

News Release

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Dateline: March 6, 2013: Hope Happens for Neurological Disorders proudly presents the **9th Annual Evening of Hope** to be held at the Sheldon Concert Hall, Thursday, April 18, 2013. The evening features a group with global appeal which has never before been seen in St. Louis: Award winning film maker and composer Kenji Williams and BELLA GAIA, showcasing inspiring music and dance performances against a backdrop of orbiting visualizations of Earth from space.



BELLA GAIA is an awe-inspiring live multimedia performance of projected NASA visualizations of Earth from Space, with live music and dance from around the world. The award winning BELLA GAIA illuminates the connections between natural systems and human activities and transforms complex scientific data into an accessible audio-visual experience. For more information about the performance and a BELLA GAIA media kit, go to www.bellagaia.com.

Corporate sponsorships for the **9th Annual Evening of Hope** range from Principal Sponsors at \$20,000 and over to Silver Sponsors at \$2,500 for a table of ten. Tickets begin at \$250 each and include the entire evening of cocktails at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm, the concert at 8:00 pm, and dessert with the artist following the performance. Concert-only tickets may be purchased through MetroTix.com for \$35 each.

Proceeds from the event support the **Hope Center for Neurological Disorders at Washington University School of Medicine**. The Center pursues innovative and groundbreaking ideas for research with a clear potential to improve the diagnosis and treatment of patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, stroke, and epilepsy, as well as brain and spinal cord injury.

Hope Happens is pleased to announce that Heather and Rocky Kroeger and Cindy and Will Haines are co-chairs for the **9th Annual Evening of Hope**. The event committee continues to work diligently to make the ninth annual production the best yet. This year's Spirit of Hope Award recipient is Mrs. Jean Hobler, founding member of Hope Happens. Mrs. Hobler will receive the award for her outstanding commitment and dedication to bring awareness to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). ALS,

more commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a neurodegenerative disease that attacks nerve cells and pathways in the brain and spinal cord.

Toby Martin, Board President of Hope Happens, said: "The Hope Center is making significant progress in many important areas of research—which one day will lead to cures that affect the 7900 people diagnosed with a neurological disorder each day, over twice the number of those diagnosed with cancer."

The Hope Center began in 2004 as a partnership between Washington University School of Medicine and Hope Happens. Christopher Hobler, creator of the public charity, unfortunately lost his battle with ALS in 2005. Today the Center assists the work of more than 100 faculty and over 500 scientists with shared research facilities and an annual distribution of seed money.

"With the collaborative research being done at the Hope Center, answers will be found for those who have lost hope," according to **Jean Hobler**, Christopher Hobler's mother.

About Hope Happens: Hope Happens is a public charity dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with neurodegenerative disorders by promoting collaborative research with the potential to fast-track cures by translating basic scientific breakthroughs into new therapies. For more information: www.hopehappens.org, info@hopehappens.org, or (314) 725-3888.

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