

October 21, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**JOHN ANSON FORD AMPHITHEATRE -
PROPOSED SCHEDULE
"FORD AMPHITHEATRE – 2005 SEASON"
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the proposed roster for the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre's 2005 season.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to make the necessary expenditures within the approved 2004-2005 budget to implement the program.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is the annual implementation of the 2005 summer performing arts series in the historic Ford Amphitheatre.

The roster proposed for the 2005 Summer Partnership Program Season includes thirty-seven arts organizations producing sixty events. The proposed roster brings twelve new arts organizations to the Ford season. It is anticipated that the Ford Theatre Foundation will provide resources for approximately twelve additional performances for young audiences, three additional chamber music concerts and a play reading series featuring the work of Latino artists. Overall, the proposed schedule is consistent with previous Ford Amphitheatre seasons, reflecting the artistic merit, cultural diversity and geographic range of Los Angeles County.

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The Arts Commission began programming the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre in 1993. To schedule the 2005 Ford summer season, the Arts Commission sent requests for proposals to more than 600 Los Angeles County arts organizations; 53 applications were received and reviewed by staff. On October 18, 2004, the Commission reviewed and unanimously approved the attached proposed roster. Selections were based on artistic merit, producing experience, fiscal stability, suitability of proposed project to the venue and diversity in programming.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goals of Service Excellence and Fiscal Responsibility as the proposed 2005 series will 1) provide the public with affordable access to quality arts programs and 2) further public private partnerships within the Los Angeles arts community.

FISCAL IMPACT/ FINANCING

Funds have been allocated for this purpose as part of the Arts Commission's Fiscal Year 2004-2005 budget. Additional revenue comes from rental of the theatre, concessions, and donations from the Ford Theatre Foundation.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Zucker
Executive Director

LZ:DP
Attachments (1)

c: Director, Parks and Recreation

FORD AMPHITHEATRE
PROPOSED 2005 SUMMER PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SEASON

*indicates organizations new to the Partnership Program.

Bluegrass Association of Southern California: *Bluegrass at the Ford*

An evening of the best in contemporary and traditional American Bluegrass Music

Brazilian Nites Productions/Brazilian Women's Group: *Brazilian Summer Festival*

Annual festival featuring artists from Brazil and dancing on stage, as well arts and crafts booths. Subject to availability, the music group Olodum will perform in honor of its 25th Anniversary.

Cantori Domino & Southern CA Panharmonic Orchestra*: *Psalm Enchanted Evening*

In a new collaboration, the 50-member chorale shares the bill with a steel drum ensemble; highlighted work includes Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" and a premiere by composer Dale Jergenson.

Celtic Arts Center: *Two Nights of Celtic Music*

Two concerts – one of traditional music and a second of more contemporary sounds. Both will feature leading exponents of the genre together with complimentary local bands and dance troupes.

Charles Phoenix*: *The Charles Phoenix Variety Show*

A kaleidoscope of mid-century American culture hosted by "the King of Retro" (L.A. Times) who presents the very best of his spectacular collection of other people's old slides and home moves from the 50s – 70s.

Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra: *Just Jazz Concert Series*

Downbeat Readers Poll's "Best Big Band" celebrates its 20th anniversary with a series of three monthly concerts featuring world-class guest artists and the premieres of new works written for the orchestra.

Cornerstone Theater Company*: *A Long Bridge Over Deep Waters*

The innovative multi-racial ensemble together with over 60 community-based artists presents an epic musical play culminating a multi-year exploration of the religious diversity of contemporary Los Angeles.

East Los Angeles Classic Theatre: *Romeo and Juliet*

ELACT's SHAKES-FREE! program will bring Tony Plana's version of this classic (set in Los Angeles during the Zoot Suit era) to thousands of school children in morning performances during May.

Elvis Schoenberg's Orchestre Surréal: *Concerto for the Committed*

The next installment of the mad mad world of Elvis Schoenberg featuring the fabulous Miss Thing, Dangerous Dan, a cast of dancers and movements artists, and twenty-five eclectic musicians that blend rock, jazz, world and classical music to create an unclassifiable, thought provoking hybrid.

Foundation for World Arts: *World Festival of Sacred Music Opening Concert*

Kick-off event for the 3rd installment of this 16-day festival supporting diverse musical expressions and promoting cultural exchange and understanding in the Los Angeles community.

Fountain Theatre: *Sonidos Gitanos (Gypsy Flamenco): El Amor Brujo*

Maria Bermudez and her exciting troupe from Spain combine forces with L.A.'s Santa Cecilia Orchestra under the direction of Sonia Maria de Leon to present Manuel de Falla's *El Amor Brujo*.

Immigrant American Foundation*: *Guatemala: "The Spirit of the Mayas"*

A journey through Guatemala guided by *Ballet Folkorico Nacional de Guatemala*.

Hollywood Arts Council: *Jazz Pilgrimage 2005*

Annual tribute to a Los Angeles jazz legend that brings their many collaborators to perform as well.

IFP West: Los Angeles Film Festival

Five evenings of interactive, event-orientated screenings.

Instrumental Women Project: Jazz on a String/Stringtime

Inaugural performance of the "Lady Jazz" orchestra featuring an 18-piece string section together with other top-flight jazz musicians who happen to be women in an engaging repertoire of jazz spanning the genre.

