

L O S   A N G E L E S

# MASTER CHORALE

## Los Angeles Master Chorale Showcases Young Voices Across the Region with Virtual High School Choir Festival



(Los Angeles, CA) Thursday, May, 2020 – For over 30 years, the Los Angeles Master Chorale has created a mega choir of 1,000 high school singers who, after a year of preparation, came together to perform at Walt Disney Concert Hall for its annual High School Choir Festival, one of the longest running continuous educational programs in Southern California. In the absence of being able to gather in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Master Chorale has created a special virtual version of the festival, to be held online at <https://lamasterchorale.org/high-school-choir-festival> on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at 1 p.m.

The Virtual High School Choir Festival (VHSCF) will feature favorite moments of recent festivals, curated by Grant Gershon, Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director, Associate Conductor Jenny Wong and Director of Education Lesili Beard. Highlights will include the “Purple Rain” tribute to Prince that blew the roof off Disney Hall in 2016; Bill Withers’s “Lean on Me” from 2019; student interviews; testimonials of gratitude from high school seniors and shout outs from former festival guest conductors. The festival will culminate in a virtual performance of participants singing “The Promise of Light,” by Georgia Stitt, lyrics by Len Schiff. Hundreds of voice and video recordings were submitted by festival participants to



create a powerful moment of celebration that encourages hope amidst an environment of isolation and uncertainty.

“The Virtual High School Choir Festival fills a void left among participants when they were notified that the originally scheduled festival was canceled due to the pandemic,” said Lesili Beard, Director of Education, Los Angeles Master Chorale. “Many of the young singers consider the festival to be a high point of their school year and one of the most enjoyable performance opportunities of their lives. Students are especially eager to experience a special connection to music and their peers from around the Southland who share their enthusiasm for choral singing.”

Please visit <https://lamasterchorale.org/high-school-choir-festival> for more information.

### **CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** Los Angeles Master Chorale’s Virtual High School Choir Festival

**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 1 p.m.

**WHERE:** <https://lamasterchorale.org/high-school-choir-festival>

### **PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:**

**Arroyo High School** (El Monte), Jennifer Stanley, director  
**Azusa High School** (Azusa), Mary Kuo Turner, director  
**Baldwin Park High School** (Baldwin Park), Nathaniel Bailey, director  
**Bellflower High School** (Bellflower), Carolyn Kelley, director  
**Birmingham Community Charter High School** (Lake Balboa), Michael Suffolk, director  
**California High School** (Whittier), Dan Hawkins, director  
**Covina High School** (Covina), Susan Silver, director  
**Crescenta Valley High School** (La Crescenta), Shannon Mack, director  
**El Camino Real Charter High School** (Woodland Hills), Corinne Brennan, director  
**El Monte High School** (El Monte), Joel Whisler, director  
**Gabrielino High School** (San Gabriel), David Pitts, director  
**Glendale High School** (Glendale), Grace Sheldon-Williams, director  
**Glendora High School** (Glendora), Brian Trevor, director  
**Hamilton High School** (Los Angeles), Michelle Espinosa, director  
**Hoover High School** (Glendale), Amy Estep, director  
**Lakewood High School** (Lakewood), Ralph Siemsen, director  
**Marshall Secondary High School** (Pasadena), Jonathan Gould, director  
**Montebello High School** (Montebello), Jessica Pettygrove, director  
**Palos Verdes Peninsula High School** (Rolling Hills Estates), Dan Doctor, director  
**Paramount High School** (Paramount), Lynne Cuneo, director  
**Ramón C. Cortines School of VAPA** (Los Angeles), Drew Lewis, director



**Rosemead High School** (Rosemead), Ruth Gray, director  
**Rubidoux High School** (Jurupa Valley), Jeff Lin, director  
**Torres East LA Performing Arts Magnet** (Los Angeles), Melissa Rios, director  
**Valley High School** (Santa Ana), Ammy Beltrán, director  
**Van Nuys High School** (Van Nuys), Brianne Arevalo, director  
**Venice High School** (Los Angeles), Wendy Sarnoff, director  
**Whittier Christian High School** (La Habra), Janelle Burris, director  
**Taft High School** (Woodland Hills), Natalia Ramos, director  
**Wilson High School** (Long Beach), Curtis Heard, director

**LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE MEDIA CONTACT:**

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High resolution photos available to download from the [online press room](#).

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