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**LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S CHORUS WRAPS 25th ANNIVERSARY SEASON
WITH SPECIAL EDITION OF ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT THAT PAYS TRIBUTE
TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN PART OF CHOIR
OVER PAST 25 YEARS**

May 14, 2011, 7 P.M., at Ambassador Auditorium

***Concert Features Performances by all Six LACC Choirs, Alumni Chorus Led by
LACC's Founding Director Rebecca Thompson and LACC Alumna Allison White,
World Premiere of New Work by LACC Alumna Caroline Park,
and Special Appearance by Calder Quarter***

Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC), considered one of the world's foremost children's choirs, culminates a year-long celebration of its first quarter century with a special 25th Anniversary edition of its annual Spring Concert, showcasing choir members current and former at the spectacular Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, May 14, 2011, 7 PM. This moving performance, which includes special appearances by the renowned Calder Quartet and an LACC alumni choir, features some 260 current LACC members in six choirs and pays tribute to the more than 1,500 children who have been a part of LACC since its inception. Up-and-coming composer Caroline Park, an LACC alumna, has crafted a new work for the occasion, *Motion*, a soundscape from her travels through the U.S. and abroad, with text by her sister, also an LACC alumna, Jennifer Park.

"This concert marks a very special milestone for the chorus," says LACC Artistic Director Anne Tomlinson. "As the choir's reputation for training the next generation of singers and music lovers continues to grow, so do the accomplishments of our esteemed alumni. It is an honor to celebrate everyone who has been affiliated with the choir over the past 25 years."

Park's work, *Motion*, revolves around cities being vessels of sound with constant, fluctuating soundscapes, and incorporates audio she recorded in several cities around the world. Park notes that the genesis for *Motion* was a near fatal accident she had while walking in London when she did not hear a car coming towards her because she was wearing headphones and listening to her iPod. As a consequence, she realized that she was not aurally attuned to her environment and wrote the piece to challenge performers and audience members to fully engage in every aural context.

(MORE ON REVERSE)

The concert opens with the beloved American folksong *Sail Away*, performed with Scott Williams on the hammered dulcimer, and concludes with current choir members and alumni jointly performing the uplifting gospel song *Praise His Holy Name* arranged by Keith Hampton. Also featured are *Songs of Hefez* from *Behind the Caravan* by Abbie Betinis, written in Farsi and inspired by 14-Century Persian poetry, as well as a range of folk songs and works by such master composers as Betty Bertaux, one of the country's leading composers for treble voice, Bach and Vivaldi that have been part of LACC's repertoire for the past 25 years.

LACC Artistic Director Anne Tomlinson conducts the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. Mandy Brigham leads the Intermediate Choir and Preparatory Choir, and Amy Brehm conducts Apprentice Choir. LACC alumna Allison White and LACC's Founding Director Rebecca Thompson conduct the alumni chorus. The choirs will perform separately and combined. LACC's last two appearance at Ambassador Auditorium – widely recognized for its superlative acoustics – in 2006 and 2008 drew sold-out crowds and garnered considerable critical acclaim.

Tickets are \$26, \$38 and \$52; children 17 and under are half price. For tickets and information, please call (626) 793-4231 or visit www.lachildrenschorus.org. Ambassador Auditorium is located at 131 S. St. John Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Described as “astonishingly polished,” “hauntingly beautiful,” and “one heck of a talented group of kids,” **LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S CHORUS** 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*”) and, in 2011, gave the U.S. premiere of Esa-Pekka Salonen's *Dona Nobis Pacem*. 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. Open auditions will be held June 2-4, 2011.

ANNE TOMLINSON, appointed artistic director of Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC) in 1995, 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 Alsop 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, bestowed by Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, and the 2006 Educator of the Year Award presented by the Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Southern California.

AMY BREHM, received her Bachelor of Science in Music Education from the Robert E. Cook Honors College at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She taught instrumental and general music in the Fox Chapel and North Allegheny School Districts in the Pittsburgh area before moving to California. While in Pittsburgh, she also developed a curriculum for and taught musicianship classes at the Seton Center Suzuki School for Music. Brehm is the Assistant Artistic Director for the Los Angeles Children's Chorus and directs the Preparatory Choir and co-directs the Apprentice Choir. Additionally, she teaches Elementary Vocal/General Music with the Los Angeles Unified School District and is an adjunct faculty member at Pepperdine University's Seaver College. Brehm is President-Elect of the Kodály Association of Southern California and has completed her Level II Kodály coursework. She is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, Organization of American Kodály Educators, and California Music Educators Association.

Assistant Artistic Director **MANDY BRIGHAM**, director of the Intermediate and Preparatory Choirs, has taught vocal music and conducted in school and church settings in Southern California for more than 25 years. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from USC, where she also did graduate work as the recipient of a School of Music scholarship. Her teachers included James Vail, Charles Hirt, and Morten Lauridsen. Brigham has assisted in Los Angeles Opera productions of *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, *Carmen* and *La Bohème*, and she prepared the children's chorus for the performance of *The Lord of the Rings Symphony* at the Hollywood Bowl in September 2004. Brigham, a member of the American Choral Directors Association, sings in the St. Charles Borromeo Choir under the direction of Paul Salamunovich.

