



Broadway To Vegas



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STARS SHINE AT OBAMA INAUGURAL -- VICTOR BORGE: A CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION -- BARACK OBAMA IN WAX -- A SALUTE TO CHARLES STROUSE -- LYNN REDGRAVE IN THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST -- FOLK AMERICA: GREENWICH VILLAGE REVISITED -- BLITHE SPIRIT ACTORS NEED PSYCHIC -- OLIVIER! REVIVAL HAS AUDIENCES ASKING FOR SOME MORE -- DONATE ... [Scroll Down](#)

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By: Laura Deni**

**STARS, CAKE, CAMPAIGN COUTURE AND MUSIC HEADLINE
OBAMA INAUGURAL**

Obama has more wattage than a rock star. In a nanosecond tickets were snapped up to *anything* inaugural. The party till you drop crowd has enough events to even tire out pseudo presidential candidate Paris Hilton.

A celebrity blow-out; fancy cakes, ice cream with designer names and clothes made from campaign materials. Also entertainers. Lots of entertainers. Fifty-eight agencies are participating coordinated through 23 subcommittees.

Entertainment festivities launch into high gear this evening, Sunday, January 18, with We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial, a combination of live music and readings that will be free and open to the public.

The special will be executive produced by George Stevens, Jr. (The Kennedy Center Honors), and produced by Don Mischer (Olympic Ceremonies) who will also direct the special, and Michael Stevens (The American Film Institute Salutes) who is also writing the special, and will be a production of The Stevens Company in association with Don Mischer Productions.



Beyonce

**Music
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event
includ**

**e Beyonce, Mary J. Blige, Bono,
Garth Brooks, Sheryl Crow, Renee
Fleming, Josh Groban, Herbie**



Bono

Hancock, Heather Headley, John Legend, Jennifer Nettles, John Mellencamp, Usher Raymond IV, Shakira, Bruce Springsteen, James Taylor, will.i.am, and Stevie Wonder. Among those reading historical passages will be Jamie Foxx, Martin Luther King III, Queen Latifah, Tiger Woods and Denzel Washington.

The Rt. Reverend V. Gene Robinson will give the invocation. Rob Mathes will be the music director and arranger for the backing band, which will support all of the artists.

"Our intention is to root the event in history, celebrating the moments when our nation has united to face great challenges and prevail," observed George Stevens, Jr. "We will combine historical readings by prominent actors with music from an array of the greatest stars of today."

"This is a great opportunity to capture an historic event in a very meaningful setting," noted Don Mischer. "We will have the statue of Abraham Lincoln looking down on our stage and a crowd of hundreds of thousands of people lining the mall—a tableau any director would relish."

HBO will televise the event on an open signal, working with all of its distributors to allow Americans across the country with access to cable, telcos or satellite television to join in the Opening Celebration for free.



On Inauguration Day, festivities will commence at 10 a.m. on the west front of the U.S. Capitol and will include:



• Musical Selections:

The United States Marine Band, followed by The San Francisco Boys Chorus and the San Francisco Girls Chorus

• Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks: Senator Dianne Feinstein

• Invocation: Dr. Rick Warren

• Musical Selection: Aretha Franklin

• Vice President-elect Joseph R. Biden, Jr. will be sworn into office by Associate Justice of the Supreme Court , the Honorable John Paul Stevens

• Musical Selection: John Williams, composer/arranger with Itzhak Perlman, (violin), Yo-Yo Ma (cello), Gabriela Montero (piano) and Anthony McGill (clarinet)

- **President-elect Barack H. Obama will take the Oath of Office, using President Lincoln's Inaugural Bible, administered by the Chief Justice of the United States, the Honorable John G. Roberts, Jr.**
 - **Inaugural Address**
 - **Poem: Elizabeth Alexander**
 - **Benediction: The Reverend Dr. Joseph E. Lowery**
 - **The National Anthem: The United States Navy Band Sea Chanters**
- After President Obama gives his Inaugural Address, he will escort outgoing President George W. Bush to a departure ceremony before**



The luncheon floral arrangements, designed by JLB Floral of Alexandria, Virginia. Photo: inaugural.senate.gov

attending a luncheon in the Capitol's Statuary Hall.

