



MEDIA RELEASE

Arts Orange County's 11th Annual Orange County Arts Awards

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Orange County Performing Arts Center's Samueli Theater, Costa Mesa

Events Honors Six Artists & Visionaries and a Foundation for Lifetime Achievement

with the Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award

July 9, 2010, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA – Arts Orange County has announced the 2010 Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award Honorees. They are Allen Adham, Michael Morhaime and Frank Pearce, Founders of Blizzard Entertainment; Dick Dale, the *King of Surf Guitar*; jazz saxophonist Eric Marienthal; Carol Wilken, arts patron and community volunteer; and The Orange County Community Foundation, in recognition of its 20th anniversary and longstanding support for the arts in our community.

Blizzard Founders Adham, Morhaime and Pearce are industry leaders in the creation and development of digital entertainment with a track record of back-to-back #1-selling games spanning more than a decade. Blizzard's blockbuster hits include *World of Warcraft*®, *Warcraft*® III: *Reign of Chaos*®, *Diablo*® II, and *StarCraft*®, games that are played by millions of subscribers worldwide.

Dick Dale and the Del-Tones were Rendezvous Ballroom regulars in the 1950s when he created his signature surf guitar sound. Dale's left hand, guitar upside down style of play is brutal on the instrument and gave his surfing buddy Leo Fender the feedback needed to develop the legendary Fender Stratocaster Electric Guitar. His iconic hit *Misirlou* is featured in a number of movies, television shows and commercials.

From the Disneyland Band to 10 solo albums, Eric Marienthal has enjoyed a successful career as an in-demand session player for hundreds of recordings, a member of bands led by Al Hirt, Chick Corea and Gordon Goodwin among others, and an inspirational educator. His musical output is so prolific that it is probable that anyone listening to musical media today – from radio, movies and television – has heard Eric play. Along with Master Classes, Marienthal's work as an educator includes publication of 3 instructional books and 3 videos.

Carol Wilken has been a fixture of Orange County's volunteer scene since moving to the area in the 1970's with involvement in the arts, education and human services. Wilken's earliest participation began with The Guilds, a network of support groups across the county raising funds to build what would become the Orange County Performing Arts Center. Wilken joined the Center's Board its opening year and continues as Vice Chair of Education. Wilken's work helps provide school children with arts experiences both at special performances at the Center and in schools throughout the county.

Since its founding in 1989, the Orange County Community Foundation has helped to steward the dreams and legacies of Orange County's generous citizens working with individuals, families and business leaders to match their charitable interests with the needs of our community and the causes closest to

their hearts. The Orange County Community Foundation ranks in the top 5% among the more the 750 community foundations across the U.S.

The Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award is presented in recognition for a lifetime of extraordinary artistic vision, dedication and support for the arts in Orange County. The award is named for Madame Modjeska, a preeminent Shakespearian actress who in the late 1800's made Orange County her home. At the awards ceremony the honorees will receive the *Spark of Imagination* bronze sculpted by Christopher Schulz.

The Orange County Arts Awards will be presented Wednesday evening, September 22, 2010 at the Samueli Theater, Segerstrom Center of the Arts in Costa Mesa. The Arts Awards are open to the public. Tickets will be available later in the summer.

Arts Orange County is the county's official arts council and local partner for the California Arts Council. For additional information, contact Richard Stein, Executive Director, Arts Orange County, (714) 556-5160, ext. 17 or via email: rstein@artsoc.org.