 singers
Los Angeles Master Chorale Orchestra

WHEN:

Saturday, May 4, 2 PM

1 PM: ListenUp! Pre-concert talk with Grant Gershon, Michael Abels, Pinar Toprak, and Edie Lehmann Boddicker hosted by Classical KUSC's Alan Chapman.

Sunday, May 5, 7 PM

6 PM: ListenUp! Pre-concert talk with Grant Gershon, Michael Abels, Pinar Toprak, and Edie Lehmann Boddicker hosted by Classical KUSC's Alan Chapman.

WHERE:

Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave.

TICKETS & BOX OFFICE INFORMATION:

Concert tickets are available now, starting from \$29
Sean Wrap Party tickets are \$75

Online: lamasterchorale.org

Phone: 213-972-7282

Tickets can be purchased in-person at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Box Office Monday – Saturday, 10 AM – 6 PM.

On concert days, box office staff can be reached at 213-972-7282 beginning at 10 AM and the Disney Hall Box Office will be open for will call and sales beginning 2 hours prior to curtain time. Group rates are available. Los Angeles Master Chorale offers \$10 Student Rush Tickets at the box office 2 hours prior to the performance, subject to availability. Student ID required; 1 ticket per ID. Please call for additional details.



Please note: children under the age of six are not admitted to Los Angeles Master Chorale concerts.

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE MEDIA CONTACT:

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High res photos available from the online [Press Room](#).

Grant Gershon photo by Tao Ruspoli/Marie Noorbergen

