

L O S   A N G E L E S

# MASTER CHORALE

AMERICA'S MOST CELEBRATED PROFESSIONAL CHORUS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Claudia Bill-de la Peña, [press@lamasterchorale.org](mailto:press@lamasterchorale.org)

## RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENT VOICES TO FILL WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

**Nation's Largest High School Choir Festival, Presented by  
the LA Master Chorale, Returns for Landmark 37th Year  
with a Special Tribute to the Late Frank Gehry**



**LOS ANGELES, CA (Monday, April 20, 2026)** — In a thrilling display of youth, artistry, and unity, more than **1,200 high school singers** from across Southern California will fill Walt Disney Concert Hall on **Friday, May 1, 2026**, as the Los Angeles Master Chorale presents its **37th Annual High School Choir Festival**—the longest-running event of its kind in the United States. Representing **41 schools\***, this record-breaking ensemble will perform as one mass choir under the direction of **Grant Gershon**, the Chorale's Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director, and **Cindy Ellis**, Danner Family Guest Artist. Together, they will transform the late architect Frank Gehry's iconic venue into a powerful celebration

of music education and community connection. The students will pay a very special, visual tribute to the legendary designer of this architectural masterpiece.

## A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE—ON AND OFF THE STAGE

Since 1989, the High School Choir Festival has served as a cornerstone of arts education in Southern California, engaging **more than 34,000 students** in a rigorous, year-long musical journey culminating in this singular annual performance.

More than a concert, the Festival is a **pipeline for artistic growth and personal development**, designed to support the “whole child” through collaboration, discipline, and creative expression. Each year, students gain rare access to world-class mentorship, professional performance standards, and culturally significant repertoire.

## NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: GUEST ARTIST CINDY ELLIS

This year’s Festival features internationally recognized conductor and educator **Cindy Ellis** as The Danner Family Guest Artist.

A Cuban American choral director and jazz vocalist, Ellis leads award-winning ensembles at Miami Arts Studio whose credits include **Carnegie Hall**, the **Kennedy Center**, **BBC Proms London Festival**, NBC’s **Saturday Night Live**, and collaborations with global artists such as Gloria Estefan and Jacob Collier. A 2025 Teacher of the Year and multi-GRAMMY® Music Educator semifinalist, Ellis brings elite-level artistry and mentorship directly to the next generation of performers.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **1,200+ student singers** performing together—the largest in Festival history at Disney Hall
- **41 Southern California high schools represented\***
- **Livestream on INSTAGRAM at 1:00 PM PDT** Friday, May 1, 2026
- Special performance by 16 Master Chorale singers conducted by **Jenny Wong**, Master Chorale Associate Artistic Director
- Live demonstration of the Concert Hall’s world-famous organ by **John West**
- Repertoire spanning classical masterworks to contemporary global music

## 2026 FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Conducted by: **Grant Gershon**, Artistic Director **Cindy Ellis**, The Danner Family Guest Artist

- *Your Voices Tune and Raise Them High* (from *Alexander’s Feast*) — G. F. Handel
- *Because You Sang* — Arianne Abela
- *Journey Home* — Abbie Betinis
- *Cielito Lindo* — Quirino Mendoza y Cortés, arr. by Julio Morales

- *Walk in Jerusalem* — arr. Rollo Dilworth
- *World O World* — Jacob Collier

## HIGH DEMAND | LIMITED ACCESS

Tickets are extremely limited due to unprecedented participation and audience demand. Media coverage is strongly encouraged for this **visually and emotionally compelling event**.

The public can request to be waitlisted at <https://lamasterchorale.org/high-school-choir-festival>.

## ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

For more than 60 years, the GRAMMY® Award-winning and revered [Master Chorale](#) has been a standard-bearer for choruses across America. Hailed for its powerful performances, technical precision, and artistic daring, the Master Chorale reaches more than 175,000 people a year through its concert series at the iconic Walt Disney Concert Hall, its international touring of innovative works, and its performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and others. The choir is the nation’s largest professional chorus led by Artistic Director [Grant Gershon](#). The Chorale continues to set the gold standard for choral music, bridging historical masterpieces with contemporary relevance, and won its second GRAMMY® for Best Choral Performance this year. The choir sings any genre in any language. Its singers performed at the 97<sup>th</sup> and 98<sup>th</sup> OSCARS® and are sought by legendary composers for their movie soundtracks. Their voices are currently heard in numerous films, including “Sinners,” “Avatar: Fire and Ash,” “Superman,” and “Wicked: For Good.” Its innovative and extraordinary learning programs include the renowned [High School Choir Festival](#), the [Oratorio Project](#), [Voices Within](#), and [Youth Chorus LA](#), all of which prepare future generations of choral singers and uplift communities through the transformative power of choral music. The Master Chorale is registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

###

[www.facebook.com/LAMasterChorale](http://www.facebook.com/LAMasterChorale)  
[www.youtube.com/@LAMasterChorale](http://www.youtube.com/@LAMasterChorale)  
[www.instagram.com/lamasterchorale/](http://www.instagram.com/lamasterchorale/)  
[www.lamasterchorale.org](http://www.lamasterchorale.org)

For concert sponsorship opportunities, contact Michael Rossetto, [mrossetto@lamasterchorale.org](mailto:mrossetto@lamasterchorale.org)

## ASSIGNMENT DESK / PRODUCER NOTE

### HIGH-IMPACT VISUAL STORY:

- 1,200 voices performing live in a world-class venue
  - Strong youth + education + community angle
  - Ideal for live shots, feature packages, and digital/social amplification
- Crews are welcome. Advance coordination highly recommended.**

\*Participating schools:

Arroyo High School  
Baldwin Park High School  
Birmingham Community Charter High School  
Blair High School  
Calabasas High School  
CHAMPS Charter High School of the Arts  
Cleveland High School  
Covina High School  
Crescenta Valley High School  
Eastside High School  
El Camino Real Charter High School  
El Monte High School  
Gabrielino High School  
Granada Hills Charter  
Henry J. Kaiser High School  
Herbert Hoover High School  
Highland High School  
John Muir High School  
Jordan High School  
Alexander Hamilton High School  
La Quinta High School  
Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA)  
Mark Keppel High School  
Mira Costa High School  
Montebello High School  
North Torrance High School  
Palisades Charter High School  
Palos Verdes Peninsula High School  
Paramount High School  
Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts  
Rosemead High School  
Rubidoux High School  
San Gabriel Academy  
Schurr High School  
St. Genevieve High School  
Taft Charter High School  
Temecula Preparatory School  
Thurgood Marshall Secondary School  
Torres East LA Performing Arts Magnet High School  
Valley High School  
Wilson High School



135 NORTH GRAND AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CA 90011-3013  
213-972-3110 | LAMASTERCHORALE.ORG