ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

USC Gallery Features Works From Becker's *Free Will/Positive Moment*

Resident and artist Mike Becker will be featured in "Spiritual Matrices/Free Will'" Uniting The People To Divide And Conquer The Challenges of Rapid Change," Sunday at USC's Institute for Genetic Medicine Art Gallery.

The invitation-only conference will highlight policy changes plus innovations in information technology, molecular biology and complementary and alternative health care.

Becker's participation is an outgrowth of an exhibition of his work (along with artist Susan Sims-Hillbrand) "Spiritual Matrices/Free Will" on view at the gallery on the USC campus through Friday, Feb. 26.

The exhibit features 10 works, created digitally, from his "self-help guide," *Free Will, Positive Movement*. A resident since 2002 and proud Horace Mann parent and soccer coach, Becker says, "with the book (begun in 2002) I had an opportunity to positively impact myself; and hopefully it would sow its way into minds of others."

The books features a message for each week of the year—like "Week 17: Accept your failures as practice for strength yet to be actualized," with a drawing to go with it.

Mike Becker

The idea, says museum curator Lynn Crandall, is that after a week of focus on the "motto" and art, readers "begin to see things they didn't know existed."

The work, Crandall says, fits into the museum mission of promoting "stewardship of self, each other, and the planet."

The gallery, at 2250 Alcazar St., second floor, is open 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday and by appointment. For information, visit *www.usc.edu/igm*.

Dream Orchestra To Present Rossini's *Sabat Mater*

The Dream Orchestra will present Rossini's *Sabat Mater,* based on the 13th century Catholic hymn, at 8 p.m., Friday, March 4 at St. Monica Catholic Church, 725 California Ave., Santa Monica.

The orchestra will be joined by four soloists and the Opera Chorus of Los Angeles in the program that will also include the *Second Movement* of Polish composer Henryk Górecki's *Symphony No. 3, Symphony of Sorrowful Songs*, featuring 16-year-old soprano and resident Golda Berkman.

Written in 1976, Górecki was inspired by words written on the wall of a Gestapo cell during World War II by 18-year-old prisoner Helena Wanda Błazusiakówna. In Polish, the words translate to "Oh Mamma do not cry—Immaculate Queen of Heaven support me always."

A free dessert reception by Urth Caffé will follow the concert. Tickets, $40 general, $30 students/senior citizens; are available at St. Monica Catholic Church, all Urth Caffé locations, by phone at 800-838-3006 or online at *brownpapertickets.-com.* or *www.dreamorchestra.-org.*

The Lettermen—Bobby Poynton, Donovan Tea, and original member Tony Butala

The Lettermen Bringing Smooth Sounds To Saban Debut Feb. 20

The Lettermen, known for their close harmonies and five decades plus of hits, will make their Saban Theatre debut with a 9 p.m. concert, Saturday, Feb. 20.

With 32 albums worth of songs to perform, there's lots of material to choose from, says Tony Butala, original and founding member of the group. He promises hits like *That's My Desire, The Way You Look Tonight,* the theme from *A Summer Place, Goin' Out Of My Head/Can't Take My Eyes Off You, Shangri la* and many more in well constructed medleys.

He attributes the group's success and longevity to its unique sound "between rock 'n' roll and big band," three solo singers "who could carry a show," and "songs with good positive lyrics—usually with romantic overtones.

"We do a show people remember," says Butala. There are photo ops, recognitions or birthdays and anniversaries, encounters with group members out in the audience and autographs after the show.

Tickets, ranging from $38-$58, are available at the theater, 8440 Wilshire Blvd, by calling 888-645-5006 or online at *www.sabantheatre.org*.