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Standing Ovation for ‘Loving the Silent Tears: The Musical’ Star-studded benefit show with a meaningful message

The 6,300-seat Shrine Auditorium was filled to capacity for the world premiere of “Loving the Silent Tears: The Musical,” a one-time-only charity performance about humanity’s search for inner contentment, and starring some of the best talent from Broadway and Los Angeles. It 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”).

The pre-show red carpet was abuzz with excitement upon the appearances of Hollywood celebrities, music icons, and international pop stars. During the benefit program, three charitable organizations received donations totaling \$300,000 on stage following the musical.

“Loving the Silent Tears” told the story of two troubled protagonists, an older woman named Joy who is still bitter over the loss of her son, and a young man named Pete newly encountering the traps of worldly life. The show’s theme of humanity’s universal search for inner happiness was expressed in a remarkable and unique fashion: by taking the audience on magical train ride through 16 countries, with the help of top-notch singers and a large ensemble of some of the nation’s best dancers to portray each rich culture. The deeper message conveyed, as well as the brilliant celebration of global harmony, was truly a theatergoing first.

The musical 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**, 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 **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 Chinese platinum pop star **Kay Tse**.

“The musical’s 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**, 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 an impressive and diverse score of award-winning Broadway and Hollywood 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”).

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 incredible evening was emceed by 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 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”) 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.”*

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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 gourmet vegan cuisine.

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