

PRESS RELEASE

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L O S   A N G E L E S

# MASTER CHORALE

**Los Angeles Master Chorale to Present Five Christmas  
Choral Concerts in Walt Disney Concert Hall  
December 2 – 17**



Grant Gershon conducting the *Messiah* Sing-Along. Photo: Tao Ruspoli/Marie Noorbergen.

**English Cathedral Christmas**

Sunday, December 2 – 7 PM

**Festival of Carols**

Saturday, December 8 & 15 – 2 PM



135 NORTH GRAND AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-3013  
213-972-3122 | [LAMASTERCHORALE.ORG](http://LAMASTERCHORALE.ORG)

## **Handel's *Messiah***

Sunday, December 16 – 7 PM

## **38<sup>th</sup> Annual *Messiah* Sing-Along**

Monday, December 17 – 7:30 PM

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

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM \$29  
PHONE 213-972-7282 | LAMASTERCHORALE.ORG**

(Los Angeles, CA) October 23, 2018 – The Los Angeles Master Chorale will perform five festive Christmas concerts in Walt Disney Concert Hall in December including a new program called **English Cathedral Christmas** on **December 2** that aims to bring the unbroken advent tradition of British carols and anthems to Walt Disney Concert Hall with works by a range of composers dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to today. The concerts include the popular **Festival of Carols** concerts (**December 8 and 15**), **Handel's *Messiah*** (**December 16**) and the **38<sup>th</sup> Annual *Messiah* Sing-Along** (**December 17**) when the 2,200-strong audience sings as the chorus.

The Master Chorale's Christmas concerts are a much-loved Los Angeles holiday tradition and frequently sell out. All concerts will be conducted by Grant Gershon, the Master Chorale's Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director.

Another program that blends the traditional with the new is Festival of Carols. This year the Master Chorale will perform two songs that may sound familiar to Disney fans. Christopher Willis' *Joy! O It's Christmas Time* and the Emmy Award-nominated *Jing-A-Ling-A-Ling* from the 2016 cartoon *Duck the Halls: A Mickey Mouse Christmas Special* will receive the full 100-voice Master Chorale treatment. For Australian-born, British-raised, Los Angeles-based, and



classically-trained Willis, the songs neatly encapsulate the hallmarks of his decade-long film composing career. It will also be the first time his songs will be performed in Disney Hall.



Composer Christopher Willis. Photo by Brian Feinzimer.

Willis says a sense of familiarity was deliberately created for the songs that form the basis of the score for the 21-minute *Duck the Halls* special. “We talked a lot about wanting things to feel classic and ageless, so there is a vintage feeling.” This is reflected in the direction of the *Mickey Mouse* cartoons that, while fresh and contemporary, are at the same time homage to the art direction and storytelling of Walt Disney and his animators of the 1920s and '30s.

In *Duck the Halls*, the songs have orchestral accompaniment, with *Jing-a-Ling-a-Ling* having a particularly bold big band sound. For the Festival of Carols, the songs will be sung a cappella.



“It’s an interesting transformation that songs go through when you make them a cappella,” says Willis. “The original way the songs sound is very Hollywood and mid-century sounding, but once you take the choir on its own, anything in the song that’s Victorian and more old-fashioned is brought to the fore.”

Festival of Carols will also feature works and arrangements by Shawn Kirchner — a longtime tenor in the Master Chorale and former composer-in-residence — that have become firm favorites.

The Christmas concerts also include two performances of Handel’s *Messiah*: the first is wholly performed by the Master Chorale. The second, the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual *Messiah* Sing-Along, sees the audience as the chorus. The Sing-Along also includes a limited number of VIP tickets that offer people the opportunity to perform on the Disney Hall stage alongside Gershon, Master Chorale singers, and close to the orchestra.

Tickets to all concerts start at \$29 and are available now online from [lamasterchorale.org](http://lamasterchorale.org), by calling the Box Office at 213-972-7282, or in person from the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion box office, Monday – Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM.

