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***Los Robles Master Chorale  
Will Make a “Splash!”***

Los Robles Master Chorale ends its 31<sup>st</sup> season—and its first under the new leadership of Artistic Director Lesley Leighton—with *Splash!*, a concert that will celebrate the strong interconnections between the choral music traditions of South America and Southern California. Two performances of the program will be held at The Church of the Epiphany in Oak Park on May 1 and 2 at 8 pm.

The concert will begin with music from Brazil, Peru, Argentina and Venezuela, including *Hanacpachap cusicuinin*, a rarely-performed archaic piece from early 17th century Peru, and *Popule Meus* by José Ángel Lamas, the first Classical-era piece published in Venezuela (1801). The South American portion will also feature regional folk music, including *Three Native Songs*, based on Krao Indian chants, by Brazilian Marcos Leite.

The survey of the Southern California tradition begins with music from the early California missions. Some of the mission music includes Cahuillan Indian bird chants, and the men of the chorale will sing the original male chorus version of *Padre Nuestro*. Moving to the twentieth century, *Ave Verum Corpus*, by Ariel Quintana, the Argentine-born assistant conductor of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, deftly bridges the dual musical traditions shared by California and its Latin neighbors.

A small ensemble of singers from the chorale, accompanied by a classical guitarist, will perform *Romancero Gitano*, a seven-movement cantata written in Los Angeles in 1951 by Mario

Castelnuovo-Tedesco. Featured soloists on *Romancero Gitano* will be soprano Elissa Johnston, mezzo-soprano Helene Quintana, tenor Jong-in Kim, and bass Greg Geiger, with Patrick Anderson on guitar.

Another highlight of the concert will be a performance of Morten Lauridsen's *Nocturnes*, with the renowned California composer accompanying the chorale at the piano. Dr. Lauridsen, 2007 recipient of the National Medal of the Arts, will also be giving the pre-concert conversations at 7 pm each evening. All concertgoers are invited to meet the composer and performers at a reception following each performance.

A musical staple in Ventura County for three decades, the 75-voice auditioned chorale serves the community with quality performances of choral music as it helps preserve southern California's strong tradition in the choral art. Under Leighton's leadership, LRMC hopes to grow by building new partnerships within the community, while continuing its longstanding efforts to give back to the community that has long supported it. A fully independent organization since 2007, LRMC is a non-profit corporation under IRS section 501(c)(3).

*Splash!* will be performed Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 2 at 8 PM at The Church of the Epiphany, 5450 Churchwood Drive, Oak Park. Advance purchase tickets are \$18, with seniors and students \$14. Groups of six or more can purchase advance tickets for \$12 each. All tickets will be \$20 at the door. Tickets and information available at [www.losroblesmasterchorale.org](http://www.losroblesmasterchorale.org) or 805/526-SING (7464).