

L O S A N G E L E S

MASTER CHORALE

**LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE'S HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR
FESTIVAL CONCERT TO REACH LARGEST AUDIENCE EVER
WITH FREE ONLINE STREAM**

**Festival includes the premiere of *Wir Juden* by Lucy McKnight,
winner of the Young Composers' Competition**



Singers at the High School Choir Festival in Walt Disney Concert Hall



Composer Lucy McKnight

(Los Angeles, CA) April 13, 2017 – The Los Angeles Master Chorale's High School Choir Festival concert will reach a bigger audience than ever before this month with its first online stream that can be viewed for free. The stream will be made available at lamasterchorale.org on Friday, April 28, a week after the 28th Annual High School Choir Festival concert that takes place Friday, April 21 at Walt Disney Concert Hall.



A thousand high school choir students from 29 Southland schools will perform in the Festival concert conducted by Los Angeles Master Chorale Artistic Director **Grant Gershon** and featuring guest artist singer/composer **Moira Smiley**. The Festival concert attracts a full house every year to Disney Hall in downtown L.A., the students joined by family members, teachers, supporters, and choral music lovers who receive free tickets to the concert. Reserved tickets for this year's Festival concert have reached capacity. A limited number of tickets will be available on the day of the concert, distributed on a first-come first-served basis in the concert hall lobby from 10 AM.

The online stream will make the concert more accessible to people who cannot attend in person and will also give the student singers and choir directors the opportunity to watch their own performances after the event.

“This exciting Festival concert attracts a full house every year and the enthusiastic and supportive audience adds enormously to the energy of the day,” said Gershon. “We also know that a lot of people who would like to attend and support these young singers are working or cannot get downtown to the hall and so this online stream will enable many, many more people to be part of this extraordinary and inspiring experience.”

YOUNG COMPOSERS' COMPETITION

In addition to the Festival concert performed by the students at 1 PM, the Festival day includes a performance by the 16-member **Los Angeles Master Chorale Chamber Ensemble** in Walt Disney Concert Hall conducted by Assistant Conductor **Jenny Wong**.

The 30-minute Chamber Ensemble performance takes place at 11 AM and will include the premiere of a five-minute work called *Wir Juden (We Jews)* by 18-year-old **Lucy McKnight** that was selected as the winner of the Master Chorale's second annual Young Composers' Competition. The piece—McKnight's first choral composition—is based on a poem by



[Gertrud Kolmar](#), a German-Jewish writer who died at the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1943. McKnight discovered *Wir Juden* in a collection of Komar's work that is her mother's favorite book of poetry.

"There is so much joy and beauty in Gertrud Kolmar's poetry, but this poem about her love for her people and her anguish over their impending doom just seemed like it needed to be sung," said McKnight. "I tried to show how powerful her voice is, how she had the courage to embrace her Jewish identity even as Europe's Jews were being targeted for destruction."

A freshman at USC, McKnight is a former student of Ramón C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts where she took part in three of the Los Angeles Master Chorale's Oratorio Projects. In 2016 Cortines High School students composed a piece called [Woman at the Window](#) based on the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York in 1911. McKnight sang the featured role of Rose in these performances.

"I cannot imagine a more exciting place as the Walt Disney Concert Hall or more beautiful voices to sing my first piece of choral music. I am so proud that Los Angeles Master Chorale Chamber Ensemble will sing *Wir Juden* at the 28th Annual High School Choir Festival."

Tickets for the Los Angeles Master Chorale Chamber Ensemble performance are also free to the public with a limited number available on the day of the performance. (Note: this performance will not be part of the online stream.)

First held in 1989 and impacting thousands of young singers in the ensuing decades, the Los Angeles Master Chorale's High School Choir Festival is one of the longest-running continuous education engagement programs in Southern California. The Walt Disney Concert Hall performances are the culmination of an in-depth, year-long, in-school program that includes intensive teacher training, classroom rehearsals, and masterclasses for



students and choral directors led by members of the Los Angeles Master Chorale. Of the 1,000 students, 100 are selected by their teachers to be part of the prestigious Honor Choir.

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CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: 28th Annual High School Choir Festival concert & online stream presented by the Los Angeles Master Chorale

WHEN:

Friday, April 21 at 1 PM (Festival concert)

Los Angeles Master Chorale Chamber Ensemble performance at 11 AM

Online stream available at lamasterchorale.org from Friday, April 28.

WHERE: Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave.

TICKETS: Open to the public; free entry.

Tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis from 10 AM.

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE PROGRAM (11 AM):

Jenny Wong, conductor

Lisa Edwards, piano

John West, organ

JAAKKO MÄNTYJÄRVI

Double, Double, Toil and Trouble

JOHANNES BRAHMS

“Fragen,” from Drei Quartette Op. 64

LUCY MCKNIGHT

Wir Juden

DANIEL ELDER

The Heart’s Reflection

BILLY STEINBERG & TOM KELLY

SAUNDER CHOI (ARR.)

