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LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S CHORUS AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FERNANDO MALVAR-RUIZ ANNOUNCE EXTENSION OF MR. MALVAR-RUIZ'S CONTRACT THROUGH 2025|26 SEASON

Pasadena, CA (October 7, 2021) – Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC) today announces a five-year extension of Fernando Malvar-Ruiz's contract as Artistic Director. The contract extension runs through the conclusion of the 2025|26 season, which will be Malvar-Ruiz's eighth as Artistic Director.

Malvar-Ruiz became only the third Artistic Director in LACC's 33-year history when he joined the Chorus on August 1, 2018. During his first three seasons as Artistic Director, Malvar-Ruiz led the Chorus in more than 30 performances, including LACC's lauded return to Walt Disney Concert Hall in December 2019 as part of the LA Phil's *Sounds About Town* series. Malvar-Ruiz also continued LACC's rich tradition of touring by leading tours to the East Coast and to Sun Valley, ID in 2019, and, following the arrival of COVID-19 in March 2020, oversaw the implementation of a proprietary online learning platform that kept LACC fully operational throughout the pandemic. Malvar-Ruiz's third season concluded with LACC's return to the concert stage for a special cinematic concert experience in collaboration with alumni Billie Eilish and FINNEAS, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Gustavo Dudamel that was filmed at the Hollywood Bowl and released on Disney+ on September 3, 2021.

"On behalf of the entire LACC Board of Directors, it is my great pleasure to be able to share the wonderful news that Fernando Malvar-Ruiz will lead LACC for the next five years," said Kai Ryssdal, LACC Board Chair. "Under Maestro Malvar-Ruiz's steadfast leadership, LACC's artistic and educational programming has been remarkable. Despite the challenges of the pandemic over the last 18 months, Maestro Malvar-Ruiz has led a resilient, dedicated, and innovative group of music faculty and educators who have ensured that LACC was able to be there for our choristers and community, week after week, month after month. With in-person activities resuming this season and a five-year extension to his contract, we could not be more excited to partner with Maestro Malvar-Ruiz and work collectively to achieve his ambitious vision for the organizational excellence, innovation, and growth in the coming years."

"I could not be more excited for LACC's future," remarked Fernando Malvar-Ruiz. "When I arrived at LACC three years ago, I inherited an artistically-vibrant and educationally-rich organization that was well-positioned for dynamic growth in the coming seasons. While the pandemic unexpectedly threw a wrench in my early plans for LACC, my vision remains the same. I look forward to continuing to work



closely with the talented and dedicated faculty, staff, and Board of Directors to advance the artistic and educational work that has made LACC one of the country's premier youth choruses for decades, while also focusing on expanding LACC's sphere of service and influence to other parts of the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area."

Highlights of LACC's 2021|22 season under Malvar-Ruiz's leadership include a return to in-person choral music programs for 320+ choristers from over 40 communities across Los Angeles County and beyond. LACC will appear on concert stages in more than a dozen performances, including self-produced winter and spring programs in December and May as well as appearances as guest artists for programs presented by Pasadena Symphony and POPS (*Holiday Candlelight*, on December 18, 2021 & *Baroque: Brandenburg 5*, on January 22, 2022), Jacaranda (*Vanquished*, on January 22, 2022), and the LA Opera (*St. Matthew Passion*, from March 12 – 27). LACC will conclude its 36th season with a yet to be announced 11-day international tour featuring, for the first time ever, all three of the Chorus's most senior ensembles: Concert Choir, Young Men's Ensemble, and Chamber Singers. For more information, visit latchildrenchorus.org.

Los Angeles Children's Chorus's 2021|22 season is made possible, in part, by generous support from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, City of Pasadena, Ann Peppers Foundation, Colburn Foundation, Green Foundation, Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, and Capital Group. LACC is also deeply grateful to lead patrons Helen and Peter Bing, Mary Blodgett and Carlton Calvin, and the hundreds of other individuals, foundations, corporations, and governmental agencies whose support makes possible the Chorus's music education and performance programs.

Media Resources: Website: latchildrenchorus.org | Media Kit: latchildrenchorus.org/media-kit/

ABOUT FERNANDO MALVAR-RUIZ

Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, internationally regarded choral conductor, clinician and educator, is the Artistic Director Designate of Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC), a position he has held since August 2018.