International Academy of Middle Eastern Dance: Belly-Dance-O-Rama

An exploration of the colorful world of belly dance featuring performances by some of the best belly dancers in the world.

Jazz Bakery: Wit, Wisdom, Soul and Samba

An eclectic evening of jazz with Mose Allison, Oscar Brown Jr., Kenny Rankin, Dave Frishberg and Dori Cayami.

Jazz Tap Ensemble: Jazz Tap Ensemble Under the Stars

Festival concert bringing together today's stars of tap and top jazz musicians for an evening of improvisation and collaboration; highlighting the innovative and challenging work of the next generation of young tap artists.

JazzAntiqua Dance and Music Ensemble: 12th Anniversary Concert

The 8 member dance ensemble with a 15 piece jazz orchestra in a program including repertory excerpts, a new jazz-ballet, a re-orchestrated version of the signature *Midtown Sunset* and special guest artists.

Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy*: Korean Dance Festival

Korean Dance, both traditional and contemporary, performed by companies from throughout North America and with the special appearance of two national dance treasures of Korea.

Latin American Cinemateca of L.A.*: Barrio Culture: A Tribute to Tin Tan, Rey del Barrio

A tribute to the great Mexican comedian and innovator Germán Valdes (aka Tin Tan) with a special comedic appearance by Herbert Siguenza and subtitled screening of the 1949 film "El Rey del Barrio."

Levantine Cultural Center: Levantine Festival 2: Alchemy of Dreams

International recording artist/vocalist Natacha Atlas and the Naser Musa-Adam Del Monte Sextet in a concert integrating African, Arab, flamenco, Sephardic, Ladino, jazz and progressive music.

LML Music/MEDIAWRKSRPMO*: A Grand Performance at the Ford

An evening featuring some of the best known and most respected cabaret performers in the United States.

Los Angeles Jewish Symphony: Celebrating 350 Years of Jewish Life and Music in America

Concert showcasing the contributions of Jews from Eastern Europe, Russia and Mediterranean countries to the American musical scene; guest artists include Svetlana Portnyansky and Cantor Meir Finkelstein.

Lula Washington Dance Theatre: Moving Forward – New Works for the Next 25

25th anniversary season celebration featuring new works by Lula Washington and up and coming young choreographers from around the United States.

Outfest: Outfest 2005 Under the Stars

Five-night screening series that will be a highlighted component of Outfest 2005: The 23rd Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

Pacifico Dance Company: Mexico: Muchas caras y un solo corazon

An evening of dance and music embodying the soul of Mexico and premiering *Tarahumaras*, a new work exploring the fascinating music, dance and religious rites of these northern Mexico Indians.

People Informing People*: Soulful Sundays

A three concert music series featuring the sounds of Motown, Jazz and Latin music.

REPRISE! Broadway's Best*: *REPRISE!'s Best of Broadway at the Ford*

Broadway's greatest hits in a staged concert performance featuring some of musical theatre's brightest lights.

Southern California Asian American Studies Central*:

Visual Communications Celebrates 35 Years of Asian Pacific Film and Video

An evening of moving image and music marking the 35th anniversary of the nation's first Asian Pacific American media arts center.

Star Entertainment & Education Group*: *Fiesta Mexicana III - Sones, Bailes y Cantares*

Third annual benefit variety show featuring some of the best local Mexican music and dance talent.

Viver Brazil Dance Company: *Divine Stories and Celebrations*

A world premiere program of Afro-Brazilian sacred dance traditions and regional carnival celebrations.

Proposed events from the following organizations are also still under consideration for inclusion in the season:

Brazilian Nites Productions/Brazilian Womens Group: *Brazilian Sacred Music Festival*

An evening of dance and music produced in cooperation with the World Festival of Sacred Music.

INCA, the Peruvian Ensemble presents: *Tango-Chacarera, Fiesta Argentina*

A festival of Argentine folklore and Tango music and dancing.

Instrumental Women Project presents: *Mariachi Divas*

One of the southland's most accomplished all-female mariachi ensembles presented in Instrumental Women's "edutainment" format.

Star Entertainment & Education Group*: *From the Heart ...Feria Tex-Mex*

A concert featuring local and national masters of Tex-Mex (Mexican country western) music.

Vox Lumiere*: *The Phantom of the Opera*

Silent movie masterpiece retold in an interdisciplinary, multimedia production combining music, theatre, dance and film set to an original score performed by a band, 40-piece orchestra and choir.

FORD THEATRE FOUNDATION PROGRAMMING

- ***Big!World!Fun! Family Series***

The popular multicultural performing arts series returns to the Ford on Saturday mornings. With major sponsorship by Robinsons-May and the Nissan Foundation, admission for this award winning series is free for children and CalWorks families (with just a nominal \$5 admission charge for other adults). Artists currently under review.

- ***Chamber Music Under the Stars***

A longstanding Ford tradition continues. Artists currently under review.

- ***Latino Play Reading Series***

3rd year of this popular series presented Saturday afternoons at [Inside] the Ford as part of the Ford's Latino Audience Initiative.

Note: All proposed events are subject to scheduling and artist availability. In addition to the Partnership Program events proposed above, regular lease events will also be scheduled for the summer subject to availability of the venue.