

L O S A N G E L E S

MASTER CHORALE

GRANT GERSHON, KIKI & DAVID GINDLER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

GALA 2022 HONORS GRANT GERSHON, KIKI & DAVID GINDLER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, IN CELEBRATION OF HIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON WITH THE LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

Featuring

**World premiere of a never-before-heard version of Morten Lauridsen's *O Magnum
Mysterium*, specially arranged by the composer for the Los Angeles Master
Chorale and acclaimed violinist ANNE AKIKO MEYERS**

**World premiere of a new commission by award-winning composer MICHAEL
ABELS (*Get Out, Us*)**

Surround Sing and performances by the LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

Tribute presentation by composer and conductor ESA-PEKKA SALONEN



Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at Walt Disney Concert Hall
6 p.m. Outdoor Reception
7 p.m. Concert
8 p.m. Dinner, Blue Ribbon Garden

Concert-only tickets for GALA 2022 start at \$45
Concert + reception package is \$250
Premium packages (concert, reception, dinner) start at \$1,000

Please visit <https://lamasterchorale.org/gala-2022> for information about ticket packages and benefits

(Los Angeles, CA) February 8, 2022 – The **Los Angeles Master Chorale**, the country’s preeminent professional choir, will honor Grant Gershon, Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director, in celebration of his 20th anniversary season, at **GALA 2022**, on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Hailed for his adventurous and bold artistic leadership, Grant Gershon, Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director, has turned the Master Chorale into “the most exciting chorus in the country.” (*Los Angeles Times*). Gershon, who elicits technically precise and expressive performances from musicians, is committed to increasing representation in the choral repertoire, and in 2020 he announced that the Master Chorale will reserve at least 50% of each future season for works by composers from historically excluded groups in classical music.

GALA 2022 will celebrate both Grant’s legacy and his vision for the future. The program will feature works of Grant’s “desert island” composers like Bach and di Lasso, as well as stunning choral works by many of the L.A. based composers that Grant has championed in recent years—including Swan Family Artist-in-Residence Reena Esmail, Saunder Choi, Nilo Alcala, Eric Whitacre, Shawn Kirchner and Dale Trumbore. Highlights will include the world premiere of “*The Open Hand*,” a new commission by award-winning composer Michael Abels (*Get Out, Us*), and the world premiere of a never-before-heard version of Morten Lauridsen’s *O Magnum Mysterium*, originally commissioned by the Los Angeles Master Chorale in 1994 and specially arranged by the composer for the Chorale and acclaimed violinist Anne Akiko Meyers. GALA 2022 will also feature “Surround Sing,” the annual event’s signature performance-in-the-round, and composer and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen will give an in-person tribute to Grant.

“Grant’s passion for choral music reminds us all of the joy of making music together,” said Jean Davidson, President and CEO, Los Angeles Master Chorale. “His dedication to the Master Chorale and dynamic presence on the podium have inspired singers, instrumentalists and audiences throughout the world for the past two decades. It is an honor to celebrate this milestone as we look towards a hopeful future under Grant’s directorship.”

“It is an incredibly rewarding experience to serve as board chair of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, and witness Grant’s passion and commitment to celebrating a multiplicity of voices through his choice of repertoire, direction of our singers, and leadership of our education programs,” said Philip A. Swan. “Throughout the past two decades, Grant has built a choral community that embraces all facets of the genre, truly embodying the power and spirit of choral singing.”

During his tenure, Gershon has led more than 200 Master Chorale performances at Walt Disney Concert Hall in programs encompassing choral music from the earliest writings and pillars of the repertoire through to contemporary compositions. He has led world premiere performances of major works by John Adams, Esa-Pekka Salonen, David Lang, Louis Andriessen, Christopher Rouse, Steve Reich, Morten Lauridsen, Ricky Ian Gordon, Gabriela Lena Frank, Shawn Kirchner, Ellen Reid, and Chinari Ung, among many others.

In July 2019, Gershon and the Master Chorale opened the famed Salzburg Festival with *Lagime di SanPietro*, directed by Peter Sellars. The Salzburg performances received standing ovations and rave reviews from such outlets as the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, which called *Lagime* “painfully beautiful” (*Schmerzlicheschön*). Gershon and the Master Chorale debuted the production in Los Angeles in 2016 and began touring the world with it in 2018. In its review of the premiere of *Lagime*, the *Los Angeles Times* noted that the production “is a major accomplishment for the Master Chorale, which sang and acted brilliantly. It is also a major accomplishment for music history.”

Gershon also founded the Master Chorale’s Swan Family Artist-in-Residence position, currently held by composer Reena Esmail, and the first ever Associate Artistic Director position, held by Jenny Wong. Gershon was named Resident Conductor of LA Opera in 2012, and will step down at the end of the 2021-22 season to devote more time to the expansion of the Master Chorale.

Before joining the Master Chorale as music director in 2001, Gershon served as assistant conductor of the L.A. Philharmonic from 1994 to 1997.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Gershon and the Master Chorale released several video world premieres including Shine Bright, a video triptych of Reena Esmail's *TaReKiTa*, Meredith Monk's *Earth Seen From Above*, and Derrick Skye's *Ready, Bright*, a Los Angeles Master Chorale commission.

His discography includes the Grammy Award–nominated recordings of *Sweeney Todd* (New York Philharmonic Special Editions) and Ligeti's *Grand Macabre* (Sony Classical); six commercial CDs with the Master Chorale, including *Glass-Salonen* (RCM), *You Are* (Variations) (Nonesuch), *Daniel Variations* (Nonesuch), *A Good Understanding* (Decca), *Miserere* (Decca), and *the national anthems* (Cantaloupe Music); and two live-performance albums, the Master Chorale's 50th Season Celebration recording and Festival of Carols. Gershon has also led the Master Chorale in performances for several major motion picture soundtracks, including, at the request of John Williams, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* and *The Rise of Skywalker*.

To read Grant Gershon's complete bio, please [click here](#).

All proceeds from GALA 2022 will benefit the Los Angeles Master Chorale's artistic and community education programs.

Generous support for GALA 2022 is provided by Platinum Table Sponsors Kiki Ramos Gindler and David Gindler, and Lillian Pierson Lovelace; and Gold Table Sponsors Judy and Thomas Beckmen, and Kristan and Philip A. Swan.

The Open Hand by Michael Abels was commissioned by the Los Angeles Master Chorale with support from Kiki Ramos Gindler and David Gindler, and Lillian Pierson Lovelace.

The Los Angeles Master Chorale's Swan Family Artist-in-Residence is made possible by the Swan Family Trust.

GALA 2022 PROGRAM

SURROUND SING:

Moira Smiley, *Stand in that River*
Orlando di Lasso, *Vide homo*
Eric Whitacre, *Her Sacred Spirit Soars*
Grant Gershon, conductor

Reena Esmail, *Tuttarana*
Shawn Kirchner, *Heavenly Home*
Meredith Monk, *Panda Chant II*
Jenny Wong, conductor

Michael Abels, *The Open Hand*
J.S. Bach, *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*
Morten Lauridsen, *O Magnum Mysterium*
Anne Akiko Meyers, violin
Saunders Choi, *A Journey of Your Own*
Dale Trumbore, *To See It*
Nilo Alcala, *Tiptipa Kemmakem*
Grant Gershon, conductor

[ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE](#)

[ABOUT GRANT GERSHON, KIKI & DAVID GINDLER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR](#)

[ABOUT JEAN DAVIDSON, PRESIDENT & CEO](#)

[ABOUT JENNY WONG, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR](#)

[ABOUT REENA ESMAIL, SWAN FAMILY ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE](#)

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

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