



For Immediate Release

## **Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square Present Handel's *Messiah* in Concert**

Live Stream Again Welcomes Worldwide Audience  
Tickets Available February 27 at 7:00 p.m. Online Only

SALT LAKE CITY — Following the enormous success of their 2016 concert, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square will once again unite to present Handel's beloved oratorio *Messiah* in its entirety for the Easter season. The concerts will be held on Thursday, March 22, and Friday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the Tabernacle. The concerts will be conducted by Mack Wilberg, music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

To provide the most opportunities for concert seating, the performances will be heard in three locations: **the live concert** in the Tabernacle, **a premium simulcast** in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building Legacy Theater and **a closed-circuit simulcast** in the Conference Center Theater. The concert will also be shown via a live stream at [motab.org/messiah](http://motab.org/messiah), [LDS.org](http://LDS.org), and [mormong.org](http://mormong.org) on Friday, March 23, with a pre-concert feed beginning at 7:00 p.m. MDT and the full concert following at 7:30 p.m. MDT.

Tickets will be distributed for all three locations on a first-come, first-served basis on Tuesday evening, February 27, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. MDT exclusively through [lds.org/events](http://lds.org/events). Because of the high demand for tickets, patrons will be limited to 2 tickets. As with all tickets distributed from [lds.org/events](http://lds.org/events), a username and password are required to complete the ticket request. Patrons are encouraged to set up this information prior to the ticket distribution date. A how-to video can be found at <https://youtu.be/PDou4WLS0YI>.

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT 15 East South Temple Street Salt Lake City, Utah 84150 Phone (801) 240-2205



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Performing Wilberg's edition of *Messiah*, the Choir and Orchestra will be joined by four renowned soloists with extensive musical backgrounds. Making her debut performance with the Choir, **Amanda Woodbury** was the 2014 Grand Final Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, where she has performed six times. She is an alumna of LA Opera's Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist program. She earned second-place and audience choice awards in Plácido Domingo's prestigious Operalia competition.

A native of Sandy, Utah, **Tamara Mumford** is a graduate of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. Tamara has sung in over 150 Metropolitan Opera performances. Tamara appeared in the Choir's 2015 Christmas concerts and the subsequent PBS special and CD and DVD recordings, performing selections from Handel's *Messiah*, and was the mezzo-soprano soloist on the Choir's landmark *Messiah* recording released in 2016.

Making his debut with the Choir, **Tyler Nelson** is one of America's most promising young tenors. Tyler has performed with the Utah Symphony/Utah Opera, New Orleans Opera and Dayton Opera and has been a soloist on the stages of the Kennedy Center and at Carnegie Hall. He appeared previously with the Temple Square Chorale and Orchestra at Temple Square in Mozart's Requiem.

**Tyler Simpson** has sung on opera and concert stages around the world, including six consecutive seasons at the Metropolitan Opera, where he debuted in Verdi's Don Carlo and performed in 18 productions. He appeared in the Choir's 2015 Christmas concerts and the subsequent PBS special and CD and DVD recordings, performing selections from Handel's *Messiah*.

"We are truly honored to have soloists of such caliber perform with us this Easter season" said Wilberg. "Their performance with the Choir and Orchestra will result in a concert we hope will bring the glorious magnitude of Handel's masterpiece into the hearts and minds of our audience."

Using the live stream on March 23, various community, music and church groups will join their voices with the Choir in *Messiah* sing-alongs at various locations throughout

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the world. The last time the Choir and Orchestra performed *Messiah* it was viewed 170,000 times in 95 countries. Ron Jarrett, the Choir's president, says, "Through the miracle of modern technology, we are looking forward to having virtual audiences and voices with us again this year. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ with people all over the world." The live stream will be available from the Choir's website through April 9 to accommodate time zones and schedules. The program will also be broadcast through the LDS Church satellite system for use by local congregations who choose to schedule airings. BYUtv will air the concert on Palm Sunday, March 25, at 3:30 p.m. MDT and again on Easter Sunday, April 1, at 10:00 p.m. MDT.

To assist participants with the *Messiah* sing-along experience, the Choir is providing resources, such as connection instructions, a downloadable PDF file of the concert program with the text of the oratorio and historical information about *Messiah*, at [www.mormontabernaclechoir.org/messiah](http://www.mormontabernaclechoir.org/messiah). Participants are asked to post their experiences on social media with the hashtag #MessiahLive.

Composed of 360 volunteer voices, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir serves as a musical ambassador for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Orchestra at Temple Square is a 150-member, all-volunteer symphony orchestra organized in 1999 to perform and accompany the musical ensembles of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir organization. Nearly 200 recordings have showcased the Choir from the early days of long-playing records to modern digital compact discs and DVDs.

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Contact for news media only. Please do not publish.

Kim Farah, [kfarah@mormontabernaclechoir.org](mailto:kfarah@mormontabernaclechoir.org)  
Mormon Tabernacle Choir Publicist  
(801) 240-1977

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