

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Master Chorale
Dr. Brian Dehn
Artistic Director

PRESENTS

*A Family
Christmas*



4pm • Saturday, December 6, 2025
First Presbyterian Church
180 N. Grand Street, Orange

4pm • Sunday, December 7, 2025
Trinity Lutheran Church
4101 Nohl Ranch Road, Anaheim

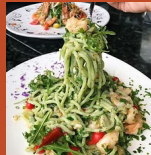
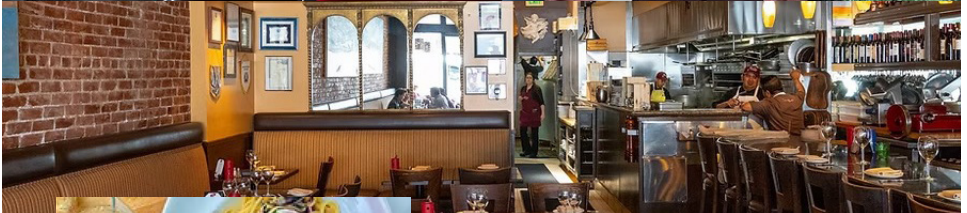
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Welcome

Friends of Choral Music,

Whether you celebrate Christmas as a holiday or just enjoy this time of year and having time with friends and family, tonight will hopefully be a special night. Music has been a part of this holiday and of family gatherings for millennia. I just returned from Iceland where singing is the national sport. Musical instruments were slow to reach the island and so singing was the only form of music they had. Singing really does lift the soul!

I am so glad that you all came to listen to our concert, and we very much appreciate the support. The choir has been working hard to create a concert that should be fun, beautiful and great for the family. And for us there is nothing better than a good audience! We love rehearsing some old favorites as well as learning new pieces that stretch us musically and provide new versions of some ancient songs and carols. It's always a fun concert and you get to sing along with us as well, and one lucky audience member will even get to conduct the chorale. For a price! Bidding to conduct the choir is a fun way to help support choral music. Our two venues in Orange and Anaheim Hills are new to us and we hope to make new friends and supporters. We have had amazing support from both First Presbyterian Church and Trinity Lutheran, and we are so grateful for their help.

Our chorus has been performing for forty-two years, and we are one of Orange County's strongest community choirs. So, we are also very grateful for support from the Orange County Community Foundation. It is only through the support of people like yourselves that we can keep bringing high-quality music to our community. Please find a way to support choral music, whether it be by making a small donation, telling people about our choir or lobbying for music in schools. It all makes a difference.

Enjoy the concert!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter J. Donovan".

PETER J. DONOVAN, PRESIDENT
Southern California Master Chorale

Program

Southern California Master Chorale

Christmas on Broadway.....arr. John Higgins

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.....Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane
arr. Mark Hayes

Grace Lee, soloist

Carol of the Drum..... Katherine K. Davis

The First Noel.....English Carol
arr. Dan Forrest

I'll Be Home for Christmas Walter Kent
arr. by Trousdale

Abby Taylor, Liana Koeppel, and Paige Taylor

'Til the Season.....Randy Goodrum and John Barlow Jarvis
Comes 'Round Again

Danny Dayton

Southern California Master Chorale

The Christmas Song..... Mel Torme and Robert Wells
arr. Ed Lojeski

Jules Ronquillo-Bodda, soloist

Do You Hear What I Hear? Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne
arr. Harry Simeone

Audience Sing-Along

Jingle Bells..... James Pierpont
God Rest Ye Merry GentlemenEnglish Carol
Santa Claus is Coming to Town Haven Gillespie and J. Fred Coots
arr. Mark Hanson, trans. Michael LeDoux

***** Intermission *****

Program

Southern California Master Chorale

Christmas Goes Classical Various Composers
arr. David Maddux

A Christmas Lullaby Traditional Welsh
arr. Marianne Forman

Emily Axen, soloist

Walking in the Air Howard Blake

Away in a Manger arr. Mark Hayes

Megan DeFord

Gesu Bambino Pietro Yon

Andrea Flores and Grace Lee

Audience Sing-Along

O Come All Ye Faithful arr. David Willcocks

Silent Night Franz Mohr and Franz Xaver Gruber
arr. Carl Relnecke, trans. John Freean Young

Joy to the World George Frideric Handel

Southern California Master Chorale

Carol of the Bells Peter J. Wilhousky and Mykola Leontovich
arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

Sleigh Ride Mitchell Parish and LeRoy Anderson
arr. Hawley Ades

White Christmas Irving Berlin
arr. Roy Ringwald

We Wish You a Merry Christmas Traditional English
arr. Alice Parker

Artistic Director's Note

The holiday season draws us together—around traditions, memories, and the people who give our lives meaning. Tonight's concert, *A Family Christmas*, is crafted in that same spirit of gathering: an evening meant to feel like coming home to a house filled with laughter, music, and the joyful anticipation unique to this time of year. The Southern California Master Chorale welcomes you into a celebration shaped by the warmth of family, the wonder of childhood, and the simple happiness that music brings to every generation.

