

A Silver Celebration



cultural arts council of douglasville/douglas county

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For more information:
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MEDIA ALERT **THE 2010 GALA PERFORMERS ANNOUNCED**

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to showcase the talents of singer and songwriter Susan Hutcheson, along with a harp and flute duo during “A Silver Celebration: 1986-2011,” its annual Gala event, on Saturday, December 4th, from 6 until 10 p.m. at the Downtown Conference Center. Co-chaired by Marcita Scharnhorst of GreyStone Power and Virginia Pope, the Cultural Arts Council’s Founding President, the 2010 festivities celebrate the past 25 years of cultural services offered by the Cultural Arts Council since it was established in 1986. Gala goers will also enjoy a sumptuous buffet catered by Lori Bomar and Atlanta’s Finest, silent and live auctions, raffles and door prizes (including two beach island vacation getaways, a guitar signed by Travis Tritt, jewelry from Diamonds Forever, original art works created for the event by local artists, and much more), an open bar during the first hour of the event, and free champagne. Tickets are still available at \$60 per person (\$50 for CAC members) with tables for ten available for \$500.

Born and raised in Douglasville, Susan Hutcheson will perform “Magnolia’s Lament,” an original song written for the Cultural Arts Council where she served as an early interim director and where her mother was a founding Board member. Hutcheson began studying piano with Miss Gladys Adams in the Douglas County Schools, sang and played guitar in Atlanta area restaurants, and graduated from Douglas County High School. She attended Kennesaw State University where she earned a degree in Nursing. While working at Emory Hospital, Hutcheson and a friend Alicia Bridges wrote “I Love the Night Life,” which began a major disco hit during the 1970s, selling more than a million copies and being named a “Gold Record” in Canada. Now a New England resident, Hutcheson still works as a nurse and is studying cello with a master teacher. Musically, Hutcheson skillfully transforms piano and guitar voicings into rich melodic textures with a compelling and powerful grace. Her live shows offer a characteristic and original sound swiftly switching from an ethereal trance to jagged pop rhythms. In addition to her tribute to the Cultural Arts Center’s resident spirit, Susan Hutcheson will perform her original songs on guitar.

Based in Atlanta, professional harpist and music teacher Lisa Handman performs throughout the Southeast, providing music for wedding ceremonies, receptions, parties, conventions, corporate events, holiday parties, concerts, outdoor functions, grand openings, bar/bat Mitzvahs, open houses, rehearsal dinners, memorial services, and special occasions. She offers a splendid repertoire of Popular, Classical, New Age, Jazz, Celtic, Broadway, and varied religious music styles, playing upon her beautiful Pedal Harp, a rare Electric Harp, and a Celtic Harp. Her electric harp with its individually amplified strings and complete sound system, is the only one of its kind in the Atlanta area. Handman and her harps have been featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show, ABC's "20/20," the B98.5 Morning Show, and the soundtrack for "Interview with a Vampire." A Merit Scholar graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, she attended the prestigious Indiana University School of music and earned Her Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Montclair State University, where she studied with Rosalie Pratt, nationally renowned harpist. Her other teachers include Jane Weidensaul and Peter Eagle.

Originally from Athens, Georgia, Candace Keach has been principal flutist with the Macon Symphony for more than 20 years. She has been a featured soloist with this orchestra as well as with summer music festivals in Italy, Switzerland and France. Her orchestral experience has also included performances with the Atlanta Symphony, the Birmingham Symphony and the Greenville Symphony. She was principal flutist with the National Touring Company's "Phantom of the Opera" at the Fox. Candace is flute professor at Spelman College. Her own studies were at the University of Georgia and at the New England Conservatory in Boston. Candace is creative director of the SOS Crystal Bowl Choir and produced the therapeutic music CD, "As Above So Below," which has been embraced within the healing arts community as well as by mainstream music lovers.

"The Cultural Arts Council is delighted to have Susan Hutcheson come down from Massachusetts to help us celebrate our 25th anniversary," stated Laura C. Lieberman, Executive Director of the Arts Council. "We are also pleased to have appropriately 'silvery music' with the performance of harp and flute. It should be a magical evening for the arts this year, one no one will want to miss."

The newly elected President of the Board of Directors, Robby Pope added, "We are very grateful to all of the members of our Gala committee for making this happen. Organizing a fundraising event is fun -- and a lot of hard work. Their efforts will support quality arts activities in our community throughout the year."

Proceeds from the gala benefit will support programs and projects sponsored by the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County. Last year 44,000 people including more than 8,000 children and students participated in CAC programming activities. To purchase tickets and for more information, please contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770/949-2787 or visit our web site, www.artsdouglas.org.