

October 2012

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

Vietnamese singer shines in *Loving the Silent Tears: The Musical* Star-studded benefit show with a meaningful message

Singer **Hồ Quỳnh Hương** portrayed the beauty of the Vietnamese culture in the world premiere of *Loving the Silent Tears: The Musical* at the prestigious Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California, USA on Saturday October 27. She starred with an impressive international cast featuring Tony-winning Broadway stars, Grammy-winning pop stars, and icons, all representing 16 different cultures in a one-time-only charity performance about humanity's search for inner contentment.

She said, *"This is the first time I am able to participate in such a grand musical. I feel very proud and very happy, because being a Vietnamese, yet I can stand on the same stage together with the most amazing artists. I'm deeply grateful for having this opportunity."*

Loving the Silent Tears told the story of two troubled protagonists. Tony nominee **Patti Cohenour**, who played the female lead in the original Broadway production of *Phantom of the Opera*, plays an older woman named Joy who is still bitter over the loss of her son. Award-winning actor **Luke Eberl**, a star in *Planet of the Apes*, plays a young man named Pete, who is newly encountering the traps of worldly life. The theme of humanity's universal search for inner happiness was expressed in a remarkable and unique fashion: by taking the audience on a magical train ride through 16 rich and varied countries, portrayed with the help of top-notch singers and a large ensemble of some of the nation's best dancers.

Hồ Quỳnh Hương was joined by lead actress Patti Cohenour for the mystical duet "Enlightenment," which is based on a poem written by world-renowned spiritual leader, humanitarian and artist **Supreme Master Ching Hai**. The lyrics were set to music by two-time Grammy-winning composer Henry Kreiger, best known for co-creating the long-running Broadway hit *Dreamgirls*.

Hồ Quỳnh Hương, explained, *"The song talks about something within us. And each and everyone has that noble quality, like a beautiful part within. And I'm very fortunate to be able to sing the song, entitled 'Enlightenment.' When I sing this song, I hope that the noble and beautiful part inside me will also be awakened."*

The musical was directed by Tony-nominated **Vincent Paterson** (Michael Jackson's "Bad" and Madonna's "Blond Ambition" world tours) and choreographed by Emmy-winning **Bonnie Story** ("High School Musical").

It starred an outstanding array of vocal talent from across the world such as 2-time Grammy Award-winning music icon **Jon Secada**, Grammy winner R&B/pop star **Jody Watley**, 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 Anka**, actor **Junior Case**, Italian tenor **Mark Janicello**, Korean pop star **Brian Joo**, award-winning Israeli singer **Liel Kolet**, Irish soprano **Katie McMahon**,

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Korean singer **Heather Park**, award-winning Brazilian singer **Fabiana Passoni**, Persian superstar **Siavash Shams**, and Chinese platinum pop star **Kay Tse**.

The deeper message conveyed in the musical, as well as the brilliant celebration of global harmony, was truly a theatergoing first.

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

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.

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 an impressive and diverse group of award-winning Broadway and Hollywood composers, several of whom worked together on last year’s production: 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”).

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 mass and giving thanks to Heaven and Earth in this way.”*

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”).

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 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”).

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.**

Vice President Tim Philips of Animal Defenders International said, “This money will go so far to helping these animals, helping us rescue more animals, and most important of all, raising awareness about the treatment of animals around the world.”

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The event concluded with a finale song, “Take Each Other’s Hand,” with music by Al Kasha and lyrics based on Supreme Master Ching Hai’s poetry, complete with star-shaped light wands for the audience.

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 vegan food.

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