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Press Contact: Libby Huebner (562) 799-6055 nyjazz@aol.com

**INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED COUNTERTENOR DAVID DANIELS
HEADLINES FREE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
PRESENTED BY LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S CHORUS**

Thursday, December 17, 7:00 P.M., at USC's Simon Ramo Recital Hall

***Program, Moderated by Dr. Steven Kronauer, is Presented in Conjunction with
LACC's new Ensemble "Cantus," an Emerging Voices Choir for Boys with Changing Voices***

(Pasadena, CA) December 1, 2009 – World renowned countertenor David Daniels – described by the *Chicago Tribune* as “today’s gold standard among countertenors” – headlines a special free community conversation presented by Los Angeles Children’s Chorus in conjunction with its new ensemble for boys with changing voices, entitled “Cantus,” on Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 P.M. The conversation is hosted by USC’s Thornton School of Music and will take place in USC’s Simon Ramo Recital Hall, located on the campus of USC. Cantus Director Dr. Steven Kronauer moderates the conversation, during which Daniels will discuss challenges and techniques of performing in the stratospheric range of a countertenor, which is the equivalent of a male singing primarily in a falsetto voice whose range is that of a contralto, mezzo-soprano or, rarely, soprano. Daniels, who is in town for appearances at Walt Disney Concert Hall, will also discuss his own voice change during adolescence, how he trained during that period of his life and how he made the switch as an adult from a tenor to a countertenor. He will also answer questions from the audience.

“David Daniels possess a voice that is truly one of the most distinctive in the world,” says Kronauer. “This is an incredible opportunity for the singing community and general public to learn first hand in an intimate setting about his amazing artistry and his unique trajectory.”

The event is free. For information, please call (626) 793-4231 or visit www.lachildrenschorus.org.

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DAVID DANIELS is known for his magnetic stage presence and a voice of singular warmth and surpassing beauty, which have helped him redefine his voice category for the modern public. The American countertenor has appeared with the world's major opera companies and on its main concert and recital stages. He made history as the first countertenor to give a solo recital in the main auditorium of Carnegie Hall. The *New York Times* states, "To say that he is the most acclaimed countertenor of the day, perhaps the best ever, is to understate his achievement. He is simply a great singer." *Gramophone* magazine acknowledged his contribution to recorded excellence as well as his expansion of the repertoire for his voice type by naming him one of the "Top Ten Trailblazers" in classical music today. As much at home in recital as on the opera stage, Daniels has won admiration for his performances of extensive concert and art song repertoire, including song literature of the 19th and 20th centuries not usually associated with his voice type. Honored by the music world for his unique achievements, Daniels has been the recipient of two of classical music's most significant awards: *Musical America's* Vocalist of the Year for 1999 and the 1997 Richard Tucker Award. Daniels was born in Spartanburg, South Carolina, the son of two singing teachers. He began to sing as a boy soprano, moving to tenor as his voice matured, and earned an undergraduate degree from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Dissatisfied with his achievements as a tenor, Daniels made the daring switch to the countertenor range during graduate studies at the University of Michigan with George Shirley.

A noted tenor, Dr. **STEVE KRONAUER** began his professional career as the youngest member ever to sing in the chorus of the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, Germany. During his ten-year engagement, he studied with such leading singers as Verdi tenor Dennis O'Neill and Wagnerian baritone Donald MacIntyre. As a soloist with the Bavarian State Opera, he performed for television broadcasts, CD recordings, and live radio performances, appearing in secondary tenor roles with Renee Fleming, Kurt Moll, and many others. He also sang oratorio under such noted conductors as Karl Anton Richenbacher and Peter Schneide, appeared as a soloist with the Cologne Philharmonic and the Munich Philharmonic in Germany. Since returning to the U.S., Dr. Kronauer has soloed with Angeles Chorale and National Children's Chorus, among others. He completed a doctorate degree at UCLA in choral and operatic conducting. At University of Michigan, he completed two Masters Degrees in Vocal Performance and Choral Conducting, and served as the Assistant Conductor for the University's Men's Glee Club. A gifted teacher, Dr. Kronauer taught on the voice faculty of the Interlochen Arts Camp and at the University of California, Irvine. He served for three years on the voice faculty, and as music director of the opera program at California State University, Los Angeles. Subsequently, he served for two years as Acting Chair of the voice department and director of opera activities of the University of California, Santa Barbara. Currently, Dr. Kronauer has a busy private voice studio and is on the faculty of California State University, Long Beach, at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, teaching voice and German diction.

LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S CHORUS, founded in 1986, is noted throughout the country for its exceptional artistic quality and technical ability. Under the direction of Artistic Director Anne Tomlinson, Los Angeles Children's Chorus frequently performs with such leading musical ensembles as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. LACC also assists Los Angeles Opera by providing and training children for opera productions that require children's chorus or soloists. LACC currently serves more than 400 children ages 6-18 from 60 communities across Los Angeles in six choirs (Concert, Chamber Singers, Emerging Voices, Intermediate, Apprentice and Preparatory) and a new class for young singers ages 6-7, *First Experiences in Singing*. The intensive training program includes weekly or twice weekly rehearsals, as well as individual vocal coaching and comprehensive musicianship classes. LACC has toured Brazil, China, Great Britain, Italy, Australia, Germany, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland as well as many parts of the United States and Canada. It is the subject of the Academy Award-nominated documentary film, "SING!" which chronicles a year in the life of the choir and is shown periodically on PBS stations nationwide, and the award-winning 2008 short documentary "SING OPERA!" both by filmmakers Freida Mock and Jessica Sanders. LACC appears on "Amore Infinito" ("Infinite Love"), a 2009 Deutsche Grammophon CD of songs based on poems by the late Pope John Paul II

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and performed by Plácido Domingo, Andrea Bocelli, Vanessa Williams and Katherine Jenkins. In June 2009, the choir made its second appearance on "The Tonight Show," collaborating with the John Mayer Trio. Open auditions for LACC take place each May. *First Experiences in Singing* enrolls children on a first come, first served basis.

CALENDAR LISTING

EVENT:

**Free Community Conversation with Countertenor David Daniels
Presented by Los Angeles Children's Chorus and Hosted by USC Thornton School of Music**

DATES:

Thursday, December 17, 2009, 7:00 PM

LOCATION:

USC's Simon Ramo Recital Hall
Located in Booth Hall on the USC Campus
S. Figueroa Street and USC McCarthy Way
Los Angeles, CA 90089
(Ample parking is available on campus)

COST:

Free

INFORMATION:

(626) 793-4231
www.lachildrenschorus.org

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program and artists subject to change