

Pacific Chorale

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A DICKENS FEAST GALA EVENT AT THE CENTER CLUB NETS \$115,000 FOR PACIFIC CHORALE

Attendees included John and Elizabeth Stahr, Phil and Mary Lyons, Martin and Margie Hubbard, Sally Anderson and Tom Rogers, Janice Johnson and many other influential figures in the region's arts community.

Gala event Co-Chairmen John and Lori Loftus and the event committee shepherded the event's success. A caroling quartet of Pacific Chorale singers were joined by members of the Southern California Children's Chorus in providing the evening's entertainment.

Santa Ana, CA, Dec. 21, 2009 – Pacific Chorale President Kelly Ruggirello and Board Chairman Kimberly Bernatz today released the results of the Chorale's annual fundraising gala, *A Dickens Feast*. The event took place Sunday, December 20, 2009 at The Center Club in Costa Mesa. Net results of the event, which benefits Pacific Chorale's music education programs, totaled \$115,000. A list of table sponsors and underwriters are available by request.

Gala event Co-Chairmen John and Lori Loftus and the event committee created an event that drew two hundred community supporters for an elegant evening at The Center Club. The gala followed the Pacific Chorale's annual holiday concert, *Tis the Season!*, at Orange County Performing Arts Center's Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. As guests processed on a red carpet toward the doors of the Center Club, decorated for the season with lights, snowflakes and a small grove of "snow-covered" trees, they were greeted by 49 singers from the Southern California Children's Intermediate Chorus, conducted by Betsy Olson. They then entered the Center Club, festively decorated with green, white and gold table settings and antique lanterns, where they enjoyed a savory feast of lentil soup, braised short ribs with mushroom jus and roasted winter vegetables, and English trifle created specially for the event by Chef Bruno Massuger. A quartet of strolling carolers from Pacific Chorale completed the Victorian-inspired ambiance of the evening.

In attendance were Pacific Chorale Artistic Director John Alexander, President Kelly Ruggirello, and Board Chairman Kimberly Dwan Bernatz. Among the guests were Mary and Phil Lyons, Valerie and Hans Imhof, Margie and Martin Hubbard, Janice Johnson, Al Roberts and Ken Jilson, Jerry Harrington, Darrellyn and David Melilli, Vina and Tom Slattery, Margaret and Larry Gates, Sally Anderson and Tom Rogers, Elaine and Hunter Keck, John and Elizabeth Stahr, Bill and Bobbit Williams, and Judy Morr of the Orange County Performing Arts Center.

ABOUT PACIFIC CHORALE

Founded in 1968, Pacific Chorale is internationally recognized for exceptional artistic expression, stimulating American-focused programming, and influential education programs. Pacific Chorale presents a significant performance season of its own at the Orange County Performing Arts Center and is sought regularly to perform with the nation's leading symphonies. Under the inspired guidance of Artistic Director John Alexander, Pacific Chorale has infused an Old World art form with California's hallmark innovation and cultural independence.

Pacific Chorale has a membership of 140 professional and volunteer singers. Ensembles of various sizes are selected from the membership according to the needs of the repertoire. In addition to its long-standing partnership with Pacific Symphony, the Chorale has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in Disney Hall on numerous occasions. Other noted collaborations include the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Boston Symphony, the National Symphony, and the Long Beach, Pasadena, Riverside and San Diego symphonies. John Alexander and the Chorale have toured extensively in Europe, South America and Asia.

ABOUT JOHN ALEXANDER

Artistic Director of Pacific Chorale since 1972, John Alexander is one of America's most respected choral conductors. His inspired leadership both on the podium and as an advocate for the advancement of the choral art has garnered national and international admiration and acclaim. In his long and distinguished career Alexander has conducted hundreds of choral and orchestral performances in 27 countries around the globe. Noted as a specialist in conducting the choral/orchestral masterworks, he is also a strong proponent of American music, programming groundbreaking works by California composers and bringing twelve West Coast and world premieres to Southern California performance halls in the past thirteen years. Choruses prepared by John Alexander have performed under many of the most renowned conductors on the world stage, including Esa-Pekka Salonen, Seiji Ozawa, Leonard Slatkin, Zubin Mehta, Pierre Boulez, Lukas Foss, Keith Lockhart, John Mauceri, Michael Tilson Thomas, Gustavo Dudamel, Carl St.Clair, Marin Alsop, John Williams, Gerard Schwarz and Max Rudolf.

ABOUT THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S CHORUS

The Southern California Children's Chorus (SCCC), Orange County's only chorus dedicated exclusively to meeting the educational and performance needs of children, seeks to do more than introduce youth to music and singing. It strives to enrich the lives of its members through programs stressing musical aptitude, teamwork, discipline, self-confidence and personal growth. Currently there are 330 young singers affiliated with SCCC, ranging from 5 to 20 years of age, and encompassing seven levels of sequential vocal and choral instruction. The children come from a wide geographic area of Southern California, sometimes traveling over an hour to attend weekly rehearsals.

Members of the SCCC have performed at venues in the Pacific Northwest, the East Coast, British Columbia, England, Italy, Australia and Eastern Europe. In addition to touring, the SCCC has provided singers for Touchstone films, MGM films, music videos, commercials, symphony concerts, operas, television specials for Disney and many musical productions. They have been honored to present concerts at world-renowned venues, including Westminster Abbey, the White House, the Washington National Cathedral, Carnegie Hall, New York's Lincoln Center, the Basilica San Marco in Venice, Italy, and Australia's Sydney Opera House.

ABOUT THE CENTER CLUB

Since 1985, the Center Club has established a tradition of fine cuisine and world class service, combining the unique personality of Orange County with the finest Club traditions from around the world. The unique water and sculpture gardens beyond the opulent dining rooms were especially created by Peter Walker to provide guests a sense of inspiration and quiet beauty. The 16,000 square foot Club conveys the warmth and elegance of a private estate and is appointed with a notable art collection depicting California impressionism and two original sculptures by Swedish artist Carl Milles.

The Center Club remains the primary Orange County destination of visiting dignitaries. They include; Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu of Japan and their Royal Highness Princess Anne and Prince Angus of Great Britain. Orange County's Artistic Support Groups have hosted receptions honoring such major performers as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Liza Minnelli, George Burns, Placido Domingo and Richard Chamberlin. The Center Club is also honored to have been selected to host preview parties for such popular authors as Judith Krantz, Amy Tan and Dave Berry.