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**THE IRISH TENORS AND MIRA AWAD
BRING NOTES OF PEACE FROM REGIONS OF CONFLICT
AT 2010 LIBERTY MEDAL CEREMONY**

Philadelphia, PA (September 9, 2010) – Renowned singing trio **The Irish Tenors** and Israeli-Palestinian singer **Mira Awad** will perform during the 2010 Liberty Medal ceremony at the National Constitution Center on Monday, September 13, 2010, honoring former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Both groups represent areas of the world where Tony Blair has demonstrated a commitment to promoting peace. The Liberty Medal ceremony will be broadcast live on WPVI-TV/6abc and webcast live on www.6abc.com.

The Irish Tenors will sing “Isle of Hope, Isle of Tears” and “Let There Be Peace,” Mira Awad will perform her song “Faith in the Light,” and students from **Girard Academic Music Program** will join Awad in a performance of “You Raise Me Up” to close the ceremony. **The John Byrne Band**, led by Dublin native John Byrne, who currently resides in the Philadelphia area, will perform at the President’s Reception prior to the ceremony.

President Bill Clinton, Chair of the National Constitution Center, will award the Liberty Medal to former Prime Minister Blair in recognition of his steadfast commitment to conflict resolution. Blair played a critical role in advancing peace in Northern Ireland during his tenure as British prime minister. Throughout the grueling negotiation process that preceded the historic Good Friday Accord, he displayed unwavering determination to settle the generations-long conflict. Since leaving government, former Prime Minister Blair has continued to facilitate productive dialogue between diverse groups, as Quartet Representative to the Middle East for the United Nations and through the Tony Blair Faith Foundation.

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ADD ONE/LIBERTY MEDAL PERFORMERS

The Irish Tenors will perform with their original lineup of Finbar Wright, Anthony Kearns, and Ronan Tynan.

Finbar Wright, tenor, songwriter, and poet, was born in Kinsale, County Cork, Ireland. His musical education began at the age of six and he later studied music theory at The Cork School of Music. Wright has recorded six solo albums and six albums with The Irish Tenors. He has performed around the world in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, and for historical events, including the reading of the Gospel at Pope John Paul II's first Papal Mass at Phoenix Park, Dublin in 1979; the State Dinner given in honor of President Bill Clinton at Dublin Castle in 1995; and on Good Morning America during its coverage of President Ronald Reagan's funeral on Capitol Hill in 2004.

Anthony Kearns was born in a small Irish village in County Wexford. He studied at Leinster School of Music and The College of Music in Wales. A true lyric Irish tenor, he has performed as part of The Irish Tenors since their inception in 1998, participating in several successful tours of the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Kearns can be heard on The Irish Tenors' ten CDs, which have sold millions of copies. As a solo artist, Kearns has toured Germany, Italy, and the US, and is a popular presence in Ireland's music scene.

Ronan Tynan did not seriously consider formal voice study until the age of 33, when he was well into his residency as a physician. Born with a lower limb disability, Tynan's legs had to be amputated below the knee when he was 20. Within a year, he was winning gold medals in the Paralympics. Tynan became the first disabled person ever admitted to the National College of Physical Education, later becoming a medical doctor specializing in orthopedic sports injuries. Tynan made his operatic debut as Pinkerton in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. He won both the John McCormack Cup for Tenor Voice and the International Operatic Singing Competition in Maumarde, France. He joined The Irish Tenors in 1998.

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ADD TWO/LIBERTY MEDAL PERFORMERS

Israeli-Palestinian singer and songwriter **Mira Awad** was born in Rama village in the Galilee to a Palestinian father and a Bulgarian mother. She studied at the Rimon School for Jazz and Contemporary Music. Awad has collaborated with a wide range of world-famous musicians, including Israel's Noa (Achinoam Nini) and Idan Raichel, Greek singer George Dalaras, and Israeli hip hop artist Guy Mar. She represented Israel in the Eurovision song contest in 2009, alongside Noa, with the song "There Must be Another Way" from their duet album of the same name, released by Universal Music. Awad's debut solo album, "Bahlawan-Acrobat," was released in May 2009, and was produced by Israeli guitarist Amos Ever-Hadani. Awad was recently signed to Sony Spain and is currently working on her second album with Spanish producer Carlos Jean. Awad identifies with the agenda of dialogue and co-existence between the Jewish and the Palestinian people, and has dedicated most of her career to raising a call for peace.

The Girard Academic Music Program (GAMP) provides a unique educational environment that allows students in grades 5 through 12 to pursue music as a major subject. As a learning community that strives for academic and musical excellence, GAMP is committed to the continued development of an educational environment in which all students succeed. All students participate in a choir activity in which they study a variety of choral repertoires, ranging from Classical and Jazz to Pop and Broadway music. The Concert Choir has traveled and performed extensively, including performances in San Francisco, Colorado, Montreal, Florida, the Bahamas, a two week tour of Italy, and a two week tour of Germany and France. Notable performances include singing for President Clinton and Governor Rendell, performing with Peter Nero and the Philly Pops, regular appearances at the Kimmel Center, and performing with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Concerto Soloists, and Singing City Community Choir.

The John Byrne Band is led by Dublin native John Byrne, whose influences range from The Chieftains to Planxty to Bob Dylan. Byrne's songwriting honors and expands on the musical and lyrical traditions of his native and adoptive homes. The John Byrne Band has toured with such diverse acts as The Hothouse Flowers, The Young Dubliners, Ian Gillan (of Deep Purple), Tempest, Gaelic Storm, Ceann, Ceili Rain, The Screaming Orphans, Black 47, and Enter the Haggis.

ADD THREE/LIBERTY MEDAL PERFORMERS

The public Liberty Medal ceremony will take place on Monday, September 13, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the National Constitution Center on Independence Mall in Historic Philadelphia. The ceremony will be broadcast live on WPVI-TV/6abc and webcast live on www.6abc.com.

The Liberty Medal was established in 1988 to commemorate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. Given annually, the medal honors men and women of courage and conviction who strive to secure the blessings of liberty to people around the globe.

Ira Lubert of Independence Capital Partners will sponsor the Liberty Medal Award in 2010, as he has for the past two years. Citizens Bank is the presenting sponsor for the President's Reception prior to the Liberty Medal ceremony. The City of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania also support the Liberty Medal. Christopher Bruner, Managing Partner of Ernst & Young; Steven M. Galbraith, Partner of Maverick Capital; and William R. Sasso, Chairman of Stradley Ronon, are co-chairs of the 2010 Liberty Medal, leading the committee in charge of generating support for the event.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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