



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MUSIC WITH A MISSION – STRIKING A CHORD SINCE 2010

PROOF OF VACCINATION & MASKS REQUIRED

WHAT: Music With A Mission (MWAM) – The Street Symphony

WHEN: Thursday – July 22, 2021 – 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

UPDATE: Due to the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases and to protect our most vulnerable neighbors, we will be converting this month's MWAM to a "vaccinated only" event. Beverages and snacks will be provided to our guests at the conclusion to ensure proper mask coverage during the event.

WHERE: The Midnight Mission, 601 S. San Pedro St., LA, CA 90014 – **Dining Room**

WHO: **THE STREET SYMPHONY** www.streetsymphony.org

The Midnight Mission (TMM) is thrilled to welcome Street Symphony (SS) back for their 72nd visit. SS brings ensembles of world-class musicians to perform for our guests. This week's program will feature the Street Symphony Strings and Ase Ashe Drummers from the Heart. SS will also be providing beverages for our guests.

Street Symphony, directed by Violinist Vijay Gupta, desires to create a space where the musicians of Street Symphony can cultivate authentic change by inviting communities affected by homelessness and incarceration to share stories, deepen relationships, and illuminate our humanity through transformative musical experiences. Street Symphony ensembles perform and bring educational workshops to audiences at homeless shelters in downtown Los Angeles and public events for the community-at-large, aimed to raise awareness for mental health issues, incarceration, and homelessness. Their mission at large is to bring music to the most underserved communities throughout L.A.

In addition to the musical performances by Street Symphony, Fleurs et Sel will be providing cookies for our guests. Fleurs et Sel is a local, woman- and minority-owned baking company that makes sweet treats in small batches. The founder, Lara Adekoya, was inspired to follow her passion for cookies and community after being laid off at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the year since, Lara and her cookies have found



themselves everywhere from the homes of Issa Rae, Jennifer Love Hewitt, and Mindy Weiss to pop-up events at The Grove, to the production sets of Warner Bro's "You," HBO's "Insecure" and most recently, National Geographic. Through all her success, Lara remains committed to the community and is excited to give back by sharing her sweet treats with the guests of The Midnight Mission.

WHY: The Midnight hosts Music With A Mission (MWAM) to entertain and inspire those living on Skid Row. Music is a survival tactic for many people in dealing with life's difficulties. MWAM is aimed at bringing our community together through music. MWAM is quite simple. Musicians bring their instruments and play for our homeless and near-homeless guests. It is an intimate setting, so musicians have the opportunity to interact with our guests, answer questions, and/or talk about music and its history. In addition, we encourage musicians to invite their fan base so they can engage and enjoy music with individuals they would not normally encounter in their daily lives. **We are currently looking for sponsors for this ever-growing community event. If you are interested, please contact Georgia Berkovich at 213-624-4588 or gberkovich@midnightmission.org.**

About The Midnight Mission: Founded in 1914, The Midnight Mission offers paths to self-sufficiency to men, women and children who have lost direction. Our emergency services and 12-step recovery, family living, job training, education and workforce development programs offer a compassionate bridge to achieve and maintain healthy, productive lives. We remove obstacles and provide the accountability and structure that people who are experiencing homelessness need to be productive in their communities. Our conviction and commitment to their success define us. For additional information, please visit www.midnightmission.org