

HEADLINERS ADDED TO 'THANK YOU MYRA' DAYS GRAND GALA

Two-day celebration will also feature a Community Day Open House at the Phil

Broadway stars Brian Stokes Mitchell and Kelli O'Hara and celebrated Metropolitan Opera soprano Harolyn Blackwell have been added to the "Thank You Myra" Grand Gala at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts on January 14, 2012. The concert will feature the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra led by Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart, along with special guests and surprises.

The Grand Gala is part of "Thank You Myra" Days Weekend. Also included: a Community Day Open House on Sunday, January 15, from noon to 4 p.m., when the Phil opens its doors to the public for a fun-filled celebration of music and the arts.

Collier County and the City of Naples have proclaimed January 14-15, 2012 "Thank You Myra" Days as a tribute to Philharmonic Center founder Myra Janco Daniels, who retired in September.

The full list of activities for both the Grand Gala and Community Day is still being finalized. The Open House Community Day will feature a wide variety of events and attractions for guests of all ages, including backstage tours, admission to the Naples Museum of Art, glassblowing and jewelry demonstrations, a drumming exhibition, an instrument petting zoo, performances by the Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, the Philharmonic Youth Chorale and a jazz trio, food stations and much more. The Open House is designed for families and admission is free. Doors open at noon.

‘MYRA DAYS’ UPDATE/2

The January 14 Grand Gala will mark Keith Lockhart’s first appearance with the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra since he was named Boston Pops maestro in 1995. Lockhart was guest conductor of the NPO from 1993-95. Broadway leading man and concert hall favorite Brian Stokes Mitchell won a Tony Award as Best Actor in a Musical for his performance in *Kiss Me, Kate*. Kelli O’Hara has been nominated for three Tony Awards, most recently for *South Pacific*, and has headlined at Carnegie Hall, the Café Carlyle and many other venues. Renowned soprano Harolyn Blackwell has performed in numerous productions at the Metropolitan Opera and as a recitalist at leading concert halls around the world.

In conjunction with the weekend celebration, the Phil has launched the Myra Janco Daniels Legacy Fund, which is designed to sustain for the future the standards of excellence in the performing and visual arts established and nurtured by Myra Daniels over the past 30 years. Unlike other Philharmonic Center Funds, the Myra Janco Daniels Legacy Fund is a one-time request that will create a reserve that may be drawn, at the discretion of the Philharmonic Center Board of Directors, to support the Philharmonic Center through challenging times. A permanent donor wall will be created in the Philharmonic Center lobby to acknowledge major contributors to the Fund.

To learn more about the Myra Janco Daniels Legacy Fund or the Grand Gala concert, contact the Philharmonic Center’s Development Office at 254-2704.