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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Tickets on Sale April 1st*

## **America's Choir to Celebrate Arizona's 100th Statehood Day** *Mormon Tabernacle Choir Performance an Arizona Centennial Signature Event*

Phoenix, Ariz. (March 29, 2011) – For the first time in over 40 years, the **Mormon Tabernacle Choir** is coming to Arizona. The Choir with its companion ensemble, the **Orchestra at Temple Square**, will present two rare performances February 10 and 11, 2012, at 8 p.m. at US Airways Center.

Tickets go on sale April 1, for this **Arizona Centennial Signature Event**, and are available at the US Airways Center box office ([www.usairwayscenter.com/tickets/](http://www.usairwayscenter.com/tickets/)), Ticketmaster, Deseret Book Stores, and also on the Choir's website ([mormontabernaclechoir.org](http://mormontabernaclechoir.org)) and on its Facebook page ([facebook.com/mormontabernaclechoir](http://facebook.com/mormontabernaclechoir)).

"We are thrilled to have the most prestigious Choir in the world come to Arizona to celebrate our Centennial with their legions of fans in our state," said Karen Churchard, director, Arizona Centennial Commission.

Mack Wilberg, Mormon Tabernacle Choir music director, said: "Every week we have thousands of visitors from all over the world come to Salt Lake City to experience the Choir in person. Touring gives us the opportunity to share this experience with new audiences around the country. It's a great privilege and a highlight for choir and orchestra members to perform for audiences in live concerts – and especially so for Arizona's Centennial celebration."

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## **Mormon Tabernacle Choir Performs for Arizona Centennial Feb. 10 & 11, 2012 - 2**

Since its first tour outside of Utah in 1893, the Choir has toured extensively across the United States and abroad. It has performed throughout Europe and in music capitals from Israel and Russia, Japan and Australia. Its travels also have included performances at the inaugurations of six U.S. presidents. The all-volunteer choir and orchestra usually tour every other year since all of performers must take vacation time from their jobs and families to undertake the travel.

The 360-voice choir, accompanied frequently by the 110-member orchestra, can also be heard weekly as part of the *Music and the Spoken Word* broadcast. This 30-minute program is the world's longest continuously running network broadcast and currently airs on over 2,000 radio, TV, cable and satellite stations worldwide. The Choir and orchestra are active recording artists with their own recording label, Mormon Tabernacle Choir®. Their latest CD, *Men of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir*, features music for men's voices and has been number one on the Billboard Classical Traditional list for most of the year since its release in January. The Choir's recordings have earned two platinum and five gold albums, including a Grammy Award-winning rendition of "Battle Hymn of the Republic." In addition to having recorded with some of the world's great orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the Choir recently marked a centennial of its own—100 years since its first recording—with a 3-disc collection entitled *100: Celebrating a Century of Recording Excellence*.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, one of the oldest and largest choirs in the world, has performed before U.S. presidents, sold millions of records, won scores of awards and enthralled audiences in dozens of countries. The Choir is based in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and is composed of 360 volunteer singers, ages 25-60, who are members of the Church. They practice and perform weekly and are accompanied frequently by the Orchestra at Temple Square.

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## **Mormon Tabernacle Choir Performs for Arizona Centennial Feb. 10 & 11, 2012 - 3**

Ronald Reagan, president of the United States from 1981 to 1989, dubbed the Mormon Tabernacle Choir “America’s Choir” in 1981 when the Choir sang at his inauguration.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir traces its roots to the mid-19th century when a small choir first sang for a conference of the Church on August 22, 1847, just 29 days after the first pioneers arrived to settle the Salt Lake Valley. In the 1860s, just west of the Salt Lake Temple was built the now-historic Mormon Tabernacle, where the Choir makes its home and from which it received its name from the structure.

Accompanying the Choir in the great auditorium is the 11,623-pipe Tabernacle organ featuring prominent golden pipes made of round wood staves, hand-carved from Utah timber. Ten pipes from the original organ, built in 1867, are still functioning today.

For the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, February 8-24, 2002, the Choir performed at the official opening ceremonies to a worldwide audience of more than 3.5 billion people.

R Entertainment Company of Scottsdale, Ariz., is underwriting this performance and no taxpayer funds are being used.

**About the Arizona Centennial Commission.** The Arizona Centennial Commission and its non-profit Arizona Centennial 2012 Foundation is comprised of distinguished Arizonans from public and private life, and is committed to involving all Arizonans to help fulfill the Centennial vision -- “to appreciate our state’s rich past, celebrate the present, and together, create a vibrant and sustainable future.” For more information, visit <http://www.arizona100.org>.

**About Mormon Tabernacle Choir.** The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, one of the oldest and largest choirs in the world, comprises 360 volunteer singers ages 25-60, and has performed before U.S. presidents, sold millions of records, won scores of awards and enthralled audiences in dozens of countries. Originating in the mid-19th century, the Choir today has earned two platinum and five gold albums, including a Grammy Award-winning rendition of “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” The Choir has recorded with some of the world’s great orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. [www.MormonTabernacleChoir.org](http://www.MormonTabernacleChoir.org)

**About R Entertainment Company.** R Entertainment Company is a national events, talent-booking, production and marketing company that creates, manages, consults with, and/or produces more than 200 events a year. [www.R-Entertainment.com](http://www.R-Entertainment.com)