



138 North Main Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402-1776
Administrative Office: 937-228-7591 • Ticket Center Stage: 937-228-3630 • Fax: 937-449-5068

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: ERIC BROCKMAN

E-Marketing & Public Relations Director

PLEASE NOTE NEW PHONE & E-MAIL:

(937) 461-8292 or eric.brockman@victoriatheatre.com

Photos available upon request

**VICTORIA THEATRE ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES SCHUSTER
CENTER'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY WITH PHOTO EXHIBIT**

(Dayton, OH) – March 14, 2008 – Celebrating the fifth anniversary of the grand opening of the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center, which officially opened on March 2, 2003, Victoria Theatre Association is presenting a photo exhibit entitled “Building of a Dream: Celebrating Five Years.”

The photo exhibit is located along the walls of Citilites in the Wintergarden throughout the month of March and is free and open to the public. The photos, which were donated by photographer Andy Snow, trace the construction process of the Schuster Center.

Since its grand opening, the Schuster Center has hosted more than 900 performances. More than 1.3 million people have attended performances at the Schuster Center and more than a quarter of a million people have attended catered events.

Dr. Benjamin Schuster and his wife Marian, who passed away in the summer of 2007, played an integral role in the realization of the performing arts center that bears their names, donating \$8 million to the project. Dr. and Mrs. Schuster have provided an incredible legacy for the arts in our community.

The Schuster Center provides a world-class facility for the best in local, national and international performing artists. The state-of-the-art venue has created opportunities for resident presenters, Victoria Theatre Association, the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra and Dayton Opera, to expand the possibilities for their season lineups. Dayton Ballet also presents select performances at the Schuster Center.

Performances which have graced the stage of the Schuster Center include Victoria Theatre Association's Broadway Series presentations of *The Phantom of the Opera*, which broke attendance records, *The Producers*, *Hairspray*, *Movin' Out*, *Les Miserables*, *CATS*, and coming up this season, Monty Python's *Spamalot*. The Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra has hosted Art Garfunkle, Olivia Newton John, the Smothers Brothers, and many others. Dayton Opera has presented *Aida*, *La Boheme* and *Madam Butterfly*, among other titles.

media release



The Gala Evening of Stars Performance, which celebrated the Schuster Center's grand opening featured Walter Cronkite, Ray Charles, Allison Janney, Patti Lupone, Bob Newhart and Roberta Peters.

In addition to performances and catered events, thousands have enjoyed the newly restored animated holiday display windows, which were originally displayed at Rike's department store when it stood on the corner of Second and Main streets. Thousands have also viewed the Visual Voices art exhibit, which has been displayed each February in the Wintergarden for the past four years.

The Schuster Center is also a popular locale for meetings and events. Event Services, the facility's in-house catering department, has overseen more than 2,000 events in the past five years.

Citilites Restaurant and Bar opened in July 2003. Citilites is open for lunch every weekday and for dinner two hours prior to performances at the Schuster Center.

The Performance Place office/condominium tower adjoins the Wintergarden. Performance Place is operated by a condominium association, and both residential and office units are currently available for sale.

The past five years have seen hundreds of performances, thousands of events, and over a million people, and this is just the beginning. The Schuster Center promises to be a focal point of downtown for many years to come.

Victoria Theatre Association is one of Dayton's premier arts organizations, presenting the Chase Broadway Series, the Young at Heart Family Series, the Michelob Ultra Cool Films series, Star Attractions, the Universal 1 Variety Series, and the Physicians for Kids Discovery Series, which features curriculum-enhanced live theatre productions for school children. Victoria Theatre Association is proud of its alliance with the Dayton Opera Association and its collaboration on The Eichelberger Loft Series 1 with The Human Race Theatre Company.

In addition to the performances it presents, Victoria Theatre Association also manages the historic Victoria Theatre, the Benjamin and Marian Schuster Performing Arts Center, and the Metropolitan Arts Center, which houses The Loft Theatre. Victoria Theatre Association receives funding from a variety of diverse public, corporate, individual and private sources, including the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District and the Ohio Arts Council. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this program or organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.