

MillerCoors

Presents



The Inaugural Red Gala

PRESENTED BY THE BALM IN GILEAD SOCIETY
OF THE SPIRITUALS PROJECT
Saturday, September 11, 2010



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A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Welcome! Tonight's Red Gala marks an important milestone in the history of The Spirituals Project. It is particularly fitting that our guests tonight include both long-term members and supporters of The Spirituals Project and new guests who are becoming acquainted with us the first time. What a special time! Throughout the last 12 years of our work as an official organization, we have dedicated ourselves to the important task of preserving and revitalizing both the music and multi-layered teachings of the sacred songs called spirituals, created and first sung by African women and men who toiled in the crucible of American chattel slavery and who – through struggle and faith – helped create a vision for a genuinely democratic and inclusive America. In celebrating the power of their vision, we invite all people, from widely diverse life paths, to join with us in continuing the work to build a truly inclusive and welcoming society. We're on the road to that goal, but we still have a ways to go, and it will take all of us working together to get there.

It is a special privilege for us tonight to be able to present our first Balm in Gilead Society Jericho Award to Harry Belafonte, who has been a long-distance sojourner on the journey to freedom and justice. His persistent, lifelong work as an artist and freedom worker is a living embodiment of the values we affirm. We are honored that Mr. Belafonte has chosen to join us tonight to receive this award, and to stand with us as we continue our work. Tonight we also honor three other special people – Vincent Harding, Sandra Shreve and Jami Duffy, who – in very different but equally important ways – continue to inspire us with the example they set for us as freedom fighters. We also are honored by the presence of our special guest artists Take , the Grammy Award winning vocal ensemble whose inspired, creative interpretations of spirituals and many other genres of music provide the kind of special uplift we all need during difficult times.

Special thanks are due to our Executive Director, Amani Ali, who conceived of the idea of the Red Gala, and to Gloria Neal and her army of dedicated community workers who organized and implemented all of the details of the event. We also must thank members of The Balm in Gilead Society of The Spirituals Project, who are the official presenters of tonight's event, the honored sponsors and supporters who helped to make this event so successful, and members of our Board of Directors, whose dedicated leadership has kept our work going year after year. Finally and importantly, we thank the hard working, talented members of our multi-ethnic, multi-generational Spirituals Project Choir, directed by Ms. Bennie Williams and Mr. John Hubert. Once again tonight, their voices will be in the air, serving as an especially vibrant expression of our mission and guiding vision.

Most significantly, we thank the women and men in bondage who created and first sang the magnificent songs that we work to preserve and revitalize. Their songs sustained them during their long journey towards freedom, watered along the way with the blood that is symbolized in the "Red" of our gala celebration, and their songs continue to sustain us as we gather here tonight.

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

GLORIA NEAL



Gloria Neal is the Queen of Denver's multi-media world and one of the top media personalities in the city. Whether its her work on CBS4, her "Glo Knows" column in Denver Magazine or political commentary on the national stage via Sirius XM radio, Gloria brings a common sense approach with an intrinsic comedic flavor woven into her offerings. Her vast knowledge and intellect can be found in her blogs, which makes her the most sought after emcee and keynote speaker in the business. She is the President/CEO of Glo Knows Unlimited LLC., a multi-media training and consulting firm.



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We Salute
all of
Tonight's Honorees

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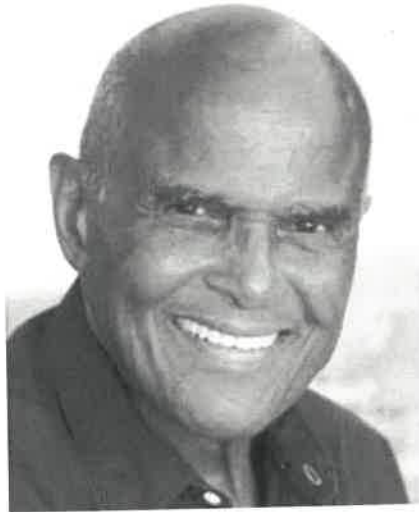
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**THE BALM IN GILEAD SOCIETY'S
2010 "JERICHO" AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE TO HUMANITY
RECIPIENT**



HARRY BELAFONTE

The long time entertainer/activist/humanitarian was born in Harlem in New York city in 1927. This incredible talent made his mark in the performing arts industry. Mr. Belafonte studied with renowned German director, Erwin Piscator and counted as classmates, noble future celebrities, such as Walter Matthau, Tony Curtis, Marlon Brando, and Bea Arthur. His RCA album "Calypso" made him the first artist in industry history to sell over one million long playing records. He received a Tony Award for his first Broadway appearance in the play "John Murray Anderson's Almanac" and is best known for his film role in "Carmen Jones" featuring critically acclaimed actress Dorothy Dandridge. After meeting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during his historic visit to New York, the two men remained close friends until King's assassination. Belafonte's global popularity and his commitment to the civil rights movement was a key ingredient in the struggle for global freedom and the fight to end apartheid in South Africa. Mr. Belafonte was instrumental in creating the project known as USA for Africa, and became only the second American to serve as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. He continues to devote himself to global civil and human rights issues in Africa and the United States.

