

PRESS RELEASE

L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION is a one-hour music and dance special highlighting the top performances from the most recent live Holiday Celebration at the Music Center. The program reflects the cultural mosaic of Los Angeles almost never experienced on national television and the broader “melting pot” of the United States as performers of African, Asian, European and Latino backgrounds join to express the joy of the season. “L.A. Holiday Celebration” airs on PBS between December 1 and 31, 2004 (check local listings).

Behind the scenes chats with the artists by David Zeiger (“Senior Year”) provide personal perspective and illuminate the performances which include:

Two ensembles devoted to great American art forms,

- the internationally known **Jazz Tap Ensemble** paying tribute to the late Gregory Hines with “Groove”
- **JazzAntiqua Dance & Music Ensemble** performing to Duke Ellington (Entre’Acte from *The Nutcracker*), Mahalia Jackson (“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”) and Ella Fitzgerald (“Let It Snow”)

And

- **Celtic Spring**, aka the Wood family, the Irish-American version of the von Trapps, fiddling and step-dancing their way through “Angels We Have Heard on High”
- the wistful “Cucuroocucu Paloma” sung by 9-year-old sensation **Maureen** backed by **Mariachi Los Toros**
- the gospel fervor of **Inspirational Voices of Free!** in “Crystal Waters”
- the environmental music makers of **String Theory** playing the Arabian Dance from *The Nutcracker* on giant harps

Three performing groups comprised of school-age youngsters carrying on ancient traditions in 21st century L.A.,

- **Korean American Music Academy** in native costume singing “Arirang,” the most popular Korean traditional song
- **Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy** performing the visually stunning “Fan Dance”
- **Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble** playing their arrangement of “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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

1000-1500 performers representing 38 groups chosen by competitive application in a six hour program every December 24, is a yearly ritual for thousands of families. The 2004 edition will be the 45th annual. Los Angeles public television station, KCET, has broadcast the live show since 1965. In 2002 L.A. Holiday Celebration received its first national exposure on PBS.

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission is the executive producer of the show.

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 executive producing the L.A. Holiday Celebration, 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; funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Trust, programs the John Anson Ford Theatres and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The Arts Commission also funds more than 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2004-2005 President of the Arts Commission is Carlos Barrón.

###

Contact:

Linda Chiavaroli, Dir. of Communications, Los Angeles County Arts Commission,
(323) 871-4554 or **(213) 974-1343**, cell **323 810-9240**, lchiavaroli@bos.co.la.ca.us