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CHILDREN'S CHORUS OF GREATER DALLAS CELEBRATE 4TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA

*Dinner, guest speakers and concert planned
to help the chorus raise funds for music education*

DALLAS, Texas (January 11, 2010) – The Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas (CCGD), a premier 500 plus youth member chorus, is hosting their 4th annual benefit gala, *Cause for Song*, on February 28, 2010 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. The evening opens with dinner, silent auction, two guest speakers and concludes with a concert titled *A World of Song*. The chorus welcomes guest speakers, Doug Adams, Dallas Symphony Orchestra President, and Julia Hosch, a chorister in her 9th and final year with the chorus, who will share their stories and experiences with music and the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas.

Hosch, a senior and drum major at Highland Park High School (HPHS), has performed in renowned venues with the chorus from the Meyerson Symphony Center to St. Peter's Basilica. The All-State French Horn player has toured to Canada, Carnegie Hall and across Italy throughout her years with chorus. At the age of 14, Hosch coordinated writing and composing a piece with friends from CCGD that was performed at the Mesquite Arts Center.

"The chorus has taught me how to be a good leader," said Hosch, vice president of HPHS National Honor Society, in charge of coordinating service projects. "Being in the chorus allowed me to experience first hand how much one person can make a difference in a group. In a choir, every single person matters."

According to the Chorus America 2009 Chorus Impact Study, children who sing in a community choir are strongly correlated with qualities that are associated with success like leadership, self-discipline and self-confidence. With the recession, many schools are cutting music and arts programs. Recognizing this trend, CCGD offers the opportunity to bridge

this gap in the Dallas community by providing a cultural and artistic arts experience to children with a love for music.

"Our goal is to serve the community," says Terry Harley, CCGD Executive Director. "In the end, the school wins, the choir wins and more importantly, the kids win."

In 2007, the chorus began the Neighborhood Choir Program that creates music education partnerships with schools in underserved areas. In its third year, the program has added four more choirs to CCGD's six existing choirs. The Neighborhood Choir Program, held at the St. Monica School, consists of youth from the West Dallas Community School, St. Mary of Carmel and the Northwest Dallas School.

For more information about the gala and concert, visit www.childrenschorus.org/gala.

About the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas

The chorus was founded in 1996 to give Dallas-area children the experience of musical artistry and excellence, in a group reflecting the diversity of the Metroplex. The chorus includes singers in the fourth through twelfth grades. Six choruses — Prelude, Apprentice, Concert I, Concert II, the Youth Chorus, and the Women's Youth Chorus — rehearse on Monday evenings in downtown Dallas. In addition, CCGD sponsors four Neighborhood Choruses at schools in west and northwest Dallas. The Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas performs extensively in North Texas and more recently, was a guest performer for the AT&T Performing Arts Center opening ceremonies. Its choruses have also been guest performers with the Dallas Opera, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Bach Society, Orpheus Chamber Singers, the Mesquite Civic Chorus, and Voices of Change. They have also been featured performers at festivals in the U.S. and Canada, including a 2005 performance at Carnegie Hall, New York City, and a 2006 performance in the Vatican. In 2007, they were featured on national radio program "From the Top." For more information, visit www.thechildrenschorus.org

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