

PRESS RELEASE

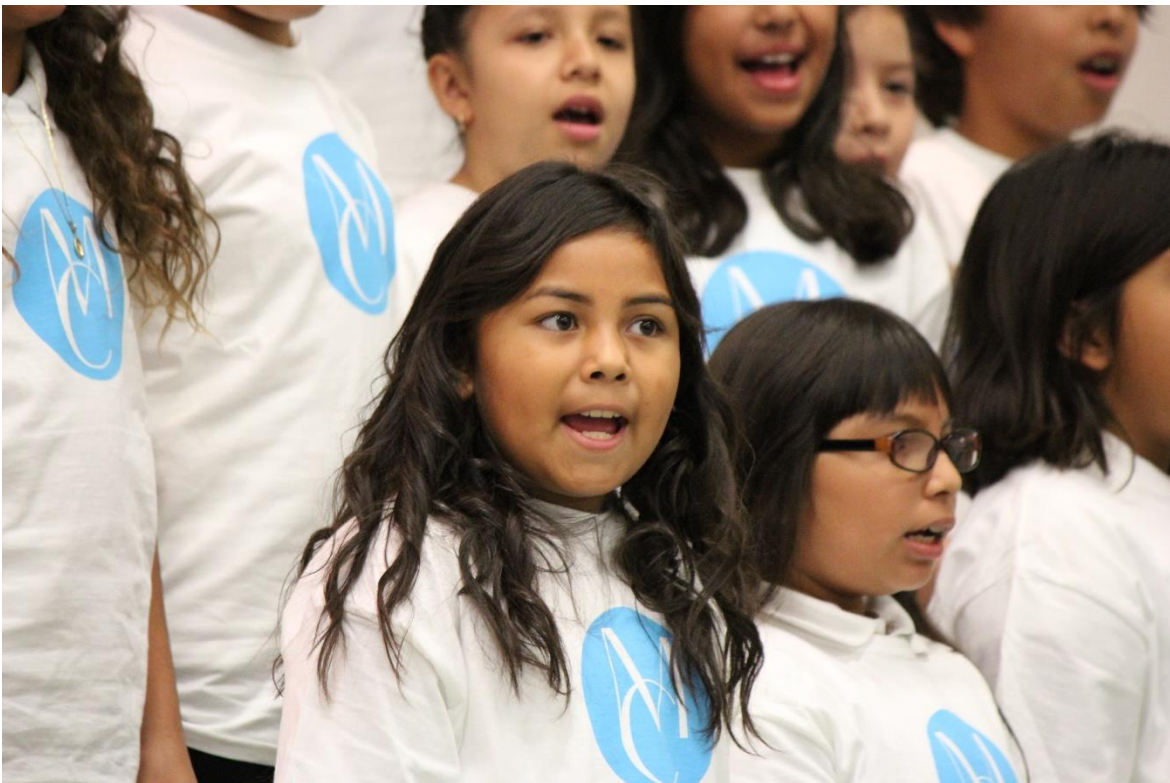
Media Contact: Jennifer Scott

jscott@lmasterchorale.org | 702-510-4363 cell

L O S A N G E L E S

MASTER CHORALE

**Fifth Graders to Perform Songs They Wrote Themselves
as Part of the Los Angeles Master Chorale's
Voices Within Program May 6 & 10**



Huntington Park Elementary School
Monday, May 6, 9:30 AM & 10:45 AM
6055 Corona Ave., Huntington Park, CA 90255

Sheridan Street Elementary School
Friday, May 10, 9:00 AM & 10:15 AM
416 Cornwell St, Los Angeles, CA 90033



(Los Angeles) April 22, 2019 – “Be Brave!” and “Just Say Yes!” are two of the rules of collaboration fifth grade students follow when they take part in the Los Angeles Master Chorale’s **Voices Within** program. The Spring series of Voices Within concerts featuring students performing songs they have written will take place on **Monday, May 6** at **Huntington Park Elementary School** and **Friday, May 10** at **Sheridan Street Elementary School**.

The concerts are the culmination of the 12-week Voices Within program that brings three teaching artists—a composer, a lyricist, and a performer—into the schools to introduce the students to music ideas such as pitch, rhythm, and melody, and teaches them how to apply these concepts to songwriting. The students perform their songs for fellow students, teachers, and friends and family. Each school will give two performances.

A theme for the songs is provided and the students work collaboratively in groups to write the lyrics and melodies for six songs. For the students, the process encourages them to work with fellow students they may not know very well with “behave as if your team is made up of your best friends” among the Rules of Collaboration they are asked to follow. All students are encouraged to share their ideas and feelings during the songwriting process to ensure that the whole group takes ownership of the resulting song that is then proudly performed on concert day.

For the May concerts, students at **Huntington Park Elementary School** wrote songs about different countries and their cultural traditions. The songs created are based on the students’ explorations of **Armenia, Japan, The Philippines, Korea, Ecuador, and Ghana**. The teaching artists working with the Huntington Park Elementary School students are performer **Alice Kirwan Murray**, lyricist **Doug Cooney**, and composer **David O**.



Different styles of music impacting America provided the inspiration for the **Sheridan Street Elementary School** students whose songs are about **Big Band, Cumbia, Jazz, Rancheras, Spirituals, and Rock & Roll**. Teaching artists working with the Sheridan Street Elementary School students are performer **Amy Fogerson**, lyricist **Brett Paesel**, and composer **Saunders Choi**.

On the concert day, the students are joined by eight members of the Los Angeles Master Chorale who sing with them at the culmination performances, providing the students with the exciting opportunity to hear their songs sung with the help of professional singers.

The Los Angeles Master Chorale partners with elementary schools for Voices Within residencies twice a year with concerts in the Fall and Spring. Additionally, Voices Within includes an Oratorio Project that engages high school students to compose a full-length oratorio and then perform it. The Master Chorale also presents an annual High School Choir Festival that brings about 1,000 students from around the Southland to sing at Walt Disney Concert Hall. The 30th Annual High School Choir Festival will be held on Friday, May 3.

Voices Within was developed for the Los Angeles Master Chorale by Marnie Mosiman in collaboration with Bernardo Solano, Penka Kouneva, David O, and Doug Cooney. The first residency was held in 2001 and the program has subsequently been awarded Chorus America's Education and Community Engagement Award.

Voices Within is made possible by generous grants from: Anonymous, The ASCAP Foundation Irving Caesar Fund, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Employees Community Fund of Boeing California, Friars Charitable Foundation, William H. Hannon Foundation, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors / Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors / Kathryn Barger, Carolyn L. Miller, Cheryl Petersen and Roger Lustberg, Rosemary Schroeder, Lon V. Smith Foundation, John and Beverly Stauffer



Foundation, Sidney Stern Memorial Trust, Dwight Stuart Youth Fund, and Walter and Holly Thomson Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee.

CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT:

Voices Within concerts performed by fifth grade students featuring members of the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Open to the public & free to attend. (Street parking only.)

WHEN & WHERE:

Huntington Park Elementary School

Monday, May 6, 9:30 AM & 10:45 AM

6055 Corona Ave., Huntington Park, CA 90255

Sheridan Street Elementary School

Friday, May 10, 9:00 AM & 10:15 AM

416 Cornwell St, Los Angeles, CA 90033

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE MEDIA CONTACT:

Jennifer Scott, Director of Public Relations

jscott@lmasterchorale.org | 702-510-4363 cell

Members of the press are welcome to attend, photograph, and film the Voices Within performances. Please rsvp to jscott@lmasterchorale.org.

