



William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Mental Health
550 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90020



Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Kathleen Piché
213-738-4041

kpiche@dmh.lacounty.gov

Karen Zarsadiaz

213-351-5297

kzarsadiaz@dmh.lacounty.gov

First-Ever “Street Meets Beats” Concert Kicks Off in Skid Row

LA Phil violinist teams up with Drumming for Your Life to create music to soothe the soul.

Los Angeles, CA – With the success of the Street Symphony on Skid Row, Los Angeles Philharmonic violinist, Robert Gupta, will once again enliven downtown with music by teaming up with Drumming for Your Life Institute founder, Steven Angel. These talented musicians will perform together in a unique, interactive show on **Friday, November 18, 2011 at 12PM** at the Downtown Mental Health Center (DMHC) (529 S. Maple Avenue in Los Angeles).

“The clients in downtown will love the work that Robert Gupta and Steven Angel do because it brings them into the mainstream of Los Angeles. This is culture at its best and highest,” said LACDMH Director, Marvin Southard, D.S.W.

Gupta designated DMHC as home base for his popular Street Symphony concerts. He is well known for teaching violin to Nathaniel Ayers who was the subject of the book and film, *The Soloist*, by Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez. Now, Gupta is sharing his love of music and his musical activism by collaborating with other performers for concerts on Skid Row.

“I’m really looking forward to working with Steven Angel, and giving the clients an opportunity to join in the music making,” stated Gupta. “The mission of the Street Symphony is to bring joy to underserved communities through music, and I can’t imagine a better way to inspire our audiences than having them physically involved in the music making process.”

“Robert Gupta and I are two former prodigies from different musical worlds. I come from rock n’ roll and he’s from classical. We’re from two different generations. I use drums for psychological and spiritual healing, and Robert uses the violin,” explained Angel. “This event is important because we are combining our talents to help alleviate and elevate the homeless population so they can be inspired to experience a different path for themselves.”

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In 2007, Gupta joined the Los Angeles Philharmonic (LA Phil) at the age of 19. Before joining the LA Phil, he received a master's degree in music from Yale University and a bachelor's degree in pre-medical biology from Marist College. While an undergrad, he attended the Manhattan School of Music and the Juilliard School of Music, Pre-College Division. Gupta is a TED Senior Fellow.

Steven Angel is the president/founder of the non-profit Drumming for Your Life Institute (DFYL) which uses the power of rhythm to help youth develop the academic, emotional and social skills they need to succeed in school and life. A child prodigy who began playing drums at three years old, Angel led a successful career, performing with popular bands and featuring his music on TV shows and commercials before starting DFYL.

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health is the largest county-operated mental health department in the United States, directly operating 75 program sites and more than 100 co-located sites. Each year, it contracts with approximately 1,000 agencies and individual practitioners to provide a spectrum of mental health services to more than 250,000 residents of all ages. The Department's mission -- enriching lives through partnership to strengthen our community's capacity to support recovery and resiliency -- is accomplished by working with stakeholders and community partners to provide clinically competent, culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate mental health services to clients in the least restrictive manner possible.

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