



**For Immediate Release  
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## **Broadway Star and Singer Susan Egan to Perform at Elegant 'Romance of the Mission' Benefit Gala on Sept. 20**

**San Juan Capistrano, Calif.** – Award winning entertainer Susan Egan is the concert artist at the annual *Romance of the Mission* benefit gala to be held at historic Mission San Juan Capistrano on Friday, September 20, 2013. The Irvine resident is most widely known for her role as original “Belle” in Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast* receiving a Tony Award and Drama Desk nomination for Best Actress.

"I'm honored to be invited to perform at the beautiful "Romance of the Mission" gala and help celebrate one of our most important historical, cultural and educational centers. As an Orange County native -- and current resident, once again -- the California missions have always held an important place in my heart; my parents were married at one, in fact. Mission San Juan Capistrano is where I take my own children now, and I am grateful to all who are dedicating themselves to preserving this exquisite landmark!"

The intimate concert takes place under the stars in the ruins of The Great Stone church where Egan will perform numerous pieces from her Broadway productions in addition to popular ballads.

Longtime Mission San Juan Capistrano supporter and Mission Preservation Foundation Board member Mike Hagan is honorary chair of the benefit gala. The former Furon Corporation CEO is a passionate advocate of Mission preservation projects including the stabilization of the Great Stone Church, preservation of Serra Chapel and original 1919 Gate House and most recently the new Gate House entry and Mission Store.

Mission San Juan Capistrano Executive Director Mechelle Lawrence Adams says, "Proceeds from this year's gala will benefit the preservation of Mission San Juan Capistrano and specifically will fund the initial investigation work for conserving the historic Sala building. In recent history the building was the Mission Gift Store and prior to that served as a chapel and home to the Forster family. Its rich history deserves to be saved."

The elegant evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with a cocktail reception in the Mission's lush front gardens, followed by the concert then a four course plated candlelight dinner in the Central Courtyard specially prepared by Mission San Juan Capistrano's long-time community partner The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel. Additional supporters include Microsemi, Barbara Parkers, Inc, Farmers & Merchants Bank and South Coast Kitchens.

Individual tickets cost \$350 and underwriting opportunities are still available. For more details visit [www.missionsjc.com](http://www.missionsjc.com) or contact Barb Beier at 949.234.1323.

Mission San Juan Capistrano is located at 26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675.

### **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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