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PBS PRESENTS "L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2008,"
PREMIERING DECEMBER 17 AT 10:00 P.M.

— *Featuring John Densmore, ex-Doors drummer, with Tribaljazz* —

L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2008 highlights the largest multi-cultural holiday show in the country, performed before an audience of 9,000 plus in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center in downtown L.A. Los Angeles is home to 166 ethnic cultures and **L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2008** is a glittering cross section of this fascinating mosaic of traditions. From the jazz-African fusion of Tribaljazz, led by ex-Doors drummer John Densmore, to Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy's phalanx of Korean drums, to the purity of Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers' a cappella Negro spirituals and the deep, rich sonorities of Mariachi Sol de Mexico, each of the show's sixteen featured groups expresses its own spirit of the season.

L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2008 airs on PBS December 17, 2008, 10:00 p.m. (check local listings) with a repeat broadcast on December 24, 10:00 p.m. (check local listings). The program is also available in high definition (HDTV).

John Densmore's ensemble, Tribaljazz, will kick-off this year's 2008 performance. Densmore describes his group as a "jazz quartet fuel injected with master African drummers." They perform "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," and "Jadme (Jam)," with saxophonist/flutist Art Ellis. Densmore keynotes the entire celebration when he says, "I dig my hometown."

The other performances include:

- Los Pinguos, five musicians who migrated from Buenos Aires to Santa Monica, combine Spanish guitars, a Cuban tres and the Peruvian cajón (box-drum) in their original holiday song, "Alegría."
- The Colburn Children's Choir, from L.A.'s esteemed music conservatory, The Colburn School, join Los Pinguos for a choral take on the band's engaging "Noche Buena."
- The Palmdale High School Choral Union, featuring a select group drawn from the school's 60-voice a cappella choir, demonstrate why they've won international prizes in "Goin to Bethlehem."
- The 7 to 9-year-olds of "Showtime Katusha," all second-generation Russian-Americans, bring Russian wooden folk art dolls to life in "Russian Matrioshky."

- Founded by Los Angeles native Albert McNeil, The Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers have taken African-American music, including their Holiday Celebration selection “Wonderful Counselor,” to 70 countries.
- Kultura Philippine Folk Arts, ambassadors for the dance and music of the Philippines in L.A. since 1992, offer “Tinikling,” an audience favorite in which the performers are challenged to dance between rhythmically manipulated bamboo poles.
- The Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble, comprised of sixth through twelfth-graders from the Acton-Agua Dulce School District, expresses peace, tranquility and hope in “By the Lakeside.”
- Los Angeles Master Chorale’s Grant Gershon, who remembers being introduced to the Music Center through Holiday Celebration as a child, leads his much-honored chorus in “La Peregrinación (The Pilgrimage),” which relates part of the Nativity story.
- Korea native Jung Im Lee, who runs one of the leading Korean traditional dance studios in L.A., stages the spectacular “Symphony of Drums” with 20 beautifully costumed dancer-musicians.
- The UCC Chorus, representing children and adults from Churches of Christ throughout the L.A. region, sings the upbeat “Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child.”
- Jose Hernandez, director of Mariachi Sol de Mexico, wrote “La Musica” to express his passion for the music that his family has been performing for five generations.
- JazzAntiqua Dance & Music Ensemble, dedicated to the appreciation of jazz, created the original jazz ballet “Christmas Is Coming,” to Vince Guaraldi’s music from “A Charlie Brown Christmas.”
- The Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles, featured in the documentary “Out Loud,” broadcast on PBS, performs “Ocho Kandelikas (Eight Candles).”
- The developmentally disabled children and adults of the ARC Handbell Choir, a fixture of holiday performances throughout the L.A. region, interpret that most classic of carols, “Silent Night.”
- The Salvation Army Tabernacle Children’s Choir rebels with good cheer in “Various Themes on Fa La La.”

A PBS web site for the program offers video mini-documentaries and background on the artists.

L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2008 is directed by Kenneth Shapiro.

The L.A. County Holiday Celebration is a decades-old tradition, beloved by Angelenos for nearly half a century. The show, which is admission-free, is a gift from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the community at large.

Underwriters: This program is supported in part by Calgenex and Dole Food Company. Producer: Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Broadcast Producer: Greenlight Entertainment Partners. Format: High Definition, CC Stereo where available.

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