## **CHRISTMAS AT WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL 2018**

### **ENGLISH CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS**

Sunday, December 2, 2018 - 7 PM

#### **PROGRAM:**

***Pastime with good company*** | Henry VIII (1491 - 1547)

***Hosanna to the Son of David*** | Thomas Weelkes (1576 - 1623)

***Bethlehem Down*** | Peter Warlock (1894 – 1930)

***O nata lux de lumine*** | Thomas Tallis (1505 – 1585)

***A Spotless Rose*** | Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983)

***Alleluya*** | Thomas Tallis

***I Love All Beauteous Things*** | Judith Weir (b. 1954)

***Sing Joyfully*** | William Byrd (1538 – 1623)



***Before the Paling of the Stars*** | Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)  
***The Lamb*** | John Tavener (1944 – 2013)  
***This Day Christ Was Born*** | William Byrd

INTERMISSION

***Wassail Song*** | arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)  
***The Sycamore Tree*** | Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)  
***Sing Lullaby*** | Herbert Howells  
***Love Came Down at Christmas*** | arr. Robert A. Harris (b. 1938)  
***Now May We Singen*** | Cecilia McDowall  
***The Holly and the Ivy*** | arr. Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)  
***The First Nowell*** | arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams  
***Christmas Day*** | Gustav Holst (1874 – 1934)  
***A Babe Is Born*** | William Mathias (1934 – 1992)

Grant Gershon, conductor  
Namhee Han, organ  
62 singers

## FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

Saturday, December 8, 2018 - 2 PM  
Sunday, December 15, 2018 - 2 PM

### PROGRAM:

***Angels We Have Heard on High*** | French Carol, arr. Donald McCullough (b. 1951)  
***Deck the Hall*** | Welsh Carol, arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)  
***Who is the baby?*** | Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962)  
***Al HaNisim*** | arr. Elliot Levine (b. 1948)  
***Joy! O It's Christmas Time*** | Christopher Willis (b. 1978)  
***Jing-A-Ling-A-Ling*** | Christopher Willis  
***Jingle Bells (Sing-Along)*** | James L. Pierpont (1822 – 1893)  
***What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?*** | Frank Loesser (1910 – 1969), arr. Ken Neufeld (b. 1949)  
***Silent Night*** | Franz Gruber (1787 – 1863), arr. David O (b. 1970)  
***O, What a Beautiful City*** | Shawn Kirchner (b. 1970)

INTERMISSION

***We Need a Little Christmas*** | Jerry Herman (b. 1931), arr. Jerry Rubino (b. 1952)  
***Noël Ayisyen (A Haitian Noël)*** | Emile Desamours (b. 1941)  
***White Christmas*** | Irving Berlin (1888 – 1989), arr. Deke Sharon (b. 1967)



**Wonderful Counselor** | Folk Song, arr. Jester Hairston (1901 – 2000)

**The Christmas Song** | Bob Wells (1922 – 1998), Mel Tormé (1925 – 1999), arr. Jerry Rubino

**Santa Claus Is Coming To Town (Sing-Along)** | John Frederick Coots (1897 – 1985), Haven Gillespie (1888 – 1975)

**The Twelve Days of Christmas** | English Traditional Carol, arr. John Rutter

**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming** | Traditional German Carol, arr. Shawn Kirchner

**A Christmas Garland** | Conrad Susa (1935 – 2013)

Grant Gershon, conductor

John West, organ

Lisa Edwards, piano

100 singers

### **HANDEL'S MESSIAH**

Sunday, December 16, 2018 - 7 PM

George Frideric Handel | *Messiah*

Grant Gershon, conductor

Alannah Garnier, soprano

Jessie Shulman, mezzo-soprano

Robert Norman, tenor

Steve Pence, baritone

48 singers, orchestra

### **38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MESSIAH SING-ALONG**

Monday, December 17, 2018 - 7:30 PM

George Frideric Handel | *Messiah*

A popular presentation of Handel's *Messiah* where the 2,200-strong audience is the chorus. A limited number of VIP onstage tickets are available.

Grant Gershon, conductor

April Amante, soprano

Niké St. Clair, mezzo-soprano

Jimmy Traum, tenor

Derrell Acon, bass

Orchestra, audience as chorus



**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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Photos available from our online [press room](#).

