



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 5, 2012

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Digital Photos available upon request; view at [chicagotap.org](http://chicagotap.org)

## CHICAGO HUMAN RHYTHM PROJECT HONORS SUSAN AND TED OPPENHEIMER Annual JUBALEE Gala October 29 Raises More Than \$200,000

The [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](http://chicagotap.org) (CHRP), the world's first year-round presenter of American tap dance and contemporary percussive arts, launched its 23rd season with [JUBALEE](#), its annual gala benefit supporting performance, education and community programs. This special evening, hosted by broadcast legend and civic leader **Bill Kurtis**, took place October 29 at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park. Attended by more than 200 people, the event raised more than \$200,000 from a combination of ticket sales, silent and live auction proceeds, table sponsorships, raffle ticket sales, and individual and corporate contributions.

A highlight of the evening was when Charles Gardner contributed \$100,000 to have a studio at the American Rhythm Center—CHRP's new collaborative space for rehearsal, administration and education programs located in the historic Fine Arts Building—named The Patti Selander Eylar Michigan Avenue Studio in honor of his wife.

### JUBA Award and performances

At this year's JUBALEE, CHRP honored **Susan and Ted Oppenheimer**, longtime supporters of the arts and public education. Susan served as CHRP Board Chair from 2008 to 2009 and led the strategic planning session that resulted in the establishment this year of the American Rhythm Center, providing rehearsal, administrative and education program space for nine leading cultural institutions in the Fine Arts Building. Ted is president of the Oppenheimer Family Foundation, established in 1933 and best known for its Teacher Incentive Grant (TIG) program, which underwrites the outstanding efforts of Chicago Public School teachers who enhance and enrich the educational lives of their students through project-based learning.

The evening began with a cocktail reception and a silent auction, followed by performances featuring CHRP's resident ensemble [BAM!](#), [Kalapriya](#), [FootworKINGz](#) and some of Chicago's finest percussive dance artists. Surprise performers to honor the Oppenheimers were Broadway performer Ted Louis Levy accompanied by jazz legend Willie Pickens. The evening concluded with dinner, a live auction and a dessert reception where guests met the performers.

Honorary Chairs were **Richard and Diane Weinberg**. Gala co-chairs were CHRP board members **Michael Foster and Diana E. Harris**.

CHRP's 2012 JUBALEE gala benefit was sponsored by Live Marketing, DotPress, Lakeside Bank, Jewell Catering, Absolut Vodka, Rodinia, Chicago Sweet Connection Bakery and Rent Com.

### About Chicago Human Rhythm Project

Founded in 1990, [Chicago Human Rhythm Project](http://chicagotap.org) (CHRP) builds community by presenting American tap dance and contemporary percussive arts in world-class and innovative performance, education and community outreach

programs. During the last 22 years, CHRP has produced multiple community-based collaborations involving shared revenue programs, concerts and touring opportunities, including:

- annual National Tap Dance Day concerts, featuring an array of tap and percussive dance artists
- a shared revenue program designed to assist Chicago's budding tap community to build capacity through audience development, created in 2001
- Thanks 4 Giving, another innovative shared revenue program launched in 2005 as part of its annual Global Rhythms concerts at the Harris Theater, through which CHRP has partnered with more than 100 Chicago-based nonprofits to raise funds for a wide variety of service agencies
- participation in the 5th Anniversary Beijing International Dance Festival, assembling 70 artists to represent the United States
- establishment of the American Rhythm Center (ARC), providing a shared, affordable and sustainable education, rehearsal and administrative facility for several leading Chicago arts organizations in the historic Fine Arts Building
- curating the first ever, full-length performance of concert tap dance on a main stage of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on December 7, 2012

CHRP's vision is to establish the first global center for American tap and percussive arts, which will create a complete ecosystem of education, performance, creation and community in a state-of-the-art facility uniting generations of diverse artists and the general public.

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