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**TONIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENT
TAKE 6**



THE A CAPPELLA JAZZ GROUP KNOWN AS TAKE 6 ARE NOT ONLY THE HEIRS TO THE DOO-WOP AND GOSPEL GROUPS OF THE 1950S, BUT ALSO THE LEADERS IN THE SECOND WAVE OF JAZZ AND POP VOCAL GROUPS THAT EMERGED IN THE 1990S. WITH THESE NOTEWORTHY LEGACIES AT THE FOUNDATION, THESE MULTIPLE GRAMMY WINNERS CONTINUE TO LOOK AND MOVE IN A FORWARD MOTION.

THE TAKE 6 STORY BEGAN AT OAKWOOD COLLEGE IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, IN 1980, WHEN CLAUDE V. MCKNIGHT III FORMED A QUARTER KNOWN AS THE GENTLEMEN'S ESTATE CLUB. WHEN MARK KIBBLE HEARD THE GROUP REHEARSING IN-OF ALL PLACES-A CAMPUS RESTROOM, HE JOINED IN THE HARMONIES AND PERFORMED ONSTAGE WITH THE GROUP THAT SAME NIGHT. MERVYN WARREN JOINED SHORTLY AFTER, AND THE GROUP BRIEFLY TOOK THE NAME ALLIANCE. THEY PERFORMED IN LOCAL CHURCHES AND ON CAMPUS FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS, WITH PERSONNEL CHANGING FREQUENTLY AS OLDER MEMBERS GRADUATED AND NEW VOICES ARRIVED ON CAMPUS TO REPLACE THEM.

AFTER COLLEGE, THE GROUP SIGNED WITH WARNER BROTHERS LABEL IN 1987 AND CHANGED THEIR NAME TO TAKE 6. THEIR SELF-TITLED DEBUT ALBUM, RELEASED THE FOLLOWING YEAR, SCORED TWO GRAMMY AWARDS AND LANDED IN THE TOP TEN ON BILLBOARD'S CONTEMPORARY JAZZ AND CONTEMPORARY AND CHRISTIAN CHARTS. THE GROUP'S SWINGING, HARMONY-RICH GOSPEL SOUND ATTRACTED A FLURRY OF ATTENTION AND THE GROUP WENT ON TO RECORD OR PERFORM WITH NUMEROUS JAZZ LUMINARIES, INCLUDING QUINCY JONES, ELLA FITZGERALD AND STEVIE WONDER. WARREN EVENTUALLY LEFT THE GROUP AND WAS REPLACED BY MARK KIBBLE'S YOUNGER BROTHER JOEY. ALTHOUGH THE GROUP CONSIDER THEMSELVES A VOCAL JAZZ GROUP, THE GROUP SAYS THE SONGS THEY SING, EXEMPLIFY THEIR SPIRITUAL AND MORAL CONVICTIONS.

The Board of Directors
and
Members of the Balm In Gilead Society

salutes tonight's community award winners

Dr. Vincent Harding, Sandra Shreve and Jami Duffy

and give thanks to the members of the Red Gala Committee

Gloria Neal- Chair, Faye Wilson-Tate, Caz Matthews, Gwen Brewer, Helena Haynes-Carter, Christine Benero, Susan Kiely, Erika Reyes, Amanda Morosolee, GG Johnston, Maureen McDonald, Sarah Williamson, Tina Risch and the Red Gala volunteers.

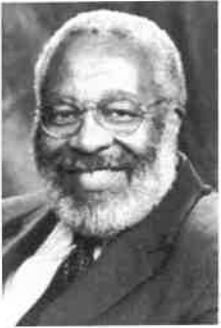
and the Spirituals Project Staff

Amani Ali - Executive Director
Dee Galloway - Program Coordinator
Bennie Williams - Artistic Director
John Hubert - Choir Director
Terry Jackson- Accompanist
Harold Fields - Music Librarian
Marilyn Gilmore - Outgoing Choir Council President

Special thanks to Ameristar, SouthWest Airlines, Trudy Fruity, Steve Farber, Arlene Hirschfeld, Charlotte Mervin, Dion Sanchez and the Marriott staff



COMMUNITY AWARD HONOREES



Dr. Vincent Harding is professor Emeritus of Religion and Social Transformation at Illiff School of Theology. He was the former speech writer, and confidant of Dr. Martin Luther King and served as the first director of the Martin Luther King Memorial Center in Atlanta. He also served as the senior academic consultant to the award winning PBS television series *Eyes on the Prize*. As a participant in the Southern Freedom Movement in the early 1960s, Dr. Harding and his wife traveled throughout the South and the professor periodically drafted speeches for Dr. King including the famous anti-Vietnam speech, "A Time to Break Silence" which Dr. King delivered on April 4, 1967 in New York City, exactly one year before he was assassinated.



