

LOS ANGELES

# MASTER CHORALE

GRANT GERSHON, KIKI & DAVID GINDLER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## MEET THE ARTIST: REENA ESMAIL

SWAN FAMILY ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020  
7-8 PM

PRESENTED ON ZOOM



# PROGRAM

## **WELCOME**

JENNY WONG, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## **CONVERSATION**

REENA ESMAIL, SWAN FAMILY ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

SHALINI HAUPT, BHARATANATYAM DANCER  
AND CHOREOGRAPHER

JENNY WONG, MODERATOR

## **PREMIERE OF TAREKITA**

EXCLUSIVE VIEWING OF THE LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE'S  
LATEST VIRTUAL CHOIR PERFORMANCE, *TAREKITA* BY REENA ESMAIL

## **QUESTION & ANSWER**

PLEASE USE THE CHAT FEATURE TO POST  
A QUESTION FOR OUR PANEL



# REENA ESMAIL

SWAN FAMILY ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE



Indian-American composer Reena Esmail works between the worlds of Indian and Western classical music, and brings communities together through the creation of equitable musical spaces.

Esmail's work has been commissioned by ensembles including the Los Angeles Master Chorale, Kronos Quartet, Imani Winds, Richmond Symphony, Town Music Seattle, Albany Symphony, Chicago Sinfonietta, River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, San Francisco Girls Chorus, The Elora Festival, Juilliard415, and Yale Institute of Sacred Music. Upcoming seasons include new work for Seattle Symphony, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Amherst College Choir and Orchestra, Santa Fe Pro Musica, and Conspirare.

Esmail is the Los Angeles Master Chorale's 2020-23 Swan Family Artist in Residence, and Seattle Symphony's 2020-21 Composer-in-Residence. Previously, she was named a 2019 United States Artist Fellow in Music, and the 2019 Grand Prize Winner of the S & R Foundation's Washington Award. Esmail was also a 2017-18 Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow. Her work has been published by C.F. Peters, with a new publication of *TaReKiTa* by Oxford University Press in January 2021.

Esmail holds degrees in composition from The Juilliard School (BM'05) and the Yale School of Music (MM'11, MMA'14, DMA'18). Her primary teachers have included Susan Botti, Aaron Jay Kernis, Christopher Theofanidis and Martin Bresnick, Christopher Rouse and Samuel Adler. She received a Fulbright-Nehru grant to study Hindustani music in India. Her Hindustani music teachers include Srimati Lakshmi Shankar and Gaurav Mazundar, and she currently studies and collaborates with Salli Oak. Her doctoral thesis, entitled *Finding Common Ground: Uniting Practices in Hindustani and Western Art Musicians* explores the methods and challenges of the collaborative process between Hindustani musicians and Western composers.

Esmail was Composer-in-Residence for Street Symphony (2016-18) and is currently an Artistic Director of Shastra, a nonprofit organization that promotes cross-cultural music connecting music traditions of India and the West.

She currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

# JENNY WONG

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



A native of Hong Kong, Jenny Wong has conducted and performed in Germany, Austria, New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, South Korea, China and across the United States. Wong is currently the Associate Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale. She has conducted various programs with the Master Chorale and conducted them on tour in performances of Orlando di Lasso's *Lagrime di San Pietro*, staged by Peter Sellars, at the Melbourne International Arts Festival in Melbourne, Australia, the Festival Internacional Cervantino in Guanajuato and the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City, Mexico, and around the United States. She has prepared choruses for Gustavo Dudamel and the LA Philharmonic, Susanna Mälkki, Eric Whitacre, María Guinand, and Music Academy of the West, including the U.S. premier of Tan Dun's *Buddha Passion*.

This season, Wong will be conducting Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* and Kate Soper's *Voices from the Killing Jar* with Long Beach Opera at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, in collaboration with WildUp. Last season, Wong co-conducted the new opera *Sweet Land* with opera company The Industry, composed by composers Du Yun and Raven Chacon, and directed by Yuval Sharon and Cannupa Hanska-Luger. Other recent engagements and positions have included the Grammy-winning ensemble Phoenix Chorale in Phoenix, Arizona, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music, where she prepared

choruses for the Stockton Symphony, and All Saints Church Pasadena, California.

Wong has been a conducting fellow for the Oregon Bach Festival, Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Distinguished Concerts International New York and Hong Kong SingFest, by which she conducted the Hong Kong Sinfonietta and Hong Kong City Chamber Orchestra. In Hong Kong, Wong founded and directed her own female youth chorus, Flow Women's Voices.

Wong received her Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music from the University of Southern California, where she also taught choral conducting, was conductor of the USC Apollo Men's Choir, and assistant conductor of the Donald Brinegar Singers. She earned her undergraduate degree in voice performance at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign with highest honors. She has given lectures on Chinese choral music and is an active clinician for choirs.

