

A Sensational Second Season for Michael Palm Series



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ABOVE: Sir James Galway and Lady Jeanne Galway are the first wind players to be featured in the Michael Palm Series; ABOVE RIGHT: Change of venue presents no obstacle for consummate artists Hampson and Zeger.

All of our generous benefactors, patrons and subscribers eagerly awaited the opening concert of the Michael Palm Series on December 2, 2004, featuring world-renowned baritone Thomas Hampson, accompanied by the incomparable Brian Zeger at the piano. What a thrill it would be to hear this recital in the warmth and brilliance of Judy and Steven Gluckstern's fabulous New York City apartment in SoHo!

Well, it was indeed a thrill to hear the music of Schumann, Rorem, Bernstein, and Copland performed with such intensity and compelling artistry. But we'll have to wait to hear these superlative artists in the Glucksterns' home. Typically, all New York-based concerts in the Michael Palm Series take place there. The afternoon before their concert, however, the only elevator in the building broke down and couldn't

be fixed for two weeks. Since it wasn't appropriate to ask the artists, a hundred listeners, and the entire catering staff to walk up seven flights of stairs, we managed, with the creative help of our friends at Showstoppers and the building's cooperative staff, to reconfigure the downstairs board room and dining area into a makeshift concert hall. With the added emergency help of Steinway & Sons, who provided a piano on one day's notice, and the gracious flexibility of our two artists, who warmed up across the hall in the workout room among weight machines, the concert was every bit as riveting a musical experience as could be hoped. What we hope now is that we can convince Messieurs Hampson and Zeger to return to their originally designated concert space in the near future.

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GRANTMAKING

Staying on Top of the AIDS Fight

The most recently published report by *Funders Concerned About AIDS* ranked Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (Classical Action's parent organization) #1 among grantmakers with a domestic U.S. focus, granting nearly \$3.4 million more than the #2-ranked funder. Your

contributions enabled us to make grants to 485 AIDS organizations in May 2005 alone, and to meet our ambitious financial commitments to assist entertainment industry professionals and others in need. Help us help others by making a donation to Classical Action today.



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October 1, 2004 through June 12, 2005*

MAESTRO APPRECIATION CONCERT



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Hey, Big Spender...

As a musical token of our thanks, Classical Action offers one of its house concerts each year exclusively to our *Maestros*, donors who support our organization to the tune of \$1000 or more during our fiscal year. On January 10, 2005, more than 100 of Classical Action's major supporters and friends reveled in world-class performances by the Takács Quartet of two of the great Beethoven quartets, all in the intimacy of Classical Action's "concert hall" in SoHo, otherwise known as the home of hosts Judy and Steven Gluckstern. The masterful performances revealed all the innovation and creative genius behind these magnificent quartets, and in the appreciative spirit of this event, our patrons in turn showed their own deep gratitude to the Takács Quartet with a prolonged ovation at the conclusion of this special concert.

Takács Quartet, one of today's preeminent string quartets, offered a preview of their Lincoln Center program to Classical Action's *Maestros*.

Become a Classical Action *Maestro* and spend a little time with us at the next Maestro Appreciation Concert. Visit our website at www.classicalaction.org/support to learn more about giving or call (212) 997-7717.

Let's Take This Show On The Road!

It may seem sometimes like Classical Action never leaves New York, and although our offices are physically located in Times Square, our reach is most definitely national. Just as we make grants to AIDS service organizations across the country, Classical Action also fundraises from coast to coast.

San Francisco

Pianist Garrick Ohlsson has been one of Classical Action's most loyal major donors from the earliest years of our organization. He expanded his efforts this past March by performing a house concert in his native city of San Francisco.

The evening's festivities were hosted by Dr. John Meyer in his spectacular home atop Twin Peaks, with its panoramic view looking north toward the hills of Marin County and west to the Golden Gate Bridge. A compelling performance of Beethoven and Chopin in a dramatic setting left the audience that night both uplifted and inspired, having shared a remarkable musical experience; Classical Action also left with considerable funds for grantmaking efforts nationally and in the local San Francisco Bay Area to assist such organizations as San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Continuum Project, and Food For Thought. In addition, we owe a considerable debt of gratitude to Garrick, John and all those who lent their generous support to this very special event. Oh, and we seem to have left our heart there, so count on Classical Action returning to San Francisco soon.

