



Historic Landmark and Museum

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Contact: Barbara Kimler
949.215.0417
bkimler@cox.net

Mission Preservation Foundation Benefit Gala Sizzles with Phantom Star Davis Gaines Performance

San Juan Capistrano, Calif. – Mission San Juan Capistrano hosted its *Romance of the Mission* benefit gala on September 14 featuring a spectacular concert by acclaimed actor/singer Davis Gaines. San Juan Capistrano residents Jan and the Honorable H. Warren Siegel were honorary chairs and net proceeds are estimated at just under \$200,000. An additional \$100,000 anonymous pledge will be made if that amount can be matched towards the project's \$3.3 million budget within 60 days.

Gaines performed the title role in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* more than 2,000 times and the moving concert in the ruins of the Great Stone Church included Phantom favorites *All I Ask of You*, *Music of the Night* and the traditional *When the Swallows Return to Capistrano*.

Gala proceeds will help fund the Gate House Preservation Project which ultimately relocates the Mission's museum store to the street and returns the historic Sala building to museum use. Completion of the new Gate House is projected for March 2013.

Mission San Juan Capistrano Executive Director Mechelle Lawrence-Adams welcomed attendees along with Mission Preservation Board President George O'Connell saying, "As a product of the collective efforts and ingenious spirits of the past, we gather this evening to celebrate the past, to remember the meaning of this place, and make sure that the Mission matters in new and previously unimaginable ways to people living today."

Honorary Chairs Jan and the Honorable H. Warren Siegel are longtime San Juan residents and have been generous and committed supporters of the Mission for many years. San Juan Capistrano businessman Bill Ortega was recognized for his significant commitment to running the Mission's gift store over the years and a special award was given to Ritz-Carlton Executive Chef Andres Jimenez for creating truly unique, extraordinary menus exclusively for this event.

The extravagant evening began with a cocktail reception in the Mission's lush front gardens, followed by the concert then a gourmet plated four-course candlelight dinner in the Main Courtyard provided by Long-time community partner The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel. Additional supporters were Microsemi and Traditional Jewelers.

For more information about *Romance of the Mission*, contact Barb Beier at 949.234.1323 or visit www.missionsjc.com.

About Mission San Juan Capistrano

Known as the "Jewel of the Missions," Mission San Juan Capistrano is a historic landmark and museum that boasts of quality permanent exhibits featuring original artifacts as well as traveling and temporary exhibits on a wide variety of topics.

The Mission is also Orange County's only Mission and is a site of ongoing faith, education, preservation, and cultural event programming. The site includes such original buildings as the Serra Chapel, Great Stone Church, and the original padres' quarters of the South Wing.

The Mission was founded on November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra as the seventh in the chain of the twenty-one California missions established by Spain. Over 50,000 fourth grade students visit the Mission as part of their field trip learning about Early California history.

Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange. Its fundraising entity, the Mission Preservation Foundation, is comprised of business and community leaders committed to ensuring the long term preservation and viability of Orange County's only Mission. The Mission receives no funding from either the Church or the State of California and must charge admission funds as a means of providing continued public access.

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