

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GREEN MUSIC CENTER AT SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESENTS**  
**VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT**  
***PARTY FOR THE GREEN* FEATURING JON CLEARY**

(Sonoma County, CA) – Sonoma State University’s Green Music Center will host *Party for the Green – New Orleans Style*, a virtual event with great music, food, and an online cocktail party featuring Piano legend Jon Cleary appearing from his home studio in New Orleans on Saturday, September 26 at 6 P.M. Proceeds from the event benefit the Green Music Center and Sonoma Family Meal.

“This year we will use inspiration from music, food and fun from one of the great cities in the world to make it a night to remember,” says Executive Director Jacob Yarrow. “Even though we can’t be together, we can still throw a great party while supporting two great Sonoma County organizations.”

Guests at the \$175 level will receive a party pack including a multi-course dinner provided by Sonoma Family Meal including food from SingleThread Farms, Backyard, and the girl and the fig. The pack also includes a sparkling wine cocktail and decorations to turn your home into the perfect party setting.

A disaster-focused non-profit, Sonoma Family Meal (SFM) connects local chefs, farmers and food producers to fight food insecurity. SFM has served more than 250,000 chef-made meals since 2017. Sonoma Family Meal Founder Heather Irwin says of their involvement with *Party for the Green*, “We’re so excited to be involved with the Green Music Center. Chef John Ash, suggested we get involved, and I couldn’t say yes fast enough. When I found out it was going to be New Orleans themed, you cannot believe how excited I was, there are so many opportunities to make great food.”

Founded during the darkest hours of the October 2017 wildfires in Sonoma County, Heather Irwin rallied top chefs from the Bay Area to donate prepared meals to families who had lost homes, were without power for days, or who had been displaced by the fires. The goal of Sonoma Family Meal is to provide nutritious, safe and lovingly-made meals to those facing food insecurity — regardless of age, race, gender identification or immigration status. They have worked with more than 2,000 volunteers and have been active in the Tubbs Fire (serving displaced families until Dec. 2019), Sebastopol floods, PSPS events, Kincade Fire, the COVID-19 pandemic, and now the Walbridge and Meyers fires.

Bringing together communities in the region, the Green Music Center’s mission is to present the most compelling artists of our time, to investigate ideas, and to provide access to diverse artistic experiences that educate, connect, and inspire. Proceeds from the *Party for the Green* will help ensure future opportunities for a wide breadth of on and off-campus artistic experiences that deeply engage in a multitude of ways: in performance halls, classrooms, and community centers across the region.

Green Music Center Board of Advisors Chair Anne Benedetti says, "The difficult times we are facing strengthen my resolve and belief in the power and importance of the arts to engage and inspire us." Anne Benedetti's family has served the region for three generations through the Clover dairy business, and she feels strongly that the Green Music Center is essential to our well being. "Compelling performances give us joy, laughter, solace, and much needed hope. It is my honor to support both the Green Music Center and Sonoma Family Meal with this single event."

6:00 P.M. Virtual Cocktail Party  
6:30 P.M. Introduction  
6:45 P.M. Jon Cleary Performance  
7:30 P.M. Event Ends

## **TWO WAYS TO JOIN THE FUN**

### **\$175 /PERSON**

#### **PARTY PACK & ACCESS TO LIVE EVENT**

Party pack includes a multi-course dinner from Sonoma Family Meal partners SingleThread Farm, Backyard, and the girl and the fig, a sparkling wine cocktail, and decorations to turn your home into the perfect party setting.

Pick-up your party packs on Saturday, September 26 or arrange for delivery within 30 miles of the Green Music Center for a \$50 fee per drop-off location.

### **\$100**

#### **ACCESS TO LIVE EVENT**

Bottle of Balletto Sparkling Brut Rosé & Party Décor

Shipped directly to you! (Shipping available out of state where permitted by law).

**Tickets available at [GMC.SONOMA.EDU](http://GMC.SONOMA.EDU)**

**LEAD UNDERWRITERS:** Balletto Vineyards and Clover Sonoma.

**UNDERWRITERS:** Basin Street Properties, Anne and Dan Benedetti, John Boland and James Carroll, Coddling Foundation, Karissa Kruse & Steve Dutton, Barbara & Jake MacKenzie, Dr. H. Andréa Neves, Russian River Brewing Company, and Santa Rosa Symphony.

**EVENT PARTNERS:** SingleThread Farms, Backyard, the girl and the fig, Revolutionary Mystic, Matanzas Creek Winery

Interested in underwriting Party for the Green - New Orleans Style? Learn more about associated benefits by visiting [gmc.sonoma.edu/underwriterpartyforgreen](http://gmc.sonoma.edu/underwriterpartyforgreen).

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Grammy® award-winning Jon Cleary is a skillful tunesmith equally renowned around the globe as an accomplished keyboardist and guitarist and a deeply soulful vocalist. Cleary's thirty-five years of intensive hands-on work on the Crescent City scene has made him a respected peer of such New Orleans R&B icons as Dr. John and Allen Toussaint.

## **ABOUT THE GREEN MUSIC CENTER**

Nestled in the foothills of Northern California's esteemed Wine Country, the Green Music Center (GMC) at Sonoma State University is a focal point for arts in the region. It is comprised of the spectacular 1,400-seat Weill Hall, an acoustically exceptional venue with a modular rear wall that opens to terraced lawn seating, providing picturesque views of the surrounding countryside, and the 240-seat Schroeder Hall, a cathedral-like recital hall designed specifically to accentuate instruments, organ and voice in a small, intimate setting. The Green Music Center presents year-round programming of top classical, contemporary, jazz, and world music artists and is home to the Santa Rosa Symphony.

**ABOUT SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Sonoma State University is a public liberal arts college located in California's premier wine country, one hour north of San Francisco. Nestled at the base of the idyllic Sonoma Mountains, the campus is home to more than 9,000 undergraduate students and is among the most popular campuses in the California State University system. Named a "Best Regional University" by U.S. News & World Report, SSU was first in the country to offer an undergraduate degree in Wine Business.

The Press Democrat is the Media Sponsor of the Green Music Center  
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