

OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL TO HONOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS AT UPCOMING TRIBUTE EVENT February 11, 2012

December 14, 2011 – The Ojai Music Festival’s Board of Directors will recognize the important contributions of its Board of Governors at an evening benefit and concert, *To Ojai With Love*, on February 11, 2012 at the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa. Ojai Valley residents and Board of Governors co-chairs, Kate Barnhart and Bill Shanbrom, will accept the honors during a special ceremony on behalf of the members of the Festival’s Board of Governors.

Re-established in 2004, the Festival’s Board of Governors comprise of a group of 26 community leaders who provide advocacy, strategic guidance, and vital financial support that underwrites the Festival’s innovative, risk-taking programs, bringing the Festival and Ojai international renown. Over the past 7 years, the group has raised \$1 million in support of the Festival, in addition to supporting the campaign to rebuild Libbey Bowl.

The organization has grown in importance under the leadership of its two co-chairs. Kate Barnhart has been a member of the Festival Board of Directors, where she worked to advance the *BRAVO!* Music Education Program in the 90’s, which provides Ojai Valley public school children with free music workshops throughout the year. In July 2010, Barnhart, along with Cathryn Krause, co-chaired the Libbey Bowl’s “Last Gasp Party,” and almost a year later, she co-chaired the opening of the new Libbey Bowl at the “First Blast Party” in June 2011. Kate is President of *Barnhart and Barnhart Insurance Services, Inc.* Bill Shanbrom has also been a member of the Festival Board of Directors, where he served in several key leadership positions over the past twenty years to raise critical funds for the Festival’s building renovation, endowment campaign, debt elimination campaign, as well as the initial phases of the Libbey Bowl project. Bill continues to serve on a number of Festival committees. He is President of *Shanbrom, Casey and Associates*, a local insurance agency.

The tribute event on February 11 will feature dinner and an exclusive piano recital by famed conductor Robert Spano of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and past Festival Music Director who was in Ojai during the 60th anniversary in 2006. Spano, who will take the helm as Music Director at the Aspen Music Festival in the summer of 2012, will reveal his talent as both pianist and composer, performing works by Leonard Bernstein, Johannes Brahms and the west coast premiere of one his own compositions. Joining him will be the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra’s principal clarinetist Laura Ardan.

To add another special element to this Festival event, the planning committee has created several one-of-a-kind patron packages ranging from private studio gallery tours and gatherings with celebrities to rare musical performances.

To learn more about the special patron packages and sponsor levels, call (805) 646-2094 ext. 105 or online at OjaiFestival.org.

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