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## Katie McMahon Brings Irish Flavor to “Loving the Silent Tears: The Musical”

Sold-Out Benefit Show Unites Cultures and Uplifts Spirits

Representing her beloved Irish heritage, Katie McMahon mesmerized the 6,000-plus audience members with her amazing singing and harp-playing performance in “Loving the Silent Tears,” a unique Broadway-scale musical held at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on October 27. Her ethereal renditions complemented the more exuberant interludes between her singing during which the talented ensemble showed their impressive Irish step dance-style footwork.

“Loving the Silent Tears” was a one-time-only charity performance about humanity’s search for inner peace and real happiness. It was directed by Tony-nominated **Vincent Paterson**, known for directing/choreographing Michael Jackson’s *Bad* and Madonna’s *Blond Ambition* world tours. The choreography was the work of Emmy-winning **Bonnie Story** (“High School Musical”). The show featured a stellar cast of Tony-winning Broadway stars, Grammy-winning pop music icons, and international stars.

The show celebrated the 19th Anniversary of Supreme Master Ching Hai Day to honor the worldwide philanthropic work and peace advocacy of **Supreme Master Ching Hai**, a world-renowned spiritual teacher, humanitarian, poet and artist. Though unable to attend, she 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 masses and giving thanks to Heaven and Earth in this way.”*

It was Supreme Master Ching Hai’s moving collection of poems, “Silent Tears,” with its themes of peace and love, that inspired 2-time Oscar-winning composer **Al Kasha** (“Seven Brides for Seven Brothers”) to create this musical.

Ms. McMahon said, *“I am delighted to be representing Ireland in ‘Loving the Silent Tears.’ My own country has had a very troubled history and I love the Supreme Master’s message of peace and reconciliation. It has been an absolute pleasure working with all the amazingly talented singers, dancers, musicians, writers, and directors who have made this beautiful musical so special.”*

The cast also featured 2-time Grammy Award-winning music icon **Jon Secada**, Grammy winner R&B/pop star **Jody Watley**, Tony winners **Debbie Gravitte** and **Kiril Kulish**, Tony nominee **Patti Cohenour**, 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 Anka**, actor **Junior Case**, award-winning actor **Luke Eberl**, Vietnamese pop star **Hô Quỳnh Hương**, Italian tenor **Mark Janicello**, Korean pop star **Brian Joo**, award-winning Israeli singer **Liel Kolet**, Korean singer **Heather Park**, award-winning Brazilian singer

**Fabiana Passoni**, and Persian superstar **Siavash Shams**, and award-winning Chinese pop singer Kay Tse.

Award-winning playwrights **Cynthia Ferrell** and **Frank Evans** worked on the book for “Loving the Silent Tears,” which told the story of an older woman named Joy (Patti Cohenour) and a young man named Pete (Luke Eberl) who are both struggling in life in ways everyone could relate to. They go on a magical train ride through various countries, where they encounter singers of the distinct cultures who express an aspect of the characters’ inner journeys.

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

Supreme Master Ching Hai’s 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”) who composed McMahon’s Irish song, and Oscar and 2-time Grammy winner **David Shire** (“Saturday Night Fever”).

During the benefit program, in accordance with the meaning 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**.

California State Senator **Curren Price** conveyed commendatory remarks about Supreme Master Ching Hai’s longstanding humanitarian contributions.

Meanwhile, compassion for all beings was also promoted in alignment with the event’s overall message of peace. The evening’s hosts 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”).

In addition, the vegetarian 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”), vibrant, culturally inspired costumes by award-winning costume designer **Sharell Martin** (“Chicago”), and rich lighting/projection design by **Brian Gale**.

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.*”

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

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](http://www.SilentTearsMusical.com/download).