

\$311,000 RAISED FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS AT THE WOODEN FLOOR'S 30TH ANNUAL CONCERT



The Wooden Floor, an arts-based youth development non-profit, was joined by 200 supporters at an exclusive backstage event at the Irvine Barclay Theatre. The evening celebrated the opening night of its 30th Annual Concert: *Sunrise*, a staple of Orange County's dance calendar that features a unique and invaluable collaboration between 175 under-served youth and three of the nation's top contemporary dance choreographers: Ivy Baldwin, Mark Haim, and Melanie Ríos Glaser.

The concert raised \$311,000 for the organization and its successful year-round dance, academic, and family service programs for 375 low-income youth.

Concert underwriters include Honorary Underwriters Joan & Don Beall, Jane & Jim Driscoll, Ginnie & Rich Hunsaker, Yvonne & Damien Jordan, and Socorro & Ernesto Vasquez; Associate Underwriters JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Helen Sperry Lea Foundation, Linda & Tod White Charitable Fund, and Nordstrom; Concert Underwriters Gochnauer Family Foundation, Sharon & Terry Hartshorn, Marilyn McIntyre, The National Endowment for the Arts, Jack & Katy Schoellerman, and The Yellow House Fund; Concert Supporters Beth Burns & Mark Gorman, Bobbi Cox, Davis/Dauray Family Fund, Haskell & White, St. Joseph Health Foundation, Judy & Dennis Sweeney, Tappan Foundation, Willam & Nancy Thompson, Troy Grou Inc./The Dirk Family, William Gillespie Foundation, and Mary E. Xavier & Gary Tolar; and Concert Partners The Glaser Family and Robyn & Dave Stauffer.

Guests were welcomed by Chairman of the Board of Directors Ernesto Vasquez, who thanked attendees for the steadfast support in celebration of the organization's anniversary: *30 Years of Changing Lives Through Dance*. Executive Director and Co-CEO Dawn S. Reese and Artistic Director and Co-CEO Melanie Rios Glaser reflected on the organization's three decades of groundbreaking success in youth development, and artistic excellence that have been its hallmarks; thereby creating true impact for the students it serves. Additionally, stories of success were shared by 5th grader Dante Casarin (Class of 2020) and high school senior Jennifer Hernandez (Class of 2013), who were among the cast members performing later that evening.

Unlike any collaboration of its kind, The Wooden Floor's Annual Concert showcases progressive contemporary dance work performed by The Wooden Floor's low-income youth. About 2,500 ticket buyers experienced the 30th Annual Concert this year over its four sold-out performances.

The Wooden Floor, founded in 1983, is a Santa Ana arts-based organization that delivers hope and opportunity to 375 low-income youth annually. Dance education and performance are the core transformational elements through which youth change the way they think about themselves and aspire beyond the grip of the poverty cycle. In the dance studio, rigorous training, creativity, and self-knowledge lead to confidence, leadership, teamwork, well-being, and joy. Academic programs, pre-collegiate mentoring, and college scholarships ensure that students succeed in school and are college-ready. Since 2005, 100 percent of graduates from The Wooden Floor have enrolled in college, exceeding the national average for their peers threefold. Family Services at The Wooden Floor, including counseling, crisis intervention, and social service referrals help families overcome hardships and navigate challenges. Community support enables these year-round programs to be offered free of charge. Bringing about generational change to break the cycle of poverty in our community is the long-term goal of The Wooden Floor.