



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S CHORUS HONORS  
CONDUCTOR/COMPOSER ESA-PEKKA SALONEN,  
PHILANTHROPIST ALICE COULOMBE AND  
LACC ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ANNE TOMLINSON  
AT 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA BEL CANTO**

**Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 6 p.m.,  
at Walt Disney Concert Hall's BP Hall in Downtown Los Angeles**

The Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC), which, over the past quarter century, has performed with virtually every major music organization in the region, reflects upon its rich history and significant role in the city's cultural fabric by feting three passionate and illustrious luminaries who have been closely tied to the choir's success at its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Bel Canto on Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 6 p.m., at Walt Disney Concert Hall's BP Hall. They are conductor/composer Esa-Pekka Salonen, Conductor Laureate of the Los Angeles Philharmonic; esteemed philanthropist Alice Coulombe; and LACC's own Artistic Director, Anne Tomlinson. All three are celebrated for their tremendous impact on the classical music scene in Los Angeles and beyond. Proceeds from the gala, which promises to bring together a who's who of the city's musical elite, benefit Los Angeles Children's Chorus' artistic, educational and scholarship programs.

"Esa-Pekka, Alice and Anne are pillars of the music community," says gala Co-Chair Mary Blodgett (San Marino). "They have helped to make Los Angeles a musical force tour de force recognized around the world."

Adds co-chair Jennifer Sliskovitch (Bel Air), "We are honoring Esa-Pekka, under whose baton LACC has performed numerous times, for his extraordinary musical legacy, Alice for her passionate support and deep commitment to the arts, and Anne, who is celebrating her 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the helm of LACC, for helping to train and inspire the next generation of musicians."

**(MORE ON REVERSE)**

**LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S CHORUS HONORS ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, ALICE COULOMBE AND ANNE TOMLINSON AT 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA BEL CANTO MARCH 30, 2011 - Page 2 of 3**

Noted opera tenor John Atkins serves as Master of Ceremonies for the music-filled evening, which includes, among other highlights, several musical tributes. Tomlinson will conduct members of the Los Angeles Children's Chorus in Salonen's *Dona Nobis Pacem*, the U.S. premiere of which the chorus will perform just one day before at Disney Hall at a "Tribute to Ernest (Fleischmann)." Surprise tributes to Coulombe and Tomlinson are also planned. Additionally, guests will enjoy a delectable three-course dinner and live auction.

Adding a very personal touch to the gala are the evening's presenters. LACC Chair David Scheidemantle, who has helped lead LACC's remarkable growth in recent years, honors Tomlinson, who has shaped the choir's distinctive sound and artistic excellence; Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard, an avid arts supporter beloved by his constituents, is bestowing Coulombe, a longtime Pasadena resident and ardent champion of LACC, with her award; and LA Philharmonic President and CEO Deborah Borda pays tribute to Salonen, with whom she worked closely during his lengthy and highly acclaimed tenure with the orchestra, including his numerous performances with LACC.

In addition to Blodgett and Sliskovich, the other gala co-chairs are Kimberly Marteau Emerson (Beverly Hills), and Lori Samuels (Pasadena). The Gala Committee members are Alma Aroustamian (Glendale), Annie Yeager Higgins (Pasadena), Jill Westbrook Roberts (San Marino), Ann Sunshine (Pasadena), and Andrea Greene Willard (San Marino).

Generously sponsoring the dinner at the "Platinum" level are Helen and Peter Bing, and Mary Blodgett and Carlton Calvin. "Palladium" sponsors include Eileen and Ken Leech, Jennifer and Joe Sliskovich and Doralyn Harris, and Wells Fargo. "Titanium" sponsors are Nancy and Greg Annick, Kimberly Marteau and John Emmerson, Sally and Robert Neely, Jill Westbrook Roberts and Rick Roberts, Lori and Ted Samuels, Cheryl and David Scheidemantle, and Anne and Dave Tomlinson. Supporting LACC as "White Gold" sponsors are Annie and Christopher Higgins, and Michael-Anne Browne and Phil Kurzner.

Los Angeles Children's Chorus is currently celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Described as "astonishingly polished," "hauntingly beautiful," and "one heck of a talented group of kids," it is widely regarded as one of the world's foremost children's choirs. Founded in 1986 and currently led by Artistic Director Anne Tomlinson, LACC performs with such leading organizations as LA Opera, LA Phil, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, LA Master Chorale, LACO, Pasadena Symphony and POPs and Calder Quartet. The chorus' roster includes more than 350 children aged 6-18 from 60 communities across Los Angeles in six choirs and "First Experiences in Singing" classes for young singers. LACC has toured North and South America, China and Europe, and produced the world-premiere of *Keepers of the Night*, an opera by Peter Ash and Donald Sturrock. The chorus appeared on LA Master Chorale's Decca recording *A Good Understanding*, and Plácido Domingo's Deutsche Grammophon recording *Amore Infinito* ("*Infinite Love*"). The subject of a trilogy of documentaries by Academy

Award-winning filmmaker Freida Lee Mock, LACC is featured in the Academy Award-nominated *Sing!*, about a year in the life of the choir; *Sing Opera!*, documenting the production of *Keepers of the Night*; and *Sing China!*, chronicling its groundbreaking tour to China just prior to the Beijing Olympics. LACC has performed with John Mayer on NBC's "The Tonight Show," and was featured on Public Radio International's nationally syndicated show "From the Top," among other credits.

