

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**** Images available upon request.**

**LAS NOCHES DE LAS LUMINARIAS
RETURNS WITH
CHIHULY: THE NATURE OF GLASS**

Tickets go on Sale September 15, 2008

WHAT: Las Noches de las Luminarias, the Valley's premier holiday event, returns for 19 nights of musical entertainment, delicious food and of course, 7,000 hand-lit luminarias. **Tickets for *Las Noches de las Luminarias*, go on sale Monday, September 15, 2008.**

WHAT'S NEW! This year, guests will experience *Las Noches de las Luminarias* as never before with the stunning exhibit *Chihuly: The Nature of Glass*, taking its place among the candles and cacti at the Garden. *Chihuly: The Nature of Glass* features new and unique works of glass artfully located throughout the Garden and will be lit and visible during *Las Noches de las Luminarias*.

Ten musical groups perform each night of *Luminarias*. Cowboy singer, Igor Glenn, Spanish guitarist Miguel de Maria and traditional Dickens Carolers join returning favorites, The Swingtips, Khani Cole, Mariachi Alegre, Bartholomew Faire and of course, the best in Valley handbell choirs.

The Sybil B. Harrington Cactus & Succulent Galleries, opened in spring of 2008, will be lit by candle light for the first time. Intimate gathering areas will be available throughout the Garden so guests can sit and enjoy a musical performance, a warming fire, a cup of cider or a glass of wine.

Las Noches de las Luminarias begins the Friday after Thanksgiving and culminates on December 23, 2008. This is the perfect holiday event to share with family, friends and out-of-town guests. The Garden's distinctive and world-renowned plant collection

provides the ideal setting to enjoy more than 7,000 hand-lit luminarias that line its trails, buildings and courtyards

A sumptuous buffet dinner is available at an additional cost from Fabulous Food Fine Catering and Events and the Garden's Patio Café will also be open for ala carte items. The Garden's gift and plant shop will be open each night of Luminarias and is the ideal place to find unique gifts for the holiday season.

Las Noches de las Luminarias is presented by The Arizona Republic, and sponsored in part by US Airways, Fabulous Food Fine Catering and Events, Channel 3 – Arizona's Family – The Official Forecasters of Desert Botanical Garden and Phoenix Coca-Cola Bottling Company. SRP EarthWise Energy is the entertainment sponsor.

- WHEN:** **November 28, 29, 30 (General Public)**
 December 4, 5, 6, 7 (Garden Members and their Guests)
 December 11, 12, 13, 14 (General Public)
 December 16, 17, 18 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 (General Public)
- TIME:** **5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**
- WHERE:** **Desert Botanical Garden**
 1201 North Galvin Parkway (in Papago Park)
 Phoenix, AZ 85008
- COST:** **Members: Adults \$20**
 Children: \$10 (ages 3-12)
 Non-Members: Adults \$25
 Non-Members: Children \$12.50 (ages 3-12)
 Children 2 and under are admitted free.
 Dinner and beverages available at an additional cost.
- TICKETS:** **TO PURCHASE TICKETS: Tickets on sale September 15, 2008**
 1. Order tickets on-line at www.dbg.org
 2. Call 480-481-8188 (9 a.m. – 4 p.m., daily)
 3. Visit the Admissions Box Office (8 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily)
- INFO:** For additional information, a full list of entertainment and a detailed menu, call 480-481-8188 or visit www.dbg.org.

A "Phoenix Point of Pride", the Desert Botanical Garden is one of only a few botanical gardens accredited by the American Association of Museums. It is a privately funded, non-profit organization and depends on revenues from admissions and gift shop sales, as well as contributions from individuals and businesses to fund its programs of environmental education, plant conservation and research.

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