



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION" AT THE MUSIC CENTER IS 47TH ANNUAL.

***Six-hour spectacular on December 24
is L.A.'s biggest holiday show.
And best of all... it's free!***

Los Angeles, CA - A free, six-hour holiday spectacular of music, song and dance unfolds on the stage of the beautiful Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center **Sunday, December 24 from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.** It's the **47th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration**, L.A. County's biggest holiday show featuring more than 45 musical ensembles, choirs, and dance companies, about 1,500 performers in all, expressing the joy of the season.

The Holiday Celebration, which reflects the vibrant spectrum of cultures found in Southern California, is L.A. County's yearly gift to Los Angeles. 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.

Nearly half the artists taking the Dorothy Chandler stage are new to Holiday Celebration this year, including:

- **Wiseguys Big Band Machine**, an 18-piece big band playing a hot version of "Sleigh Ride"
- **Little Willy G y Los Tamaleros**, an East L.A.-based R&B band
- **New Directions Choir**, comprised of homeless and formerly homeless veterans
- The Argentinian band **Los Pinguos** playing an original holiday song written expressly for the celebration
- **Nigerian Talking Drum Ensemble**, under Frances Awe, in a Nigerian Christmas celebration
- **Westside Ballet**, under the direction of Yvonne Mounsey, performing the "Land of Snow" section from *Nutcracker*
- **Los Angeles Master Chorale**, winners of the prestigious ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming
- **Kitka**, the Eastern European vocal music ensemble from the San Francisco Bay Area, in a new work created with the LA-based modern dance company **TRIP Dance Theatre**
- **Djanbazian Dance Company** in a work based on a Persian folk tale
- **Clear Cosmo Art Studio**, performing *Pure Lotus*, a dance inspired by Chinese traditional culture
- The choir and musicians of **Beth Shir Shalom**, a synagogue on L.A.'s west side

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- **Namaste Women's Choir**, singing a piece based on a text by Mother Theresa

The dance presentations are an international kaleidoscope of movement and rhythm. In addition to the Eastern European, Persian and Chinese-influenced works already mentioned, the celebration encompasses:

- Sophiline Cheam Shapiro's **Khmer Arts Academy** in *Aspara Dance*, based on the sculptures of Cambodia's Angkor Wat
- **Angahara Dance Ensemble's** *Jwala - Flame*, a mix of classical Indian dance and jazz-influenced freestyle movement.
- **Viver Brasil Dance Company** demonstrating the origins of the samba
- Festive traditional dances from two regions of Mexico – Sinaloa (**Grupo Folklorico Sabor de Mexico**) and Colima [**Middleton Street School** (formerly Sierra Park Elementary) **Folklorico** with **Mariachi Cielo Nuevo**]
- **Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy** in Korea's oldest court dance, the Sword Dance
- Irish step dancing from **Celtic Spring**, finalists in last summer's "America's Got Talent"

Music offerings also span an astounding spectrum:

- Holiday favorites including "Joy to the World" (**Pasadena Tabernacle Youth Chorus**), "Let It Snow" (**Opera California Youth Choir**), "White Christmas" (**Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus**) and "Little Drummer Boy" (**Gay Men's Chorus**)
- Gospel music from the **Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers**, the **Inspirational Voices of Free!** and **Jubilant Voices of Holman United Methodist Church**
- Two groups specializing in the art of bell ringing - **ARC Handbell Choir** and **Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble**
- The **Chinese Classical Music Ensemble** playing a Chinese New Year song on traditional instruments including the butterfly harp and long zither
- Latin American songs from **Harmonies Girls Choir**
- The "Gloria" from Johann Sebastian Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, sung by the **Cypress Masterworks Chorale**
- Three mariachi groups – **Mariachi Divas**, **Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles** and **Mariachi Sol de Mexico**
- A song in Hebrew about the candles of Hanukkah from **Vox Femina**

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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THE FACTS

- WHAT:** **47th Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration**, an admission-free, six-hour seasonal music and dance show. More than 40 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:** Sunday, December 24, 2006 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.

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