



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHOTOS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

PRESS CONTACT: Alisha Ard (818) 728-1923 info@lajewishsymphony.org

November 30, 2009, 11 AM

PATCHWORK OF CULTURES: THE SEPHARDIC-LATINO CONNECTION

FREE Education Program Concert

Valley Beth Shalom, Encino

Our 13th year building bridges between cultures and between generations using the language of music! The culminating concert of the 2009 Education Program, this year serving 900 students.

"The Patchwork of Cultures music education program instilled an appreciation of the arts for our students and created a desire to learn more about how different cultures utilize music. We believe that music is an integral part of a child's education. We are grateful for programs such as this one, which provide opportunities that our students would otherwise not experience."

An Elementary School Principal – 2008

The Los Angeles Jewish Symphony's exciting education concert: "Patchwork of Cultures: The Sephardic-Latino Connection" takes place this year on November 30, at Valley Beth Shalom Synagogue in Encino. The concert serves as the culmination of a series of classroom workshops led by LAJS teaching artists in each of the participating schools.

Our Music Education Program has reached over 12,000 students over the past twelve years.

This program is taught by Los Angeles Jewish Symphony Teaching Artists who visit 4th, 5th and 6th grade student classrooms in both public schools and private Jewish day schools. Students learn about the descendants of Spain, focusing on the similarities between Sephardic Jews and the Latino community by exploring their music and cultural backgrounds.

This program integrates music directly into the students' history lessons. As part of the program each student creates a work of art to parallel the music.

Ultimately, the public school and Jewish day school students get to meet each at the concert, where student artwork is on display for all to see. Together they will dance the Mexican Hat Dance, sing along to the music and enjoy the live orchestra.

This program was originally funded by a prestigious grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Participating Schools are:

Beth Hillel Day School, Brawerman Elementary, Columbus Avenue Elementary, Heschel Day School, Kadima Hebrew Academy, Kittridge Elementary, Shalhevet School, Sinai Akiba Academy, Steven S. Wise Elementary, VBS Day School, Weizmann Day School