Houston

Ah, Houston... Classical Action's home away from home. Also in March, Houston-based Center For AIDS, our collaborators for the fourth year running, co-produced a house concert with Classical Action at the River Oaks home of Mike and Becky Cemo. Back by popular demand (he appeared in our first event in Houston), pianist André Watts performed a partly-programmed / partly-spontaneous recital ranging from Haydn to Liszt to the haunting "Musica Ricercata No. 2" by Ligeti (made famous in the movie "Eyes Wide Shut,") on a piano provided by Steinway & Sons. Mr. Watts' charismatic and engaging commentary between pieces added to the intimacy of the concert, and the catering provided by Jackson & Company literally added the icing on the cake for this event. With the gracious support of the Board of Directors and staff of Center For AIDS and our event patrons, we are pleased to return each year to Houston and share the proceeds from this annual event with such a worthy organization. The success of events like these also makes it possible for us to continue distributing grants through BC/EFA's National Grants Program to other Houston-area AIDS organizations such as

Bering Omega Community Services and Casa de Esperanza de los Niños. A little southern hospitality goes a long way.



PHYLLIS HAND

Jackson Hicks (L), owner of Jackson & Company, and Mr. Watts (R) reunite at the benefit in Houston.

I Want to Be A Part of It: New York, New York



A poised Natasha Paremski celebrates her birthday by performing a benefit for Classical Action.

The world-class artists performing to raise funds for AIDS services would be enough to draw audiences to Classical Action events in New York City. House concerts also afford patrons the rare opportunity to unlock the mystery of what lies behind those doors and vestibules we walk past in the varied neighborhoods in this city.

In addition to the four concerts held at the SoHo home of Steven and Judy Gluckstern, which has been featured in the House & Home section of *The New York Times*, three different hosts with their own distinctive homes hosted three additional house concerts this season.

Singing in Chelsea

On February 6, new Classical Action friends Timothy Iverson and Andrew Xu welcomed mezzo-soprano Susanne Mentzer, pianist Timothy Long, and an audience of 60 patrons into their contemporary, sleek loft space with exposed brick on West 23rd Street. The intimacy of this setting presented guests with the ability to experience each of Ms. Mentzer's expressions as she beautifully interpreted works of Brahms, Satie, and the American Songbook.

A Quartet on the Upper East Side

On April 18, Classical Action returned to the impeccably art-nouveau – decorated home of Steve Hellman and Katharine Hsu on East 80th Street. On the fourth floor, guests exiting the elevator were met by a grand spiral staircase, and assembled in the parlor-style room for the performance by the preeminent Tokyo String Quartet. After their captivating performance of two Beethoven quartets, The Tokyo were greeted at the post-concert reception on the rooftop terrace by guests, some of whom had heard the quartet perform the entire Beethoven cycle at Carnegie and Avery Fisher halls in New York City during the 1994-5 season, also as a benefit for Classical Action.

Solo piano near Washington Square

Always looking for new talents and new hosts, Classical Action paired pianist Natasha Paremski with Andrew Solomon's welcoming home on West 10th Street for a house concert on May 11, her 18th birthday. Vaulted ceilings, intricate tapestries, Russian artwork, and grand floral



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TOP: Mezzo-soprano Susanne Mentzer shines. MIDDLE: The Tokyo String Quartet performs in an intimate, Upper East Side parlor. BOTTOM: Hosts Katharine Hsu and Steve Hellman (center) welcomed the quartet to their home.

arrangements set the stage in the living room for Natasha's passionate performance of works by Haydn, Debussy, and twelve of the Chopin Etudes. This young musician is already beginning to make a name for herself with appearances on some of the most prestigious world stages; Classical Action will be pleased to say we first heard her at home.

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LEFT: It takes a village, under Janice's leadership, to produce a 10th Anniversary benefit concert. TOP, L to R: Janice Mayer is pictured with mezzo-soprano Emily Golden, Classical Action Founding Director Charles Hamlen, and mezzo-soprano Joyce Castle.

A Perfect "10"

In the Volunteer Spotlight of Classical Action's Fall 1999/Winter 2000 newsletter, the following words were penned: *According to Webster's Dictionary, a volunteer is "one who offers or bestows a service of her own free will, or without solicitation or compulsion."* If you ask us, maybe in the next edition the name "Janice Mayer" should be added to their definition. Years later, these words could not ring truer.

