

Classical Action

WINTER 2008

NEWS

P E R F O R M I N G A R T S A G A I N S T A I D S

December, 2008

Dear Friends,

As 2008 comes to a close, it is clear that Classical Action: Performing Arts Against AIDS and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BC/EFA), our parent organization, are needed today more than ever. This year marks two anniversaries at our headquarters in Times Square: The founding of BC/EFA 20 years ago and of Classical Action 15 years ago. Although these are anniversaries that we would rather not be *celebrating*, we are grateful that we are still here and that you join us in remaining committed to this important cause.

We don't have to tell you that our country has been battered by a series of punishing economic events not seen since the Great Depression. No matter what your station or situation in life is, these are challenging times. But for those facing a devastating health crisis, like AIDS or any number of HIV-related issues, diminished resources, and little or no healthcare, every day can be overwhelming.

We have seen a 35% increase in emergency requests for funding and assistance as this financial crisis wreaks havoc on our grantees and the people we serve.

At the same time, one of our major grantee organizations, The Actors Fund, has seen a 15% increase in men, women and children in the entertainment industry coming to them for the most basic social services, along with a 43% increase in emergency financial assistance requests. Classical Action and BC/EFA have tried to meet these challenges. In 2008, we increased grant-making by 18%, awarding more than \$10 million to The Actors Fund and the hundreds of AIDS and family service organizations (ASOs) across the country that provide vitally needed treatment or services for people specifically affected by HIV/AIDS.* We have been able to do this because of the continuing support and generosity of people like you.

Whether it is to offer help to these organizations in times of major crisis, or to maintain our bi-annual grants to more than 500 ASOs around the country, in support of programs ranging from case management, food banks and emergency assistance to transportation services, primary care and peer support, it is only through the funds that we raise each and every year that we are able to extend these urgently needed grants.

With 2009 approaching and as BC/EFA and Classical Action enter their 21st and 16th year respectively, we anticipate some tough times ahead. We are hopeful that you will make whatever contribution you can at this time so that we can maximize the impact of your dollar and, in turn, continue to offer the financial support that assures the uninterrupted and crucially important services these ASOs provide to so many in need.

With appreciative wishes,



Charles Hamlen
Founding Director



Chris Kenney
Associate Director

* See page 4 for a summary of 2008 grant-making and visit www.broadwaycares.org for an overview of the programs we support.

2007-2008 Michael Palm Series

The *Michael Palm Series*, hosted by Judy and Steven Gluckstern in their New York City home, is named after the late **Michael Palm**, a lover of classical music and supporter of a wide range of performing arts and HIV/AIDS organizations. Michael spearheaded the concept of Classical Action house concerts and hosted many of them in his own penthouse apartment high above Lincoln Center. He passed away in 1998, but his memory thrives through these events.



Frank Ammaccipane

Violinist **Christian Tetzlaff** and pianist **Alexander Lonquich** opened the 2007-08 *Michael Palm Series* on December 3, 2007. Christian (2nd from right) and Alexander (right) enjoyed a post-performance libation with our ever-generous hosts, **Judy and Steven Gluckstern** after their riveting interpretations of Beethoven's "Kreutzer" and No. 10 in G Major sonatas.

On April 21, 2008 pianist **Leif Ove Andsnes** brought the 2007-08 *Michael Palm Series* to a rousing close, treating the rapt audience of 120 to an evening of Beethoven and Debussy. On April 24, Mr. Andsnes brought the same program to Carnegie Hall before 2,800 fans. It was a rare privilege for our most generous supporters to have been in attendance three days earlier for Leif Ove's run-through in "Classical Action's private concert hall" in SoHo.



Steve J. Sherman

On March 19, 2008 world-acclaimed mezzo-soprano **Denyce Graves** and pianist **Brian Zeger** performed in the 2nd concert of the *Michael Palm Series*. This marked Miss Graves's first benefit performance for Classical Action and Mr. Zeger's fourth, with a yet a fifth coming up in April '09. The sold-out audience, who came out on a rainy and windy evening, was utterly captivated by the performance of this dynamic duo!



Steve J. Sherman

Charles Hamlen
Founding Director

Chris Kenney
Associate Director



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Classical Action is a
fundraising program of
Broadway Cares/
Equity Fights AIDS



Classic Highlights from the Past Year



Chris L. Yuen

On October 17, 2007 pianist **Natasha Paremki** performed in the 2nd annual joint benefit concert in Buffalo for **AIDS Community Services of Western NY** and Classical Action. Her recital of works by Brahms, Chopin and Rachmaninoff was enjoyed by an appreciative audience of 75 at the elegant Georgian home of host **Mark Yonkman**.



Christopher Hiltz

Classical Action had a windy city welcome on March 24, 2008 when we partnered with the **AIDS Foundation of Chicago** for a private benefit concert at the penthouse apartment of **Deborah and David Holloway**, featuring one of the world's most charismatic artists, mezzo-soprano **Joyce DiDonato**. Pictured from left to right are the acclaimed pianist for the evening, **David Zobel**, Miss DiDonato and hosts Mr. and Mrs. Holloway.



