

experience classical music through the hands-on program that has won national acclaim for its originality and educational excellence. Taking it one step further, a youth concert performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic is held each fall in the Walt Disney Concert Hall for 4,200 fourth graders. For more than a half century, the elementary school-age children have experienced the magic of music at the popular event.

In addition, the organization hosts a youth instrumental competition every year, offering accomplished young musicians from 16 to 24 an opportunity to perform and compete in a three-day event where \$30,000 in prize money is at stake. Competing in three different categories -- strings, woodwinds and brass -- the competition is judged by professional musicians, who often come from the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

However, the showcase of the organization is the Showcase House itself, the popular home tour now in its 42nd year. It has grown substantially in size and scope since its beginning, when 7,500 people walked through the estate's doors. PSHA members work with more than 50 designers who transform the interior and grounds of a selected estate each year.

The organization's initial task is to find a home in the Pasadena area that will be transformed through the talents of some of Southern California's leading designers. Invitations then go out and over a four week period, from April 23 to May 21, thousands of guests tour the opulent home and spacious grounds.

"The teamwork necessary to produce an event so successful, using an all volunteer organization, is phenomenal," said Charlotte Varner, the 2005-06 president of the Showcase House, who has been a part of the organization since 1991. "We are so appreciative of the support that we have from all of the designers, resources, and community."

This year's Showcase House was at one time part of the Henry E. Huntington estate and built in 1928 for Stanton W. Forsman and Alice Pillsbury Forsman. The exterior of the Monterey Colonial home



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