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Tony winner Kiril Kulish Stars in ‘Loving the Silent Tears: The Musical’ Russian culture celebrated in benefit show with a meaningful message

As a young teenager, **Kiril Kulish** impressed the theatergoing world with his lead performance dancing, singing and acting as Billy Elliot in Sir John Elton’s hit musical for its Broadway opening. The role earned him a much deserved Tony Award.

This time, the 18-year-old gifted performer shone once again in the new musical “Loving the Silent Tears,” which was presented in front of a sold-out audience of over 6,000 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on October 27.

This one-time-only charity performance about humanity’s search for inner peace and real happiness 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 show featured a huge cast of Tony-winning Broadway stars, Grammy-winning pop music icons, and international stars: 2-time Grammy Award-winning music icon **Jon Secada**, Grammy winner R&B/pop star **Jody Watley**, Tony winner **Debbie Gravitte**, Tony nominee **Patti Cohenour**, and Emmy winner and Tony nominee **Liz Callaway**. Also adding their unique voices were many top international singers.

“Loving the Silent Tears” told the story of an older woman named Joy (played by Patti Cohenour from “The Phantom of the Opera”) and a young man named Pete (played by Luke Eberl from “Planet of the Apes”) who are both struggling in ways many of us could relate to. They go on magical train ride through 16 countries as they also embark on an inner journey toward peace.

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

When the train stopped at Russia, Kiril, dressed in an elegant traditionally flavored costume, performed a song titled “The World Is a Whirlpool,” with music by 2-time Grammy winner and 3-time Oscar nominee Henry Krieger (“Dreamgirls”). The lyrics were based on poems by **Supreme Master Ching Hai**, world-renowned spiritual teacher, humanitarian, poet and artist. Her poetry collection, “Silent Tears,” inspired the musical.

Kiril said, *“It’s really nice to sing a song with an amazing message and to tell the world to rid of the evil and that’s what it’s all about. So just peace and love.”*

While singing his solo number, partly in Russian and partly in English, Kiril was flanked by energetic dancers dancing in Russian folk style. Handpicked among the best in the nation, many of the dancers in the musical had just performed for Cirque du Soleil. Kiril Kulish, a formidable

dancer himself, joined the ensemble in some of the feats of high jumping and twirling as he sang – an impressive performance to watch.

The show commemorated the 19th Anniversary of Supreme Master Ching Hai Day to honor the worldwide philanthropic work and peace advocacy of Supreme Master Ching Hai. She was unable to attend but 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.”*

Two-time Oscar-winning composer Al Kasha (“Seven Brides for Seven Brothers”) was inspired to create the musical, setting her poignant words to music along with other eminent composers: 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”).

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 were **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 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.”*

The hosts were also 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 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.

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

After the event, there was a VIP banquet that was catered with delicious gourmet vegan cuisine.

PRESS RELEASE

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