



## *Inside the Raley's Studios...*

News from the Capital Campaign for the E. Claire Raley Studios for the Performing Arts

September 2009

### **RALEY'S STUDIOS—THE NEXT BIG THING**

The Studios for the Performing Arts is a groundbreaking collaboration of the Sacramento Ballet, California Musical Theatre (Music Circus and Broadway Sacramento), Sacramento Opera and Sacramento Philharmonic. Here's an insider's look at the impact the Studios will have on each of these organizations.

#### **Sacramento Ballet**

The Sacramento Ballet entertains, educates, inspires, and engages people through the powerful vehicle of dance.

The E.Claire Raley Studios for the Performing Arts is more than a building; it is a concept. No other facility in America brings together its four major performing arts organizations under one roof to live, work, and dream. This unprecedented partnership provides security and stability for the Sacramento Ballet and its sister arts organizations to expand their borders, reach new heights, dedicate more resources to the art, and inspire the community. It will be a place for our extraordinary professional dancers to shine under the creative brilliance of internationally renown choreographers. It will be a place for all the performing arts to think outside the box through inventive collaboration. It will be a safe place for artists to take risks, be bold, imagine, and achieve the impossible.

The magic and beauty of the performance is not the end; it is the culmination of years of study, dedication, physicality, and determination. For over twenty years, Carinne and I have dreamed of opening windows of opportunity for children by founding the Sacramento Ballet Center for Dance Education. This school will be the centerpiece of the Raley's Studios and will provide professional dance training of the highest level for youngsters throughout the greater Capital region. The Studios makes possible our dream of incorporating music, voice, and theatre into the complete training of young artists. The presence of Sacramento Ballet dancers to mentor and inspire children of all ages, diversity, and backgrounds will create long lasting memories and deep impressions. Through collaborative and inventive programs with our sister arts organizations, we can reach deep into the community to inspire youth to dream and achieve. A world class city deserves world class arts...let's begin the **next** big thing!



Ron Cunningham & Carinne Binda  
Co-Artistic Directors  
Sacramento Ballet

## California Musical Theatre

The Studios will mean a whole new way for our staff and volunteers to work together and to continue providing great musical theatre to our community. I cannot wait for the time when we can be right next



to the Wells Fargo Pavilion during Music Circus and to actually have our rehearsals and education programs all in the same location. We will be able to walk just down the hall or down the stairs to watch a cast of talented artists rehearse for an upcoming musical.

All of our staff will be able to experience the excitement and pace of the summer productions, first-hand. Our expanded family of staff and volunteers as well as visiting artists during the summer will truly benefit from the synergy!

In this era of conserving resources and consolidation, we are glad to be a partner in this exciting venture.

Richard Lewis  
Executive Producer & CEO  
California Musical Theatre

## Sacramento Opera

Sacramento Opera is one of the integral components of the Sacramento Region's cultural landscape. The organization's mission is to produce outstanding opera, to develop and cultivate a wider public interest in opera and its allied arts, and to further musical education in the region. Founded in 1947 by Mrs. H. L. McClatchy, Sacramento Opera began under the auspices of the San Francisco Opera Guild, and incorporated in 1966. Until 1981, Sacramento Opera worked with the San Francisco Opera Guild to bring programs and productions of opera to Sacramento. That year, the organization reincorporated and changed its mission from importing operas from San Francisco, to producing operas in Sacramento. The first production took place in the auditorium of Hiram Johnson High School, and soon moved to its present location in downtown, at the Sacramento Community Center Theater at the corner of L and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets.

Sacramento Opera annually produces three fully-staged operas, complete with guest artists, full chorus, sets, costumes, and live orchestra, using the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra for all main stage performances. In addition, the organization produces a host of educational programs available to schools and community venues throughout the region, and a highly popular Student Night at the Opera, which allows students and classroom teachers attend the final dress rehearsal of each production. A new collaboration has just been forged with the Sacramento Children's Chorus and the Sacramento Youth Symphony, and in April 2010, these organizations will come together to produce and present the children's opera, *Brundibar*, conceived to heighten awareness of and foster a deeper appreciation for the art form among young people.



The opportunity to forge a closer relationship with our sister organizations, the California Musical Theatre, Sacramento Ballet and Sacramento Philharmonic, is one to which the Opera looks with great anticipation. The E. Claire Raley Studios for the Performing Arts will open the doors to a host of programs, educational and training opportunities that will be made available to constituents throughout the region as never before.

Rod Gideons  
Executive Director  
Sacramento Opera Company

### Sacramento Philharmonic

The E. Claire Raley Studios for the Performing Arts will be an exciting addition to the life of the



Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra. The musicians of the orchestra play an integral part of all the performing arts. The daily proximity to our partners will both anchor the orchestra in the community and provide a much needed forum for innovation.

In today's symphony world the necessity for collaboration with other art forms is vital to the future of our profession. The Raley's Studios will provide the space for ground-breaking new work, as well as ability to reconnect with dance, opera and theater in ways that we only once dreamed about.

I can just imagine the day when people walking by, will hear the sounds of symphonies, see dancers coming out of rehearsals and feel the excitement of children going to lessons as they pass the new building. They will be curious. They'll stop and listen for a minute. They'll be happy to live in such a vibrant city. When that day happens the Arts will truly have a home in Sacramento.

Marc Feldman  
Executive Director  
Sacramento Philharmonic

### Campaign Update

We are pleased to announce that with recent gifts totaling \$55,000, we have now raised \$20,855,000! Our campaign volunteers are working diligently to reach our \$25M goal over the next several months.



**Next Issue:** Be sure to read next month's newsletter to learn more about the community leaders who are involved in the campaign as well as the new Team structure that is being implemented to help our volunteers be more effective and productive.



**Your Campaign Strategy Team at work...**