



THE TABERNACLE CHOIR

at Temple Square

For Immediate Release

A New Name but Same Tradition of Inspiring Music **The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square**

SALT LAKE CITY — The world-renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir is changing its name to “The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square.” The change is being made to better align with the Choir’s sponsoring organization, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Choir’s announcement follows a [statement issued](#) by the Church in August 2018 encouraging the use of the full name of the Church with revised style guidelines.

The Choir’s new name preserves the heritage of the Choir’s home in the Tabernacle and its location on Temple Square, a place of reverence and worship. Since 1867, the Tabernacle has been home to the Choir, known for its one-of-a-kind signature sound shaped, in part, by the superior acoustics of the building where a pin drop can be heard 250 feet away. Because the historic Tabernacle was built during a time with no amplifiers or electronics, it was designed so all attendees could hear the speaker’s voice from any seat in the hall. In fact, the historic Tabernacle on Temple Square is still used as a recording studio for the Choir today.

In making the new Choir name announcement, Ron Jarrett, president of the Choir, said, “A new name for the Tabernacle Choir will represent a change after so many years. But we have always been a forward-looking people, and we are focused on what is not changing: the world-class musicianship, the inspiring arrangements and programming, and our weekly *Music and the Spoken Word* broadcast, continuing a tradition begun 90 years ago! The name may change, but everything that people know and love about the Choir will not only be the same but will get better and better.”

Launched in 1929, the landmark *Music and the Spoken Word* program is now in its 90th year of weekly broadcasts, making it the longest running continuous network broadcast in history. The nondenominational program features musical selections by the Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square, accompanied by the Tabernacle organ, with a short inspirational message each week.

Music director Mack Wilberg said the program’s audience continues to grow: “Among the many reasons *Music and the Spoken Word* continues to be relevant worldwide is it conveys hope, joy, and comfort through inspirational music and messages. Each broadcast, the Choir and Orchestra stand on the shoulders of the many who came before them to bring audiences the highest quality of music and inspiration.”

The first airing of *Music and the Spoken Word* on July 15, 1929 was makeshift at best. That summer day, a local radio crew ran a wire from their control room to an amplifier in the Tabernacle

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nearly a block away. The technicians put the station's sole microphone on a ladder not only to capture the music of the Choir but also so an announcer could introduce each number. Nineteen-year-old Ted Kimball—son of the Tabernacle organist and the designated announcer—perched on the ladder for the duration of the program so those listening could hear his words. Today the broadcast is carried on radio, television, and cable networks across the United States and around the world and is available live on the Choir's [YouTube channel](#).

Music and the Spoken Word has been inducted into the National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the National Radio Hall of Fame and has entered the hearts of listeners around the world.

Coincident with the Choir's name change, its website address will now be thetabernaclechoir.org and its Facebook and YouTube pages can now be found at facebook.com/thetabernaclechoir and youtube.com/thetabernaclechoirattemplesquare.

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Contact for news media only:

Kim Farah, Choir Publicist
(801) 240-1977
farahke@ldschurch.org



The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square Frequently Asked Questions

Why has the Choir changed its name from the “Mormon Tabernacle Choir” to “The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square”?

The change was made to better align with the Choir’s sponsoring organization, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Choir’s announcement follows a [statement issued](#) by the Church in August 2018 encouraging the use of the full name of the Church with revised style guidelines.

Why was “The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square” selected as the new name?

Since 1867, the Tabernacle has been home to the Choir, known for its one-of-a-kind signature sound shaped, in part, by the superior acoustics of the building where a pin drop can be heard 250 feet away. Because the historic Tabernacle was built during a time with no amplifiers or electronics, it was designed so all attendees could hear the speaker’s voice from any seat in the hall. The historic Tabernacle, still used as a recording studio for the Choir today, is located on Temple Square, a place of reverence and worship for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Will the music of the Choir change?

Not at all. Choir president Ron Jarrett said, “The world-class musicianship, the inspiring arrangements and programming will continue. ... The name may change, but everything that people know and love about the Choir will not only be the same but will get better and better.” The Choir’s mission continues unchanged: to provide music for listeners of all generations around the world—music that will have power to bring joy, peace, and healing to their lives.

Will *Music and the Spoken Word* change?

Not at all. In fact, the landmark *Music and the Spoken Word* is now in its 90th year of weekly broadcasts and is planned to continue for decades to come. The nondenominational program features musical selections by the Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square, accompanied by the Tabernacle organ, with a short inspirational message each week. Honored with induction into the National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the National Radio Hall of Fame, the program is the longest running continuous network broadcast in history.

How do I access the Choir’s digital platforms now that the name has changed?

New addresses for the Choir’s website and social media channels have been established as follows:

Channel	New Address
Website	thetabernaclechoir.org
Facebook	facebook.com/thetabernaclechoir
Twitter	twitter.com/thetabchoir
YouTube	youtube.com/thetabernaclechoiratemplesquare
Instagram	instagram.com/thetabernaclechoir
Pinterest	pinterest.com/thetabchoir
Google+	plus.google.com/+thetabernaclechoiratemplesquare

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