

Los Angeles Children's Chorus Biography

Los Angeles Children's Chorus, widely recognized for its agile bel canto sound and artistic excellence, has been lauded as "hauntingly beautiful" (*Los Angeles Times*), "astonishingly polished" (*Performances Magazine*), "extraordinary in its abilities" (*Culture Spot LA*), and "one of the world's foremost children's choirs" (*Pasadena Star News*).

Founded in 1986 and led by Artistic Director Anne Tomlinson since 1996, Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC) presents its own concerts and also performs with such leading organizations as LA Opera, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony and POPS, Calder Quartet, Jacaranda and MUSE/IQUE.

The Chorus serves more than 400 children ages 6 to 18 from 50 communities across Southern California in six choirs – Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Young Men's Ensemble, Intermediate Choir, Apprentice Choir and Preparatory Choir – and a First Experiences in Singing program and First Experiences in Choral Singing Ensemble for young children.

LACC, recipient of Chorus America's 2014 Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence, the nation's highest choral honor, has toured North and South America, Africa, China, Cuba, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Europe. It appears on John Williams' 2017 recording, *John Williams & Steven Spielberg: The Ultimate Collection*, as well as the Los Angeles Master Chorale's critically acclaimed 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 Mock, LACC is featured in the Oscar-nominated *Sing!*, about a year in the life of the Chorus; *Sing Opera!*, documenting the production of the LACC-commissioned family opera *Keepers of the Night*; and *Sing China!*, chronicling its groundbreaking tour to China prior to the Beijing Olympics.

LACC has performed with John Mayer on NBC's *The Tonight Show* and was featured on PBS's *Great Performances* and BBC Radio and Public Radio International's nationally syndicated show *From the Top*, among other credits.

Anne Tomlinson Biography

Anne Tomlinson has served as the Artistic Director of Los Angeles Children's Chorus since 1996, overseeing the educational and artistic development of the Chorus and conducting LACC's renowned Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. She is also Children's Chorus Mistress for LA Opera.

During her LACC tenure, Tomlinson has prepared children for numerous major operatic works, including Puccini's *La Bohème*, Bizet's *Carmen*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Wagner's *Lohengrin*, Britten's *Billy Budd* and the world premiere of Tobias Picker's opera, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. She has worked with such celebrated conductors as Gustavo Dudamel, Plácido Domingo, Andrew Litton,



James Conlon, Julius Rudel, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Carlo Rizzi, Marin Alsop and Lorin Maazel and prepared the Chorus for numerous LA Opera productions and Los Angeles Philharmonic performances of such works as Britten's *War Requiem*, Stravinsky's *Persephone*, John Adams' *El Niño*, Mahler's Symphony No. 3 and Symphony No. 8, Orff's *Carmina Burana* and a fully staged production of Bernstein's *Mass* at the Hollywood Bowl. For the Los Angeles Master Chorale, she has prepared LACC for performances of Orff's *Carmina Burana* under both Grant Gershon and the late Paul Salomonovich, as well as for the world premiere of Christopher Rouse's *Requiem*. Tomlinson also conducted the Chorus' U.S. premiere of Salonen's *Dona Nobis Pacem* at the Los Angeles Philharmonic's "Tribute to Earnest Fleischman" at Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Tomlinson's film work includes the 2002 Academy Award-nominated documentary *Sing!*, which chronicles a year in the life of LACC and appears regularly on public television in Los Angeles, and the sequel documentaries *Sing Opera!* and *Sing China!*. Her live broadcast work includes the January 2005 Chamber Singers performance on NPR's nationally syndicated program "From the Top."

Tomlinson is a frequent guest conductor and presenter at symposia, workshops and festivals nationally and internationally. 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 the Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, and the 2006 Educator of the Year Award presented by the Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Southern California.

Tomlinson is stepping down from Los Angeles Children's Chorus at the conclusion of the 2017/18 season, after 22 years of leading the organization to unprecedented growth and artistic excellence.

Twyla Meyer Biography

Twyla Meyer, Pianist, accompanies for Concert Choir and Chamber Singers. She holds a B.F.A. in piano performance from the University of Minnesota and an M.M. degree in accompanying (with honors) from USC. Ms. Meyer was staff accompanist/vocal coach and adjunct keyboard faculty at Cal State L.A. from 1980-2010, and has held similar positions at Pasadena City College and Occidental College. A specialist in 20th century chamber music, she is a founding member of the Matrix Chamber Ensemble, performing numerous concerts on the West Coast and in New York. Ms. Meyer has been on the faculty of the Idyllwild School of Music and was a featured performer with the Southern California Brahms Festival, along with being the principal pianist for the annual



Claremont Clarinet Festival. She has been on staff with LACC for over 20 years and has toured with the choir to the British Isles, Canada, Brazil, Alaska, Italy, China, Scandinavia, and South Africa.

SELECTED QUOTES

"When it comes to purity of tone, hauntingly beautiful timbre and the ability to transport listeners to a kind of aural nirvana, the Los Angeles Children's Chorus occupies a special place in LA's musical life." - Los Angeles Times

"The Los Angeles Children's Chorus is impeccably prepared, absolutely committed and fun to work with. It's the best children's chorus I have ever heard." - Esa-Pekka Salonen, composer

"It's a wonderful, wonderful chorus... they sing so well and bring happiness and something beautiful to the opera." - Placido Domingo, LA Opera General Director

"In all collaboration the children's chorus was outstanding... their professionalism, high level of character and personality and depth of preparation." - Kent Nagano

ADDITIONAL

Website: <https://www.lachildrenschorus.org/>

Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LAChildrensChorus>

Audio Recordings: upon request.

Reviews:

Review of recent Winter Concert at the Walt Disney Concert Hall:

<http://culturespotla.com/2017/11/los-angeles-childrens-chorus-holiday-concert-at-disney-hall/>

<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/jul/31/entertainment/la-et-la-childrens-chorus-20120801>