



BRAZOS VALLEY
Symphony Society

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KENTUCKY DERBY SERVES AS BACKDROP FOR SIXTH ANNUAL BRAZOS VALLEY SYMPHONY FUNDRAISER

College Station, TX—May 29, 2009—

The Brazos Valley Symphony's twenty-seventh season concluded in celebratory fashion on Saturday, May 2, 2009 with "Derby Day: Run for the Roses" at the College Station Hilton Ballroom. This sixth annual gala fundraiser included viewing the Kentucky Derby live on large screens, hat contests, mint juleps, and a performance of the Brazos Valley Symphony led by Music Director Dr. Marcelo Bussiki.

Bussiki also programmed guest artist, Michael Andrew, to perform his Sinatra-style show for the crowd. Mr. Andrew, a former singer and bandleader from the Rainbow Room atop Rockefeller Center in New York City, provided symphony supporters with dance music to finish off the evening. With Andrew donning a blue tuxedo, attendees enjoyed tunes such as, "Under My Skin", "Sway", and "New York, NY".

"Derby Day 2009 was a spectacular event. Some of those in attendance were transported back to the 1960's with Frank Sinatra backed by the sound of a big band, while others, too young to have been a part of the 60s, enjoyed crooner Michael Andrew and the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra. The dance floor was full throughout the night and those who attended went home with plans to attend Derby Day 2010," said Symphony Board President, Jim Kracht.

The main fundraising aspect of Derby Day is the live and silent auctions, organized by symphony Board Member and volunteer, Patricia Burchfield. The live auction offered priceless items, such as a gourmet wine dinner for 12 at Dr. Bussiki's home and a once-in-a-lifetime chance to conduct the symphony. Other high dollar items for auction included a Tuscan Getaway donated by Carolyn & Tom Adair and David Yurman jewelry provided by David Gardner's Jewelers. The Live Auction, led by auctioneer Art King, brought in a total of \$13,000 in support of the symphony.

The silent auction included about one hundred individual items donated from generous local businesses. The Brazos Valley Symphony is extremely grateful to all these businesses for their support. After a few hours of intense bidding, the silent auction brought in additional revenue close to \$20,000, again, all in support of the non-profit Brazos Valley Symphony Society (BVSS).

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Each year, the Derby Day fundraiser has successfully provided funding to jump start the Brazos Valley Symphony Society's following season. Each concert has direct and indirect costs of approximately \$40,000 and the BVSS plans to present ten concerts in the 2009-2010 season. The revenue generated by Derby Day is just the tip of the iceberg with regards to what is needed to continue providing symphonic music as a cultural and educational enhancement to the community. The Brazos Valley Symphony is truly grateful for all donations and grants provided by individuals, businesses, and other organizations to aid in the support of this mission.

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About the Brazos Valley Symphony: The Brazos Valley Symphony is a non-profit performing arts organization with the mission to maintain a symphony of high artistic standards, and to promote the musical arts for cultural and education purposes in the Brazos Valley. For more information about the Symphony's 2008-2009 Season, please visit the Brazos Valley Symphony Web site at www.bvso.org.

The Brazos Valley Symphony Society wishes to recognize and thank our programming sponsors, grant funding providers, and charitable trust contributors:

This program made possible in part through Hotel
Tax Revenue funded from the City of College
Station through the Arts Council of Brazos Valley.



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