The luncheon floral arrangements, designed by JLB Floral of Alexandria, Virginia, will feature hydrangeas in shades of purple and blue, Hot Mojolica spray roses, bright Red Charlotte roses and light blue Delphinium in a footed brass compote. After the luncheon, the floral arrangements will be given to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

While the posey bill for this year's event hasn't been released, award winning Ian Prosser, the owner and operator of Tampa-based Botanica International Design Studio, offered some figures to Baynews 9. As floral design chair for the Society of American Florists, he has created floral designs for three of the last four presidential inaugurations.

With 14 official events, Prosser told the TV station that inaugurations require a half million flowers and about 160 arrangers, at a cost of about \$5 million. But Prosser says all of the flowers and labor are donated. The

only thing inauguration organizers must provide is accommodations - about 100 rooms for five nights.



View of the Yosemite Valley by Thomas Hill Photo: inaugural.senate.gov

Valley, represents an important but often overlooked event from Lincoln's presidency - his signing of the 1864 Yosemite Grant, which set aside Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias as a public reserve.

Born in Birmingham, England, American Hudson River School Painter Thomas Hill (1829-1908), at age 15, immigrated to American with his parents.

He briefly acted as the interim director for the SFAA School of Design and went to Alaska on a commission for environmentalist John Muir. Hill's move to California in 1861 brought him new material for his paintings. He chose monumental vistas, like Yosemite. During his lifetime, Hill's paintings were popular in California, costing as much as \$10,000.

Hill's best works are considered to be these monumental subjects, including *Great Canon of the Sierra*; *Yosemite*; *Vernal Falls* and *Yosemite Valley*.

Hill's most famous and enduring work is of the driving of the Last Spike at Promontory Summit, U.T., on May 10, 1869, to join the rails of the CPRR

The backdrop for the luncheon will be a painting, chosen for occasion, and borrowed from the New-York Historical Society. The painting, View of the Yosemite Valley, by Thomas Hill, reflects the majestic landscape of the American West and the dawn of a new era. The subject of the painting, Yosemite

and UPRR. The huge 8 x 12 foot painting, which features detailed portraits of 71 individuals associated with the First Transcontinental Railroad, hangs at the California State Railroad Museum in



The first course will be served on replicas of the china from the Lincoln Presidency, which was selected by Mary Todd Lincoln at the beginning of her husband's term in office. The china features the American bald eagle standing above the U. S. Coat of Arms, surrounded by a wide border of "solferino," a purple-red hue popular among the fashionable hosts of the day. Photo: inaugural.senate.gov

Sacramento, CA.

The details of the luncheon have been designed to reflect the theme of the 2009 Inaugural ceremonies, A New Birth of Freedom, which celebrates the bicentennial of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln. The menu created by Design Cuisine, a catering company based in Arlington, Virginia, draws on historic ties to the Presidency of Abraham Lincoln. Growing up in the frontier regions of Kentucky and Indiana, the sixteenth President favored simple foods including root vegetables and wild game. As his tastes matured, he became fond of stewed and scalloped oysters. For dessert or a snack, nothing pleased him more than a fresh apple or an apple cake. The wines to be served during the luncheon were produced by some of the finest winemakers in California, the home state of Senator Dianne Feinstein, the Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. Each wine was selected to complement the flavors of the luncheon ingredients.

The appetizer will feature a seafood stew - including scallops, shrimp, Maine lobster and black cod in a cream sauce, baked in a terrine covered with a puff pastry - in honor of Lincoln's love of seafood. The main course

of a Brace of American Birds (Wisconsin pheasant and Indiana duck) with sour-cherry chutney will be served with molasses sweet potatoes - root vegetables and wild game that Honest Abe ate as a child in Indiana. Apple cinnamon sponge cake with Sweet cream glacé tops off the rustic lunch.

