

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JOIN IN L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION WHILE YOU WRAP, COOK OR DECORATE!

Three-hour cultural extravaganza on December 24 is:

- *performed at the Music Center*
- *broadcast live on KCET TV and KPFK-FM Radio*
- *and streamed live at www.kcet.org*

Admission to Music Center show is FREE

New entry system by wristband reduces time waiting in line

Los Angeles, CA – November 19, 2010 – "Childhood Holiday Memories" is the theme of the **51st Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration**, set to take place on **Friday, December 24** from **3:00 to 6:00 p.m.** at the **Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center** in downtown L.A. Seasonal entertainment on the Music Center Plaza starts at 12:30 p.m. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Admission to Holiday Celebration, which will feature 24 groups totaling nearly 800 performers, is **FREE**.

L.A. County Holiday Celebration, which reflects the way L.A.'s many cultures mark the season, is as close as your television, radio or Web access. It will be broadcast live on both KCET and KPFK 90.7 FM, and streamed live at www.kcet.org. Each year staff at the L.A. County Arts Commission, which produces L.A. County Holiday Celebration every December 24, hears stories about how folks throughout the region enjoy the music and dance extravaganza. Some are steaming tamales or frosting cookies. Others are wrapping those last minute presents or hanging ornaments on the tree.

Because this year's show is three hours long rather than six as in the past, fewer patrons can be accommodated at the live show. Wristbands, available on a first-come, first-serve basis starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, will be required for entry. Wristbands will be limited to one per person. Once a wristband is obtained, attendees will not have to wait in line. When all wristbands have been distributed, standbys will be tracked in order of arrival and admitted if seats are vacated.

For the first time, short films will be part of the show. Films no longer than two minutes in length on this year's theme topic, "Childhood Memories," were submitted by filmmakers all over L.A. County, and the winners, to be selected in December by online vote, will be shown during the program. The theme is also reflected by the artists' selections: toy soldiers from the **Gabriella Axelrad Education Foundation** do a Dixieland-style tap dance; **Palmdale High School Choral Union** sings "Run Toboggan, Run" and "Christmastime is Here" from *Charlie Brown Christmas*; the **Philippine Chamber Singers of Los Angeles** offers Filipino songs describing customs like "Glimmering," about the beauty of Christmas lights and how enticing they look to a child; "Winter Dance," performed by the **Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble**, paints an aural picture of a fantastic night of villagers dancing around a large fire; and **Salvation Army Tabernacle Children's Chorus** sings "Minka," a Russian folk song about the kind of sleigh ride every child wishes they could they take.

Audiences will behold seasonal celebrations from around the world. Mexico's festive atmosphere is evoked by **Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez** with songs and dances about the state of Chiapas and the city of Guadalajara, and by **Pacifico Dance Company's** joyous dances incorporating Mariachi music, elegant costumes and energy-filled footwork. **Balle Fette bu Senegal** brings Sengalese dance and drumming. **Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy** moves to the rhythms of the traditional "One Drum Dance." Hula and live music from **Halau O Lilinoe** conjure up

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the Hawaiian Islands. Folk music by **Mr. Vallenato** takes the listener to the Caribbean coast of Colombia. **NDM Bollywood** presents fast upbeat dances celebrating Indian culture.

Seasonal music by popular musicians is on the bill too. The **Colburn Children's Choir and the Young Men's Chorus** mark the 50th anniversary of the Beatles with Paul McCartney's "Wonderful Christmastime" and a lullaby by Lennon-McCartney. **Elliot Deutsch Big Band** entertains with swing versions of "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" and Mel Torme's "The Christmas Song." **Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles** sings Kenny Loggins' "Celebrate Me Home."

Traditional melodies will echo in the hall from English carols by **Los Angeles City Elementary School Music Association Women's Chorale** to "Away in a Manger" by **Young Angels Choir** to "O Come All Ye Faithful" by **South Bay Children's Chorus**. There will be songs in English and Hebrew from the **Young Men's Ensemble of the Los Angeles Children's Chorus**, contemporary gospel sounds from **Christian's Community Center Cathedral Choir**, classic holiday songs in barbershop style from the all-female **Santa Monica Chorus** and spiritual holiday arrangements from the **Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers**.

