

October 29, 2012

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

**Jon Secada brings his Cuban charms
in 'Loving the Silent Tears: The Musical'**
Star-studded benefit show with meaningful message

Two-time Grammy winning pop superstar **Jon Secada** brought cheers from the 6,000-plus audience members with his vibrant performance in "Loving the Silent Tears," a unique Broadway-scale musical that sold out the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles for its one-time showing on Saturday, October 27.

"Loving the Silent Tears" was directed by Tony-nominated **Vincent Paterson** (known for directing/choreographing Michael Jackson's Bad and Madonna's Blond Ambition world tours) and choreographed by Emmy-winning **Bonnie Story** ("High School Musical").

The star-studded red carpet benefit show was about the search for inner peace and real happiness. It told the story of an older woman named Joy (played by Tony nominee **Patti Cohenour** from "The Phantom of the Opera") and a young man named Pete (played by award-winning actor **Luke Eberl** from "Planet of the Apes") who are both struggling to find their path in life. They go on a magical train ride through 16 countries, where they encounter a person of each distinct culture, such as that of Brazil, China, Ireland, Africa, Australia, etc., who expresses an aspect of their inner journeys.

The songs that they sing are based on the profound, heartfelt poetry collection, "Silent Tears," written by **Supreme Master Ching Hai**, a world-renowned spiritual teacher, humanitarian, poet and artist.

Havana-born Jon Secada represented his Cuban heritage in the show and debuted a song he himself composed. He expressed, "*It was inspirational to compose a song with deep spiritual content found in the poetry collection 'Silent Tears' written by Supreme Master Ching Hai.*"

Titled "All Love, All Forgive," Secada's song encouraged listeners to embrace all lives, including the animals. An excerpt reads:

*O Lord,
I love You and ask naught for myself
But for the sake of all beings in the worlds
Under Your will,
May each one find his Peace.*

*Dearest Heaven, Dear Lord of Karma
Please do love and care for all creatures*

*There're plenty of places in Heaven above
Take them all up, and give them love.*

Dressed in a bright orange Cuban shirt and fedora hat, Jon Secada sang, with some parts in Spanish, and danced along with the ensemble, including some of the best dancers in the U.S. The lively party atmosphere created reflected the newfound joy in the protagonist Joy's heart as she learned to let go of her bitterness and to regain her faith.

"The musical's message is faith, compassion, gratitude, finding your way out of despair, and finding your inner peace and joy," said cast member, Grammy-winning pop singer **Jody Watley**.

The impressive cast also featured Broadway stars: Tony winners **Debbie Gravitte** and **Kiril Kulish**, and Emmy winner and Tony nominee **Liz Callaway**. Also adding their unique voices were Grammy-winning reggae legends **Black Uhuru**, Arab singer **Camellia Abou-Odah**, French singer **Flo Ankah**, actor **Junior Case**, 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 award-winning Chinese pop singer **Kay Tse**.

Two-time Oscar-winning composer Al Kasha ("Seven Brides for Seven Brothers") was inspired to create this musical based on the "Silent Tears" poetry. He and other award-winning Broadway and Hollywood composers contributed to setting the poems to songs, including 6-time Grammy winner & 2-time Oscar nominee **Jorge Calandrelli** ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"), Emmy winner **Doug Katsaros** ("Footloose"), 2-time Grammy winner & Oscar nominee **Henry Krieger** ("Dreamgirls"), Tony and Emmy winner **Don Pippin** ("La Cage aux Folles"), Grammy winner **Nan Schwartz** ("Harry Potter"), and Oscar and 2-time Grammy winner **David Shire** ("Saturday Night Fever").

The world premiere commemorated the 19th Anniversary of Supreme Master Ching Hai Day to honor her worldwide philanthropic work and peace advocacy. California State Senator **Curren Price** conveyed commendatory remarks about Supreme Master Ching Hai's longstanding humanitarian contributions. Though unable to attend, Supreme Master Ching Hai gave a 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 masses and giving thanks to Heaven and Earth in this way."*

After the musical, in accordance with the values of Supreme Master Ching Hai Day, three charitable organizations were recognized on stage with donations totaling US\$300,000 from Supreme Master Ching Hai, made on behalf of the musical artists. The three organizations are **Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS**, **Animal Defenders International**, and **Worldwide Veterinary Service**.

As in Secada's song, compassion for all beings was also promoted in alignment with the event's overall message of peace. The emcees were an enthusiastic group of vegan and 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 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.”*

Warming up the audience before the show was an amazing feat of entertainment by two Dream World Cirque aerialists portraying angels flying over the audience in the theater—a perfect start to a musical that included the outstanding dancers from Cirque du Soleil. The exquisite visuals were further enhanced by the impressive gliding train created by Emmy-winning set designer **John Iacovelli** (“Peter Pan”) and vibrant, culturally inspired costumes by award-winning costume designer **Sharell Martin** (“Chicago”).

Attendees were also invited to an art exhibition of Supreme Master Ching Hai’s creative works.

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.

After the event, there was a VIP banquet offering delicious gourmet vegan cuisine.

Photographs and footage of the event are freely available for media at www.SilentTearsMusical.com/download.