

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 3, 2024

Contact: Georgia Berkovich 310.383.1795

gberkovich@midnightmission.org

STREET SYMPHONY BRINGS RESOUND FESTIVAL & 9th ANNUAL MESSIAH PROJECT TO SKID ROW

RE/SOUND /ra'zound (of a sound, voice, etc.) A reference to "repeat the sounding joy", from Joy To The World, related to how all of us come together to create a "symphony" - "sound together" as a community!

We are delighted that Street Symphony is bringing their RE/Sound Festival to The Midnight Mission on Friday, December 6, 2024, from 10 am to 5 pm. The day-long event will include music and volunteer service. Volunteers will help us serve lunch and Skid Row advocacy organizations, including the Department of Public Health, will offer hygiene kits, vaccinations and Narcan training, and much more.

RE/Sound will present live, free musical performances from over three dozen world-class, LA-based musical artists, such as *Son California, Street Symphony Chamber Singers, Las Chorizeras* and more. The festival will also include a sing-along performance of Handel's oratorio, *Messiah*, led by the organization's founder, 2018 MacArthur Fellow and former LA Phil violinist Vijay Gupta. The 9th annual *Messiah Project* is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Street Symphony's 9th annual Messiah Project will take place in the gym from 2:00PM to 4:00 PM. Each year since 2015, Street Symphony has presented the "Messiah Project" which is a culmination of months of lessons, rehearsals, and workshops in the community - and an opportunity for musicians throughout LA County to not only make music, but to serve, listen and collaborate with our neighbors in Skid Row. The VIPs for this event will be members of the Skid Row community, including clients and residents from our community partner organizations. The event will also be livestreamed. Register here Street Symphony | Kindful.

Since its founding in 2011, Street Symphony has presented thousands of world-class musical performances in Skid Row shelters and clinics, as well as in county jails, state prisons and reentry centers, creating pathways toward relationship, renewal, reentry, and recovery. The Messiah Project has been featured in numerous national press outlets such as *The New Yorker*, NPR, and *The Los Angeles Times*. This year's program will be featured in a radio piece for BBC Radio 3 on Sunday, December 22, 2024.

Music is more than entertainment: it's a lifeline. And for those of us at Street Symphony who believe in the power of music to heal, our responsibility has always been to the community of Skid Row. In Skid Row, the arts are vital — as a pathway to self-authorship and reentry, to sobriety and relationship. In our fragmented world, music holds up a mirror to our very best selves, to our values, our hopes, and our collective dignity.



Street Symphony Founder Vijay Gupta said, "Street Symphony offers music: music, that loving soul-food, offered from a place of intimate connection and care in the face of pain, not aimed to fix, preach or redeem, but to welcome the most fragile and vulnerable parts of ourselves into a place of welcome - to witness and take part in mutual healing."

The event is FREE and ALL are welcome!

PARKING INFORMATION:

- Joe's Auto Parks 400 East 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA. 90014 (Corner of Wall Street and 7th Street)
- Maple Intermodal Parking 636 Maple Avenue, Los Angeles, CA. 90014 (Maple Ave., Between 6th Street and 7th Street)
- Joe's Auto Parks 212 East 7th Street, Los Angeles, CA. 90014 (on Southwest corner of Maple Street and 7th Street)

About Street Symphony: Street Symphony, directed by Violinist Vijay Gupta, brings live musical outreach and educational workshops to audiences without access to the arts, throughout Southern California. Street Symphony ensembles perform at LA County Jails and homeless shelters in downtown Los Angeles, as well as public events for the community-at-large, aimed to raise awareness for issues of mental health, incarceration, and homelessness. Their mission at large is to bring music to the most underserved communities throughout L.A. For more information about Street Symphony, please visit http://streetsymphony.org/.

About The Midnight Mission: Founded in 1914, The Midnight Mission offers paths to self-sufficiency to individuals and families who have lost direction. Our emergency services and 12-step recovery, family living, job training, education and workforce development programs offer a compassionate bridge to achieve and maintain healthy, productive lives. We remove obstacles and provide the accountability and structure that people experiencing homelessness need to be productive in their communities. Our conviction and commitment to their success define us. For additional information, please visit www.midnightmission.org.