Fusions of old and new will be created by **Antics Performance**, with a hip hop piece called "Snowflake Boogie" set to Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride" and **Loch & Key**, blending classical chamber music with indie rock

The late Kenneth Hahn, Supervisor of the Second Los Angeles County District from 1952 to 1992, was the father of Holiday Celebration. Kenneth Hahn cared deeply about the accessibility of the arts to everyone. He personally helmed the fundraising for the first show. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors sponsors the Holiday Celebration each December 24 to this day.

The show is executive produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Producer of the live telecast on KCET is CDK Productions. The celebration is one of 70 musical events presented annually as part of the Arts Commission's Free Concerts in Public Sites program.

The Arts Commission also produces "L.A. Holiday Celebration," a one-hour television music and dance special highlighting the best performances from the live show. The highlights show, drawn from last year's Holiday Celebration, will premiere on PBS stations across the country, including KCET, in December, beginning Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 9:00 p.m. The national show will also reach one million service people and their families overseas through the Armed Forces Television Network.

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. In addition to producing the L.A. County Holiday Celebration locally and nationally and the Free Concerts program, the Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, Arts for All; administers a grants program that funds more than 300 nonprofit arts organizations annually; oversees the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, programs the John Anson Ford Theatres; funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation; and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The 2010-11 President of the Arts Commission is Ronald D. Rosen. For more information please consult the Arts Commission online press kit: <http://lacountyarts.org/page/pubnewspress>

The 51st Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration takes place on **Friday, December 24** from **3:00 to 6:00 p.m.** Admission and parking are **FREE**. Wristbands, which are required for entry, will be distributed starting at 11:30 a.m. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.. The **Dorothy Chandler Pavilion** is located at **135 N. Grand Ave. in Downtown Los Angeles, 90012**. For complete program information, available after December 10, call **213.972.3099** or go to www.HolidayCelebration.org. Those who can't make it to the Music Center can watch the live broadcast on television on KCET or online at www.kcet.org, or can listen on the radio at 90.7 KPfk or online at www.kpfk.org.

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Details for Calendar Listings "51st ANNUAL L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION"

WHAT:

Music and dance of the season from the many neighborhoods and cultures of L.A. can be enjoyed live on stage, television, radio and online as the 51st Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration unfolds on December 24. The three-hour extravaganza, performed at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center, is free! The L.A. County Holiday Celebration is a gift to the community from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

WHEN:

Friday, December 24, 2010 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

WHO:

- 24 music and dance groups from across L.A. County (complete list at end of release)
- Sponsored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
- Produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission

WHERE:

- Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center
135 N. Grand Ave.
Los Angeles 90012
- KCET TV and www.kcet.org
- KPFK 90.7 FM

HOW:

Information hotline: (213) 972-3099 or www.HolidayCelebration.org

ADMISSION:

- FREE
- Wristbands required for entry. Wristbands available on a first-come, first-serve basis starting at 11:30 a.m. on December 24 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center
- Limit: one wristband per person.
- Once wristband is obtained, attendees do not have to wait in line. When all wristbands have been distributed, standbys will be tracked in order of arrival and admitted if seats are vacated. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

PARKING:

FREE in the Music Center parking garage

OTHER:

- There will be entertainment on the Music Center Plaza outside the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion starting at 12:30 p.m.
- The Holiday Celebration will be screened live on the JumboTron on the Music Center Plaza.
- Since 1964, the Arts Commission has produced a Holiday Celebration in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center every year on December 24th. The program honors the spirit of many cultures and holiday traditions through music, song and dance.

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ARTS GROUPS PERFORMING IN 51ST ANNUAL L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION:

- Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers
- Antics Performances
- Balle Fette bu Senegal*
- Christian's Community Center Cathedral Choir
- Colburn Children's Choir
- Elliot Deutsch Big Band*
- Gabriella Axelrad Education Foundation*
- Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles
- Halau O Lilinoe*
- Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble
- Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy
- Loch and Key*
- Los Angeles Children's Chorus Young Men's Ensemble*
- Los Angeles City Elementary School Music Association Women's Chorale*
- Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez
- Mr. Vallenato*
- NDM Bollywood*
- Pacifico Dance Company
- Palmdale High School Choral Union
- Philippine Chamber Singers of Los Angeles
- Salvation Army Tabernacle Children's Chorus
- Santa Monica Chorus*
- South Bay Children's Chorus
- Young Angels Choir

*first time on Holiday Celebration

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