Malvar-Ruiz has worked with children's and youth choirs almost his entire professional career. From 2004 to July 2017, he was Artistic Director of The American Boychoir, a choir-school located in Princeton, New Jersey, which served boys in grades four through eight and whose preeminent Concert Choir toured globally to tremendous critical acclaim. Malvar-Ruiz oversaw all music training and artistic aspects of the organization. His 13-year tenure was highlighted by some 200 performances and up to five national and international tours annually. He also prepared the choir for appearances with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London



Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, St. Olaf Choir, Westminster Choir and New York Choral Artists, among many others.

With The American Boychoir, Malvar-Ruiz has worked on the world's leading stages with such conductors as Marin Alsop, Pierre Boulez, Charles Dutoit, James Levine, Kurt Masur, Mstislav Rostropovich, Michael Tilson Thomas and Valery Gergiev and artists ranging from cellist Yo-Yo Ma, trumpeter Wynton Marsalis and pop legends Beyoncé Knowles, Sir Paul McCartney and Josh Groban to opera singers Kathleen Battle and Jessye Norman. Under Malvar-Ruiz, The American Boychoir also appeared on the 77th annual Academy Awards and performed for the 9/11 Memorial Service broadcast live globally on CNN in 2006. He also conducted the choir on six recordings and served as the music director on the 2014 film "Boychoir," inspired by his own choir, directed by François Girard and starring Dustin Hoffman, Kathie Bates and Deborah Winger, as well as choristers from The American Boychoir. Malvar-Ruiz previously served as Associate Music Director of The American Boychoir from 2000-2004 under famed conductor and pedagogue James Litton. The American Boychoir, which was founded in 1937, closed in summer 2017, after 80 years, due to declining enrollment.

A recognized expert in the adolescent male evolving voice, Malvar-Ruiz has guest conducted at the Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia, the World Children's Choir Festival in Hong Kong, the Czech Republic, in Latvia, France, Korea and throughout China. He instructed at the summer master's program in Kodály at Capital University and has served on the faculty of the Internacional De Verano de Direccion Coral y Pegagogia Musical in Las Palmas, Spain. Malvar-Ruiz regularly conducts at honor choir and choral festivals throughout the United States for the American Choral Directors Association and the Organizations of American Kodály Educators. Previously, Malvar-Ruiz was Conductor of the Central Illinois Children's Choir, Conductor of the Parkland College Chamber Singers in Champaign, Illinois, and Assistant Conductor of the University of Illinois' Concert Choir and Varsity Men's Glee Club. Earlier posts included Music Director of the Columbus Youth Choir at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. With Ohio State University, he was Conductor of the Master-Singers and Assistant Conductor of the Men's Glee Club and University Chorus.

Malvar-Ruiz, a Spanish citizen, was born in Equatorial Guinea and began studying music at age ten. After earning an undergraduate degree in piano performance and music theory from the Real Conservatorio Superior de Música in Madrid, he completed his Kodály certification in Kécskemet, Hungary. He holds a Masters degree in Choral Conducting from Ohio State University and has completed the coursework toward a doctoral degree in musical arts from the University of Illinois.

ABOUT LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC), widely recognized as one of the world's preeminent youth choruses, has been lauded as "hauntingly beautiful" (*Los Angeles Times*), "the best children's chorus I



have ever heard” (*Esa-Pekka Salonen*), and “one of the true artistic gems of Los Angeles” (*Gustavo Dudamel*).

Founded in 1986 and led now by Artistic Director Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, LACC annually appears in more than 50 public performances, including its own self-produced concerts and in collaborations with leading organizations such as LA Opera, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and Pasadena Symphony and POPS. The Chorus annually serves nearly 400 children ages 6–18 from 40+ communities across Southern California through its seven choirs and two first experience classes, First Experiences in Singing and First Experiences in Choral Singing.

The Chorus appears on alumna Billie Eilish’s new cinematic concert experience *Happier Than Ever: A Love Letter To Los Angeles*, and has appeared on John Williams’ 2017 recording, *John Williams & Steven Spielberg: The Ultimate Collection*, and on the Los Angeles Master Chorale’s critically acclaimed Decca recording, *A Good Understanding*. The subject of four documentaries by Academy Award®-winning filmmaker Freida Mock, LACC is featured in the Academy Award®-nominated *Sing!*, about a year in the life of the choir. LACC has also performed with John Mayer on NBC’s “The Tonight Show” and been featured on PBS’s “Great Performances,” BBC Radio, and Public Radio International’s nationally syndicated show “From the Top.”

Recipient of Chorus America’s 2014 Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence, the nation’s highest choral honor, LACC frequently serves as a cultural ambassador for Los Angeles on tours that have taken the Chorus across the country and to more than 20+ countries on 6 continents.

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