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PETS UNLIMITED CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY WITH GALA BENEFIT CONCERT & ART EXHIBITION TO CELEBRATE ANIMALS IN THE ARTS!

*Stellar Concert includes Saint-Saëns' "Carnival of the Animals"
conducted by George Daugherty, narrated by author Amy Tan.
Herbst Theatre, October 14th. Art Exhibition 1 p.m., Concert 3 p.m.*

San Francisco, Ca, August 20, 2007 -- Classical music and the visual arts will be going to the dogs – and the cats – on Sunday, October 14th as **PETS UNLIMITED**, San Francisco's oldest non-profit 24-hour animal medical center and shelter, celebrates its 60th anniversary with a stellar animal-themed concert, art exhibition, and art sale at The Herbst Theatre and Green Room. Tickets for the event range from \$50 to \$500 with proceeds (including a percentage of art sales) benefiting Pets Unlimited's shelter and adoption center. Art exhibition in the Herbst Theatre Green Room (free admission) opens at 1pm, concert 3pm – 5pm. Tickets are available at CITY BOX OFFICE, 180 Redwood Street or CHARGE-BY-PHONE / INFORMATION: (415) 392-4400 Order Online: www.cityboxoffice.com For more information on Pets Unlimited, visit the website at www.petsunlimited.org,

Prior to the concert and during intermission, *Animals In The Arts*, an art exhibit and sale by some of San Francisco's most talented artists, will be staged in The Herbst Greenroom. Participating artists include **John Aaron, Pat Boyd, Jennifer Ewing and Leo Germano, Galen Hazelhofer, Amanda Jones, Michael Leu, Patti Miller, Larry Morace, Jacqueline Probert, Brandis Sarich, and Laura Seeley.**

The gala benefit concert, performed by the 20-member **Barque** ("Bark!") **Chamber Orchestra**, will be conducted by **George Daugherty**, with guest artists **Amy Tan**, narrator; **Robin Sutherland** and **Marc Shapiro**, pianists; **Kristin Clayton**, soprano, and **Tamora Pellikka**, mezzo-soprano. Assembled specially for this occasion, **The Barque Chamber Orchestra** is made up of musicians from **The San Francisco Symphony, The San Francisco Opera Orchestra, The San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, The Royal Philharmonic, and Sinfonia Britannia.**

The centerpiece of the concert will be Camille Saint-Saëns' joyful *Carnival of The Animals*, narrated by Ms. Tan, with Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Shapiro as the duo concert pianists.

The concert will also feature songs by the acclaimed San Francisco composer Jake Heggie, as well as works by Mozart, Puccini, Satie, and Rossini – including Rossini's legendary "Cat Duet" (*Duetto buffo di due gatti*) for Soprano and Mezzo-Soprano.

Emmy Award-winning conductor **George Daugherty** has been a frequent guest conductor of The San Francisco Symphony, as well as such major American and international ensembles as The Cleveland Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, and The Sydney Opera House. He is well known for his orchestra-and-film concert *Bugs Bunny On Broadway*, which has toured the world and played to nearly two million audience members as it celebrates the classic era of Warner Bros. Studios cartoons and their inspired Carl Stalling orchestral scores.

Acclaimed author **Amy Tan** has received critical acclaim worldwide for her best selling novels *The Joy Luck Club*, *The Kitchen God's Wife*, *Saving Fish from Drowning*, and *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, among many others. No stranger to the concert stage, Ms. Tan and Mr. Daugherty have teamed together for prior concerts with The San Francisco Symphony and The Los Angeles Philharmonic. The operatic version of *The Bonesetter's Daughter* receives its world premiere next season with The San Francisco Opera.

Pianist **Robin Sutherland** is Principal Keyboardist for The San Francisco Symphony, and has performed worldwide as an acclaimed concert artist, including numerous recordings and world premieres. **Marc Shapiro**, also with The San Francisco Symphony, is also Principal Pianist of The California Symphony, and has performed as a solo artist and chamber musician with an impressive list of American and European musicians and orchestras.

Soprano **Kristin Clayton** has received rave reviews for her performances in leading roles with The San Francisco Opera, as well as other major companies worldwide. She most recently received adulation from press and public when she stepped in at the last moment for soprano Renee Fleming in the world premiere of Jake Heggie's and Terrence McNally's one-woman opera "*At The Statue of Venus*," which just opened Denver's new Ellie Caulkins Opera House. Mezzo **Tamora Pellikka** is one of the opera world's most dynamic new artists, and has performed with The San Francisco Symphony, and most recently at The Graz Festival in Austria.

Pets Unlimited was founded in 1947 by a group of citizens concerned about the welfare of San Francisco's stray animals. From a temporary shelter, they began rescuing animals from the city pound and finding homes for them. By 1989, the hospital expanded to a 24-hour emergency facility to meet the growing needs of the community. Over the years the scope of programs and services has grown substantially. Pets Unlimited now offers complete medical care, including a holistic veterinary medical center, extended shelter services, a foster family program, volunteer opportunities and community educational services, both on and off-site. In the past year, 328 cats and 59 dogs were adopted into new homes through the Pets Unlimited Adoption Center. Since inception, the organization has been instrumental in saving the lives of more than 250,000 animals. By providing 24-hour veterinary care, community education and innovative adoption programs, Pets Unlimited has earned the reputation as the premier provider of comprehensive and humane animal treatment in the Bay Area.