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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**A WORLD OF FRIENDS**  
**Lyric Fest sharing great music with Philadelphia's kids**

PHILADELPHIA, PA: Lyric Fest presents *A World of Friends*, a theatrical event for children of all ages with classical song, modern and ethnic folk music, dance from the world's many cultures: the wacky Professor J. and his trusty sidekick take us on a raucous romp around the globe to discover a world of friends!

**Saturday, November 8, 2008 at 5 PM**

The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill  
8855 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia

**Sunday, November 9, 2008 at 3 PM**

The First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia  
201 S. 21<sup>st</sup> St (at Walnut St), Philadelphia

**Tickets:** General \$16/ Students \$5. To order call **215-438-1702** or at the door.  
For more information visit [www.LyricFest.org](http://www.LyricFest.org).

Actor *Jake Miller* as Professor J with *Wilder Troxell* as his sidekick, are joined by singers *Suzanne DuPlantis*, *Jennifer Hsiung*, *Cara Latham*, *Randi Marrasso*, *Maggie Moliterno*, *Mark Moliterno*, and *Richard Troxell* - and the *Pennsylvania Girlchoir*. Also, dancer/choreographer *Lisa Lovelace* with a children's dance troupe, and members of the *Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble*. All accompanied by pianist, *Laura Ward*.

Lyric Fest is taking the initiative of introducing children of Philadelphia to the world's many cultures in a fast paced, fun-filled program, casting highly acclaimed professional artists who are passionate about sharing their art with children.

The concert will feature songs and dance from North and South America, Africa, many European countries, Ukraine, India and China that hail from the folk, contemporary and classical tradition: Mozart and Rossini to Shostakovich, Kodaly, Carlos Jobim and Louis Armstrong. There will be costumes, audience interaction, and even a chance to sing-along.

The highly acclaimed Pennsylvania Girlchoir's Motet Choir, drawing young singers from five counties in PA and two in New Jersey will join Lyric Fest performing folk songs from Africa, Hungary, India and America.

"Performing with Lyric Fest over the past three years has literally changed the lives of our singers. The programs feature substantial literature from the operatic and art song repertoire -- music which many of these girls would not otherwise come in contact with. These collaborations have given birth to the next generation of opera and art song enthusiasts," says **Mark Anderson**, the PA Girlchoir music director.

The audiences of “A World of Friends” will also encounter an entire family of artists: renowned opera singer **Richard Troxell**, joined onstage by his wife, dancer/choreographer Lisa Lovelace and their two sons.

**Lisa Lovelace** comments: “I believe there is nothing that touches the heart of a child in education more than art. It hits us where we feel. It helps us express ourselves and, most importantly, to see the world in a new way and, as a result, to become well rounded, open individuals and better communicators.”

Since their first season, the founding directors of Lyric Fest have believed that sharing great music with children is some of the most important work they can do. “I never cease to be amazed at how kids respond to music. Mozart, Puccini, Wagner, Rossini – their works have withstood the test of time and our children deserve to hear them and be swept away just like generations before them. And with seasoned professionals sharing the stage with children we hope to inspire our young audiences with the message - You can do this too!” - says Co-Founding director **Suzanne DuPlantis**.

With support from **Greenfield Foundation Goldsmith Fund**, Lyric Fest is reaching out to the underserved in the Philadelphia area, to provide free tickets to up to 150 families. To this end, partnerships have been formed with Art Reach, the Girl Scouts of Eastern PA, the After School Activities Partnerships, Temple Music Prep and many of the area’s elementary public schools.

“With plans to produce a yearly family concert, we are looking to cultivate the number of children from all walks of life who will have a chance to experience a live music concert and develop a love for the live arts in the process,” says Co-Founding director **Randi Marrasso**.

Lyric Fest continues its concert season February 7 and 8, 2009 with “Music In The White House” - just in time for the Presidential Inauguration and Presidents’ Day, featuring Emily Bullock, Takesha Kizart, Kevin Langan, John Packard, Sally Wolf, the Haverford College Chamber Singers and award-winning journalist Tracey Matisak.

This event is made possible by a generous grant from the Greenfield Foundation Goldsmith Fund.

**Lyric Fest is a performance organization whose mission is to bring people together through the shared experience of song. We offer to diverse audiences, theme-oriented voice recitals designed to edify, educate, stimulate dialogue, and foster community. Founding Artistic Directors: Suzanne DuPlantis, Randi Marrasso, Laura Ward.**

**Lyric Fest | 1013 Westview St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19119 | (215) 438-1702 [www.LyricFest.org](http://www.LyricFest.org)**

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