Gala tickets are \$375 per person with special sponsorship packages available. For tickets and information, please call (626) 793-4231 or visit [www.lachildrenschorus.org](http://www.lachildrenschorus.org).

# # #

#### ABOUT THE HONOREES

**ALICE COULOMBE** has been a community volunteer for forty years. She was a founding member and former chair of the Pasadena Arts Commission and member of the City Centennial Committee. She continues to serve as president of Metropolitan Associates, a local non-profit that raises funds to support the arts for children. Coulombe also was a Huntington Library docent for 35 years and helped design the school tours for the Japanese Garden. Coulombe is probably best known for her thirty-year tenure as a Music Center volunteer in Los Angeles. Her special love is opera, and she was the founding president of the Music Center Opera League as well as one of the founders of the Los Angeles Opera Company. She is a vice president of the board of The Colburn School and serves on its Executive Committee. She chairs its Academic Affairs committee and serves on the Governance committee. Alice is married to Joe Coulombe and they have three children: Joe, Charlotte, and Madeleine.

Conductor and composer **ESA-PEKKA SALONEN** was born in Helsinki in 1958 and studied at the Sibelius Academy. In 1979, he made his conducting debut with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. He was Chief Conductor of the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra for ten years (1985-1995) and Director of the Helsinki Festival in 1995 and 1996. Salonen was Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic from 1992 until 2009 and was named the orchestra's Conductor Laureate in April 2009. Since September 2008 Salonen has been Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Philharmonia Orchestra. Salonen's appointment with the Philharmonia Orchestra followed directly his relationship with the Los Angeles Philharmonic where he was Music Director for 17 years. Salonen's highlights with the LA Philharmonic have included residencies at the Salzburg Festival, Köln Philharmonie and Le Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, as well as numerous European tours and guest performances in Japan. On the occasion of his 17 year-tenure the Los Angeles Philharmonic celebrated him with a series of concerts in April 2009, including the premiere of his own violin concerto. Salonen is renowned for his interpretations of contemporary music and has given countless premieres of new works. He also has a considerable discography. In September 2009, a new partnership with the Philharmonia Orchestra's Signum label was launched with the release of a live recording of Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*; other recent and forthcoming recordings with the Philharmonia on Signum include Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* and Mahler's 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> symphonies. On Deutsche Grammophon, Salonen's most recent releases include a disc of Salonen works performed with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and a DVD of Kaija Saariaho's opera, *L'Amour de loin* as well as two CDs with Hélène Grimaud with works by Pärt and Schumann. The recording, featuring Salonen's piano concerto and his works *Helix* and *Dichotomie*, was nominated for a Grammy in November 2009. A wide repertoire ranging from Mahler and Revueltas to Magnus Lindberg and his own works has been recorded by Sony Classical.

**ANNE TOMLINSON**, appointed artistic director of Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC) in 1995 and currently celebrating her 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at its artistic helm, conducts the Concert Choir and the Chamber Singers and is responsible for the educational and artistic development of LACC. She also serves as Children's Chorus Mistress for the Los Angeles Opera. During her tenure, she has prepared children for major operatic works including the world premiere of Tobias Picker's opera *Fantastic Mr. Fox* based upon the story by Roald Dahl, and has worked with Plácido Domingo, Andrew Litton, and Julius Rudel, among other renowned conductors. She has prepared children's choirs for Esa-Pekka Salonen, Gustavo Dudamel, Carlos Rizzi, and Maren Alspop in Los Angeles Philharmonic performances of Bizet's *Carmen*, Stravinsky's *Persephone*, John Adams' *El Niño*, Mahler's Symphony No. 3, Orff's *Carmina Burana* and a fully staged production of Bernstein's *Mass* at the Hollywood Bowl, among many others. Los Angeles Master Chorale presentations include Christopher Rouse's *Requiem* and Orff's *Carmina Burana* with Grant Gershon and Paul Salamunovich. Ms. Tomlinson is a frequent presenter at symposia, workshops and festivals. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and Master's degree in conducting from Northwestern University where she studied with Margaret Hillis. She received in 2000 the Gold Crown Award for Music Education, given by the Pasadena Arts Council, the 2001 Power of One Award, given by Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, and the 2006 Educator of the Year Award given by the Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Southern California.