Janice, a successful and respected musicians' manager, established Janice Mayer & Associates, LLC in 1995. Her first major involvement with Classical Action was the *Celebration of Benita Valente*, benefiting Classical Action and Chamber Music America in January of 1999. Fast forward to New York City, May 22, 2005, and the words *own free will* and *without solicitation* still apply. On this Sunday afternoon, with Central Park as a back-drop, Janice Mayer & Associates celebrated their Tenth Anniversary with a concert, "New Vistas," to benefit Classical Action at new venue Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola at Jazz at Lincoln Center. More than 20 artists participated in a wonderfully eclectic program, performing all New York and world premieres of vocal chamber works by

composers William Bolcom, Michael Ching, Carlisle Floyd, Ricky Ian Gordon, Jake Heggie, Earl Kim, Jorge Martín, Yoko Nakatani, John Tavener, and Tom Vignieri.

Nearly \$75,000 was raised for Classical Action, due in no small part to Janice's generosity and commitment to AIDS causes and her ability to rally support from all corners of the performing arts community. When asked why forming her own firm was important to her, Janice explained, "I wanted to create a supportive environment, and an extension of that is to be participating members of a greater community. Classical Action is one part of the community effort that we make."

Congratulations and thanks to Janice, her associate Ben Schott, her partners, colleagues and artists, and all of the "maverick" volunteers who so graciously contributed their time and energy to the success of this ambitious event. Your indefatigable efforts make us *dizzy* with delight.

"New Vistas" Participating Artists

- Hanan Alattar, *soprano*
- Soo Mi Bae, *viola*
- Janinna Barefield, *violin*
- Joyce Castle, *mezzo-soprano*
- Joseph Colaneri, *piano*
- Philip Cutlip, *baritone*
- Anthony Fogg, *piano*
- Ricky Ian Gordon, *composer and piano*
- Carl Halvorson, *tenor*
- Jake Heggie, *composer and piano*
- Ho-jeong Jeong, *piano*
- Craig Ketter, *piano*
- Elizabeth Keusch, *soprano*
- Donna Hallen Loewy, *piano*
- Indira Mahajan, *soprano*
- John McVeigh, *tenor*
- Thomas Muraco, *piano*
- Mary Phillips, *mezzo-soprano*
- Yael Rubinstein, *cello*
- William Stone, *baritone*
- Stephen Taylor, *oboe*
- Ted Taylor, *piano*
- Svetlana Tsoneva, *violin*
- Daniel Weeks, *tenor*

THANK YOU

Generous Event Sponsors = More Grants for AIDS Services

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Meet The Bach-ers

It's 8AM on Saturday, April 2, 2005, and the predicted heavy rains and strong winds are already in full force over James Chapel at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Inside James Chapel are two Manhattan School of Music students, Jason Issokson and Steven Long. Jason is rehearsing on his violin and Steve is on the harpsichord. To find them together on this morning at this hour comes as no surprise to the Classical Action staff.

These two enterprising and impressive students approached us in October 2004 with the idea of producing *Johann-a-Thon 2005*, a four-part, twelve-hour event, celebrating the life and music of Johann Sebastian Bach, and they wanted to designate Classical Action the beneficiary of funds raised through the project. With support of members of the Manhattan School of Music community, including Jason's teacher and MSM faculty member, world-renowned violinist Midori, the boys (as we liked to call them) got to work.

For the six months that followed, Jason and Steve put together a *Johann-a-Thon 2005* committee, gathered more than 40 students, faculty members (Dr. Kenneth Cooper and Dr. Walter Hilse) and guest artists (David Soyer and Peter Vinograde) to perform; scheduled rehearsals; traveled to the Classical Action office for planning meetings; and collaborated with fellow students and family members to create flyers, posters, programs, and an event website. As the event date approached, Jason and Steve took to the streets, with tape in hand, to hang posters on bus stop shelters and store windows throughout upper Manhattan.

The musical highlight of *Johann-a-Thon 2005* was undoubtedly the beautiful performance of the *St. John Passion* (without a conductor), which brought the evening to an uplifting close. But perhaps the most memorable moments of April 2 did not



ANDREW LEPLY

Never wanting to be singled out, Jason and Steve encouraged our use of a group performance photo to represent *Johann-a-Thon 2005*.

involve music-making at all: the joyful and ecstatic reaction of the students in the green room following their performance of *St. John*; the pride on the faces of family members and friends in attendance; and being witness to Jason and Steve's involvement in every aspect of the production, from stage set-up/break-down between musical pieces to identifying last-minute replacements for artists unable to attend, not to mention their own admirable performances. All of this was accomplished with enthusiasm and professionalism.

