

For Immediate Release
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**The Liberace Foundation for the Performing & Creative Arts
Celebrates 30th Anniversary**
*October events include piano competitions and the gathering of national Liberace
scholarship recipients*

(Las Vegas) – Three decades of Liberace’s legacy of music and support of education will come to a pinnacle in October as The Liberace Foundation for the Performing & Creative Arts celebrates its 30th anniversary.

The celebration will kick off on Saturday, Oct. 14 with a gathering of Liberace Scholars from around the country. Past and current recipients of scholarships funded by the foundation have been invited to tour the museum, and then attend a VIP reception in their honor.

The 2006 Liberace Piano Competition will mark the highlight of the celebration. Starting at *1 p.m.* on Sunday, Oct. 15, top amateur and professional piano players from across the nation will provide top-notch entertainment as they compete in two categories: Classical Performance, which judges competitors on technique and repertoire; and Showmanship, which considers costume and presentation skills as winning criteria. The Showmanship category continues the 14-year tradition of the Liberace Play-a-Like Competition, previously held in the spring of each year.

Judges for the competition include Jack Gaughan, musical director and conductor for the Las Vegas production of Phantom of the Opera; Evangelina Duke Todd, regional manager for Bosendorfer Pianos of Las Vegas; David Osborne, *featured pianist at Caesars’ Café Lago*; Anna Nateece, personal friend of Liberace and fur designer; and Harold Weller, founder and music director of The Las Vegas Philharmonic.

Master of Ceremonies will be 2003 Liberace Play-a-Like Contest winner, Wes Winters. Winters a self-taught musician has been entertaining professionally for almost 20 years. He performs his signature one-man nightclub act, “Wes Winters Live” to sold-out audiences weekly.

All participants in the competition will gain a unique experience while competing for a cash award and a trophy. Showmanship competitors will shine in their performances on Liberace’s very own rhinestone-covered Baldwin piano. Classical contenders will perform on a Bosendorfer Imperial Concert Grand Piano loaned by Bosendorfer Pianos of Las Vegas.

For most pianists, the 2006 Liberace Piano Competition will be the first and only time they have an opportunity to play the distinct Bosendorfer piano, known as the only concert grand in the world to have nine sub-bass notes, down to bottom C, giving it a full eight octave compass keyboard. The extra notes enable some compositions by such composers as Bela Bartók, Claude Debussy and Ferruccio Busoni to be accurately performed, as they were originally scored with lower notes.

The competition is open to the public, however seating is limited. Ticket prices are \$10, and can be purchased by *calling 702-795-5595 ext. 13. Admission to the museum on October 15 will be free for Nevada residents in continuing with the Museum's 2nd Sunday's events.*

Liberace transported audiences to a dazzling world of color, jovial music, glittering costumes, and humor. His legend lives on in The Liberace Museum, which houses his collections of rare and antique pianos, classic cars, famous sequined and bejeweled costume wardrobe, glittering stage jewelry and rare antiques, as well as his private papers, memorabilia and now his "Fabulous Footwear."

Since 1976, The Liberace Museum has been the key-funding arm for The Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts. The Foundation has helped talented students pursue careers in the performing and creative arts through scholarship assistance and has awarded more than \$5 million in scholarship grants to more than 100 universities, schools and educational organizations.

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