

## **\$392,000 RAISED FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AT THE WOODEN FLOOR'S 33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL CONCERT**

SANTA ANA and IRVINE, Calif. (June 13, 2016) – **The Wooden Floor**, an arts-based youth development nonprofit, was joined by 200 guests for the Opening Night Reception of its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Concert: *You. Me. We.* at the **Irvine Barclay Theatre**. The opening night performance - a staple of Orange County's dance calendar - features a unique and invaluable collaboration between nearly 150 under-served youth and three of the nation's top contemporary dance choreographers: Bessie Award-winner **Karinne Keithley Syers**, McKnight Fellow and Sage Award recipient, **Chris Yon**, and Artistic Director and Co-CEO of The Wooden Floor, **Melanie Ríos Glaser**. Underwriting for this year's Annual Concert raised \$392,000 for the organization and its successful year-round dance, college and career readiness, and family service programs for 375 economically disadvantaged youth.

### **Concert underwriters included:**

Concert Chairs	<b>Ginnie &amp; Rich Hunsaker and Linda &amp; Tod White Charitable Fund</b>
Honorary Underwriters	<b>Joan &amp; Don Beall, Jane &amp; James Driscoll, Yvonne &amp; Damien Jordan, Judith F. Posnikoff, and Socorro &amp; Ernesto Vasquez</b>
Associate Underwriter	<b>Helen Sperry Lea Foundation, Marilyn McIntyre, and Willette Charitable Foundation</b>
Concert Underwriters	<b>Gochnauer Family Foundation, Sharon &amp; Terry Hartshorn, Nordstrom, and Arthur &amp; Ginger Ong</b>
Concert Partners	<b>Beth A. Burns &amp; Mark Gorman, Bobbi Cox, Davis/Dauray Family Fund, Emily &amp; Jeremy Krout, Cath MacIver &amp; Jim Slaughter, Katy &amp; Jack Schoellerman, Judy &amp; Dennis Sweeney, Mary &amp; Gary Tolar, and TROY Group, Inc./The Dirk Family</b>
Concert Supporters	<b>The Glaser Family, Hydraflow -The Ayloush Family, Ruth D. Wetherbee Foundation Fund, and Robyn &amp; Dave Stauffer</b>
Media Sponsor	<b>89.3 KPCC</b>

Opening Night Reception guests were welcomed by **Chairman of the Board of Directors James A. Driscoll**, who thanked attendees for their steadfast support of the organization. **Executive Director and Co-CEO Dawn S. Reese** outlined how the organization's model will be used to impact more young people in low-income communities through the power of dance and access to higher education. Additionally, **Artistic Director and Co-CEO Melanie Ríos Glaser** expressed the character-building aspects of the concert performances, which lead to creative expression, self-confidence and personal discovery. She was followed by two touching stories of student success, shared by 11-year-old **Victoria Ocampo** (Class of 2022) and high school sophomore **Adrian Delgado** (Class of 2018), who won over the audience with their personal accounts of how The Wooden Floor and its supporters have made a difference in their lives

The reception was followed by a performance unlike any collaboration of its kind. Three world premieres and a reworking of a previous piece were unveiled, showcasing progressive, contemporary dance works performed by almost 150 under-served youth working alongside a dream team of the nation's top artists, designers, and choreographers. The beautiful and thought-provoking performances were lit by prolific lighting designer **James F. Ingalls**, of Metropolitan Opera and Lincoln Center acclaim, complimented with costumes by **Jennifer Vaughan**, known for her work in past Olympic Games. Nearly 2,300 tickets were sold for the Annual Concert's four performances.

### **About The Wooden Floor**

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, college and career readiness, 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**, which is more than double the national average for their socioeconomic peers. 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.

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*High-resolution images of the performance and the backstage reception are available upon request.*