

LOS ANGELES, CA, November 08, 2013 **/24-7PressRelease/** -- The LARK Musical Society will honor Dr. Nazareth and Dr. Ani Darakjian at the Society's annual fundraiser for their generous contributions to the Society throughout the years. The event will be hosted by LARK's Honorary Chairman Carl R. Terzian and held at the Jonathan Club in downtown Los Angeles, on November 24th, 2013.

"We are delighted to honor Dr. Nazareth and Dr. Ani Darakjian, said LARK Chairman of the Board Mr. Andy Torosyan. "In addition to their monetary contributions, they have also performed at events, enrolled their children in LARK's music programs and helped establish its Board of Directors."

The fundraiser will raise money for the LARK Musical Society to expand and convert one of its 4,000 sq. ft. buildings into the LARK Community Theater & Museum where Armenian culture, rich history and heritage, and the performing arts will be celebrated. The museum will also exhibit original Armenian historical documents, treasures and themed lectures that go back hundreds of years.

Dr. Nazareth E. Darakjian was born in Aleppo, Syria. At the age of 13 his family moved to Beirut, Lebanon, where he received his high school diploma from the Armenian Evangelical College. He continued his education at the American University of Beirut, where he received his Bachelor of Science in 1974 before entering the A.U.B. Medical School. In 1976 escalations in the civil war in Lebanon forced him and his family to emigrate to Chicago. There, he continued his medical education at the Loyola University School of Medicine, receiving his M.D. Cum Laude in 1978. He was also inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and the Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society. He further carried out his postgraduate studies in Ophthalmology, again at Loyola University of Chicago. In 1982 Dr. Darakjian moved to Southern California, where he started a private practice specializing in diseases and surgery of the eye.

Dr. Ani Darakjian was born in Aleppo, Syria. Her family moved to Beirut, Lebanon when she was 2 years of age. There, she received her elementary education at the Beirut Evangelical School for Girls and her High School diploma from the Armenian Evangelical College. In 1974 she moved with her family to Chicago and attended the University of Illinois, where she received her Bachelor of Science in 1978. At the University she became a James scholar and was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi honors society. She was further accepted to Rush Medical College from where she received her M.D. in 1982. Dr. Darakjian moved with her husband to Southern California in 1982, where she completed her residency in Diagnostic Radiology at Kaiser Foundation hospital. Currently she is a partner physician with the Southern California Permanente Medical Group and a staff radiologist at their Los Angeles Medical Center.

Founded in 1989, the LARK Musical Society is the musical and cultural brain trust for the Armenian community in Los Angeles. At LARK, students study, research, create and publish music that is valued, and performed by young and old. LARK instills the beauty of Armenian heritage, history and culture in the hearts and minds of the next generation and ensures that its collective voice will reverberate in the Diaspora for years to come. Through the beauty of music, LARK aims to win the hearts and minds of children in the Armenian community, strengthening the roots and preserving the Armenian identity in Los Angeles. In addition, the museum will give non-Armenians a place to learn more about Armenian culture, traditions and the arts.