

October-November 2012

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

Tenor Mark Janicello Brings Operatic Grandeur to “Loving the Silent Tears” Star-studded benefit show with an elevating message

It was standing room only at the 6,300-seat Shrine Auditorium for the debut of the highly anticipated world premiere of “Loving the Silent Tears,” a new musical directed and choreographed by Tony-nominated **Vincent Paterson** (Michael Jackson’s “Bad” world tour) and choreographed by Emmy-winning **Bonnie Story** (“High School Musical”).

“Loving the Silent Tears,” about humanity’s search for inner peace, starred some of the best talent from Broadway and the world pop music industry, including 2-time Grammy winner **Jon Secada** and Grammy winner **Jody Watley**, as well as diverse and accomplished international singers. Among them was **Mark Janicello**, an acclaimed and multi-talented artist currently working in Europe.

He said, “The show is so beautiful. I’ve been singing since I’m four years old. I’ve sung all over the world. This is the most technically brilliant show I’ve ever been involved in, and it’s aesthetics of the highest order.”

“Loving the Silent Tears” tells the story of our universal search for inner contentment and everlasting happiness through two protagonists, an older woman played by Tony nominee **Patti Cohenour** and a younger man played by award-winning actor **Luke Eberl**. Both face trouble and sorrow in their lives as we could all relate to. They go on a magical train ride around the globe, where a singer and a top-notch dance ensemble would meet them.

“I represent Italy in ‘Loving the Silent Tears,’ which travels to 16 countries. It’s a spiritual journey for the lead characters, and all the 16 different countries are there to help them along the way. The whole subject is the search for inner peace, and addressed through different musical styles, different styles of choreography.”

With the looks and operatic sound, Mark Janicello fit perfectly in his role as a representative of the glorious Italian culture. His powerful tenor voice seemed to raise the roof of the vast Shrine Auditorium in his solo number, titled “Initiation.” It was composed by Tony and Emmy-winning composer and music director Don Pippin who had worked on many Broadway’s famous productions.

“The song that was written for me by Don Pippin, he studied my voice and it just fit like a glove,” Janicello said. On stage in a sparkling tuxedo, he stood atop a staircase, while below, a human marionette in a clown costume, attached to strings, danced. As Janicello’s song reached a climax, the puppet frees himself from his bonds and climbs up the stairs, in a symbolically moving moment of spiritual liberation.

In a previous interview, he shared, I have spent a lifetime surrounded by very spiritually-minded

people and have been very busy myself with matters of a spiritual and eternal nature. That I will sing in this project is no coincidence.”

It was a phenomenal evening. The pre-show red carpet was an amalgam of celebrity, from Hollywood stars and renowned musicians to government dignitaries from around the globe.

The musical commemorated 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 and artist. It was her moving collection of poems, “Silent Tears” that inspired 2-time Oscar-winning composer Al Kasha (“Seven Brides for Seven Brothers”) to create this musical. Kasha set her poignant words to music along with the above-mentioned Don Pippin and: 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”), Grammy winner **Nan Schwartz** (“Harry Potter”), and Oscar and 2-time Grammy winner **David Shire** (“Saturday Night Fever”).

With a 30-plus member dance troupe with dancers from Cirque du Soleil, and a full orchestra, the musical also presented exquisite visuals including 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”).

Supreme Master Ching Hai 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.”

California State Senator **Curren Price** conveyed commendatory remarks about Supreme Master Ching Hai’s longstanding humanitarian contributions. 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 event’s hosts were 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”). Mark Janicello himself is a health-conscious vegetarian. He has played leading roles in a wide variety of operas, appeared or recorded with artists such as Frank Sinatra and Liza Minelli, and performed in Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Opera Guild, and other distinguished artists in famous world venues.

In keeping with the altruistic values of Supreme Master Ching Hai Day, the Supreme Master made generous charitable contributions, on behalf of the artists, of \$100,000 each to three

organizations: **Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS, Animal Defenders International and Worldwide Veterinary Service.**

The event concluded with a heartwarming finale song by the cast, titled “Take Each Other’s Hand,” with music by Al Kasha and lyrics based on Supreme Master Ching Hai’s poetry. The audience joined in 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.

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