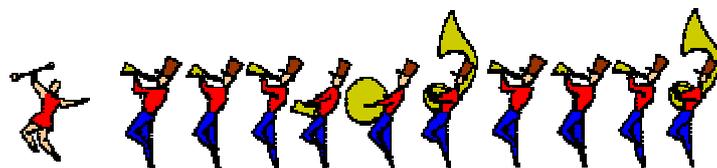
Design Cuisine officials disclosed that what amounts to an entire kitchen and all of the food will be trucked to the US capitol under police escort, at 3am on Tuesday. The meals will be prepared under the watch of the president's security team, to ensure nothing is tampered with.

The Smithsonian Chamber Players, who are artists in residence at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, will provide music for the Inaugural Luncheon. The ensemble, directed by cellist Kenneth Slowik, is renowned for its performances of period music on the musical instruments in the Smithsonian's collection.

Members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies are Senator Dianne Feinstein, Chairman; Ranking Member of the Senate Rules Committee Bob Bennett; Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid; Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi; House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer; and House Minority Leader John Boehner.

Each guest at the Inaugural Luncheon will receive a crystal vase etched with a depiction of the U.S. Capitol, designed by Paula Skene, an artist in Emeryville, California, and handcrafted by Evergreen Crystal of Montrose, Colorado.

The luncheon will begin at 1:05 p.m. and must be over in time for Obama to review the troops at 2:32 p.m.



The 56th Inaugural Parade will then make its way down Pennsylvania Avenue. Expected to last over two hours, the parade includes 15,000 people, 240 horses, dozens of marching bands, two drum and bugle corps, and one mariachi band from Espanola, New Mexico.[]

Nothing says celebration like a tiered cake and this inauguration is no exception.

Eli's Cheesecake, Chicago's favorite dessert, and one of Illinois' most famous foods, was invited to create a giant Inaugural cheesecake to be served at the Commander in Chief's Ball, one of the ten official Balls, on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. Newly sworn in President Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, will host this event for Purple Heart recipients, families of fallen heroes, and spouses of deployed military. This ball is free to invited guests and will broadcast to American troops around the world on the Pentagon Channel, which is available via cable on 368 military bases and on commercial cable and satellite services throughout the United States.

Jon Bon Jovi will headline the talent lineup. George Lopez will emcee the event, which also feature performances and appearances by Jordin Sparks, Miss America 2009 Kirsten Haglund, and Right On. The event is also co-hosted by the Senior Enlisted Advisors of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. The event will be produced by The iDream Company, led by entertainment executives Suzanne de Passe, Suzanne Coston, and Madison Jones, and written by Ruth Robinson. The iDream company has been recognized with Emmy Awards, Golden Globe and Peabody Awards.

According to Eli's President Marc Schulman, "We are honored to represent Chicago in creating this celebratory Eli's Cheesecake for such a historic occasion."

Large Inaugural cakes date back as far as 1934 when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was presented with a several hundred pound fruitcake. Eli's Inaugural dessert, tipping the scales at 500 pounds, will be a combination of Original Plain Cheesecake and Apple Cheesecake paying homage to Abraham Lincoln's love of apples and highlighting the strong Lincoln references throughout the campaign, transition and Inaugural festivities. The three-tiered cake will be patriotically decorated in red, white and blue fondant, with the official Inaugural seal in chocolate and the five seals representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. The base of the cheesecake is covered with



royal blue fondant and decorated with a wave of red and white stripes, and white and gold stars. After serving the guests, the remainder of the cake will be donated to the Capital Area Food Bank.

The mind-boggling grocery list for the Inaugural dessert includes: -100 pounds of cream cheese

-30 pounds of sugar

-25 pounds of sour cream

-50 pounds of powdered sugar

-126 eggs

-15 pounds of flour

-50 pounds of Michigan apples

-30 pounds of butter

-4 cups of Nielsen-Massey Madagascar Bourbon Vanilla

-5 pounds of brown sugar

-12 tablespoons of cinnamon from the Chicago Spice House

Nothing goes better with cake than ice cream. As a teen-ager in Honolulu Obama scooped ice cream at the local Baskin-Robbins shop. The corporation endorsed Obama for president. In honor of Obama the Baskin-Robbins taste testers created Whirl of Change: Peanut-nougat ice cream whirled with chunks of chocolate-covered peanut brittle and a caramel ribbon. Rival Ben & Jerry's have Yes Pecan, with amber waves of buttery ice cream with roasted non-partisan pecans. Folks who indulge in some Yes Pecan in Scoop Shops during the month of January, Ben & Jerry's is donating the proceeds to the Common Cause Education Fund.



