



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 12, 2011

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. FOUNDATION RAISED \$500K FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

Vancouver, BC – The annual Bridge to S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Gala, with the theme to champion the achievements of immigrants, began the year by raising \$500,375 in support of critical S.U.C.C.E.S.S. programs that are unfunded or under-funded by the government for those in needs in the community, particularly seniors, women, youths and families.

To acknowledge the contribution of S.U.C.C.E.S.S., City of Vancouver and Richmond proclaimed March 12 as S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Community Service Day.

“Tonight is a celebration of triumph of immigrants all over the globe. We salute immigrants who have overcome barriers to become a vital part of this country. As most of our performers tonight are immigrants to Vancouver, they are prime examples of our success stories,” said Mrs. Maggie Ip, Chair of S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation.

700 plus guests, including elected officials and community leaders, joined in the festivities on March 12 at the Westin Bayshore, Vancouver. The annual Gala is one of Vancouver’s most celebrated charitable social events. The evening began with the Vancity VIP Reception where guests mingled and strolled through the Lugaro Silent Auction Pavilion to bid on an array of unique items donated by local businesses. Guests were then seated for an exclusive dinner followed by an intimate concert featuring several of Vancouver’s musical talents, including Jessica Yan, a lyric soprano and music educator; Gustavo Herrera, a renowned opera singer and restaurateur from Mexico; and Pentatonics, a 9 member traditional Chinese instrumental band.

Each year the Gala is well attended by notable dignitaries. This year is no exception. Amongst the special guests were the Hon. Steven Point, Lieutenant-Governor of BC; the Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism; the Hon. Colin Hansen, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier (Minister Responsible for Small Business) and Minister of Health Services; the Hon. Ida Chong, Minister of Regional Economic and Skills Development and Minister of Science and Universities; the Hon. John Yap, Minister of State for Climate Action; Ms. Alice Wong, Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism and MP for Richmond; His Worship Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver and His Worship Malcolm Brodie, Mayor of Richmond.

Mrs. Winnie Leong and Mr. Jack Yong, Co-Chairs of 2011 Bridge to S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Gala, gave thanks to the performers Jessica Yan, Gustavo Herrera and Pentatonics. The Co-Chairs also gratefully thanked Official Airline Sponsor, Air Canada, for their unwavering support to the annual Gala since 1997, and to all sponsors, media and individuals for making the Gala a memorable night.

The annual S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Fundraising Raffle Sale, a companion fundraising activity along with the Gala, had the winning numbers drawn during the dinner.

This year the top three financial institutions who received raffle sales awards are: Scotiabank, HSBC Bank Canada and CIBC.

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation, incorporated in December 2001, is a charitable foundation responsible for raising funds for S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and its affiliated organizations to support their mandates for the betterment of the community. For more details, please visit: www.successfoundation.ca

*Your support gives
Youths a chance to make a difference in the future,
Seniors a sense of belonging and love,
Women a sense of accomplishment and independence,
Families a sense of happiness and support.*

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Contacts:

Tony Moy
Director of Resource Development
S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation
Tel: 604-408-7232
Cell: 604-618-0535

Eileen Lao
Public Affairs Manager
S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
Tel: 604-408-7243
Cell: 778-997-8283

One (1) backgrounder

Performers for 2011 Bridge to S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Gala

Jessica Yan

Jessica, founder of the Sino-Canadian Foundation for Music Education, is a renowned vocalist and music educator for singing and performance arts. She was honored as a performance member of The Jilin Provincial Opera House in China. Active in major Asian countries and Canada prior to immigrating to Vancouver in 2002, she was academically trained as a professional singer at The Northeastern Normal University and The Beijing Central Conservatory of Music in China. She has worked with world renowned opera singer Ileana Cotrubas and also The Juilliard School professor Marshall Williamson in the United States.

Highly praised by the vocal music community and her peers, Jessica's vocal prowess has garnered her the distinguished positions as President of THE BC Performing Arts Institute and

Executive Secretary of the Maple Ridge Education Centre. She is also officially appointed as a guest professor at Xiamen University.

In 2008, Jessica participated as an adjudicator for the North American Regional Competition of the 4th China (Ningbo) International Vocal Competition, a role which she will reprise in March, 2011, for the 5th China (Ningbo) International Vocal Competition. In 2009 Jessica was invited to sing at the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra Concert in China and collaborated with the well-known conductor Xiaoying Zheng. In 2009 and again in 2010, she was the guest program announcer for the UBC Opera Ensemble in Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu.

A consummate music educator, Jessica was on the faculty of the UBC Summer Music Institute and Voice Division Workshops and participated in the UBC Opera Ensemble cultural exchange program. She has also given numerous master classes on vocal arts to faculty members and students at The Sichuan Music Conservatory and the Xiamen University School of Music in China, The School of Music of Nanjing Normal University, Yuxi Normal University and The Music Festival held in Montenegro.

Jessica takes pride in her meaningful undertaking to introduce western vocal techniques to Chinese art songs presentation.

Gustavo Herrera

Born in Mexico City, Gustavo Herrera immigrated to Vancouver in 2007 with his wife, Berenice, and their two children, Ethan who was 3 years old and Carlo who was just about to be born.

Gustavo is a true Renaissance man in every sense of the term. Possessing a passion for singing, he began to study opera at the age of 16 at the Mexico Conservatory of Music. In 1981, he performed in his first concert with the Mexican Philharmonic Orchestra. Gustavo also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Veterinarian Science and was a practicing veterinarian in Mexico City before he moved to Canada. At the same time, he was an entrepreneur running a Mexican restaurant bar named "SABOR A MI" where he often performed with his friends from the Mexican National Opera house.

Amid the turmoil and social instability in Mexico City, Gustavo decided to uproot his family and move to Canada in search of a safer and better life. Today, Gustavo is the proud owner of "Laguna Blu," a popular restaurant in downtown Vancouver where he often sings to entertain his friends and customers who have grown to be like his family members.

Gustavo is pleased to have the opportunity to lend a helping hand to S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Foundation this evening and give something back to the community that embraced him.

Pentatonics

Pentatonics is a traditional Chinese instrumental band composed of 9 players. The instruments include Guzheng, Dizi, Pipa, Erhu, Ruan, Yangqin, Keyboard and the Drums. The band was founded in September 2008 and is one of the few established Chinese instrumental bands in

North America. Every member is an exceptional and award winning performer with over 10 years of performing experience. Using their abilities in playing Chinese music, they apply it to play mainstream music such as pop, rock, cross-over classical music and many more. Recently Pentatonics has been featured on Fairchild Television's Leisure Talk Show, Richmond Review, and a spread in Ming Pao Magazine. Some of their latest performances include being guest performers at Fairchild Radio's 15th Songwriter's Quest, Vancouver Film and Television Artists Society's Mid Summer Night Fantasy Concert, and the opening act for Hong Kong artist Raymond Lam's Vancouver concert.