As a singer, Wong sang back-up for Elton John at the 2013 Emmy Awards and for Barry Manilow.

Wong was one of the youngest conductors to win two consecutive World Champion titles at the World Choir Games (China, 2010) and the International Johannes Brahms Choral Competition (Germany, 2011), conducting the Diocesan Girls' School Choir from Hong Kong.

# SHALINI HAUPT

BHARATANATYAM DANCER AND CHOREOGRAPHER



Shalini Haupt is currently a senior at the University of California, Berkeley studying Cognitive Science and Data Science. Shalini is originally from Pasadena, California but plans to move to San Francisco after graduating this spring to work in finance. Shalini has studied Bharatanatyam, one of the oldest forms of classical Indian dance, for sixteen years under the guidance of her guru Dr. Elizabeth Kurien. Shalini had her Arangetram performance, which is the solo debut of a Bharatanatyam dancer after many years of training, in the summer of 2016. She continues to dance with the Pragathi Art Foundation for their annual show every summer. In addition to Bharatanatyam, Shalini was a member of the Los Angeles Children's Chorus for nine years, with which she performed at venues such as the Hollywood Bowl and Disney Concert Hall. Outside of school, Shalini enjoys working for a student-run social impact consulting organization called Net Impact and also plays on Berkeley's club tennis team. Most recently, Shalini studied abroad at the University of Oxford, where she took courses in philosophy and international business.

# TAREKITA

MUSIC BY REENA ESMAIL

SWAN FAMILY ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Conductor: Jenny Wong

Musical Assistant: Lisa Edwards

Audio Editing: Christian Amonson, Natalie Groom / Arts Laureate

Video Editing: Gabriel Zuniga

Art Direction: Reena Esmail, Jenny Wong

Bharatanatyam Dancer and Choreographer: Shalini Haupt

Technical Assistance: Suzanne Waters

Producer: Stephen Salts

## FEATURED BHARATANATYAM MUDRAS

Reena Esmail

Scott Graff

Shalini Haupt

Charles Lane

Adrien Tishkowitz

Jenny Wong

### SOPRANO

April Amante

Tamara Bevard

Kelci Hahn

Ayana Haviv

Caroline McKenzie

Holly Sedillos

### ALTO

Amy Fogerson

Michele Hemmings

Callista Hoffman-Campbell

Shabnam Kalbasi

Sharmila G. Lash

Lindsay Patterson Abdou

### TENOR

Shawn Kirchner

Charles Lane

Michael Lichtenauer

Sal Malaki

Anthony Ray

Edmond Rodriguez

### BASS

Scott Graff

Luc Kleiner

Ben Lin

Mark Edward Smith

Adrien Tishkowitz

Shuo Zhai

The singers of the Los Angeles Master Chorale are represented by the American Guild of Musical Artists, AFL-CIO, Elyse Willis, AGMA Delegate.

This performance of *TaReKiTa* was made possible by a generous gift from Robert and Sally Neely in honor of Stephanie Neely, Max Gladstone, and Casey Gladstone.

The Los Angeles Master Chorale's Swan Family Artist-in-Residence is made possible by the Swan Family Trust.

The Los Angeles Master Chorale's 2020–21 season is made possible by generous support from the members of the Leadership Circle: Abbott Brown and Jerrie Paula Ortega-Brown, Kiki Ramos Gindler and David Gindler, Carol and Warner\* Henry, Terri and Jerry Kohl, Leeba R. Lessin, Lillian Pierson Lovelace, Cheryl Petersen and Roger Lustberg, Jennifer and Evan Rosenfeld, Philip A. Swan, and Priscilla and Curtis Tamkin.

*\*in memoriam*

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Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.



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*Photo credits: Reena Esmail and Jenny Wong by Arnaud Pyvka; Shalini Haupt headshot courtesy of the artist*

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Meet the Artist is a benefit of your annual membership. Your contributions help us achieve our mission to share choral music with the widest possible audience. We gratefully acknowledge your support.

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Priscilla and Curtis Tamkin

*\*in memoriam*

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	Wanda Bryant		

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Named for Los Angeles Master Chorale's founding music director, the Roger Wagner Society honors and recognizes individuals who have expressed their commitment to the art of choral music by making an endowment or planned gift benefitting the Master Chorale.

Through this support, Roger Wagner Society members ensure the long-term fiscal stability of the Master Chorale by creating a legacy that preserves a vital cultural resource for future generations.

The Master Chorale works with The Music Center Foundation as our partner in the secure investment and stewardship of your planned gift.

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To learn more about becoming a member of the Roger Wagner Society, please contact Elizabeth Greenway, Chief Advancement Officer, at [egreenway@lamasterchorale.org](mailto:egreenway@lamasterchorale.org) or 213-972-3114.