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## THE SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE

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## SANTA FE DESERT CHORALE ANNOUNCES 2015 SUMMER GALA SUMMER SWING: A CELEBRATION OF THE BIG BAND ERA

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Santa Fe, New Mexico, July 14, 2015:** Sheryl Kelsey, Ph.D., Vice President of the Board of Directors of the **Santa Fe Desert Chorale (SFDC)** and the **Chair of the Development Committee**, today announced plans for the 2015 Summer Gala. The annual fundraiser for the organization will take place on **Wednesday, August 26, 2015** at the Inn and Spa at Loretto, 211 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico. A cocktail reception and silent auction will open the event at 6:00pm in the Tesuque Ballroom. Dinner and the program will begin at 7:00pm in the Zuni Ballroom. **Paul Margetson** will return as auctioneer for the live auction portion of the evening. Featured performances include two-time GRAMMY® Award-winning clarinetist **Richard Stoltzman** in an homage to Benny Goodman featuring arrangements of works by Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington and Cole Porter. Desert Chorale Members **Kathlene Ritch, Keely J. Rhodes**, and **Sarah Weiler** will perform popular selections from the Andrews Sisters' song book including *Rum and Coca Cola*, *Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree* and *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy* with **Bert Dalton** leading **The Bert Dalton Trio**.

For the first time, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale will honor two members of the Santa Fe community for their contributions to the Chorale. Long-standing member of the Board of Directors and distinguished vocalist, **Nina Hinson Rasmussen**, will receive the *Angel Award* "recognizing the extraordinary commitment by a patron in supporting the Santa Fe Desert Chorale's goals of artistic excellence, community engagement and organizational stability and growth." **Alan O. Austin, Regional President II, EVP, New Mexico Bank & Trust** will be honored with the *Civic Leadership Award* "recognizing exemplary leadership in creating and promoting partnerships between the business and non-profit sectors in Santa Fe, with gratitude for particular support of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale and its mission."

Tickets prices are \$175 for individual tickets and \$1750 for a table of ten guests. Valet parking is complimentary. To make reservations or for more information, please contact Concierge Jo Fisher at (505)988-2282. Tickets may also be purchased online [www.desertchorale.org](http://www.desertchorale.org) beginning on July 20, 2015.

### About the performers:

Two-time GRAMMY® Award winner **Richard Stoltzman** has defied categorization, dazzling critics and audiences alike throughout many musical genres. The clarinetist has appeared as soloist with more than a hundred orchestras, as a captivating recitalist and chamber music performer, as an innovative jazz artist, and a prolific recording artist.

Richard Stoltzman's unique style of playing the clarinet has earned him an international reputation as he has opened up possibilities for the instrument that no one could have predicted. He gave the first clarinet recitals in the histories of both the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall, and he became the first wind player to be awarded the Avery Fisher Prize. He was also featured in the International EMMY® Award-winning series "Concerto!" with Dudley Moore and Michael Tilson Thomas. As a jazz performer, as well as a classical artist, his talents have been admired far beyond his annual tours. He has performed or recorded with such jazz and pop greats as Gary Burton, the Canadian Brass, Chick Corea, Judy Collins, Steve Gadd, Eddie Gomez, Keith Jarrett, the King's Singers, Mike Manieri, George Shearing, Wayne Shorter, Mel Tormé, Spyro Gyra founder Jeremy Wall and Kazumi Watanabe. Especially notable are concerts of jazz and

classics with his son, pianist Peter John Stoltzman; Father and Son perform together around the globe and were recently featured on NPR's "Performance Today" and "Weekend Edition" as well as "Voice of America" radio.

His commitment to new music has resulted in the commissioning and premiere of numerous new works for the clarinet, including the 1994 Grawemeyer Award-winning "Fantasma/Cantos" by Toru Takemitsu, "Landscapes with Blues" by Stephen Hartke, a concerto by Einojuhani Rautavaara which premiered with conductor Leonard Slatkin and the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall, "TRIO 2009" written for him, cellist Lynn Harrell and pianist Robert Levin by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, Yehudi Wyner and most recently, "Marika Groove" by Chick Corea, written for him and marimbist, Mika Yoshida, which he premiered with Eddie Gomez and Steve Gadd at Carnegie Hall in April 2012.

Richard Stoltzman has a discography numbering over 60 releases on BMG/RCA, SONY Classical, MMC, BIS, Albany and other labels, including a GRAMMY®-winning recording of Brahms Sonatas with Richard Goode. Among Mr. Stoltzman's most beloved releases are "Amber Waves", a CD of American works, and the Trios of Beethoven, Brahms and Mozart with Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma, which won the clarinetist his second GRAMMY® Award. For more information, please visit: [www.richardstoltzman.com](http://www.richardstoltzman.com)

After earning a Bachelor's of Music Studies degree from the University of Texas at Austin, soprano **Kathlene Ritch** moved to New York City where she sang with such noted ensembles as the New York Philharmonic, London Sinfonietta, and the Vienna Philharmonic. In 2001, she made her solo debut at Lincoln Center with the American Symphony Orchestra in Listz's *Dante's Inferno*. With that same ensemble, she recorded a live concert version of *Die aegyptische Helena* as Hermione opposite Deborah Voigt's Helen. Kathlene now resides in Santa Fe and accompanies the Santa Fe High School Choral Department and directs the Royal School of Church Music and Bell Choir at Holy Faith Episcopal. She also enjoys being an on-air announcer for Classical 95.5 KHFM Santa Fe/Albuquerque but still finds time to sing with ensembles around the country, including the GRAMMY®-winning ensemble, Conspirare.

