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[Press Room](#)



Images of the Los Angeles Master Chorale and Peter Sellars are available for download from the Cal Performances [press room](#).

**CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS THE
LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE IN THE BAY AREA PREMIERE OF
ORLANDO DI LASSO'S *LAGRIME DI SAN PIETRO (TEARS OF SAINT PETER)*
DIRECTED BY PETER SELLARS
FRIDAY, MAY 17 IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

Berkeley, April 24, 2019 — Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes the formidable **Los Angeles Master Chorale** in the Bay Area premiere of **Peter Sellars'** acclaimed production of Orlando di Lasso's *Lagrime di San Pietro (Tears of Saint Peter)* on Friday, May 17 in Zellerbach Hall. The Renaissance-era collection of madrigals depicts the grief and remorse of the Apostle Peter as he reflects on his fateful denial of Jesus on the day of his arrest and is performed by the 21-member

choir in Sellars' stark, modern staging. Sellars was last at Cal Performances to close the 2015–16 season as the artistic director of the Ojai at Berkeley festival that year. His production of Lasso's rarely performed work, which also opens the prestigious Salzburg Festival in July, illuminates the biblical story's striking connections to the concerns of our modern world. The choir is directed by Grant Gershon, the Master Chorale's Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director, and the production features lighting design by James F. Ingalls. Sellars, Gershon, and Ingalls were part of the creative team for John Adams' *Girls of the Golden West*, commissioned and given its world premiere by the San Francisco Opera in 2017.

Orlando di Lasso's *Lagrime di San Pietro*, composed in 1594 and completed just weeks before the composer's death, is considered a major achievement in Renaissance polyphony. *Lagrime* is set to a text by the Italian poet Luigi Tansillo (1510–1568) that explores themes of responsibility, recrimination, and anguish in an examination of Peter's grief. Lasso blurs the traditional lines between secular madrigals and sacred motets, to create what he called "madrigali spirituali" or spiritual madrigals, which allow for a more immediate, vivid setting of the text than in traditional sacred music. This production is Sellars' first staging of an *a cappella* work, and he also deploys the singers in the choir as actors, with the full score committed to memory. The performance runs approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

Reviewing the production's premiere in Los Angeles at Walt Disney Concert Hall, Mark Swed of the *Los Angeles Times* said: "*Lagrime* is a major accomplishment for the Master Chorale, which sang and acted brilliantly. It is also a major accomplishment for music history."

Ticket Information

Tickets for *Los Angeles Master Chorale, Lagrime di San Pietro (Tears of Saint Peter)* on Friday, May 17 at 8pm in Zellerbach Hall range from \$58–\$86 (prices subject to change). Half-price tickets are available for UC Berkeley students. Tickets are available through the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, at (510) 642-9988, at calperformances.org, and at the door. For more information about discounts, go to calperformances.org/discounts.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Friday, May 17, 8pm

Zellerbach Hall
Bancroft Way at Dana Street
UC Berkeley campus

Early Music

Los Angeles Master Chorale

Lagrime di San Pietro (Tears of Saint Peter) (Bay Area Premiere)

Orlando di Lasso, *composer*

Grant Gershon, *conductor*

Peter Sellars, *director*

Program: Director Peter Sellars returns to Cal Performances with the Bay Area premiere of an *a cappella* work by one of the Renaissance's most revered composers. Orlando di Lasso's *Lagrime di San Pietro (Tears of Saint Peter)* depicts the grief and remorse of the Apostle Peter, as he reflects on his fateful denial of Jesus on the day of his arrest. The madrigal is performed by the 21 members of the formidable Los Angeles Master Chorale, with Sellars' stark staging illuminating the biblical story's striking connections to the concerns of our modern world.

Tickets: \$58–\$86 (prices subject to change)

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