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Arcademy 2010 Gala; Pizzaz with a Purpose!

Guitarist Billy McLaughlin to perform at Feb 27 event

ST. PAUL, Minn., (Feb. 10, 2010) – Classical acoustic guitar virtuoso Billy McLaughlin is the headliner for Arc Greater Twin Cities' third annual Arcademy Gala on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010 at the Minneapolis Hyatt Regency, 1300 Nicollet Mall. The benefit starts at 5:30 pm.

McLaughlin is a master of fingerstyle guitar and has been called a “mystical guitar guru.” After a 20-year international career, he was diagnosed with an incurable muscular disorder, Focal Dystonia. His remarkable comeback as a left-handed performer playing once again at world-class levels is inspiring.

Percussionist Peter O’Gorman joins McLaughlin. O’Gorman will astonish the crowd by playing seven objects, all common household pots and pans secured at Arc’s Value Village Thrift Stores & Donation Centers.

The Arc’s Value Village connection is a theme throughout this gala, where many guests come attired in gowns purchased at the stores, which are located in Brooklyn Center, Richfield, New Hope and St. Paul. “Why not?” asks Tara King, who co-chairs the Arcademy Gala with her husband Peter King, director of Merrill Lynch St. Paul. “Shopping Arc’s Value Village is shopping with a purpose, as all proceeds benefit Arc’s programs and services for children and adults with disabilities. The Arcademy Gala is pizzaz with a purpose!”

The Kings have a very personal connection with Arc. Their youngest child, Gabe, has Down syndrome. Peter, an Arc board member, noted that the heartfelt spirit of the Gala was what drew them to become the event chairs.

“Raising funds is certainly one of the main reasons for having a gala,” Peter says, “but it’s also a celebration of all the wonderful things Arc does. To me, that’s what it’s all about.”

The evening includes a cocktail reception, gourmet dining and live and silent auctions. Fundraising will focus on Arc's Lifetime Assistance Program, which helps families structure a comprehensive lifelong support plan for their family member with a disability.

Tickets are \$150 per person. To purchase tickets or get more information, call Arc at (952) 920-0855 or visit www.arcgreatertwincities.org.

Gala sponsors to date are:

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ABOUT ARC GREATER TWIN CITIES

Arc Greater Twin Cities is a nonprofit agency serving the many needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Established in 1946, Arc has been changing attitudes, changing policies and changing lives for more than 60 years. Arc helps individuals and families address issues that span the lifetime, including early intervention, education, transition to adulthood, health care, housing, employment, guardianship and more. For more information and volunteer opportunities, call Arc at (952) 920-0855 or visit www.arcgreatertwincities.org.

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