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NEWS RELEASE

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Lewis Family Playhouse Continues its “Artist in Residence” Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rancho Cucamonga, California - Thanks to a grant from the Rancho Cucamonga Community Foundation, the Lewis Family Playhouse will continue its Artist in Residence program by providing musical composition workshops at Coyote Canyon Elementary School in Rancho Cucamonga. The workshops, given by Teaching Artist Ann Noriel of Southland Opera, will be taught in conjunction with the MainStreet Theatre Company production of *Cinderella*. The residency will take place from January 13th – February 3rd, 2010.

In this standards-based, sequential workshop series, students will actively participate in the creation of original lyrics, and then use those lyrics in a song. Using songs from MainStreet’s *Cinderella*, students will learn about the process of creating a musical work of art. Students participating in the workshops will also see *Cinderella* as part of a school field trip. “We are so pleased to be able to offer these workshops to the kids at Coyote Canyon,” said Mireya Hepner, who coordinates the program. “This grant from the Rancho Cucamonga Community Foundation allows us to enhance and deepen students’ experience and understanding of what it takes to create a musical theatre piece. Ann Noriel is a real pro and we’re thrilled to be able to use her expertise to bring this experience to our local schools. We’re hoping to be able to do a similar set of workshops for another lucky school this spring in conjunction with MainStreet’s production of *Treasure Island*.”

Ann Noriel tours nationally as a principal artist with Opera a la Carte in all of their major productions and highlights concerts. She has also performed with Opera Pacific singing on their main stage as well as performing leading roles in *Cinderella*, *Così fan Tutte*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Oklahoma!* with their Overture Company. Ms. Noriel works with Music Center on Tour as a teaching artist and teaches short-term and long-term (14-week) residencies on music composition, vocal production and performance. She also teaches song writing to classroom teachers through their teacher-training program. For the past twelve years, she has worked as Executive Director of Southland Opera, touring

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with five original productions. Ms. Noriel also creates workshops and residencies for the Orange County Performing Arts Center and several Los Angeles and Orange County school districts and performing arts centers. Since the company's inception, in 1997, Southland Opera has had over 7,000 performances and workshops for over one and a half million people.

Ms. Noriel has worked with Los Angeles Opera's Community Programs; her most recent project was the lead role in the world premiere of *The Letter*. She recently did a residency at the University of California, Irvine playing the role of Edith Fromage in the world premiere of *'dentity Crisis* by composer Jason V. Barabba. She will once again be doing a world premiere for Mr. Barabba this May 2010 with the Ensemble Green.

The City of Rancho Cucamonga created the MainStreet Theatre Company in 2006 to provide imaginative productions specifically for children, school groups and families. To date, over 70,000 children and families have attended a production. The MainStreet Theatre Company is the only professional Theatre for Young Audiences Company in the Inland Empire, and the only company in Southern California producing such high quality shows for children as their primary focus. *Cinderella*, a musical with book by Phylis Ravel and music and lyrics by David Coleman, is the second show of MainStreet's 4th Season.

Cinderella is appropriate for ages six years and up, runs Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., and one Sunday matinee February 7th at 1:00 p.m., which will also be interpreted in American Sign Language. Tickets are priced at \$16.50 for General Admission, \$14.50 for Seniors, and \$13.50 for Youth up to age twelve. Specially priced \$8 tickets are available during the Target Family Weekend performances on January 30th. For tickets, call the Lewis Family Playhouse Box Office at (909) 477-2752, or (877) 858-8422, or visit www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com. Become a fan of the MainStreet Theatre Company at www.facebook.com/MainStreetTheatreCompany.

An intimate, 536-seat venue, the Lewis Family Playhouse is the crown jewel of the three-acre, 89,000-square foot Victoria Gardens Cultural Center. The complex at 12505 Cultural Center Drive is conveniently located off the I-15 at Foothill Boulevard, as a major anchor of Victoria Gardens. The Box Office is open Monday through Thursday from noon to 6:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with free parking available.

For More Information - For additional information, please call the Lewis Family Playhouse Box Office at (909) 477-2752, or (877) 858-8422, or visit www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com.

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