True Colors

Ayana Haviv, soprano

Arnold Livingston Geis, tenor

ALBERT E. BRUMLEY

SHAWN KIRCHNER (ARR.)

I Will Fly Away

Organ demonstration by John West



28TH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR FESTIVAL CONCERT PROGRAM (1 PM):

Grant Gershon, conductor
Moirá Smiley, guest artist
Louise Thomas, piano
John West, organ

FESTIVAL CHORUS:

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL	Your Voices Tune and Raise Them High
VALERIE SHOWERS CRESCENZ	Far and Away
LANHAM DEAL	Érase una niña
ROLLO DILWORTH	The Gift To Be Free
MOIRA SMILEY	Bring Me Little Water, Silvy
MOIRA SMILEY	Stand in That River

FESTIVAL HONOR CHOIR:

SHAWN KIRCHNER	Wana Baraka
DAVID N. CHILDS	Where Your Bare Foot Walks
NILO ALCALA	Tiptipa Kemmakem

FESTIVAL CHORUS:

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SPIRITUAL	
ANDRÉ THOMAS (ARR.)	Ride the Chariot
<i>Odalys Ramirez, percussion</i>	

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

Agoura High School (Agoura Hills) | Chad Bloom, director
Arroyo High School (El Monte) | Jennifer Stanley, director
Azusa High School (Azusa) | Mary Kuo Turner, director
Baldwin Park High School (Baldwin Park) | Vicki Salmon, director
Bellflower High School (Bellflower) | Carolyn Kelley, director
Birmingham Community Charter High School (Van Nuys) | Michael Suffolk, director
Charter Oak High School (Covina) | Rebecca Schmalzbach, director
Covina High School (Covina) | Susan Silver, director
Culver City High School (Culver City) | Dr. Tony Spano, director



East LA Performing Arts Magnet (Los Angeles) | Melissa J. Rios, director
El Camino Real Charter High School (Woodland Hills) | Corinne Brennan, director
Glendale High School (Glendale) | Grace Sheldon-Williams, director
Glendora High School (Glendora) | Dr. Brian Trevor, director
Granada Hills Charter High School (Granada Hills) | Sarah White, director
Hamilton High School (Los Angeles) | Wendy Walsh, director
Lakewood High School (Lakewood) | Ralph Siemsen, director
Mark Keppel High School (Alhambra) | Tony Azeltine, director
Mira Costa High School (Manhattan Beach) | Michael Hayden, director
Montebello High School (Montebello) | Jessie Flasschoen, director
Orange County School of the Arts (Santa Ana) | Sarah Gonzalez, director
Palos Verdes Peninsula High School (Rolling Hills Estates) | Dan Doctor, director
Paramount High School (Paramount) | Brian Hays, director
Ramón C. Cortines High School of VAPA (Los Angeles) | Drew Lewis, director
Rosemead High School (Rosemead) | Ruth Gray, director
Rubidoux High School (Riverside) | Jeff Lin, director
San Gabriel Academy (San Gabriel) | Lilybeth Evardome-Hunt, director
Taft High School (Woodland Hills) | Kendra Hall, director
Valley Academy of Arts and Science (Granada Hills) | Paul Sims, director
Venice High School (Venice Beach) | Wendy Sarnoff, director

ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR FESTIVAL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Be0jUgEE67s>

ABOUT LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

The Los Angeles Master Chorale is widely recognized as one of the country's leading professional choruses and one of Southern California's most vibrant cultural treasures. Hailed for its powerful performances, technical precision, and artistic daring, the Master Chorale is led by Artistic Director Grant Gershon and President and CEO Jean Davidson. It



is a founding resident company of The Music Center and the choir-in-residence at Walt Disney Concert Hall. Chorister positions are highly sought-after and the professional choir is a diverse and vocally dynamic group showcasing the many voices of L.A.

Presenting its own concert series each season, the Master Chorale performs choral music from the earliest writings to contemporary compositions striking a balance between innovation and tradition. It also regularly performs with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at Disney Hall and the Hollywood Bowl. Praised for its definitive performances, the choir is committed to recording the choral repertoire and has also featured with Gershon on the soundtracks of many major motion pictures. It is further heard beyond the concert hall via broadcasts by Southern California's Classical KUSC.

Committed to community engagement and fostering music education in schools, the Los Angeles Master Chorale's education programs include Voices Within that encourages young people to write and perform their own songs and an Oratorio Project for high school students, and the annual High School Choir Festival, which brings around 1,000 teenagers from around the Southland to perform en masse in Walt Disney Concert Hall.

www.lamasterchorale.org

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE MEDIA CONTACT:

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Members of the press are welcome to attend, photograph, and film the 28th Annual High School Choir Festival concert. Please RSVP to Jennifer Scott, jscott@lamasterchorale.org

