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SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY HOSTS ANNUAL SPRING GALA, HONORING THE MEMORY OF CAROLINE H. “BETTY” HUME

The San Francisco Conservatory of Music’s annual gala, “Celebrating Our Own,” will be held Wednesday, June 9, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. at the Conservatory, 50 Oak Street in San Francisco. Under the artistic direction of Conservatory alumnus Robin Sutherland, ’75, San Francisco Symphony pianist and holder of the Jean & Bill Lane Chair, the event honors the memory of Caroline H. “Betty” Hume—longtime trustee, recipient of the Conservatory’s “Golden Halo” award and namesake of the Conservatory’s concert hall, which the *New York Times* recently called “the most enticing classical-music setting” in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Highlights of the event will include tributes from Conservatory President Colin Murdoch and others close to Mrs. Hume, plus musical performances including a piece for brass ensemble, a chamber performance of Aaron Copland’s *Appalachian Spring* and Gabriel Pierné’s *Sonata for Flute and Piano*, performed by pianist Sutherland and Barbara Chaffe, principal flutist of the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra. The latter piece was chosen to pay homage to Mrs. Hume’s special fondness for the flute, her favorite instrument. Performers include several members of the San Francisco Symphony who also teach at the Conservatory, including violinist Chen Zhao, assistant principal violist Katie Kadarrauch, cellist Barbara Bogatin and assistant principal double bassist Stephen Tramontozzi. Zhao, Bogatin and Tramontozzi are also Conservatory alumni.

“I cannot stress too greatly the enormous honor that has come my way through my involvement with the Conservatory’s June 9th Gala in Betty Hume’s honor,” says Sutherland. “Some years ago, during the final illness of my partner José Padgett, she would call

our home nearly every day, insisting that she be allowed to send something around. ‘What’ll it be, guys, what’ll it be?’ We finally said that perhaps a plant of some sort would be nice, and we shouldn’t have been surprised, really, to take delivery of a virtual orchid rainforest over the next few days. My honor comes this year in the unique opportunity to put together for Betty Hume an equal rainforest for the ears. With limitless access to my extraordinary fellow alumni and colleagues at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, this promises to be joyful work indeed.”

Mrs. Hume was a lifelong supporter of the arts, music and the outdoors. Named Philanthropist of the Year in 2001 by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Mrs. Hume was honored for her support of San Francisco’s Museum of Modern Art as well as of the Conservatory. She was particularly dedicated to fostering young musicians and gave generously to their cause. As a Conservatory trustee, she served on the Leadership Gifts Committee and was the Honorary Chair for the Conservatory’s Campaign for the New San Francisco Conservatory of Music at Civic Center.

The event is co-chaired by Jan Buckley and Carol Doll, Conservatory trustees and San Francisco arts patrons, while several members of the Hume family are serving on the Honorary Committee. Catering is by McCall Associates, with décor by Robert Fountain Event Designs. The official print media sponsor of the event is the Nob Hill Gazette. Individual tickets range from \$1,000 to \$3,500 and may be purchased by calling (415) 503-6291.

Editor’s Note: Pre-event interviews may be arranged with Conservatory President Colin Murdoch, board members and music students. Photos available upon request.

About the San Francisco Conservatory of Music:

Founded in 1917, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music is the oldest conservatory in the American West and has earned an international reputation for producing musicians of the highest caliber. Notable alumni include Yehudi Menuhin, Isaac Stern, Jeffrey Kahane and Aaron Jay Kernis, among others. The Conservatory offers its more than 400 collegiate and graduate students fully accredited Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programs in composition and instrumental and vocal performance. Its Preparatory Division provides exceptionally high standards of musical excellence and personal attention to more than 550 younger students. The Conservatory’s faculty and students give more than 400 public performances each year, many of which are offered to the public at no charge. Formerly located at 19th Avenue and Ortega Street in San Francisco’s Sunset District, the Conservatory moved to its new home in the heart of San Francisco’s Civic Center in 2006. The new school is an architectural and acoustical masterwork for the Conservatory’s second century. Its Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall was lauded by the *New York Times* as the “most enticing classical-music setting” in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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