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Carpenter Center Kicks Off Inaugural President's Gala with Jane Lynch

Known for her film and television work, Jane Lynch will bring friends from "Glee" and "The Office" to sing with her Oct. 3.

LONG BEACH, California — Millions of people across the country know Emmy- and Golden Globe Award-winner Jane Lynch from her roles in television's "Glee" and Christopher Guest mockumentaries like "Best in Show." On Oct. 3 at 8 p.m., Ms. Lynch's voice will take center stage at the Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center with an evening of American standards and show tunes called "See Jane Sing." This event marks the theatre's first President's Gala.

Ms. Lynch made her Broadway debut in 2013, bringing her lifelong love affair with singing to the musical "Annie." This time on stage she's chosen fast-paced, funny songs to be sung with a live jazz quintet led by Orange County's 2014 jazz musician of the year, Tony Guerrero, on trumpet. Special guests Kate Flannery from "The Office" and "Glee" vocal arranger Tim Davis will sing with Lynch on songs that span the musical spectrum, like "Far from the Home I Love" from "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Anaconda" by Nicki Minaj.

This first-ever President's Gala represents a landmark collaboration between the Carpenter Center and California State University, Long Beach President Jane Close Conoley. It salutes the contributions of the Carpenter Center's performances and Arts for Life activities in furthering the university's art and community engagement goals, extending the performing arts to an ever-expanding sphere of citizens and students.

"The Carpenter Center is renowned as a cultural gateway for the entire Long Beach community and I can't imagine a better venue for the first-ever President's Gala," said President Conoley. "Our university is fortunate to have this amazing performing arts center on our campus. The arts are fundamental to providing a well-rounded educational experience at The Beach, and I'm especially pleased the Gala will support the vibrant Arts for Life program."

President Conoley will welcome gala VIP ticket holders for a private pre-show *al fresco* dinner on the Carpenter Family Terrace. Gala guests will enjoy the performance from the best seats in the house. Following the show, they will join Ms. Lynch and President Conoley in an exclusive dessert reception.

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Proceeds from the evening will benefit the Carpenter Center's Arts for Life program. Arts for Life is a comprehensive education initiative that provides free, interactive and hands-on arts activities for residents of all ages. The programs consist of Classroom Connections (enriching elementary schools), Campus Connections (linking artists and CSULB students) and Community Connections (sharing arts experiences with citizens of all ages). Arts for Life is made possible through the generosity of foundations and donors.

Single tickets for "See Jane Sing!" start at \$75. Gala tickets are all-inclusive and available at the Carpenter Center ticket office for \$250. For tickets and more information, visit CarpenterArts.org or call the Carpenter Center Ticket Office at (562) 985-7000. This series is made possible in part by Season Media Partner KPCC 89.3-FM.

About The Carpenter Center

Founded in 1994, the \$27 million Carpenter Performing Arts Center seats more than 1,000 patrons. The Center is named after pop music duo Richard and Karen Carpenter, who both attended California State University, Long Beach. For more than 20 years, the Carpenter Center has brought hundreds of professional performances to the CSULB campus. Both established stars and the gifted talent of the future have delighted Carpenter Center audiences with music, dance, comedy and much more.

About Arts for Life

The Carpenter Center Arts for Life initiative brings the arts to the Greater Long Beach community. Arts for Life participants read Shakespeare, see new documentary films, attend lectures on artists and enjoy free concerts with acclaimed musicians. More than 3,000 local school children enjoy a full arts experience each year through Classroom Connections, a facet of Arts for Life. The initiative brings professional performing artists into elementary classrooms to demonstrate the process of making their art, then students are welcomed into the theatre to see their fully-mounted performances. California State University, Long Beach students across academic disciplines benefit from interactive experiences with working performance artists. In this way, Arts for Life places the arts at the center of academic life, fostering deep, reflective and critical thinking.