

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**** Images available upon request.**

LAS NOCHES DE LAS LUMINARIAS DETAILS ANNOUNCED

General Public Tickets Go On Sale October 1, 2009

WHAT: Las Noches de las Luminarias, the Valley's premier holiday event, returns for 20 nights of musical entertainment, delicious food and of course, 7,000 hand-lit luminarias. **Tickets for *Las Noches de las Luminarias*, go on sale to the General Public Thursday, October 1, 2009. Garden Members** will be able to purchase tickets beginning Monday, September 14th, 2009.

WHAT'S NEW! This year, guests will be able to view *Allan Houser: Tradition to Abstraction*, an installation of the work of Apache master sculptor, Allan Houser as well as take a turn on the Garden's Holiday Skate rink. Located on Boppart Courtyard, the rink features synthetic Hybrid-ice® and skating is included with the *Luminarias* admission. Skates are provided. The Dickens Carolers and DJs dk.strikler & World Famous Rani "g" will mix it up providing a musical backdrop for the skaters.

Ten musical groups perform each night of *Luminarias*: Mariachi Corazón de Phoenix, Bad Cactus Brass Band, Anthony Wakeman, Chris Burton Jacome Flamenco Ensemble, Chele, The Swingtips, Will Clipman, The Hey Boyz and the Dickens Carolers along with DJs dk.strikler & World Famous Rani "g". *Luminarias* would not be complete without the best of the Valley Handbell Choirs in Webster Auditorium.

The new *Berlin Agave Yucca Forest*, which opens November 21, 2009, will be lit 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 Thursday, December 3 and culminates on December 30, 2009. 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. Meal tickets are \$16.50 for adults and \$8.95 for children.

Las Noches de las Luminarias is presented by The Arizona Republic, and sponsored in part by US Airways, Fabulous Food Fine Catering and Events and Phoenix Coca-Cola Bottling Company. SRP EarthWise Energy is the entertainment sponsor.

WHEN: December 3, 4, 5, 6, (Garden Members and their Guests Preview)
December 10, 11, 12, 13, (General Public)
December 17, 18 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 (General Public)
December 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 (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)
General Public: Adults \$25
General Public: 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 October 1, 2009

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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