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RAISING HOPE THROUGH AWARENESS

SINGING FOR SHELTER

A CONCERT TO BENEFIT HOMELESS YOUTH

NOVEMBER 14, 2015

September 11, 2015 – Sometimes a single act of charity can mean the difference between hope and hopelessness. To that end, the Rio Grande Theatre will be the staging ground for an inspirational musical and visual journey geared toward raising awareness of a very real problem facing society today. Benefitting the efforts of Casa Q, a not-for-profit organization providing safe living options and services for homeless LGBTQ youth throughout the state of New Mexico, Singing For Shelter will feature the talents of award-winning Austin artists Sarah McSweeney, Ryan DeSiato and acapela group, Carpe Sono, alongside Las Cruces' own La Cella Bella, on Saturday, November 14, 2015.

Presenting covers and original music, some arranged specifically for this event, the artists of Singing For Shelter will perform a heady mix of country, pop, classical, rock and inspirational styles. Ryan DeSiato is a rising star whose eclectic rhythms are beautifully orchestrated to compliment a strong baritone voice that is both soulful and captivating. Sarah McSweeney is a skilled singer/songwriter whose angelic voice has led to her

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performances as an opening act for such popular artists as Colbie Caillat, Michelle Branch and B.B. King. Carpe Sono is an acapella group that performs a variety of musical genres from Top 40 pop to classic rock.

Representing Las Cruces during the event, La Cella Bella is the immensely popular cello quartet made up of Alyson Reynolds, Alicia Dolan, Debbie Eckles and Tatianna Dickens, whose musical stylings are as varied as the radio dial. Together, these very diverse artists will come together to create a harmonious experience unlike any other through simple staging, inspirational visuals and a seamless integration of musical styles.

The organizer of this spectacular event is local resident Domenic Metta, who transformed personal tragedy into a positive community effort to bring hope to an underserved population. After the senseless murder of his partner during a home invasion in 2011, by a young drug addict whose history was that of a violent child, Metta became aware of the serious issue of youth homelessness in New Mexico and the similar tragic lives that await them, through Casa Q founder, Cristy Carbon-Gaul. Seeing an opportunity to not only memorialize his partner's life, but also assist in bringing awareness to the cause through the support of Casa Q, the inspiration for a one-of-a-kind concert event was born.

"I was overwhelmed by the amazing achievement and hard work enacted by the Casa Q team, which organized and established a residence for kids ages 14-18, in just one year's time," he said. "I thought, now there's a group of truly concerned individuals who know how to get things done!"

Add to that the horrifying statistics of childhood homelessness, including the estimate that most children run away as a result of abuse at home and that 75 percent of all runaways are female, and Metta knew he had to act.

"I had no idea that 1.3 million kids are out living on the streets every day in our country and that 20 to 40 percent of them identify as gay," he said. "How sad is it that children are disowned just because of who they are? Maybe we can't control how kids are treated by their families, but I just had to do something about the state in which these kids are left to fend for themselves."

Joining in the promotion of this worthy cause, KRUX University Radio is sponsoring the event with radio ads and interviews and Project Mainstreet will arrange a reception on Main Street, outside the Rio Grande Theatre, prior to the concert. The festivities will begin at 6 p.m., with a food truck roundup, featuring the city's finest wheeled purveyors of gastric delights, DJ grooves, information booths and more.

The Rio Grande Theatre is located at 211 N. Main Street, in Las Cruces. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22 balcony and \$28 orchestra. Advance tickets are available for purchase online at www.HoldMyTicket.com or at the Doña Ana Arts Council offices upstairs in the Rio Grande Theatre,

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between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call (575) 523-6403 or visit www.RioGrandeTheatre.com. Ticket sales, which additionally benefit The Center For Spiritual Living are also available by calling Teresa at (575) 642-4334. To find out more about Casa Q, visit www.casaq.org.

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