

THE TABERNACLE CHOIR AT TEMPLE SQUARE

Winner of multiple Emmy® and Grammy® Awards, The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square is known worldwide for its one-of-a-kind signature sound created by 360 volunteer voices with renowned choral composer and arranger, Mack Wilberg, as conductor. Its companion all-volunteer Orchestra at Temple Square symphony orchestra, which features a roster of over 200 instrumentalists, was organised in 1999 and recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. The Choir and Orchestra are heard by millions worldwide through television, radio, satellite and internet broadcasts, concert tours and recordings. United by their faith and shared love of music, the Choir and the Orchestra support the work of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For most of its history the Choir was known as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; in 2018 its name was changed to The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square to more fully align with the work of its sponsoring organisation.

Since its first tour to Chicago in 1893, the Choir has travelled extensively across the United States and in other countries. The Choir has performed in music capitals from Israel to Japan, Brazil to Australia and throughout Europe on multiple occasions.

The 2020 Heritage Tour will take the Choir and Orchestra to seven different cities located in four Nordic countries—Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway—and the United Kingdom. Choir president Ron Jarrett said the name of the tour is a nod to the history of the Choir, many of whose first members were early converts to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with musical talents from Wales and other areas to be visited on the upcoming tour. “We stand on the shoulders of these musical pioneers who created a legacy that has influenced the entire world for good. What an honour it will be to share the joy and peace the music of the Choir and Orchestra bring in some of the very places where it all began.”

The Tabernacle Choir first travelled to Europe on a seven-week concert tour in 1955. Since that first grand European tour, the Choir has toured there five other times: to western and central Europe in 1973, northern Europe and England in 1982, eastern Europe in 1991, southern Europe in 1998 and central Europe in 2016.

The Choir has sung at the inaugurations of seven presidents of the United States, and it performed with the Utah Symphony for over 3.5 billion people during the opening ceremonies of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

The Choir has earned five gold and two platinum records in the United States. In addition, it has been awarded the U.S. National Medal of Arts and was inducted into the National Association of Broadcasters’ Hall of Fame, the American National Radio Hall of Fame and the American Classical Music Hall of Fame.

Renowned guest artists who have sung with the Choir include Bryn Terfel, Rolando Villazón, Alfie Boe, Sissel, The King’s Singers, Katherine Jenkins, Kristin Chenoweth, Sutton Foster, Renée Fleming, Nathan Gunn, Frederica von Stade, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Natalie Cole and Audra McDonald. Guest narrators on Choir performances include Hugh Bonneville, Jane Seymour, Tom Brokaw, David McCullough, Edward Herrmann, Claire Bloom and Walter Cronkite.



The Choir has its own recording label which has released 39 CDs and 20 DVDs since 2003. The Choir and Orchestra's 40th release, *When You Believe: A Night at the Movies*, is scheduled for release in May 2020. *Billboard*® Magazine named The Tabernacle Choir the #1 Traditional Classical Albums Artist in 2012. Since 2003, the Choir and Orchestra have had 13 #1 albums on *Billboard*'s classical list.

The Choir was one of the earliest music ensembles to record its music, with its first wax cylinder recording, which was made 110 years ago in 1910 in the Salt Lake Tabernacle. Since that time, over 200 recordings have showcased the Choir from the early days of long-playing records to modern digital compact discs and DVDs. The group's 1959 release of "Battle Hymn of the Republic," recorded with Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra, won a Grammy award for Choir conductor Richard P. Condie, and its 2007 release, *Spirit of the Season*, directed by Craig Jessop, was nominated for two Grammy awards. In addition, the Choir has won 4 Emmy® Awards: for the musical special *Christmas Sampler* in 1987, a Special Governors Award for *Music & the Spoken Word* in 1989, *The Mormon Tabernacle Choir Presents the Joy of Song* with Katherine Jenkins in 2013 and *The Mormon Tabernacle Choir Presents an Evening with James Taylor and the Utah Symphony* in 2014.

The Choir's weekly *Music & the Spoken Word* programme has established an unparalleled record of continuous network broadcasting. Heard each week since 1929, the programme is celebrating its 90th year of continuous weekly broadcasts. Offered as a public service to broadcasters, the non-denominational programme features musical selections by the Choir and Orchestra, accompanied by the magnificent Tabernacle organ, with a short inspirational message each week. Originating from the historic Tabernacle on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, the broadcast is carried on radio, television and cable networks across the country and around the world and is available on the Choir's YouTube channel and Facebook live streams. The YouTube channel, launched in October 2012, has garnered over 200 million views from around the world with over 385,000 subscribers.

Christmas with The Tabernacle Choir, the Choir's annual concert from Temple Square, is a Christmas tradition on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS), now in its 17th year. Through a partnership with WGBH Boston, the largest creator of PBS content for TV and the web, and BYU Broadcasting, the cable TV network behind a breadth of programming designed for the entire family, the annual Christmas special is reaching a broader audience than ever before.

The Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square support the work of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and believe that inspiring music has the power to help people feel closer to the divine. The music of these ensembles strives to enhance feelings of peace, love, joy and harmony in its listeners.