You'll hear melodies tonight that summon the excitement of childhood Christmas mornings, like *Carol of the Bells* or *Sleigh Ride*; or the charming *Walking in the Air* from the animated film *The Snowman*. Others offer quieter reflections filled with gratitude and peace, like *A Christmas Lullaby*, *Carol of the Drum*, or Dan Forrest's beautiful setting of *The First Noel*—and hopefully you'll hear a few new favorites as well! You'll also hear famous Christmas-themed songs from the Broadway stage to the very tongue-in-cheek *Christmas Goes Classical* (in fact, we invite you to count how many parodies are in this one!). And, of course, generational favorites like *The Christmas Song* and *White Christmas*. And our famous sing-along moments invite you to join your voice with ours, celebrating the timeless truth that Christmas music belongs to everyone.

Through everything we sing, we hope to provide joy. We attempt to remind each other—and you—that the season's greatest gifts are not wrapped in paper but shared through moments: singing together, remembering together, and experiencing beauty side by side. From our SCMC family to yours, may this concert fill your heart with light, lift your spirit with joy, and bring warmth that lasts long after the final notes fade.



BRIAN DEHN
Artistic Director



LUMBERYARD

RESTAURANT

384 FOREST AVE #10
LAGUNA BEACH, CA 92651
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DR. BRIAN DEHN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

on its 2025-26
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MASTER CHORALE AUDIENCE SURVEY 2025

We value your opinion.

Please fill out this brief survey for a chance to win two free tickets to a concert of your choice this season. Your response will help us expand our outreach to more music-loving individuals. Thanks!



Sing-Along Lyrics

Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow,
In a one-horse open sleigh,
O'er the fields we go,
Laughing all the way;
Bells on bobtail ring,
Making spirits bright;
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight!

Chorus:

Jingle Bells! Jingle bells!
Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh!
Jingle Bells! Jingle Bells!
Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh!



Now the ground is white,
Go it while you're young,
Take the girls along,
And sing this sleighing song;
Just get a bobtailed bay,
Two forty for his speed;
Hitch him to an open sleigh
And, crack! You'll take the lead.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Oh, you, better watch out,
You better not cry,
Better not pout,
I'm telling you why:
Santa Claus is comin' to town.

He's making a list
And checking it twice,
Gonna find out
Who's naughty and nice.
Santa Claus is comin' to town.



God Rest

Ye Merry, Gentlemen

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray
O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy.



He sees you when
you're sleepin',
He knows when
you're awake,
He knows if you've been bad or good,
So be good for goodness sake.

You better watch out,
You better not cry,
Better not pout,
I'm telling you why:
Santa Claus is comin' to town.

Sing-Along Lyrics



O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
Oh come ye,
O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,

Now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Silent Night

Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace;
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy hold face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at thy birth;
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room.
And heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove.
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.



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 Deanna Torchia
 Richard Ulrich
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+Staff Singers

*Section Leaders

Our Artistic Director

BRIAN DEHN



Dr. Brian Dehn, artistic director and conductor of the Southern California Master Chorale is known for high standards in repertoire, vocal pedagogy, and informed performance practice, as well as his ability to shape singers of all levels into extraordinary ensembles. He has conducted his singers in some of the world's most remarkable venues, including Carnegie Hall, the Sistine Chapel, St. Mark's in Venice, St. Peter's in Rome, St. Mathias in Budapest, St. Tomaskircke in Vienna, St. Patrick's and The Riverside Church in New York, St. Anne's Cathedral in Sydney, St. Mary's Church in Cambridge, St. Patrick's and St. Mary's in Dublin, St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, and the Beijing Central Conservatory.

Now, in his sixth season as artistic director of the Southern California Master Chorale, Brian has programmed a wide variety of concert repertoire, including Durufle's and Mozart's *Requiem*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, Bruckner's *Te Deum*, and a semi-staged concert performance of Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. There were also highly successful concerts with themes such as "Music of the Movies," "Her Voice Soars! Women Composers Throughout History," and "Christmas Around the World."

Brian received his doctoral degree from Claremont Graduate University, specializing in Baroque Performance Practice, and his Master's from San Jose State University, focusing on choral conducting and music education. Currently teaching at the collegiate level, he recently completed 15 years of teaching at the high school level, where his ensembles consistently earned "Superior" ratings and received invitations to prestigious festivals, including performances at the 2014 and 2018 ACDA Western Region Conventions. He led his students on performance tours to New York, Spain, Portugal, San Francisco, China, Italy, Ireland, England, and Australia.

For over 25 years, Brian has held positions as director of music for various Southern California churches. Currently, he is Director of Music at First Christian Church in Orange, where he conducts the Chancel Choir, two Handbell Ensembles, the Children's Choir, and leads the contemporary band. He is also the founder and artistic director of Meistersingers, a small professional-level chamber choir, leading the ensemble through 25 successful seasons, including producing six albums, fourteen world and regional premieres, and eight commissioned works. He was also the co-founder of the Orange County Choral Academy, a three-level choral program designed for school-age children to build well-rounded musicians through intense study of voice, choral techniques, performance, music theory, and sight-reading.

