



**THE
TABERNACLE
CHOIR** AT TEMPLE
SQUARE

Press Release

Award-winning Actress of stage and screen, Lea Salonga to Join The Tabernacle Choir in Annual Christmas Concerts

SALT LAKE CITY — Acclaimed performer Lea Salonga will be the featured guest artist at this year’s Christmas concerts by The Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square on December 15, 16 and 17 at the Conference Center in Salt Lake City. Under the direction of Mack Wilberg, music director of the Choir, and Ryan Murphy, associate music director, Salonga will ring in the Christmas spirit with live audiences after two years of concerts that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As in past concerts, there will be a guest narrator, who will be announced at a later date.

“We are delighted to have Lea Salonga with us as we welcome the community back to the Conference Center for our Christmas concerts,” Wilberg said. “Her compelling voice will bring the holiday spirit to the hearts of our audiences with joy, peace, light and love.”

Salonga is a multiple award-winning actor and singer renowned across the world for her powerful voice and perfect pitch. She is best known for her Tony Award-winning role in *Miss Saigon*. In addition to the Tony, she has won the Olivier, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Theatre World awards in the field of musical theater.

Many fans of all ages recognize Salonga as the singing voice of Princess Jasmine from *Aladdin* and Fa Mulan from *Mulan* and *Mulan II*. For her portrayal of the beloved princesses, the Walt Disney Company bestowed her with the honor of “Disney Legend”. Salonga’s 2022 Dream Again Tour and her 2019 The Human Heart Tour saw sold-out audiences and record-breaking sales across North America and the United Kingdom. She currently stars in the HBO Max series *Pretty Little Liars: Original Sin*. An avid techie and gamer, Salonga divides her time between the United States and Manila, Philippines.

Today’s announcement signals a return to normal after the pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 Christmas concerts and closed the 2021 concerts to the public. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, the Choir continued its Christmas concert tradition with a special featuring Brian Stokes Mitchell, which was taped in 2020 and aired on television to great acclaim last December.



Celebrated Broadway Actress Lea Salonga to Join The Tabernacle Choir as Annual Christmas Concerts Return

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For the live concert in 2021, Broadway star Megan Hilty and renowned film and television actor Neal McDonough joined with the Choir, the Orchestra and the Bells at Temple Square and the Gabriel Trumpet Ensemble for a performance that was taped for airing this year. The concert, *O Holy Night: Christmas with The Tabernacle Choir Featuring Megan Hilty and Neal McDonough*, will be broadcast on PBS on Tuesday, December 13, at 8 p.m. Eastern and on BYUtv on Sunday, December 18, at 8 p.m. Eastern.

Tickets to this year's Christmas concert on December 15, 16 and 17, are complimentary but required. Tickets will be distributed through a random selection process and limited to two per household. Those wishing to request tickets are invited to sign up during the registration period, which runs from 12 p.m. Mountain on Friday, October 21, to 11:59 p.m. Mountain on Sunday, October 30. Full details can be found at tabchoir.org/Christmastickets. Admission will be open to those age 8 and older. As was the case for the recent General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the number of tickets distributed will be limited due to the construction in and around Temple Square.

Tickets will not be required for the 30-minute weekly *Music & the Spoken Word* broadcast at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, December 18, following the concerts. The guest artists are scheduled to perform on the broadcast.

A Grammy Award-winning, multiple Emmy Award-winning, all-volunteer choral ensemble, The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square is made up of 360 men and women who join their talents to create their trademark, instantly recognizable sound. They are accompanied by the Orchestra at Temple Square, a 150-member symphony orchestra, and the Bells at Temple Square, a 32-member handbell choir, which are likewise all-volunteer organizations. Together, they provide inspiring music that has the power to help people feel closer to the divine and celebrate God's love for all His children.

The Choir has appeared at 13 world's fairs and expositions, performed at seven U.S. presidential inaugurations, and sung for numerous worldwide telecasts and special events—all while broadcasting *Music & the Spoken Word*, the oldest continuing radio network broadcast, a weekly tradition now in its 94th year. The Choir has its own recording label and will release the CD and DVD versions of last year's Christmas concert, both titled *O Holy Night: Christmas with The Tabernacle Choir Featuring Megan Hilty and Neal McDonough*, on Friday, October 28. A beautifully illustrated book, *Come to Him This Holy Night: Three Irish Christmas Traditions*, based on the narration from last year's concerts, is now available. Information about these products can be found at thetabernaclechoir.org.

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Kelly Smoot, Assistant Publicist
The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square
1-801-240-9472
Kelly.Smoot@tabchoir.org

