

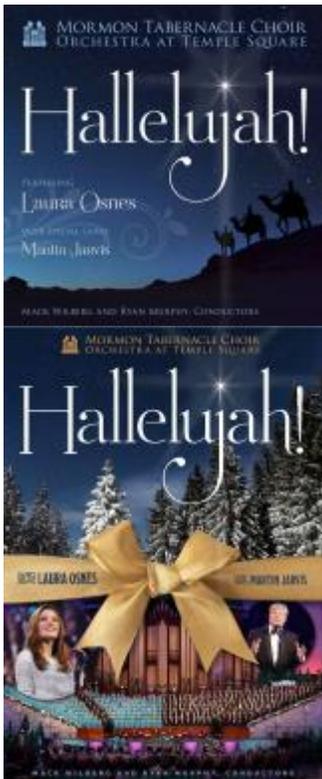


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## The World-Renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir to Release CD/DVD of 2015 Christmas Concert “Hallelujah”

*Audio and video recordings of entertaining 2015 Christmas concert  
that featured Laura Osnes and Martin Jarvis available October 7.*



SALT LAKE CITY (October 7, 2016) – In 2015, one of the hottest tickets in Salt Lake City was to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir Christmas concerts at the Conference Center in Salt Lake City. Those lucky enough to attend were presented the historical setting and background of famous composer George Frideric Handel’s masterwork *Messiah* in an enchanting celebration of song and dance. The Choir was joined by Broadway star Laura Osnes and renowned British screen actor Martin Jarvis to tell of Handel’s struggles and triumphs in writing his most famous oratorio, *Messiah*. The Christmas concert also featured Metropolitan Opera soloists Erin Morley, Ben Bliss, Tamara Mumford and Tyler Simpson.

Families around the world can now experience this uplifting Christmas story with the release of *Hallelujah!* – a DVD and CD from the concert – which will be available online and in stores Oct. 7.

“The circumstances behind the creation of Handel’s *Messiah* are fascinating,” said Choir director Mack Wilberg. “Our presentation celebrates freed debtors, rescued children, and charitable giving, all a part of the remarkable story of *Messiah*.”

The DVD features classic Christmas songs such as “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful,” “Do You Hear What I Hear?” and “Joy to the World.” The guest soloists from the Metropolitan Opera dressed in 18<sup>th</sup>-century garb thrilled audiences with Wilberg’s arrangement of the traditional “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” while dancers representing various time periods proceeded down the aisles. The concert finishes a reprise by the entire ensemble of the “Hallelujah” chorus. The 81-minute DVD also includes bonus interviews with Osnes, Jarvis, and the Met soloists. The CD contains all the concert music plus the special *Messiah* narration.

“This really was an unforgettable concert,” said Ron Jarrett, president of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. “Where else could you find such a depth of talent in all performing disciplines all on one stage? We were truly blessed to have this fabulous ensemble of artists spend the Christmas season with us.”

Audiences of Mormon Tabernacle Choir Christmas concerts have come to expect a show-stealing solo from Tabernacle organist Richard Elliott. This year’s arrangement cleverly combined “Joy to the World,” “For Unto Us a Child Is Born,” “Hallelujah” and Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy” in a spectacular performance featuring Elliott’s unbelievable pedal work.

PBS will air a shortened version of this special during the holiday season, but the DVD is the only opportunity for fans to see the entire performance, including many behind the scenes features.

“This inspiring performance is the perfect way to usher in the Christmas season,” said Jarrett. “It brings the viewer closer to the true meaning of Christmas with a Christ-centered focus along with a thrilling display of talent.”

*Hallelujah* is currently available for preorder on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and DeseretBook.com.

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**Mormon Tabernacle Choir**, conducted by Mack Wilberg and Ryan Murphy, is a 360-member choir which has traveled around the world performing at the inaugurations of U.S. presidents, World's Fairs and expositions, acclaimed concert halls around the world, television broadcasts, and numerous others. With their incomparable medley of voices and shared faith in God they are a significant, recognizable presence in the world of music, giving service through song.

**Laura Osnes**, the award-winning Broadway actress, has a long list of credits not only from the New York stage but also from the Hollywood screen. She was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Leading Actress for her role in Rodger & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. She won the Drama Desk Award for her work in *Cinderella* that same year and also had a Tony nomination for *Bonnie and Clyde* in 2012.

**Martin Jarvis** has a countless string of accolades in his career, with performances in the United States and the UK where he has appeared on Broadway and the West End, in movies and television, and voicing animated productions. He received the Theatre World Award for his starring role as Jeeves on Broadway, which was also filmed for PBS. He appeared as Sir Cosmo Duff Gordon in the multi-Oscar-winning *Titanic* and lent his voice to Disney's *Wreck-It Ralph*. Martin is invested by the Queen of England as an OBE (Officer of the British Empire) for his services to drama.