

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION

Contact:

Linda Chiavaroli, Dir. of Communications, Los Angeles County Arts Commission,  
(213) 974-1396, cell 323 810-9240, lchiavaroli@bos.co.la.ca.us

For Immediate Release

### 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AT MUSIC CENTER DECEMBER 24

*FREE six-hour music and dance spectacular is County's gift to the community.*

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration, the biggest holiday show in Los Angeles, features more than 1000 performers in a seasonal mosaic of music and dance from around the world. A holiday gift from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the community at large, the celebration, which runs from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 24 in the [Dorothy Chandler Pavilion](#), is **FREE**, as is the parking under the Music Center. Those who can't attend the show in person can watch the live broadcast on [KCET](#), Channel 28.

Holiday Celebration information is available online at [www.holidaycelebration.org](http://www.holidaycelebration.org) or by calling **213-972-3099**.

"For 44 years, our Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration has delivered the universal message that -- through the arts -- all people from every culture can come together in the spirit of the season. Whether at the Music Center or at home watching on television, we invite all our County citizens to enjoy this year's celebration." said Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.

During the six-hour show, 38 groups from all over the region reflect how the holidays are celebrated by the many cultures represented in the County. Holiday Celebration, produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in cooperation with CDK Productions, mixes the traditional and the adventurous, the familiar and the surprising. Highlights include:

- a holiday jazz medley by the 70-member **Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra**
- a tribute to the late Gregory Hines from the **Jazz Tap Ensemble**
- carols played on handbells by **Activities for Retarded Children and Adults Handbell Choir** and **Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble**
- a performance by **Manoochehr Sadeghi** (Ma'nooshair Sah de' ghee), master of the Persian *santur* (hammered dulcimer) and recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts "National Heritage Fellowship," the country's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts.

- Hanukkah songs by the **Valley Beth Shalom Congregational Choir** featuring live music by members of the **Los Angeles Jewish Symphony**
- a mini-festival of music and dance from the Mexican state of Veracruz by **Conjunto Jardin** and **Sierra Park Elementary Folklorico**
- a brand new dance work, commissioned by Holiday Celebration and based on gospel and jazz sources, from Pat Taylor's **Jazzantiqua Dance & Music Ensemble**
- an encore performance of one of the hits from last year's Holiday Celebration, "When It Snows," a modern dance work about snowfall softening and relaxing the pace of urban life choreographed by Monica Favand and performed by her **TRIP Dance Theatre**
- a carol from the island of Haiti sung by the **Compton High School Choir**
- The lyricism and grace of the Korean traditional fan dance from the **Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy**

Of the 38 groups chosen by a competitive application to participate in the 2003 show, 16 or 42 percent are new to Holiday Celebration. (These groups are asterisked in program listing below.) "This infusion of new talent is a testament to the breadth and depth of our region's arts community," said Arts Commission Executive Director Laura Zucker, who is also executive producer of Holiday Celebration.

Patrons can just show up at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on December 24; no reservations, tickets or parking are necessary. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. Seating is first come, first served. Attendees can arrive at any time and stay as long as they wish. Although there can sometimes be a wait to enter the theatre due to high demand, entertainment is also provided on the Music Center Plaza for those in line. There is usually no line after 6:00 p.m. The Music Center restaurants will be open.

The Holiday Celebration will have a national television presence during Christmas week. "L.A. Holiday Celebration," a one-hour special spotlighting 10 segments from annual live extravaganzas, airs on PBS between December 25 and 31 (check local listings). The special will air on Los Angeles-based KCET at 10 p.m., December 25<sup>th</sup>.

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, in addition to its grants program that funds more than 250 nonprofit arts organizations annually, funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Trust and programs the John Anson Ford Theatres. The Commission, with more than 30 partners, is implementing a 10-year regional blueprint to bring comprehensive arts education to all Los Angeles County public school children. In addition to producing the free Holiday Celebration, the Arts Commission funds more than 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2003-2004 President of the Arts Commission is Laurel Karabian.

11/17/03

**Attention Editors:** Please find the following attachment below.  
 - a listing of groups by community

**44<sup>th</sup> Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration  
PARTICIPANTS BY COMMUNITY**

**Acton**

Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble

**Canoga Park**

San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus

**Compton**

Compton High School Choir

**Culver City**

Agape International Choir  
Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra

**East Rancho Dominguez**

AguaLuna Dance Company

**Encino**

Valley Beth Shalom Congregational Choir

**Glendale**

Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Citywide Children's Christian Choir

**La Canada**

Korean American Music Academy

**Lakewood**

BackhausDance

**Los Angeles**

Coro Alegría (90022)  
Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles (90038)  
Greater Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church  
Inspirational Choir (90062)  
Gwen Wyatt Chorale (90008)  
Huayucaltia (90068)  
Jazz Tap Ensemble (90024)  
JazzAntiqua Dance & Music Ensemble (90035)  
Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy (90006)  
Kennedy Tap Company (90036)  
Opera California Youth Choir (90019)  
Sakoba Dance Theatre (90069)

Sierra Park Elementary School Folklorico  
(90032)  
TRIP Dance Theatre (90068)

**Monterey Park**

Chinese Classical Music Ensemble

**North Hollywood**

Activities for Retarded Children and Adults  
(ARC) Hand Bell Choir

**Pacific Palisades**

Conjunto Jardin

**Pasadena**

Salvation Army Tabernacle Children's Chorus

**San Pedro**

Inspirational Voices of Free!

**Sherman Oaks**

Manoochehr Sadeghi

**Studio City**

San Fernando Valley Master Chorale

**Tujunga**

Our Lady of Lourdes Children's Choir

**Valley Village**

Celtic Arts Center Irish Choir

**Venice**

String Theory

**Whittier**

Maureen (with Mariachi Los Toros)

**Woodland Hills**

Ensemble Royale—Louisville High School  
Oy!Stars