

October 29, 2012

CONTACT: Lizbeth Path
Tel: +1 626-444-4424
lizbeth@silenttearsmusical.com

‘Loving the Silent Tears’ features French singer Flo Ankah Star-studded benefit show with a meaningful message

The new musical about finding one’s peace, “Loving the Silent Tears,” was a great success with a sold-out audience at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, the venue with over 6,000 seats that hosted the Oscars. The benefit show was directed by Tony-nominated **Vincent Paterson** (acclaimed director/choreographer of Michael Jackson’s “Bad” and Madonna’s “Blond Ambition” world tours) and choreographed by Emmy-winning **Bonnie Story** (“High School Musical” 1, 2, 3).

Starring were some of the best talents from Broadway and the world pop music industry, including 2-time Grammy winner **Jon Secada** and Grammy winner **Jody Watley**, Tony-winning Broadway stars, and diverse and accomplished international singers, including French singer and actress **Flo Ankah** (also known as Floanne).

Award-winning playwrights **Cynthia Ferrell** and **Frank Evans** worked on the book for “Loving the Silent Tears,” which told the story of an older, bereaved woman named Joy (played by Tony nominee **Patti Cohenour** from Broadway’s original “The Phantom of the Opera”) and an ambitious young man named Pete (played by award-winning actor **Luke Eberl** from “Planet of the Apes”). Both are struggling in ways we all could relate to. They go on magical train ride through various countries, where they encounter the singers of each distinct culture who express an aspect of their inner journeys.

The first stop that the train makes is a scene in Paris, France, with Flo Ankah, whose role is simply a representative of the land, holds a cluster of balloons as she sings “Accept Me the Way I Am.” The music is by Grammy winner **Nan Schwartz** (“Harry Potter”). The lyrics are based on “Silent Tears,” a poetry collection that had been written by **Supreme Master Ching Hai**, world-renowned spiritual teacher, humanitarian, poet and artist. The message is of peace, love, and connecting with the higher power within.

“It’s a daring production, because it’s not often that a musical at that level is conveying a message so powerful. So I really am glad to be a part of this. I believe in this work; I think it’s great to elevate people through art,” said Flo Ankah, who is an accomplished singer, actress, and director based in New York.

Fellow cast member Jody Watley explained, *“The musical’s message is faith, compassion, gratitude, finding your way out of despair, and finding your inner peace and joy.”*

“I think the message is empowering to its audience,” said Flo Ankah. About the performance, which received a standing ovation, she expressed, *“Everyone in the audience was tremendous. There was an incredible energy, and each piece was shining with its own culture and identity.”*

Other members of the impressive cast were Tony winner **Kiril Kulish** representing Russia, Tony nominee and Emmy winner **Liz Callaway** representing Australia, Grammy-winning Jamaican reggae legends **Black Uhuru**, Arab singer **Camellia Abou-Odah**, actor **Junior Case**, award-winning actor **Luke Eberl**, Vietnamese pop star **Hồ Quỳnh Hương**, Italian tenor **Mark Janicello**, Korean pop star **Brian Joo**, award-winning Israeli singer **Liel Kolet**, Irish soprano **Katie McMahon**, Korean singer **Heather Park**, award-winning Brazilian singer **Fabiana Passoni**, Persian superstar **Siavash Shams**, and Chinese platinum pop star **Kay Tse**.

Two-time Oscar-winning composer **Al Kasha** was inspired to create “Loving the Silent Tears” musical based on poems by Supreme Master Ching Hai. The poetry was set to music by Mr. Kasha, Ms. Schwartz, and other award-winning Broadway/Hollywood composers: 6-time Grammy winner and 2-time Oscar nominee **Jorge Calandrelli** (“Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”), Emmy winner **Doug Katsaros** (Footloose), 2-time Grammy winner and Oscar nominee **Henry Krieger** (Dreamgirls), Tony and Emmy winner **Don Pippin** (Oliver!), Grammy winner **Nan Schwartz** (Harry Potter), and Oscar and 2-time Grammy winner **David Shire** (Saturday Night Fever).

The event commemorated the 19th Anniversary of Supreme Master Ching Hai Day to honor her worldwide philanthropic work and peace advocacy. Supreme Master Ching Hai was unable to attend but gave a warm video greeting, in which she said, *“To all involved in this musical event, blessed be your dedication to make this world a more enjoyable place, cheering up the mass and giving thanks to Heaven and Earth in this way.”*

In the caring spirit of Supreme Master Ching Hai Day, after the musical the Supreme Master recognized three charity organizations, **Animal Defenders International**, **Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS**, and **Worldwide Veterinary Service**, with generous contributions totaling US\$300,000, made on behalf of all the artists involved in the musical.

In addition, the vegan lifestyle was promoted in alignment with the overall message of peace and cultural understanding. The guest speaker, Academy Award-winning actor **George Chakiris** (“West Side Story”), said during his speech, *“Supreme Master Ching Hai’s message is that all beings...have the right to live in peace and dignity on this beautiful planet; and that each person can do his or her part to save lives, better our planet, and be heroes. And my personal way to be a hero and save these important lives is to be a vegetarian.”*

The incredible evening was emceed by an enthusiastic group of vegan or vegetarian celebrities: TV host and former Miss USA **Susie Castillo**, award-winning actor **Corey Feldman** (“The Goonies”), actress **Kelly Packard** (“Baywatch”), and 2-time Emmy-winning actor **Kristoff St. John** (“The Young and the Restless”).

The event concluded with the full cast singing a finale song, “Take Each Other’s Hand,” with music by Al Kasha and lyrics based on Supreme Master Ching Hai’s poetry. The audience joined in by waving star-shaped light wands. Al Kasha said, *“The show breaks down boundaries.”*

Ticket holders were also invited to an elaborate pre-show art exhibition of the Master’s creative work. After the event, there was a VIP banquet that was catered with delicious vegan food.

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For exclusive video interviews with the stars, photos and more, please visit www.SilentTearsMusical.com.