

PRESS RELEASE

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L O S   A N G E L E S

# MASTER CHORALE

**World Premiere of Ellen Reid's *dreams of the new world*  
Performed by the Los Angeles Master Chorale & wild Up  
Sunday, May 13 at 7 PM  
Walt Disney Concert Hall**



**Reid & Riley concert includes a performance of Terry Riley's iconic minimalist masterwork, *In C***

**Conducted by Grant Gershon, Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director**

**TICKETS START AT \$29**

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(Los Angeles, CA) April 2, 2018 – An expansive new choral work exploring lesser-known stories about the pursuit of the American Dream in Memphis, Houston, and Los Angeles, told through an interview-based libretto, will be premiered by the Los Angeles Master Chorale on Sunday, May 13 at 7 PM in Walt Disney Concert Hall. *dreams of the new world* is composed by Ellen Reid with a libretto by Sarah LaBrie. The creative team also includes anthropologist Sayd Randle as the project’s lead researcher. The concert called “[Reid & Riley](#)” will feature members of the acclaimed wild Up ensemble, led by Christopher Rountree, and will be conducted by Grant Gershon, the Master Chorale’s Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director. The concert will close with a rare choral performance of Terry Riley’s 1964 minimalist masterpiece, *In C*, also featuring members of wild Up alongside Master Chorale singers.

Reid, who divides her time between Los Angeles and New York, has an increasingly high profile on both coasts. In February, her work *Petrichor* was premiered by the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and called a "stunning new piece" by the *L.A. Times*. Her opera *Prism* will be premiered by LA Opera as part of its Off Grand series in November, and a new sound installation commissioned by the LA Philharmonic will be premiered as part of its Green Umbrella series in the 2018/19 season. Previously, Reid composed works for The Industry’s widely-acclaimed *Hopscotch* opera experience in 2015. In New York, Reid is currently Artist-in-Residence at contemporary music venue National Sawdust. Following its L.A. premiere, the Beth Morrison Projects-produced *Prism* will be performed at the 2019 Prototype Festival. Reid’s opera *Winter’s Child* was premiered at the 2014 Prototype Festival, performed by the Choir at Trinity Wall Street. Reid is a co-founder (with Missy Mazzoli) of the Luna Composition Lab at the Kaufman Music Center as part of its Face the Music program. A mentorship program for young female composers, the current Luna Lab Fellows will have their works performed in New York in June.



Reid describes *dreams of the new world* as a three-movement, interview-based work that inhabits vibrant moments in American history when “the American Dream felt tangible, achievable, and perhaps in the process of becoming.” The three movements are titled “Memphis | 1890 | Freedom,” “Houston | 1970 | Prosperity,” and “L.A. | 2018 | Expansion.” Each movement aims to evoke the era, location, and ethos of the historical moment, with nods towards the popular music of the time.

“I chose these cities because they hold a personal significance to me and they embody aspects of the American Dream,” says Reid. “Memphis—where my family is from—is rich with stories of fighting for freedom, Houston is rich in stories about striving for prosperity, and Los Angeles is rich in stories about reaching for the next frontier beyond our shores. Sarah, Sayd, and I traveled to Memphis, Houston, and L.A. to interview resident specialists in each city. The people we interviewed deeply informed what this project became.”



The *dreams of the new world* creative team, l-r: Sayd Randle, lead researcher; Ellen Reid, composer; and Sarah LaBrie, librettist.



“To develop the work, we approached these places with questions related to place, power, and memory. We meant to excavate both the dreams and ghosts of different frontier moments, paying attention to experiences of hoping, working, remembering, and forgetting those periods,” says Randle, a PhD candidate in sociocultural anthropology and environmental studies at Yale University.

In Memphis, the team researched the life of businessman Robert Church, a former slave who became one of the South’s first African American millionaires. Church contributed greatly to post-Civil War life in Memphis, but his legacy is difficult to trace in the city today having been systematically erased. In Houston they talked to scholars and oil executives about the oil boom of the 1970s and the financial and environmental ramifications when the energy bubble burst. In L.A. they talked to scientists about future explorations and expansions into space.



The *dreams* team at Church Park in Memphis.







Exploring Houston.



The team at Google Lunar XPRIZE in Culver City.



Memphis interviewees included Dr. Earnestine Jenkins at the University of Memphis and Ron Walter, General Manager of WREG-TV about Robert Church; Houston interviewees included William M. Arnold, Energy Professor at Rice University and the former Senior Vice President of the Export Import Bank of the United States, Gaines Wilson of ExxonMobil, and John Curry, the founder of Gulfex; and L.A. interviewees included engineer Adam Steltzner at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory who worked on designing, testing, and building the sky crane landing system for the Curiosity rover and who is chief engineer on the Mars 2020 project, Curtis Iwata at Space Frontier Foundation, Andrew Barton at Google Lunar XPRIZE, and Bobby Hiddlestein of Honeybee Robotics. Excerpts from the interviews have been incorporated into LaBrie's libretto alongside historical sources.

*dreams of the new world* is a co-commission between the Los Angeles Master Chorale and Trinity Church Wall Street in New York City where it will receive its East Coast premiere in 2019. The 45-minute work will be performed with 32 Master Chorale singers and five soloists; Alannah Garnier, soprano, Shabnam Kalbasi, mezzo-soprano, Adriana Manfredi, mezzo-soprano, Charles Lane, tenor, and Luc Kleiner, baritone. A workshop performance of *dreams of the new world* was given by the UCI Chamber Singers and Dr. Seth Houston in November 2017, giving the creative team the opportunity to ask the audience questions about the work and make refinements to the score ahead of the world premiere.

Lead support of *dreams of the new world* by Dr. and Mrs. Justus Schlichting. Additional support by Stephen A. Kanter, M.D.; Philip A. Swan; Melissa Hoyt; Ruth Gilliland and Arthur Rieman; Barry and Nancy Sanders; and Fariba Ghaffari.

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

**[READ MORE ABOUT DREAMS OF THE NEW WORLD](#)**



**CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:**

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE: REID & RILEY  
Ellen Reid | *dreams of the new world* – WORLD PREMIERE  
Terry Riley | *In C*  
Grant Gershon, conductor  
wild Up

**WHEN:**

Sunday, May 13, 7 PM  
ListenUp! pre-concert talk at 6 PM

**WHERE:**

Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave.

**TICKETS & BOX OFFICE INFORMATION:**

Tickets are available now, starting from \$29:

Online: [lamasterchorale.org](http://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 resolution photos are available from our online Press Room.

*Photo credits: Ellen Reid photo by Arnaud Pyvka; creative team photo by Patrick Brown; on location images courtesy of Ellen Reid.*