Deemed "Superb" by the *New York Times*, the **CALDER QUARTET** continues to expand its unique array of projects by performing traditional quartet repertoire as well as partnering with innovative modern composers, emerging musicians, and performers across genres. Inspired by innovative American artist Alexander Calder, the group was awarded the 2009 ASCAP Adventurous Programming Award in recognition of its exciting programming and collaborations. The quartet has worked with and performed with pivotal modern composers such as Terry Riley, Christopher Rouse and Thomas Adès as well as bands such as The Airborne Toxic Event, Vampire Weekend and party rocker Andrew WK. Recent highlights for the Calder Quartet include performances at Walt Disney Concert Hall; the Big Ears Festival in Knoxville; New Haven's International Festival of Arts and Ideas; La Jolla Summerfest; and in concert with Grammy-winning pianist Gloria Cheng at the Orange County Performing Arts Center and at Le Poisson Rouge in New York. Performance highlights in the 2010-2011 season include the group's Carnegie Hall debut, the Washington Performing Arts Society, the 2010 Melbourne Festival with Thomas Adès as pianist and the world premiere of a new work by composer Andrew Norman for the University of Southern California's Presidential Inauguration. The Calder Quartet toured North America with Andrew W.K. and The Airborne Toxic Event this past year and has been featured on KCRW's *Morning Becomes Eclectic*, *Late Show with David Letterman*, *Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien*, *Late Night with Jimmy Kimmel*, and the *Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson*.

A noted tenor, Dr. **STEVEN KRONAUER**, director of LACC's Young Men's Ensemble, teaches voice and German diction at California State University, Long Beach, and was the head of the voice and opera department at the University of California, Santa Barbara until 2008. His extensive international performance background includes numerous productions with Germany's Munich Opera, and he began his professional career as the youngest member ever to sing in the chorus of Munich's Bavarian State Opera, with which he performed for ten years. Kronauer holds a doctorate in Operatic and Choral Conducting from the University of California, Los Angeles and two Masters Degrees from the University of Michigan in Vocal Performance and Choral Conducting. His teaching method stresses proper vocal technique, healthy singing through proper breathing and a commitment to total self-expression for the singer in any music style or language. His students have appeared at the Hollywood Bowl, on Broadway, at the Metropolitan Opera, the Munich Opera, La Scala, Covent Garden and MTV as well as in rock and jazz venues around the world.

REBECCA THOMPSON is a specialist in vocal music for young singers. She has taught pre-school through university music. She has served in public, private and parochial schools. For the past six years she taught middle school music at Kentucky Country Day school, and was Director of Children's Choirs at Second Presbyterian Church, Louisville KY. Rebecca is currently Director of the Choristers Guild Institute, a three-summer national teacher certification program for directors of young singers in churches and church related schools. She is Founding Director of the Los Angeles Children's Chorus, past Children's Chorus Mistress for the Los Angeles Music Center Opera Company, and was Associate Director of the Appalachian Children's Chorus in WV. Her community based choirs have toured internationally, won national competitions, and been honored to sing at Kodaly and American Choral Director's Association National Conventions. Her singers have appeared in films and commercials. Thompson has conducted festivals and workshops in more than forty states. Professionally, she has served the American Choral Director's Association (ACDA) as President of West Virginia Chapter of ACDA, Women's Choir Chair for the state of West Virginia, and ACDA Western Division Chair for Children's Choirs. She is certified in Orff Schulwerke and is a trained Kodaly educator. She has been on the National Board of The Presbyterian Association of Musicians and on the National Chorister's Guild Board. Thompson has served as a music editor and arranger with both Laurendale Music and Treble Clef Music Press.

With Celtic, colonial, medieval, rock, and Renaissance influences, **SCOTT WILLIAMS** has developed a wide repertoire of songs on the hammered dulcimer that he performs at events around the state and beyond. Describing his work as "where Medieval and modern collide," he has released four albums, *The Road to Lisdoonvarna* (Celtic), *Home for the Holidays* (Christmas), *Tristan of the Western Sea* (meditation), and his recently-released *HAMMERock*, featuring such rock classics as *Stairway to Heaven*, The Cure's *Just Like Heaven*, Billy Idol's *White Wedding*, Elton John's *Daniel*, Coldplay's *The Scientist*, and R.E.M.'s *Losing My Religion*. Williams is currently working on the much-awaited *DULCITALICA*, an all-Metallica album that will be released on 11/11/11.

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Editors, please note:

CALENDAR LISTING FOR SPRING CONCERT

Los Angeles Children's Chorus – 25th Anniversary Spring Concert

Anne Tomlinson, Conductor/Concert Choir/Chamber Singers
Steven Kronauer, Conductor/Young Men's Ensemble
Mandy Brigham, Conductor/Intermediate Choir and Preparatory Choir
Amy Brehm, Conductor/Apprentice Choir

Special Guests:

Calder Quartet
Scott Williams, Hammered Dulcimer
LACC Alumni Chorus, LACC Alumna Allison White and LACC Founding Director Rebecca Thompson, conductors

DATE:

SATURDAY, May 14, 2011, 7 PM

PROGRAM:

American folksong	Sail Away
CAROLINE PARK	Motion – World Premiere
ABBIE BETINIS	Songs of Hefez from Behind the Caravan
arr. Keith Hampton	Praise His Holy Name
+ various folks songs and works by Bach, Bertaux and Vivaldi and others	

LOCATION:

Ambassador Auditorium
131 S. St. John Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91105

TICKET PRICES:

\$26, \$38 and \$52; (children ½ price)

INFORMATION & TICKETS:

(626) 793-4231
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