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MEDIA RELEASE

Living Every Moment - A night of song for Hospice

Otago's star attraction, the Dunedin Chinese Garden, will provide the perfect back drop for a night of top class performance during Easter weekend when SBS Bank Dunedin and the Otago Community Hospice present an exceptional fundraising event.

Living Every Moment will be a night to remember with performances from some of New Zealand's finest singers. We welcome Jud Arthur back to his home town to sing for the first time in a number of years. Jud is looking forward to entertaining you with some old favourites and some new material with his amazing supporting singers who are star soloists in their own right - Simon Green and Emma Fraser from Dunedin and Auckland based entertainer Chris Powley.

Otago Community Hospice chief executive officer Ginny Green said her team was delighted to have the ongoing support of SBS Bank and linking the evening of song with Dunedin's star attraction – the Chinese Garden – was a perfect complement of both sound and surrounds.

“Because the majority of our work is funded through donations, we know the proceeds from this fabulous event will be put to extremely good use. Every bit counts when it comes to ensuring our patients and their families are given the greatest of care and support at a time when they most need it. We are also delighted to be able to publically launch our revitalised brand – Living Every Moment – it's truly what hospice is all about.”

“We are extremely grateful to all the people in our community who continue to support the Otago Community Hospice with initiatives like our upcoming Living Every Moment night. We hope everyone comes along and supports the show - it really will be an event not to be missed,” Ms Green said.

Dunedin Mayor and Chinese Garden Trustee Peter Chin said he was delighted to see such an innovative use of the gardens for a great community cause.

“The Dunedin Chinese Garden is now a well-established, key tourism attraction for visitors to our city and finding new and original ways of sharing the fantastic surrounds of our garden is extremely appealing.

“I am certain everyone in attendance at the Living Every Moment Concert will be captivated not only by the music but by the whole atmosphere created by the performers and their surrounds,” Mr Chin said.

SBS Bank Dunedin manager Andrew Kilsby said the *Living Every Moment* event was another great way SBS Bank could give back to the community and, as a major sponsor of the Dunedin Chinese Garden, it was a wonderful way to dovetail two great community sponsorships together for the ongoing benefit of each other.

“We’re always looking for new ways and means to provide our customers and our communities with added benefits and support. It’s what being a New Zealand, customer-owned bank is about.

“We’re really excited to be able help out Ginny and her wonderful team with the proceeds from our upcoming event and it is particularly appropriate to have a former Otago boy returning to his old stomping ground with Jud as our leading act,” Mr Kilsby said.

A former professional sportsman, which included provincial level rugby and basketball for Otago, Arthur’s promising sporting career ended following a knee injury. He turned to opera and, now based in Sydney, he is one of Australasia’s leading bass-baritones who works predominantly with Opera Australia, along with other professional companies in Australia and New Zealand.

Arthur will be joined by Queenstown-based, Dunedin born singer Simon Green, Auckland’s Chris Powley and Dunedin’s well known young soprano Emma Fraser.

Mr Kilsby and Ms Green said the event had been designed as really special night out like no other staged before.

“We’re planning a real ‘Living for the Moment’ occasion with everything turned on for our guests. It’s going to be a celebration of life, music, friends, community and fun, so we want it to be a full house,” Ms Green said.

Living Every Moment will be held at the Dunedin Chinese Garden on Sunday 4 April, starting at 5pm. Due to the protection of the venue, there will be no formal seating and deck chairs will not be allowed. Concert goers are encouraged to bring a cushion and a warm jacket. Tickets are available from Ticketdirect from 19 February and the \$120 cost includes the show, programme, food and beverages during the night. www.ticketdirect.co.nz

The concert is proudly supported by Strawberry Sound and Scenic Circle.

NB: Photos available of Jud Arthur, Simon Green, Chris Powley and Emma Fraser, please contact melissa.chilton@sbs.net.nz

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