Leonardo DiCaprio

Beyonce will sing for Barack and Michelle Obama's first dance on inauguration night. Beyonce is part of the star-studded lineup at the official Neighborhood Ball that will be televised on ABC, along with her husband Jay-Z, will.i.am, Mariah Carey, Alicia Keys, Shakira, Sting, Faith Hill, Mary J. Blige, Stevie Wonder and Maroon 5.

The Presidential Inaugural Committee said Thursday that presenters at the ball will include Denzel Washington, Jessica Alba, Leonardo DiCaprio, Ray Romano, Jamie Foxx, Queen Latifah and Kate Walsh.

The Illinois Ball which takes place Monday, January 19, is one of the most interesting. It's not only Obama's home state, but the entire banquet facilities of the Renaissance Hotel - four ballrooms, three grand foyers, and all the private meeting rooms will be magically transformed to highlight the many magnificent cities, towns, riverfronts and historical sites of Illinois.

Event planners advise that "you can "meet your friends under the Marshall Fields' clock in the City of Chicago ballroom where you can dance to the big-band music of the Bob Hardwick Sound....Imagine the rolling muddy Mississippi while you sit in the Riverboat Lounge listening to honky-tonk piano player Daryl Ott." In addition to Hardwick and Ott, entertainment will be provided by; Doctors Orders, Second Nature, Southern Wind and the Strolling Strings.

The black tie preferred event permits guests to each bring a personal camera or a small videocamera. However all ticketed guests are encouraged to "arrive at the hotel by 4:30 p.m. allowing extra time to check coats and pass through security before the reception begins at 5:30 The Gala Reception, Dinner and Ball, which is sold out, will have gift bags containing samples of Illinois products.

Hardwick is an old hand at inaugural events having previously performed for six presidents - Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Richard Nixon and Jerry Ford who was celebrating his 80th birthday, 50th wedding anniversary and 50th year in politics with a private party in Vale, Colorado. Hardwick also lifted his baton at four previous inaugurations - Carter, Bush and two Reagan. ([See Broadway To Vegas column of October 14, 2007](#))

"We have a couple of Stevie Wonder songs ready (he's a fan), and other "campaign" reported favorite songs, including *Easy to Love*; *Think*, and *What's Goin' On*," Hardwick told Broadway To Vegas about the upcoming event. "We obviously had to submit all 12 band member names for security, and there is a sweep of the hotel - all very usual. At our event there is supposed to be 7000 people at the reception and ball with 15 bands playing at this Illinois Inaugural Ball. The main ballroom theme will be Chicago so when the ball begins, the whole band will enter from the rear of the ballroom and parade to the band stand playing *Chicago*."

Singer Elvis Costello will head an all-star line-up at a concert in Washington's Harman Center of the Arts. Musical guests are scheduled to perform until midnight. Rock stars Sting and Sam Moore will also appear at the event, which will raise funds for arts and entertainment advocacy group The Creative Coalition. Anne Hathaway, Susan Sarandon, Marcia Cross and film director Spike Lee will also appear at the sold-out event. Other confirmed guests include British actor Alan Cumming and singer Seal. *West Wing* star Richard Schiff will also attend, alongside members of the US Congress and policy and business leaders.

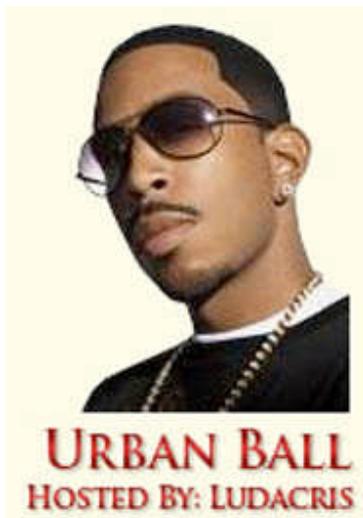


Elvis Costello

The American Music Inaugural Ball and Events hosts the Urban Ball at the Marriott Wardman - actually there are two balls - the first Inaugural Ball in American history to actually be split into two balls under one roof on the same evening: different themes/entertainers/prices.