Hailed for her versatility and "true rich tone", mezzo soprano **Keely J. Rhodes** enjoys singing all styles of music even dabbling in folk genres. Her respect and love for all music runs deep. She is a sought after soloist for retreat centers and churches, performing solo and chamber recitals, and singing opera in the United States, Europe, Central America and South America. Keely performs as a soloist and collaborative artist with such noted ensembles as: Apollo Master Chorale, Blacksburg Master Chorale, Conspirare, Kinnara Ensemble, Virginia Oratorio Society, Vox Humana, Texas Choral Symposium, Tucson Chamber Artists, True Concord, and the Washington Bach Consort. In academia, Dr. Rhodes has served as a director of choirs, head of vocal studies, and an assistant professor of music. She has had the honors of serving as a Fulbright scholar to Italy, winning the Austin Critic's Table Award for Best Classical Singer – Female, and receiving a GRAMMY® Award with Conspirare. Keely has recorded with ensembles on Harmonia Mundi, Clarion, Naxos, MPR, Longhorn Music, Reference Recordings, and Conspirare. She has performed on multiple GRAMMY®-nominated albums, an Edison Award-winning album and a recent GRAMMY® Award winning album. Keely is a member of the Cherokee Tribe with a Bachelor's of Music from Oberlin Conservatory and Master's and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of Texas in Austin.

**Sarah Weiler**, mezzo soprano, is a Santa Fe-based artist and teacher active in musical theater, oratorio, chamber music, and choral work. Sarah sings as a soloist and chorister with The Figueroa Project, the New Mexico Performing Arts Society, the Santa Fe Symphony and Chorus and Polyphony of New Mexico. She recently performed the role of Mrs. Noye in a production of Britten's *Noye's Fludde* and was the alto soloist for Handel's *Messiah* with Polyphony: Voices of New Mexico. She is also a featured member of Santa Fe Rep with leads in *Working*, *Pippin*, and *Company*. In addition to her performance career, Sarah is a Nia Technique Brown-Belt instructor at StudioNia Santa Fe. Through Nia, Sarah seeks to find balance in body, mind, spirit, and emotions and inspires others to do the same.

Gala Music Director **Bert Dalton** is one of five recipients of the 2013 Santa Fe Mayor's Award for Excellence In The Arts. Originally from Chicago, the jazz pianist, arranger, educator, and producer, has been living and performing in Santa Fe for 20 years. He has led a number of groups such as the Chicago Jazz Exchange, Yoboso, the Bert Dalton Trio, the Dalton Brothers Trio, and most recently the Brazil Project. He is currently Music Director of the National Dance Institute of New Mexico.

Bert Dalton received his music education at Northern Illinois University, studying with Dr. J. B. Floyd and performing with Ron Modell's award-winning NIU Jazz Ensemble. He has performed in concerts, clubs, and jazz festivals throughout the continental US, Alaska, Hawaii, New Zealand, and Australia. He has performed with Herbie Mann, Anita O'Day, Bud Shank, Butch Miles, Howard Alden, Frank Morgan, Bobby Shew, Eddie Daniels, Regina Carter, Ali Ryerson, Dr. Art Davis, Gene Lees, Daniel Binelli, Von Freeman, Pete Barbutti, Mike Vax, Don Burrows, Victor Mendoza, Chris Calloway, Greg Abate, Doug Lawrence, and the Smothers Brothers, and has recorded with John Clayton and Jeff Hamilton. In addition, he has opened for Tito Puente, Pete Escovedo, Grover Washington Jr., Pancho Sanchez, and the Count Basie Orchestra.

**The Bert Dalton Trio** is comprised of instrumentalists Bert Dalton (piano), Rob “Milo” Jaramillo (bass) and John Bartlit (drums). The Bert Dalton Trio has a wide and varied repertoire of jazz, Latin, and Brazilian music, plus a group synergy that only comes from performing together regularly for twelve years. In addition to their trio performances, they have performed as a rhythm section for Chris Calloway and produced her final Lena Horne Tribute concert recording. They are the core members of the five-piece Brazil Project, winner of the New Mexico Music Industry award in the World Music category, and have performed tribute concerts of Dave Brubeck Quartet music along with saxophonist Dave Anderson.

Pianist **Bert Dalton** has performed with Herbie Mann, Regina Carter, Bud Shank, Anita O’Day, Albert “Tootie” Heath, Victor Mendoza, Howard Alden, among others, and has recorded with John Clayton and Jeff Hamilton. Originally from Chicago, Bert has been a Santa Fe resident since 1990 and is Music Director of the National Dance Institute of New Mexico. He has appeared at major jazz festivals in Telluride, Sedona, Santa Fe, Aspen, Mexico, New Zealand, and Australia. His Latin group “Yoboso” won the 1996 BET Jazz Discovery Competition.

Percussionist **John Bartlit** received a music performance degree from the University of New Mexico and was on faculty for 12 years. John’s trademark is versatility, as seen in a sampling of his professional ties: the New Mexico Symphony, New Mexico Marimba Band, John Lewis of MJQ, Chris Calloway, John Cage, the International Flamenco Festival, several dance troupes, and his own invention, “21st Century Vaudeville.” He has a platinum album with Robbie Robertson, film credits, and premier recordings of works by modern classical composers.

**Rob “Milo” Jaramillo** started out playing sax and flute, then switched to bass in high school. He also studied at UNM and went on to perform with John Lewis, Tommy Berndtsson, Bill Watrous, Tony Quinones, Hillary Smith, Ritmo Caliente, and Chris Calloway. He has toured extensively throughout the U.S, Australia, and Cuba with the Pink Flamingos, Yoboso, & Ritmo Caliente. He resides on the Isleta Indian Reservation.

For more information or images of the artists please contact: Cory Klose  
T: (505)988-2282 ext. 2 or [cory@desertchorale.org](mailto:cory@desertchorale.org).

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