Sandra Shreve followed in the footsteps of her very active great-great aunt, Mary Ann Shadd Cary, who was a free black abolitionist in the 19th century (whose father was a conductor on the underground railroad.) As a retired educator, Sandra has held almost every education position possible from teacher, counselor, principal, personnel director to assistant superintendent. During her educational tenure, Ms Shreve has received numerous awards for her outstanding contributions, and The Colorado Association of School Personnel Administrators even named an award in her honor. She has often been president or a key volunteer in numerous social and civic organizations. She is currently a Board Trustee for the Denver Foundation.



Jami Duffy currently works as the Director of Development and Resources at Flobots.org, a Denver-based social justice nonprofit that empowers youth through music, art and community organizing training. Prior to joining Flobots.org, Duffy worked as the Social Justice and International Living and Learning Community coordinator at the University of Denver. During her time at DU, Duffy spearheaded DU's first White Flag Warrior workshop which brought together 15 students organizations, 150 students and members of Flobots around the common theme of peace-building. She also helped coordinate Project Homeless Connect, facilitated DU's Haiti relief efforts, was the staff sponsor for DU Students for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, and brought members of Flobots to the TedX/DU stage to discuss new ways to educate youth. Duffy also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nicaragua where she managed several grass-roots projects.

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ON ITS
INAUGURAL RED GALA



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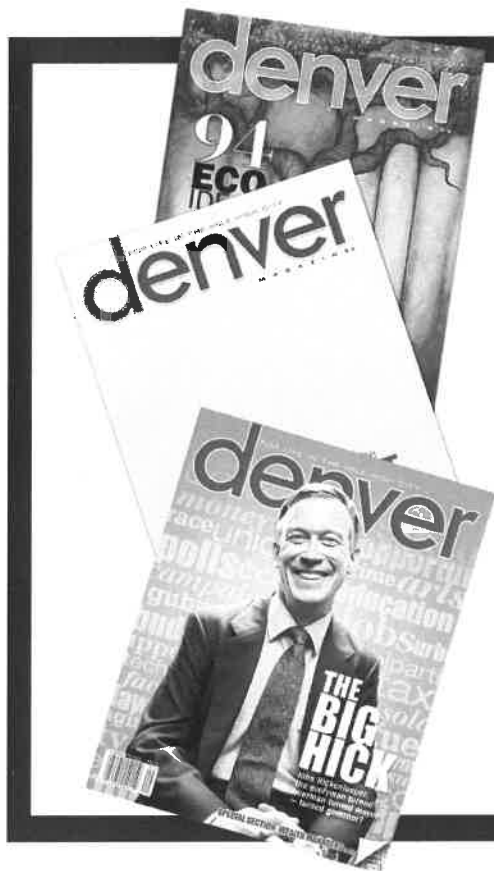
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Enjoy this evening's festivities!

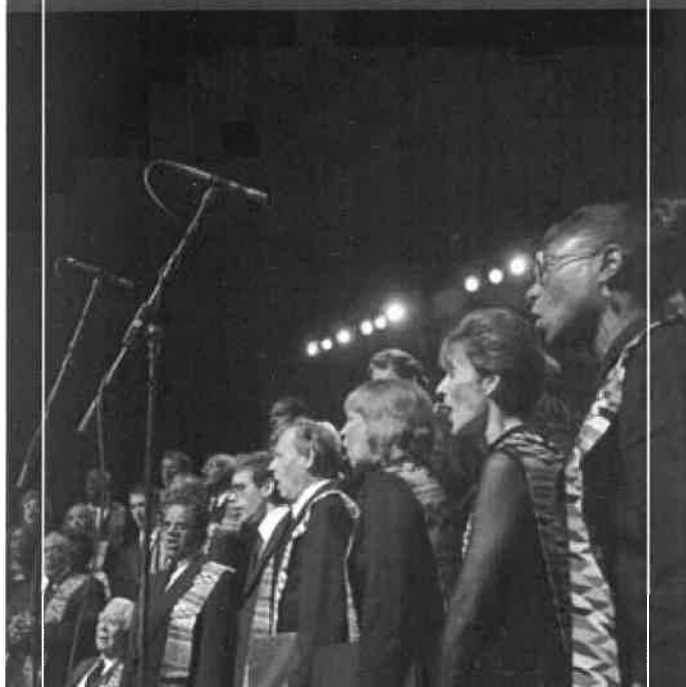
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OF
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SALUTES**



**THE SPIRITUALS PROJECT
ON
THE RED GALA**

TONIGHT'S HONOREES

MR. HARRY BELAFONTE

DR. VINCENT HARDING

SANDRA SHREVE

JAMI DUFFY



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