



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Renowned Opera Singer and PACC Artist in Residence
to join cast of Music to Cure MS**

Raising Funds to Support the Accelerated Cure Project for Multiple Sclerosis for 13 Years

9/28/15 - ARLINGTON, MA - Renowned opera singer Joanna Porackova, an Artist in Residence at Arlington's Park Avenue Congregational Church, will join a wonderful cast of musicians on the program of this year's *Music to Cure MS*. Organized by long time Arlington resident Marion Leeds Carroll, *Music to Cure MS*, an annual benefit concert of opera, songs, and chamber music to support the Accelerated Cure Project for Multiple Sclerosis, will be presented Sunday, October 25th, 2015 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM at Park Avenue Congregational Church. Tickets for this benefit concert can be purchased in advance for \$20 or at the door for \$25 (\$10 for MSers, students, and elders). A silent auction will be held at intermission and refreshments will be sold to further support the cause. Those who wish to support the efforts of Ms. Carroll and her fellow musicians but are unable to attend this benefit will find a link to the *Music to Cure MS* fundraising page at the top of the *Music to Cure MS* website: www.singtocurems.org.

Music to Cure MS is the brain child of Marion Leeds Carroll, a former opera singer and stage director who was diagnosed with MS in 1988. Ms. Carroll heard about the Accelerated Cure Project in 2002 and decided to use her own skill-set - classical music - to help. The first fundraising concerts she organized were called "Sing to Cure MS", but it soon became clear that musicians other than singers were eager to take part and thus the broader name was adopted. Last September Ms. Carroll was honored by the Accelerated Cure Project with a "Shining Star" award for her over ten years of work raising funds and awareness through this annual concert.

This year's performers also include Karen Amlaw, Marion Leeds Carroll, William Clark, Heather Gallagher, Anne-Louise Klaus, Julie Poole Martini, Tony Parkes, Laurie Weissbrot, violin/piano duo Jagan-Nath Khalsa and Tanya Shrago, and others. Pianist James Hay will accompany the singers and Jim Eggleston will be the Master of Ceremonies for the program.

The varied program is planned to include selections by Bach, Gilbert & Sullivan, Saint-Saëns, Schubert, Verdi, Weber, and more.

Accelerated Cure Project for Multiple Sclerosis is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to curing MS by determining its causes. Its major success so far is the creation of a large-scale, multidisciplinary MS Repository of blood samples and data from people with MS and matched controls. With the help of funds raised by efforts like *Music to Cure MS*, samples are being collected at sites across the United States. These samples are currently being used by over 25 studies investigating the causes of MS. In exchange for access to the repository, researchers agree to return the data they generate from the samples so that results from disparate experiments can be combined.

For more information about

- The Accelerated Cure Project call (781)487-0008 or visit www.acceleratedcure.org
- *Music to Cure MS* visit www.singtocurems.org or contact Ms. Carroll at cure@leedscarroll.com
- Joanna Porackova visit www.pacc-ucc.org/artists-in-residence

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