



**THE
TABERNACLE
CHOIR** AT TEMPLE
SQUARE

Press Release

Christmas Concert Canceled and Auditions Postponed

SALT LAKE CITY — The Tabernacle Choir announced today that it is canceling its annual Christmas concert featuring the Choir, Orchestra at Temple Square, and Bells at Temple Square. The cancelation is consistent with earlier direction provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to [postpone large public gatherings](#) in areas challenged by COVID-19. Also canceled is the fall concert for the Orchestra at Temple Square and the November concert for the Bells at Temple Square.

“This is disappointing for all of us, but we have found a silver lining in these unique times by discovering innovative ways to share our vast repository of music with more people globally than ever before through the blessing of modern technology,” explained Choir president Ron Jarrett. “As such, we are exploring ways to continue the Choir’s annual traditions of TV specials and recordings next year even in the absence of a live Christmas concert in 2020.”

The Choir also announced that the remainder of the 2020 Choir audition cycle will be postponed until 2021. Applicants who were successful in phase 1 of the 2020 audition application process will receive an email from the Choir informing them that the remaining three of the [four audition phases](#) will be postponed until 2021.

Despite today’s announcements, Choir music director Mack Wilberg said the Choir organization ensembles are still fulfilling their musical mission. “More important now than ever is the need for experiences that elevate, uplift and bring people closer to the divine. For over 150 years, both in good times and in bad, The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square has endeavored to bring joy, peace and healing to its listeners through music. Together with the Orchestra and the Bells, and through the use of our archives and technology, we have been and will continue to be active in providing that musical uplift through this pandemic and beyond.”

Despite not being able to rehearse or perform since March 2020, the Choir organization continues to pursue its mission in the following ways:

- Each week, as it has for over 90-plus years, *Music & the Spoken Word* continues to be broadcast on radio, television and the internet. Choir music director Mack Wilberg works with the program’s executive producers to select previously aired broadcasts that have increased relevance during this time. These encore performances are reaching growing audiences searching for inspirational music for their at-home worship services.
- The Tabernacle and Temple Square organists continue to livestream the new online series of concerts [Piping Up! Organ Concerts at Temple Square](#) (without live audiences) around the world each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon mountain time. These online



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concerts renew the century-long tradition of live Temple Square organ recitals. The series "[kickoff concert](#)" is still available on YouTube and has garnered nearly 70,000 views.

- The Choir has refreshed its [mobile app](#) for both Apple and Android phones with easier accessibility to inspirational Choir music and information.
- As it did in April 2020, the Choir will participate in the [October 2020 general conference](#) meetings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints through use of its pre-recorded performances.
- Scheduled for release this 2020 Christmas season are the special PBS and BYUtv broadcasts of *Christmas with The Tabernacle Choir* featuring Broadway star Kelli O'Hara and *The Waltons* actor Richard Thomas, taken from the Choir's 2019 Christmas concerts.
- The Choir and Orchestra will release a new Christmas CD, DVD and book, each entitled *Christmas Day in the Morning*, also from the 2019 concert, in mid-October of 2020.

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