

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REVISED December 13, 2005

Press Contacts (not for publication):

Lucy Pollak (818) 887-1499

lucy@lucypr.com

Linda Chiavaroli (323) 871-4554; (323) 810-9240 (cell)

lchiavaroli@lacountyarts.org

Six-Hour Extravaganza on December 24 is L.A.'s Biggest Holiday Show. And Best of All... It's Free!

"L.A. County Holiday Celebration" at the Music Center is 46th Annual.

Los Angeles, CA - Music - song - dance. A free, six-hour holiday extravaganza in the beautiful Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center is L.A. County's yearly gift to Los Angeles. The 2005 edition promises more than 40 musical ensembles, choirs, and dance companies - about 1,200 performers in all - reflecting the geographic and ethnic diversity that defines Los Angeles. The **46th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration** takes place on **Saturday, December 24 from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Patrons may come and go throughout the performance, and the entire six hours is simulcast live on KCET. Admission is **FREE**, as is the parking under the Music Center.

Join the thousands of Angelenos who make the L.A. County Holiday Celebration an annual tradition. This year's program includes favorites from past years - the astounding footwork of the **Kennedy Tap Ensemble**; the Persian-Latin flamenco fusion of **Manoochehr Sadeghi Ensemble**; the toe-tapping Irish traditional music and step-dancing of **Celtic Spring**; and the seductive rhythms of **Mariachi Divas** and **Mariachi Sol de Mexico** - as well as exciting new performers like the gravity-defying **Viver Brasil Dance Company**, the harmonies of the **Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus**, and the big-band sound of **Elvis Schoenberg's Orchestre Surreal**. American, Mexican, Jewish, African-American, Irish, Brazilian, French, Peruvian, Filipino, Chinese, Korean, South Indian and Persian are some of the cultures represented by groups from South, East and West L.A., as well as the South Bay, Long Beach, Pasadena and the San Fernando, San Gabriel and Antelope Valleys.

Attendees should prepare to be captivated by the traditional African American spirituals of the a cappella **Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers**; the gospel sounds of special guest artists **The Blind Boys of Alabama**; the **Compton High School Choir**, the **Gospel Music Workshop of America of the Antelope Valley** and **Jubilant Voices of Holman United Methodist Church**; the sweet English and Spanish lyrics of the **Harmonies of St. Thomas Girls Choir**; the **Antelope Valley High School Vocal Music-Travel Ensemble's** rendition of *Total Praise*; a lively rendition of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* by the **Church of Scientology Choir**; and

MORE-MORE-MORE

the traditional Korean songs and instruments of the **Korean American Music Academy** and **Opera California**. The **Chinese Classical Musical Ensemble** performs an original composition on Chinese instruments, based on a Taiwanese folk song, by award-winning composer Zhiming Han.

The range of choral music is astounding. **Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles** sings a song from Bizet's *Carmen*; **Long Beach Poly High School Chamber Singers** lends 40 voices to *A Prayer for Chanukah*; and the **L.A. Music & Art School Children's Choral Ensemble** presents a medley of Charlie Brown holiday songs. The audience can enjoy "choralography" by the **Salvation Army Tabernacle Children's Chorus**; *Peace in Twelve Languages* by the **San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus**; Christmas and Chanukah melodies sung by the **South Bay Children's Choir**; three-part a cappella harmony in Tagalog from **3 of a Kind**; and the **Valley Beth Shalom Congregational Choir**, featuring members of the **LA Jewish Symphony**, performing a gospel-influenced Chanukah song.

Activities for Retarded Children and Adults (ARC) Handbell Choir rings in the season with sweet Christmas melodies, and the **Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble** sounds out the energetic and rhythmic *Capriccio*.

The celebration's breathtaking tour of world dance encompasses **Angahara Dance Ensemble's** performance of a classical dance from Southern India celebrating the Hindu God of the Earth, Ganesha; the toe-tapping Irish traditional music and step-dancing of **Celtic Spring**; entrancing traditional Peruvian folk dances of **Escuela de Baile Tradicional Peruano**; the whirl of color of the Mexican folkloric dance of **Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company**, the **San Gabriel Mexican Folk & Aztec Dance Company**, and the 30 dancers and 22 musicians, all under the age of 16, of **Sierra Park Elementary School Folklorico and Mariachi Cielo Nuevo**; the mesmerizing *Chang-go*, a traditional Korean dance with hourglass-shaped drums, performed by the 15 dancers of **Kim Eung Hwa Korean Dance Academy**; and the Mongolian dances of the young Chinese American dancers who make up **Spring Autumn Dance Ensemble II**. Inspired by the Chinese, Indian and Egyptian embrace of the Lotus plant, **Pennington Dance Group** presents *Out Of*, an affirmation of harmonious living set to Edgar Rothermich's original score.

Three dance companies unveil new works. **TRIP Dance Theatre**, one of L.A.'s premier modern dance companies, returns to the Holiday Celebration with *Moonlight on Winter Ice*, a graceful piece with subtle Indonesian influences. **JazzAntiqua Dance & Music Ensemble** performs a new work set to holiday songs by the late Ray Charles. **Jazz Tap Ensemble** is back with new choreography and live musical accompaniment.

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.

MORE-MORE-MORE

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has sponsored an admission-free holiday-themed show as a gift to the people of the County every December 24 since 1960. 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 2004 live presentation at the Music Center, will be carried by PBS stations across the country on December 15.

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. 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 250 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 Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally, and a year-round music program that funds more than 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2005-06 President of the Arts Commission is Hope Warschaw.

THE FACTS

- WHAT:** **46th Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration**, an admission-free, six-hour seasonal music and dance show. Performing groups from throughout L.A. County - including choirs, music ensembles, and dance companies - reflect the vibrant spectrum of cultures found in Southern California. A gift from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the community at large. The entire six hours is simulcast live on KCET.
- WHEN:** Saturday, December 24, 2005 from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- WHO:** Produced by the **Los Angeles County Arts Commission**
- WHERE:** Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center
135 N. Grand Ave.
Los Angeles 90012
- HOW:** www.holidaycelebration.org
Information hotline: (213) 972-3099
- 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 Holiday Celebration on KCET.

###