

## Chef Center Stage 2008 Fact Sheet

### **Background**

Chef Center Stage is a fundraising event for the Springfield Regional Opera. This is the only major fundraising event hosted by SRO. Proceeds from the event support the Springfield Regional Opera's full stage productions such as Madama Butterfly and A Little Night Music and its various programs such as Café des Artistes for young adults. SRO also hosts Operazzi featuring live performances at Nonna's Italian American Café on the third Sunday of each month.

Chef Center Stage 2008 is the 5<sup>th</sup> annual production of this premiere fundraising event.

### **Event Facts**

The evening includes culinary samples from 9 of the area's finest restaurants, live musical performances, a silent auction and live auction of the services of each participating chef. Auctioneer Nick Sanders will emcee the event and chef auction. Cocktails and wine will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

Winners of the live chef auction will enjoy a private dinner prepared by their selected chef.

### **Chef Center Stage 2008 Facts:**

Date:	April 24
Time:	7:00 p.m.
Location:	Discovery Center – 438 E. St. Louis Street
Cost:	\$60

Tickets can be purchased online at [chefcenterstage.com](http://chefcenterstage.com) or by phoning the Springfield Regional Opera at (417) 863-1960

### **Participating Restaurants and Chefs**

1. Mike Jalili – Bijan, Touch, Flame
2. Angel Kim – Argentina Steak House / Rodizio's Brazilian Grill
3. James Clary – Clary's
4. Tony Garcia – Avanzare
5. Tong Trithara – Tong's Thai Cuisine
6. Alex Kim – Kai/Haruno
7. Peter Tinson – Gallery Bistro
8. Keith Fuemmeler – The Twilight Grille
9. Martin Almaraz and Julia Ferrell – Nonna's

## Entertainment

A live musical performance by tenor Nathan Granner and guitarist Beau Bledsoe will be featured during the evening. The talented pair have performed internationally and in prestigious venues such as the Metropolitan Opera, Baltimore Symphony Hall and the Carnegie Hall. For more information visit [www.grannerbledsoe.com](http://www.grannerbledsoe.com)

Nathan Granner is currently performing both nationally and internationally with the Sony Classical recording trio *The American Tenors*. Mr. Granner has received national acclaim on such programs as *PBS*, *CNN*, *Fox News*, and *E! Hollywood Extra*.

Beau Bledsoe's studies in southern Spain and involvement with the tango scene of Buenos Aires have led him to create a large body of evocative arrangements, transcriptions and compositions. His music is regularly programmed on *radio1 BBC*, "*Segovia a Yupanki*" *Radio Nacional Argentina*, and "*All Songs Considered*" on *NPR*.

*For more information, call 2 balance (417-887-2300) or send a message to Jackie Langdon at [jackie@2balance.net](mailto:jackie@2balance.net).*