Brian is a member of several music organizations, including the American Choral Directors Association, International Federation of Choral Music, Music Educators National Conference, California Music Educators Association (where he presented in 2016), Chorus America, and the National Association of Church Music, where he served as a board member for Church Literature. He lives in Orange, California, with his wife, Chelsea, and their two sons.
www.briandehn.com

Our Accompanist

MARK SALTERS



Mark Salters is an opera co-director, vocal coach, and pianist at California State University, Fullerton. Originally from New York, he served on the coaching staff of the Opera Department at the Univ. of Michigan under Gustav Meier. Prior to that, he was on faculty of the Yale University graduate opera program headed by noted director Tito Capobianco.

Mark has accompanied master classes by many well-known singers and coaches, including Frederica Von Stade, Roberta Alexander, Vladamir Chernov, Carlo Bergonzi, Sherill Milnes, Madame Régine Crespin, Richard Bonyngne, Rodney Gilfry, George Shirley, Carol Neblett, Horst Günther, Marni Nixon, Paul Sperry, Richard Pearlman, Lili Chookasian, as well as many others. In addition, he has worked with conductors and directors from Los Angeles Opera, New York City Opera,

Frankfurt Opera, St. Louis Opera, and the Metropolitan Opera. He has also served on the music staffs of the University of Connecticut, Opera Theater of Connecticut, and the Long Wharf Theater in New Haven, Connecticut.

Currently, Mark regularly accompanies the National Association of Teachers of Singing symposiums in Los Angeles and Orange County, as well as the Classical Singers Association classes and concerts. He has also worked for Opera Pacific, Opera Ala Carte, Cal State Long Beach, Pacific Chorale, Pacific Symphony, Riverside Opera, Southland Opera, and the Intimate Opera Company. He also serves as Director of Music and Principal Organist at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton church in Irvine.

SING WITH US

ARE YOU READY TO MAKE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MASTER CHORALE YOUR CHORAL HOME?



THINGS TO KNOW

- Rehearsals: Tuesday evenings from 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm with breaks for holidays.
- Rehearsals are at First Christian Church of

Orange, 1130 E. Walnut Avenue, Orange.

- A special audition day is announced a few weeks prior to the start of the season, however, prospective singers are welcome to join us at a rehearsal if they miss the audition date.

AUDITIONS

- You will be asked to sing an audition song that you prepared. Please bring two copies of the sheet music.
- You may be asked to perform vocal scales to determine your range and blend.
- You will be asked about your prior vocal experience.
- If you are coming to a regularly scheduled rehearsal to audition, you will check-in at the door and receive sheet music for that evening's rehearsal in addition to above.



Our goal is to make the audition process as relaxed and easy as possible.

<http://socialmasterchorale.org/join-us/>

Thank You

to all who have contributed to the success of
Southern California Master Choral
for our 2025-26 concert season

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE (\$25,000+)

Anonymous

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** Member of Southern California Master Choral*

Friends of Choral Music

Board of Directors

Friends of Choral Music (FoCM) doing business as Southern California Master Chorale helps support community choral programs, including funding for music, orchestras, vocalists, venues, school scholarships, and outreach programs. 100% of the profit from board-sponsored events is used to help keep choral arts viable in our community.

FoCM meets at least six times a year and is responsible for the governance, finance, and fundraising. The board is also responsible for all operating responsibilities of Southern California Master Chorale and Starlight Carolers. FoCM consists mostly of singing members of these choirs that volunteer their time and service.

Friends of Choral Music is a non-profit
IRC 501 (c)(3), Tax Id 95-4584695.

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Please Support Choral Music

Ticket sales account for only one-third of the cost of presenting our season each year. Our continued growth and success is only possible through the generous contributions of donors like you. All donations are tax deductible (Tax Id 95-4584695). Your gift will be gratefully acknowledged in our concert programs.

To make your tax-deductible donation,
speak with any singer or visit our website,
www.socalmasterchorale.org

Please mail your contribution to:
Southern California Master Chorale
174 W. Lincoln Ave. Suite 200
Anaheim, CA 92805

Questions? Please send an email to:
info@socalmasterchorale.org

Please include your name(s) as you want them to appear in our program.

Our 2025-26 Concert Season



March 22, 2026 @ 4:00pm

Tustin Presbyterian Church
225 W. Main St, Tustin 92780

The Southern California Master Chorale presents one of the most profound works in the choral repertoire: Brahms' *Requiem*. With its sweeping choral power and tender moments of hope, the piece speaks directly to the human spirit across time and culture. Experience the beauty and consolation of Brahms' vision in this unforgettable concert.



May 31, 2026 @ 4:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church
222 N. East St., Anaheim 92805

Reimagines the timeless beauty of Renaissance music through a fresh, contemporary perspective. This concert weaves together ancient melodies and modern interpretations, highlighting the enduring power of harmony, text, and human expression. This program celebrates both tradition and innovation, inviting listeners to experience the Renaissance anew.



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