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FOR APPROVAL

ANGEL ROMERO AND EDDIE STEEPLES TO ATTEND FINALS OF 2009 JOSÉ ITURBI INTL MUSIC COMPETITION ON JUNE 19

Event Awards Largest Cash Prizes (\$250,000) of any Classical Music Contest

LOS ANGELES, June 15, 2009 – Famed Spanish maestro of the guitar Angel Romero and popular actor/musician Eddie Steeples (“My Name Is Earl”) will participate in the award ceremony at the Singers final rounds of “The Third Annual José Iturbi International Music Competition” at UCLA on Friday evening, June 19, it was announced today by Donelle Dadigan, President of the José Iturbi Foundation.

The José Iturbi Foundation’s competition awards the largest cash prizes (more than \$250,000) of any classical piano and singing competition worldwide. Some journalists have described the competition as “Classical Idol” since the competition gives cash prizes for “people’s choice” awards in addition to the prizes voted by the ten “world class” judges. This year’s 48 competitors range in age from 19 to 32, hail from 14 countries and were selected from hundreds of applicants in 39 countries. Six finalists will compete in the Singers Finals.

Hailed as the Spanish maestro of the guitar and a popular conductor of orchestras worldwide, Angel Romero was honored by the Recording Academy in 2007 with a President’s Merit Award for his significant contributions to the music world. He is also noted for his achievements in the film industry. In 1989, he performed the entire Oscar®-winning score for Robert Redford’s “The Milagro Bean Field War.”

Eddie Steeples is famous for his supporting role in the offbeat comedy series “My Name Is Earl.” A passionate musician, Steeples performs with the hip-hop outfit No Surrender. He first received national recognition for his starring role as the “Rubberband Man” in a series of commercials for OfficeMax in 2004. He was named one of People’s Sexiest Men of 2004.

The José Iturbi International Music Competition takes place June 15-20 at UCLA’s Schoenberg Hall. Sponsors of the 2009 José Iturbi International Music Competition include The Beverly Hilton, California Bank and Trust, The Hollywood Museum and Steinway & Sons.

Matthew Epstein, Daniel Pollack, Carol Vaness, Eduardo Delgado, Bruce Sutherland, Vladimir Viardo, Oxana Yablonska, Marvelee Cariaga, Sharon Daniels and Robin Thompson and have been confirmed as the 10 “world class” judges for the event. Famed accompanist Martin Katz participates with the finalists on June 19.

This is the only classical competition in which competitors are required to sing works of famed American composers George Gershwin or Cole Porter in addition to opera arias as well as perform piano works of famed composers including Beethoven, Chopin and Tchaikovsky.

More information about the competition is available at www.joseiturbifoundation.org. Tickets are available online at www.tickets.ucla.edu or by calling the UCLA Central Ticket Office at : (310) 825-2101).

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