



NEWS

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Internationally Acclaimed Choral Conductor and El Camino College Professor Joanna Medawar Nacheff Honored for Creative Work

Internationally acclaimed choral conductor and El Camino College Professor Joanna Medawar Nacheff was recently honored with the 2014 Mercury Stage and Theatre Award by the Torrance Performing Arts Consortium.

Nacheff was recognized for her creative programming with the community chorus, Los Cancioneros Master Chorale (LCMC), which performs concerts in the Armstrong Theatre in Torrance. The Torrance Performing Arts Consortium is a non-profit group that brings Torrance performing arts organizations together to promote the arts and arts education in the South Bay.

In addition, Los Cancioneros Master Chorale received the 2014 Excellence in Arts Award from the City of Torrance Cultural Arts Commission. As artistic director of LCMC for the past 23 years, Nacheff accepted the award and conducted the chorale in a short concert presentation of music from the group's eclectic repertoire that covers classical to modern.

Nacheff made her conducting debut at Carnegie Hall in 2005 and returned in 2007 with the Ambassadors of Harmony. In May 2010 she conducted a historic performance at Carnegie Hall with choirs from Lebanon and Los Angeles. She is a speaker and citizen diplomat for the U.S. State Department with the Global Education Through Technology project, a charter board member and president of the LA/Beirut Sister City Organization, and an alumna of the U.S. Institute of Peace, Washington, D.C. She recently returned from Lebanon, where she was an invited guest conductor for the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra as the first female conductor from the Middle East.

After earning a bachelor's degree in piano performance from California State University, Dominguez Hills, Nacheff continued her education at USC where she earned a doctorate of musical arts and master's in choral music. She also directed guest appearances in motion pictures and received the 2008 "Daily Breeze" Director's Award for Making a Difference.

Among other honors, Nacheff received the 2005 Excellence in Arts Award from the City of Torrance Cultural Arts Commission for her work as director of Choral Activities at El Camino College and as an accomplished conductor in the city of Torrance.

Nacheff was also named a living legend for the African Diaspora of Sacred Music and Musicians in 2010, received the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Lebanese Ladies Cultural Society, and was given the 2013 National Americanism Award by the Daughters of the American Revolution, El Redondo Regent.

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