



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **STREET SYMPHONY BRINGS 3rd ANNUAL MESSIAH PROJECT TO SKID ROW**

We are delighted to announce that **Street Symphony** will be bringing their Messiah Project back to Skid Row at **The Midnight Mission**, on **Friday, December 8, 2017**, from **2 pm to 4 pm** in our **Gym**. Everyone is invited to lend their voices to this unique event. Residents of the Skid Row community in our audience have been invited to sing alongside the **Street Symphony Chamber Singers**, comprised of members of the **LA Master Chorale**. We are also pleased to have partnered with the **Urban Voices Project**, a Skid Row singing project, as well as the **City of Angels Community Choirs**. We will be featuring vocal soloists and a composer from the Skid Row community, **Midnight Mission Alumnus Ben Shirley**, and a world-premiere of a new work developed with the homeless community.

We need support in various ways. **Volunteer:** We need help passing out water bottles, setting up chairs, and handing out hygiene kits. For more information, please contact [info@streetsymphony.org](mailto:info@streetsymphony.org). **Attend event:** Please let us know if you would like to attend. The VIPs of this event are the members of the Skid Row community, and your presence shows your support and brings recognition to our amazing community of people. And lastly, **share this message**. There is no cost for this event, and all are welcome to attend.

Skid Row continues to be the epicenter of the homeless capital of the United States. More than 7,000 – 10,000 people may sleep on the streets of downtown Los Angeles on any given night, while almost 58,000 remain homeless in Los Angeles County. The overwhelming numbers of individuals experiencing mental illness are preyed upon by open drug trade, but also face the revolving door of mass incarceration, as the de-facto treatment of mental illness is incarceration. These communities comprise the audiences of Street Symphony.

Since 2011, the distinguished musicians of Street Symphony have presented over 300 free, live musical engagements with the Los Angeles community, offering events in Skid Row, the greater Los Angeles Area and the LA County Jails. They bring jazz. They bring gypsy music. They bring the works of Schumann, Schubert and Mendelssohn. They bring music to lift up the brave stories and voices of people who, although living in an impoverished situation, are in no way impoverished in spirit.

**About Street Symphony:** Street Symphony, directed by LA Philharmonic Violinist Vijay Gupta, brings live musical outreach and educational workshops to audiences without access to the arts, throughout Southern California. Street Symphony ensembles perform at LA County Jails and homeless shelters in downtown Los Angeles, as well as public events for the community-at-large, aimed to raise awareness for issues of mental health, incarceration, and homelessness. Their mission at large is to bring music to the most underserved communities throughout L.A. For more information about Street Symphony; please visit <http://streetsymphony.org/>.

**About The Midnight Mission:** Founded in 1914, The Midnight Mission offers a path to self-sufficiency to men, women and children who have lost everything. Our emergency services, 12-step philosophy, job training, education and work programs offer a compassionate bridge to productive lives. In addition, we have a Family Living Facility, which is located in a residential setting and provides families with childcare, advocacy, parenting classes, tutoring programs and fiscal management. Through our services, we help remove obstacles to self-sufficiency and provide the accountability and structure that people who are experiencing homelessness need to rejoin their communities. Our conviction and commitment to their success define us. For additional information, please visit [www.midnightmission.org](http://www.midnightmission.org).