The Legends Ball will feature entertainment legends and music icons who have thrilled audiences over time, and The Urban Ball which features some of entertainment's most popular and successful contemporary Artists.

If you're attending the Legends Ball, then tuxedos, ball gowns and all of your finery is in order of the day. If you're attending the Urban Ball, then dress to impress; but no jeans, no hoodies, no sneakers or ball caps will be allowed.



The Urban Ball costs: \$350 and is hosted by Ludacris. Entertainment provided by Cedric the Entertainer, and Monica.

The Legends Ball at the Marriott Wardman featuring Dionne Warwick, Chaka Kahn, George Clinton, and Redskin Jason Taylor. The cost to attend - \$450.

The Eracism Foundation hosts the Purple Ball, featuring Lou Gossett Jr., at the Fairmont Hotel. Cost: \$110 to \$150 per ticket. Il Divo will serenade guests. Hill Harper will host the event

which will also feature a performance from Peter Cincotti and guests confirmed to attend include Patricia Arquette, Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins, Ed Harris, John Cusack and Ashley Judd.

The Human Rights Campaign hosts the Equality Ball at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, featuring entertainers Melissa Etheridge, Rufus Wainwright, and Cyndi Lauper.

MTV and Service Nation host the Be the Change Inaugural Ball at the Ronald Reagan Center. The ball will be televised live on MTV.

The Soccer Moms for Obama Inaugural Ball takes place at the Chevy Chase Women's Club. Cost: \$60. Soccer mom Sarah Palin is *not* expected



The Obamanos Coat is a 1950s man's winter coat that is covered with photos from the paper campaign door hangers used by canvassers on election day. Printed on these hangers is a photo of Barack Obama standing in the middle of a huge crowd of people. The photo is cut into small strips and sewed to the entire coat. Judd says it took her 200 hours to cut, paste and sew it.

to attend.



The Voter Swing Coat Made from voter registration posters (hanging on the wall in the photo) cut into half inch wide strips and woven together. This “paper fabric” was adhered to recycled canvas using an iron-on adhesive and the finished coat pieces are hand sewn together. Both the collar, outer sleeves and the bottom edge of the coat are covered with “lace”-- punched and cut from recycled voter registration cards.

There were also several pre-inaugural balls including the Green Inaugural Ball which actually was staged on January 17 at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium. It was billed as DC’s most environmentally-friendly pre-Inaugural celebration. Event Emissary which produced the event chose to keep décor to a minimum because the Mellon Auditorium is such a beautiful venue. Votive Candles were un-dyed, unscented soy wax candles. LED Color Blasts were used for all decorative lighting. The food, by Occasion Caterers, was organic, with vegetarian and vegan options, and bars served locally produced and organic beverages.

The headline performance by Wyclef Jean was almost trumped by designer Nancy Judd, owner of Recycle Runway in Santa Fe. With no design training she's made headlines for her unique transformation of junk into couture.

At this ball and at the New Mexico Congressional Delegation Reception her collection of garments fashioned out of discarded Obama campaign materials were featured. She called it "a celebration of the millions of people who volunteered to assure the election of Barack Obama as the next president of the United States."

Judd was a dedicated volunteer for six months for the Campaign in Santa Fe. The day after the election Judd went "dumpster diving" behind the Obama Campaign headquarter is northern New Mexico and filled her car

with historic campaign materials that she transformed into a collection of elegant garments. One is made from yard signs; a ball gown made from campaign posters; a sun dress stitched from plastic yard signs; a suit woven from strips of voter-registration posters.

Asked whether she had used any Republican campaign signs or posters, Judd said she had not. The John McCain signs "just didn't inspire me," she told those attending the Friday January 9 Trash Fashion & Costume Contest at the Recycle Santa Fe Art Festival

Entertainment, parades and parties haven't always been the inauguration norm.