Half of all new HIV infections in the United States are among people under the age of 25, according to the Centers for Disease Control. *Johann-a-Thon 2005* provided an opportunity for students in this very age group to contribute philanthropically to their community and to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, as well as provide audiences and the general public with first-rate and heartfelt performances. This demonstration of leadership by Jason and Steve to mobilize their peers is truly inspirational.

Perhaps we can *Bach Around The Clock* again in 2006?

Michael Palm Series (CONTINUED)



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Lang Lang draws the audience in with a captivating performance.

And thus kicked-off the 2004-05 Michael Palm Series to benefit Classical Action, underwritten by the Michael Palm Foundation, to honor the memory of this generous and philanthropic friend. (Who expected there would be such extensive improvisation in classical music?! Michael would have been impressed.)

The following concerts in the series, while certainly not predictable, went a bit more as anticipated. On March 3, 2005, the second in this four-part series brought the world's premier flutist, Sir James Galway, his long-time partner at the piano, Phillip Moll, and his flutist wife, Lady Jeanne Galway, to the appreciative listeners at the Glucksterns' home – the first woodwinds to be heard in this acoustically welcoming space.

In a program ranging from Doppler to Poulenc, we were treated to some of the most glorious flute and piano playing imaginable, as well as thoroughly entertaining commentary by the irrepressible Sir James and his "sideman" Phillip. Even the chef from Showstoppers got in the spirit by planning a menu inspired by Sir James's Irish heritage. The end result: an evening that was as special for its feeling of shared camaraderie as it was for the brilliance of the music-making.

The third concert in the Michael Palm Series brought back one of the great pianists of the younger generation who made his Classical Action debut back in 1999 in Reading, PA at the home of Michael Palm's sister and Classical Action supporter, Melissa Jamula. The charismatic and dynamic pianist Lang Lang performed his fourth Classical Action benefit concert on May 2 at the Glucksterns' home. His exhilarating performances of Mozart and Chopin dazzled the audience, ending with an encore tribute to our host, Steven. The piece? A sparkling rendition of "Happy Birthday." (Maybe if we were all serenaded this way on our birthdays, we wouldn't be so reluctant to have them!)

The fourth and final concert in the Michael Palm Series takes place outside New York. There are various cities vying for the honor of hosting this event, and while our task of selecting a city is far less involved than that of an Olympic committee, we are weighing our options and hope to announce our decision soon. Stay tuned.



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Thomas Hampson beautifully interprets lieder and American Art & Folk Song.

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AIDS GRANTMAKING

Growing Needs, Growing Support



There are more than 94,000 mostly uninsured people receiving their HIV medications on the U.S. AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), part of the Ryan White CARE Act. As of May 2005, more than 1,890 individuals were on ADAP waiting lists in 10 states. Of these, 1,438 are receiving medications through the President's Initiative, which is set to expire in September 2005.

(National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors)



"In May, Alabama nearly had to dis-enroll 400 clients from the State ADAP. AL Department of Public Health...will no longer fund Emergency Financial Assistance, Insurance Continuation, and a host of other services," explains Mary Elizabeth Marr, Executive Director of AIDS Action Coalition in Huntsville, AL.

BC/EFA recently made a \$5000 grant to AIDS Action Coalition.

Recipient of a BC/EFA grant, Metropolitan AIDS Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance of Philadelphia provides meals for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Depending on the stage of the disease and the presence or absence of fever, diarrhea, weight loss and wasting, it is recommended that an HIV+ person increase their energy [food, nutrients] intake by 10-30% over the level recommended for a healthy, non-HIV infected person.

(Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project, Academy for Educational Development)

"The BASD [Being Alive San Diego] Commodities Program provides hundreds of low-income, HIV-positive individuals with staple food items. This vital program allows individuals to stretch their disposable income and improve basic quality of life without compromising their nutritional intake," according to Shannon Wagner, Executive Director of BASD in San Diego, CA.

BC/EFA made a \$5000 grant to BASD as part of its National Grants Program in May.