

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION
47th ANNUAL L.A. COUNTY
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 25, 2006

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“L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION” PRESENTS
A KALEIDOSCOPE OF SEASONAL TRADITIONS
AT MUSIC CENTER DECEMBER 24

*The 47th annual edition of the FREE, live six-hour show
is a cultural extravaganza featuring performances by more than 40 groups.*

Choirs, music ensembles, and dance companies reflecting the vibrant spectrum of cultures found in southern California express the joy of the season in the 47th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration, 3:00-9:00 p.m., Sunday, December 24 in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center. The show is a gift from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the community at large. Admission is **FREE**, as is the parking under the Music Center.

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, producer of the L.A. County Holiday Celebration, scouts the region's talent for the show each year. The 40 groups who perform in the 2006 edition were chosen by a competitive application process. Among the highlights:

- Humorist **Charles Phoenix**, known for his retro attire and wildly entertaining slide shows of American popular culture of the 40s, 50s and 60s, makes his first appearance at the celebration as one of six hosts.
- The **Los Angeles Master Chorale**, winners of the prestigious ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming, makes its Holiday Celebration debut.

- **Celtic Spring**, who wowed television audiences across the country as finalists on NBC's "America's Got Talent" with their Irish fiddling and step dancing, open their celebration set with a Christmas carol played on violins.
- The modern dance company **TRIP Dance Theatre**, led by Monica Favand, and **Kitka**, the Eastern European vocal music ensemble from the San Francisco Bay Area, creates a new work especially for Holiday Celebration.
- **The Chinese Classical Music Ensemble**, which did the soundtrack of the X-box video game "Jade Empire;" play a Chinese New Year song on traditional instruments - Chinese long zither, butterfly harp and violin.
- **Mariachi Sol de Mexico**, the first mariachi ensemble to be nominated for a Grammy and veterans of 20 films, perform "El Pajaro Ku," about a beautiful bird used to send messages of love.
- **Jazz Tap Ensemble**, internationally known for their blend of rhythm tap and live jazz, and pioneers of America's tap revival, showcase their Caravan Project, star tappers of tomorrow in the making.
- **The Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers**, who have toured in 70 countries, return to the celebration with their trademark arrangements of Negro spirituals.
- Ramaa Bharadvaj, winner of multiple Lester Horton Dance Awards who was featured on the cover of *Dance Magazine*, and her **Angahara Ensemble** perform "Jwala - Flame," a mix of classical Indian dance and jazz-influenced freestyle movement.
- Sophiline Cheam Shapiro's **Khmer Arts Academy**, which has won raves for their Cambodian dance interpretation of Shakespeare's *Othello*, brings the full splendor of their ancient art form to the Dorothy Chandler stage.

Complete program information will be available after December 7 at www.holidaycelebration.org and **213-972-3099**. 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.

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. A highlights show drawn from the 2005 live presentation at the Music Center will be carried by PBS stations across the country, including KCET, on Thursday, December 14, 2006 at 10 p.m. (check local listings).

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, 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 sponsors a year-round music program that funds more than 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2006-07 President of the Arts Commission is Marjorie Lyte.

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