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**LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S CHORUS FETES
LUMINARIES AND ARTS PATRONS AT STARRY NIGHT BENEFIT**

Friday, April 30, 2010, 6:30 PM

Honorees Include Mezzo-Soprano Suzanna Guzmán, Academy Award-Winning Filmmaker Freida Lee Mock and Arts Volunteers and Patrons Stuart and Rebecca Bowne

Los Angeles Children's Chorus (LACC) pulls out all the stops to honor four celebrated luminaries and arts patrons for their tremendous artistic and philanthropic contributions at its aptly named benefit, Starry Night, on Friday, April 30, 2010, 6:30 p.m., at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. The honorees include internationally acclaimed opera star Suzanna Guzmán, Academy Award-winning filmmaker Freida Lee Mock and beloved arts volunteers and patrons Stuart and Rebecca Bowne. Proceeds benefit LACC's outstanding artistic and music education programs.

Guzmán – acclaimed for her silky mezzo-soprano, described as “a riveting presence” and “tough but passionate, capricious but utterly self-assured” by the *Boston Herald* and noted for her commitment to arts education and serving as a mentor to young singers – appeared in LACC's premiere production of the opera *Keepers of the Night* and has also worked with the choir on numerous LA Opera productions. Academy Award-winning filmmaker Freida Lee Mock has produced three documentaries about LACC, including the Academy Award-nominated *Sing!*, which tells the story about LACC becoming, according to Esa-Pekka Salonen, the best children's chorus he has ever heard, *Sing Opera!*, chronicling the making of LACC's world-premiere opera *Keepers of the Night*, and *Sing China!*, which documents LACC's first tour to China, just weeks before the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Also being feted are beloved arts patrons and dedicated arts volunteers Stuart and Rebecca Bowne, who have provided invaluable leadership and support to LACC, LA Opera, the Opera League of Los Angeles, the Pasadena Conservatory, A Noise Within, and many other Southland arts organizations.

“These four extraordinary people have long championed Los Angeles Children's Chorus,” said David Scheidemantle, chair of LACC's Board of Directors. “We are extremely grateful to them for their major artistic,

volunteer and philanthropic contributions, which have helped shape the choir on innumerable levels and raise its stature immeasurably. It is a pleasure to recognize them publicly for their unwavering support of LACC.”

The benefit features a festive wine reception with passed hors d'oeuvres, a three-course gourmet dinner created by the Biltmore's acclaimed Executive Chef Franco De Dominicis, and a musical tribute to the honorees by LACC Concert Choir, new Emerging Voices choir and renowned “surprise” guest vocalists.

In addition, a live auction includes a number of fabulous one-of-a-kind items such as a “couture” package boasting a design by Kevan Hall – who was hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* for his “quietly elegant draped eveningwear...every detail perfectly measured” and dresses such celebrities as Anne Hathaway, Tina Fey, Marcia Cross, Tara Reid and Vanessa Williams – as well as a pair of custom made shoes by celebrated LA shoe designer Wendy Holden, who was recently recognized in *Los Angeles Magazine's* “hand made” issue. Also up for auction are an LA cultural extravaganza with premium tickets to some of the city's hottest events, and a sports package that features, among other elements, a photo shoot at a child's sporting or performance event by Andrew Bernstein, the official photographer for the NBA.

Starry Night co-chairs are Alma Aroustamian (Glendale), Annie Yeager Higgins (Pasadena), Katherine Kavich (La Canada), Jennifer Harris Sliskovich (Bel Air), and Andrea Greene Willard (San Marino).

Los Angeles Children's Chorus – described as “astonishingly polished,” “hauntingly beautiful,” “a homogenous blanket of sound that is smooth, silky” and “one heck of a talented group of kids” – is recognized throughout the country for its exceptional artistic quality and technical ability. Under Artistic Director Anne Tomlinson, LACC is recognized throughout the country for its exceptional artistic quality and technical ability. Founded in 1986, LACC performs frequently with leading music ensembles including the LA Phil, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Calder Quartet and Pasadena Symphony. LACC also assists Los Angeles Opera by training and providing children for its opera productions that require children's chorus or child soloists. The Chorus' roster includes more than 350 children aged 6-18 from 60 communities across Los Angeles in six choirs and a program of “First Experiences in Singing” classes for young singers. LACC's intensive training program includes weekly or twice weekly rehearsals, individual vocal coaching and comprehensive musicianship classes. LACC has toured Brazil, Great Britain, Italy, Australia, Germany, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland, as well as many parts of the United States and Canada. In 2008, Concert Choir performed at the China International Arts Celebration for Young People during its tour to China prior to the Beijing summer Olympics. Among its numerous accomplishments, LACC produced a commissioned world-premiere opera, *Keepers of the Night*, by composer Peter Ash and

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librettist Donald Sturrock in 2007 and appears on "Amore Infinito" ("Infinite Love"), a Deutsche Grammophon CD of songs based on poems by the late Pope John Paul II and performed by Plácido Domingo, which was released worldwide in March 2009. LACC is also featured in the Academy Award-nominated documentary, "Sing!" and sequel documentary "Sing Opera!" by award-winning Santa Monica filmmakers Freida Lee Mock and Jessica Sanders. "Sing!" documents a year in the life of the choir and is shown frequently on PBS stations nationwide. "Sing China!," a third documentary to be released in Spring 2010, chronicles the choir's groundbreaking tour to China. LACC has appeared twice on NBC's "The Tonight Show," including, in June 2009, with Grammy Award-winning pop artist John Mayer, and was featured on Public Radio International's nationally syndicated radio show "From the Top," hosted by acclaimed pianist Christopher O'Riley. LACC continues its long-standing community interaction and outreach efforts by holding satellite tuition-free programs at HEART OF LOS ANGELES (Lafayette Park) and Daniel Webster Elementary School (Pasadena) and performing frequently in retirement homes, community centers and public schools, and for various civic organizations throughout the year.

Tickets to Starry Night are \$175 per person. Table sponsorships are also available. The Millenium Biltmore Hotel is located at 506 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012. For tickets and information, please call (626) 793-4231 or visit www.lachildrenschorus.org.

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