Steve J. Sherman

On May 19, 2008 soprano **Measha Brueggergosman** and pianist **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** performed for Classical Action's **Maestros**. This by-invitation-only concert is exclusively for those who invest \$1,000 or more in the work we do on behalf of organizations across the country which provide treatment or services for people specifically affected by HIV/AIDS and their families. We are grateful to Judy and Steven Gluckstern for having such big hearts and for hosting this special evening of music. **Maestros** and friends, we appreciate you – and we thank you!



Steve J. Sherman

On June 2, 2008 **Up Our Alley 10: Classical Action's Annual Benefit Bowling Bonanza** celebrated its 10th anniversary! Thirty-six teams including Carnegie Hall, the New York Philharmonic, Steinway & Sons and IMG Artists gathered at Bowlmor Lanes & Pressure in the Union Square section of Manhattan to participate in the festivities. The team from the **Orchestra of St. Luke's**, "**Spare on a G String**," took home top honors for **Best Team Costume**. Thank you to sponsors **Lucky Star Foundation**, **ViceVersa** and **Etcetera Etcetera** restaurants, and **Boomerang Australian Vodka** for keeping everyone's spirits high!



Scott Tucker

On September 10, 2008 soprano **Indira Mahajan**, the 2008 winner of the Kennedy Center's Marian Anderson Award, performed at the Park Avenue home of long-time Classical Action supporter, **Billy Wright**. Indira and pianist **Ted Taylor** treated the audience to an inspiring evening of music-making. The striking Miss Mahajan closed her concert with the traditional spirituals, *Honor, Honor, His Name so Sweet* and *He's Got the Whole World in His Hand*. She did indeed hold the patrons in attendance in the palm of her hands.



DrewFabier.com

Classical Action returned to the West Coast on October 20, 2008 to the Los Angeles home of **David Hyde Pierce and Brian Hargrove** for an intimate house concert featuring the world-renowned pianist, **Jean-Yves Thibaudet**. Jean-Yves's program included works of Debussy and Brahms. When the last chord was struck of the Brahms Sonata No. 3, Op. 5 in f-minor, the 80 guests in attendance leapt to their feet in appreciation of his stunning performance. After the concert, the guests dined on a sumptuous buffet dinner, *al fresco*, with the twinkling lights of downtown LA as a backdrop. **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** (center) is pictured from L-R with **Roswitha Wooley**, **David Hyde Pierce**, and our San Francisco house concert hosts, **Andrew Faulk and Frank Jernigan**.

Where Does All That Money Go?



Steve J. Sherman



Gary J. Cooper



Gary J. Cooper



Ken Blauvelt

Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS 2008 Grant-making

BC/EFA Support for the The Actors Fund:

The AIDS Initiative	\$ 2,150,000
Phyllis Newman Woman's Health Initiative	\$ 750,000
The Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic at The Aurora	\$ 750,000
Actors Work Program - NYC	\$ 200,000
The Dancers' Resource	\$ 200,000
Writers' Strike Emergency Grant	\$ 150,000
Stage Managers' Project	\$ 25,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 77,000
Annual Gala, Memorial Donations, Strategic Planning Support, etc...	

Subtotal: The Actors Fund \$ 4,302,000

BC/EFA - National Grants:

Food Service and Meal Delivery Programs	\$ 1,272,500
115 Organizations in 33 States	
Local Grants	\$ 2,923,500
351 Organizations in 42 States	
Housing Programs, Health Clinics, Case Management, Emergency Financial Assistance, Harm Reduction Programs	
National and Advocacy Organizations	\$ 570,000
34 Organizations in 12 States	
IAVI (International AIDS Vaccine Initiative)	\$ 150,000
amfAR (American Foundation for AIDS Research)	\$ 75,000
ASTEP (Artists Striving to End Poverty)	\$ 85,000
Physician Volunteers for the Arts	
Broadway Flu Shot Initiative	\$ 40,000

Subtotal: National Grants \$ 5,116,000

BC/EFA - International Grants:

South Africa / The Lion King	\$ 445,000
Grants to 34 AIDS Service Organizations	
TheatreMAD - London	\$ 160,000

Subtotal: International Grants \$ 605,000

SubTotal: Actors Fund \$ 4,302,000

SubTotal: National Grants \$ 5,116,000

SubTotal: International Grants \$ 605,000

2008 BC/EFA GRANT-MAKING TOTAL: \$ 10,023,000

Upcoming Classical Action Events

Michael Palm Series

At the home of Judy and Steven Gluckstern
New York City

February 9, 2009

Anne Sofie von Otter, Mezzo-soprano
Brad Mehldau, Piano

April 19, 2009

René Pape, Bass
Brian Zeger, Piano

May 12, 2009*

David Finckel, Cello
Wu Han, Piano

*by invitation only Maestro Appreciation Concert for Major Donors

Bowling

June 8, 2009

Up Our Alley 11: Classical Action's Annual Benefit Bowling Bonanza
Bowlmor Lanes & Pressure, NYC

National Events

February 23, 2009

André Watts, Piano
At the home of Victor and Corinne Rice
Buffalo, NY
In collaboration with AIDS Community Services of Western New York

March 30, 2009

Leila Josefowicz, Violin
Jake Heggie, Piano
At the home of Andrew Faulk and Frank Jernigan
San Francisco, CA

Visit www.classicalaction.org for more information on the above scheduled events.