

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MASTER CHORALE PRESENTS 'MADE IN AMERICA'

Los Robles Master Chorale's upcoming concert, "Made in America," will celebrate our nation's varied musical heritage. The 85-voice chorale, under the direction of Artistic Director Lesley Leighton, will perform a wide selection of native-grown pieces, including familiar favorites and masterworks by some of America's preeminent composers. There will be two performances of "Made in America," Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24, both at 8 pm, at the Church of the Epiphany in Oak Park.

Highlights of the concert will be Leonard Bernstein's *Missa Brevis* and Howard Hanson's *Song of Democracy*. A challenging, rarely performed work, the *Missa Brevis* was set by Bernstein in 1988 to honor the legendary choral conductor Robert Shaw upon his retirement as Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. The piece is arranged for a cappella mixed chorus and countertenor solo. Countertenor Kory Reid will be guest soloist. *Song of Democracy*, with a text by Walt Whitman, was written by Hanson in 1957 and dedicated by the composer "to the Music Educators of America."

Also on the program are two well-loved choruses from Aaron Copland's opera, *The Tender Land*—"Stomp Your Foot" and "The Promise of Living." The men of the chorale will perform Roger Wagner's rousing arrangement of "Western Songs" and the Consort Singers, a 24-voice ensemble drawn from the chorale's members, will sing Brent Michael Davids' *Native American Suite*, a set of three traditional Native American songs. The concert will close with choral arrangements of three timeless America classics—"Shenandoah," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "America."

All ticket holders are invited to attend a pre-concert conversation with Leighton at 7 pm, as well as a post-concert reception with the chorale and guest artists.

Advance tickets are \$22, \$20 senior/student, with group rates available. All tickets will be \$25 the day of the concert. For additional information and to purchase tickets visit www.losroblesmasterchorale.org or call (805) 526-SING (7464) or (805) 990-3006. The Church of the Epiphany is located at 5450 Churchwood Drive in Oak Park.

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