

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Contacts (not for publication):

Lucy Pollak (818) 887-1499, lucy@lucypr.com

Linda Chiavaroli 213 202-5935; (323) 810-9240 (cell), lchiavaroli@arts.lacounty.gov

"L.A. County Holiday Celebration" RECIPE FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY:

1,200 performers

7 celebrity chefs

1000s of donations for Los Angeles Regional Foodbank

Wednesday, December 24, 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Music Center

SEE IT LIVE: Admission and Parking are FREE.

WATCH IT ON TV: the entire six hours is broadcast live in HD on KCET.

LOS ANGELES, CA - The 49th Annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration, the country's largest multicultural holiday show, will be more than a feast for the eyes and ears. Food joins music and dance as a source of seasonal cheer as the 47 performing groups in the six-hour music and dance spectacular are introduced by L.A.'s top celebrity chefs. The host roster includes Border Grill's **Susan Feniger**; **Vinny Dotolo** and **Jon Shook (Animal)** formerly of the Food Network; **Akasha Richmond** of Culver City's Akasha; **Kajsa Alger**, executive chef of the soon-to-open Street; **Chef Jeff Henderson** of the Food Network's Chef Jeff Project; and **Chef Lala**, author of the just published "Best Loved Mexican Cooking with Chef Lala." The chefs will share holiday recipes from around the world via the show's web site, www.holidaycelebration.org, so the audience can prepare them at home during the LIVE broadcast of the Holiday Celebration on KCET. Holiday Celebration attendees are invited to bring canned and packaged goods to the Music Center the day of the show to support the Los Angeles Regional Foodbank.

The spirit of the season reigns at the event, which can be enjoyed **FREE** in-person at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center or at home via live telecast in HD on KCET. Parking at the Music Center is free. Reservations for tickets to the show or parking are not necessary. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Patrons may come and go throughout the six hour performance. People waiting in line to get in can see the show on the **JumboTron on the Music Center Plaza**.

Holiday Celebration brings together dance companies, musical groups and choirs from across Los Angeles County on Christmas Eve to offer an artistic sampling of L.A.'s unique cultural diversity.

Highlights this year include four different takes on "The Nutcracker" commissioned just for the Holiday Celebration from **Antics Performances** (hip hop), **Backhausdance** (modern), **blue13 dance company** (Bollywood) and **South Bay Ballet** (traditional). These companies are among 19 groups new to the show. First-timers offering holiday-themed fare from across the musical spectrum include:

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- **Dengue Fever**, a pop/psychedelic rock band that integrates Cambodian rhythms and lyrics
- Grammy-nominated **Lisa Haley and the Zydekats** performing traditional and contemporary Americana/Cajun/Zydeco arrangements
- **TAIKOPROJECT** blending traditional Japanese taiko drum beats with hip hop rhythms and moves
- **Louie Cruz Beltran** and ensemble playing Latin jazz arrangements of traditional holiday songs
- **Royal Crown Revue** bringing neo-swing sounds
- The world fusion ensemble **Yeh Dede** offering West African ceremonial music

There is dance beyond "The Nutcracker." Two Holiday Celebration debutants reflect Asian cultures: **DreamDance 2** presents "Ladies in the Rain," a contemporary interpretation of Chinese Han dance, and **New Universe Entertainment Academy** offers "Enter into Tibet." **JazzAntiqua Dance & Music Ensemble** returns with a brand new dance to Duke Pearson's soul jazz piece "Sleighride." Two Holiday Celebration favorites, **Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company** and **Mariachi & Folklorico CIELO NUEVO** of Middleton Street School, stage dances from the Mexican states of Sinaloa and Zacatecas, respectively.

Hanukkah is just a few days before Christmas this year and Jewish traditions are represented by songs in Hebrew and Ladino (language of the Spanish Jews) from the **Stefani Valadez Ensemble**, a Hanukkah carol from **Vox Femina Los Angeles** and **Klezmer Juice**, playing the Eastern European clarinet-dominated sounds of klezmer that Jews have transported around the world.

Popular returning artists also include **Mariachi Sol de Mexico** with a new vocal arrangement of "Ave Maria," **Opera California Youth Choir** with selections from Handel's *Messiah* sung in English and Korean, the Argentine quintet **Los Pinguos** with their original song "Tierra Santa," **Harmonies Girls Choir** with an Aztec song sung in Nahuatl, as well as the **Los Angeles Master Chorale**, **Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers** and **Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles**.

Complete program information will be available after December 10 at www.holidaycelebration.org and **213.972.3099**.

The show is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and produced by the Los Angeles County Arts commission in association with CDK Productions. The celebration is one of 50 musical events presented annually as part of the 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 the 2007 live presentation at the Music Center will be carried by PBS stations across the country, including KCET, on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 at 10:00 p.m. and, one hour after the live telecast of the six-hour show, on Wednesday, December 24, 2008 at 10:00 p.m.

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; funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation; programs the John Anson Ford Theatres; and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The 2008-09 President of the Arts Commission is Betty Haagen.

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DETAILS FOR CALENDAR LISTINGS
49TH ANNUAL L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION:
Recipe for a Happy Holiday

WHAT:

49th Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration, an admission-free, six-hour seasonal music and dance show. Food joins music and dance in a "Recipe for A Happy Holiday" when seven of L.A.'s top celebrity chefs introduce 47 performing groups - including choirs, music ensembles, and dance companies - that reflect the rich mosaic of cultures found in Southern California. The entire six hours is broadcast live in HD on KCET.

WHEN:

Wednesday, December 24, 2008 from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

WHO:

Produced by the **Los Angeles County Arts Commission**

WHERE:

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at the Music Center
135 N. Grand Avenue
Los Angeles 90012
and on television station KCET

HOW:

To find out more information -

www.holidaycelebration.org

Information hotline: (213) 972-3099

To donate food to the L.A. Regional Foodbank

Bring non-perishable food items – canned or packaged (no glass please) – and deposit in bins on the Music Center Plaza. Canned tuna, chicken, vegetables and fruit, as well as peanut butter, are especially desirable.

ADMISSION:

FREE

PARKING:

FREE in the Music Center parking garage

OTHER:

Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Patrons may come and go throughout the six-hour performance. Reservations for tickets to the show or parking are not necessary. Those who can't make it to the Music Center can watch the live broadcast of the Holiday Celebration on KCET.

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