



Grand Performances' Annual Gala Attracts Local Luminaries

Come join the celebration on Saturday, September 23.

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WHO: [Grand Performances](#), along with co-hosts for the evening Sharon Tay from CBS2/KCAL9, Robert "El Vez" Lopez, legendary guitarist Wayne Kramer, civic business and arts leaders including: Councilmember José Huizar; Danielle Brazell, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs; Emmy and Grammy-award winning composer Laura Karpman; KCET's Val Zavalla; dance legend Lula Washington; jazz drummer Ndugu Chancellor; Elizabeth Cline, Executive Director The Industry; Chris Rountree, Artistic Director, wild Up; and many more.

WHAT: Grand Performances is pleased to announce the annual [Gala](#) which will honor the organization's Founding Executive Director Michael Alexander. Michael spent his career bringing people together through the arts. Michael is a firm believer that access to the arts is a right and not a privilege. The evening will also feature a live musical tribute to Afrobeat legend Fela Kuti. Since its inception 31 years ago, Grand Performances has supported African music, making it a staple of the organization's summer programming.

WHERE: 350 S Grand Avenue in Downtown Los Angeles

WHEN: Saturday September 23, 2017

The program for the evening is as follows:

6:00 PM: Hosted Cocktails and Raffle

7:00 PM: Dinner, Honoree Presentation, Live Auction

8:30 PM: Benefit Concert: A Tribute to the Music of Fela Kuti

WHY: Celebrating the culmination of its 31st season with the Annual GALA. One of the best ways to put a bow on a stellar summer is to do what we do best--present a powerful & rhythmic #Afrobeat celebration in a tribute to Fela Kuti. With Ethio Cali and special guests like Tony-nominee Sahr Ngaujah who originated the lead role in Fela! on Broadway, featuring members of JUNGLE FIRE, The Budos Band, Dengue Fever and mexico68 and more! this musical convergence will keep you on your feet! Todd Simon - Music Director

Grand Performances has always embraced global music and championed music from Africa for decades carving a pathway for many Los Angeles presenters to do the same.

MORE ON GRAND PERFORMANCES: Celebrating its 31st year, Grand Performances' mission is to inspire community, celebrate diversity, and unite Los Angeles through free access to global performing arts. Hailed as the "Best Free Outdoor Summer Concert Series" by Los Angeles Magazine and called "a grand gift to the public... democracy in musical action" by the Los Angeles Times, Grand Performances presents high-quality music, dance, theater, and more during the summer at the

brehtaking California Plaza in the heart of Downtown as well as at other venues throughout the year including the Los Angeles State Historic Park and Los Angeles World Airports.

Follow @GrandPerformances on Facebook, @GrandPerfs on Twitter and Instagram and our Youtube Channel at youtube.com/grandperformances.

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