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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Original “Phantom” to Appear at
Super Autumn Festival
Benefit Concert on Sunday, November 22**

November 9, 2009: At Calvin Reformed Church in South Norwalk, spiritual and secular musicians alike will come together for **Super Autumn Festival**, a benefit concert addressing the issue of developmental disabilities in Fairfield County, and raising funds for STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way... and the Special Olympics. The concert will be held on November 22 at Calvin Reformed Church, 19 Lexington Avenue, South Norwalk, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. A free will offering will be collected. Refreshments will be served after the concert.

The event, hosted by Calvin Reformed Church, will include a special “Phantom of the Opera” performance by Frank Mastrone who has performed in Broadway’s Jekyll & Hyde, Saturday Night Fever, Big: The Musical, Cats, Les Misérables, and the original company of The Phantom of the Opera. The concert will also include musical groups Rubberband (a group of musicians with and without developmental disabilities), Redeemed, Impact Youth Group, Remembering, John Masi and Chorale-Del-Puente.

Thomas Mackno, concert organizer and musical director at Calvin Reformed Church explains, “With this concert, we are providing a forum for performers to share their musical gifts in a way that helps the community and entertains at the same time. Calvin Reformed Church is a historical place in Norwalk, a part of the original Italian and Hungarian immigrant community called ‘Whistleville’ with a history of great music, involvement and service in Norwalk. This is our second benefit concert. The first one brought performers together from all over Southwestern Connecticut together in a way that was truly memorable.”

Among the musical groups performing at the concert are Rubberband, STAR’s own folk-rock band that includes individuals with and without disabilities. The group is led by STAR staff members Nancy Armstrong and Mark Minnock, and the band practices and performs concerts throughout Fairfield County and for STAR’s “Music Club” a recreational program for adults with developmental disabilities. Rubberband has performed at Norwalk Oyster Festival, Ridgefield Playhouse and Black Bear Saloon in Norwalk, as well as numerous private events.

STAR, Inc., Lighting the Way is a not-for-profit organization serving infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities, as well as providing support services to their families. They create opportunities for individuals to live full lives with independence, freedom of choice and personal growth by providing support, services and advocacy. They inform and encourage the community to recognize and appreciate the value of all individuals.

Special Olympics is made up of passionate, committed individuals from every walk of life, who recognize the value and unique gifts of people with intellectual disabilities. Together, they share the common belief in dignity, equality and opportunity for ALL people.



For additional information about the Super Autumn Festival, please contact Calvin Reformed Church at 203-838-6769. You can also contact Nancy Armstrong of STAR at (203) 846-9581 or narmstrong@starinonline.com, or visit STAR's website at www.starinc-lightingtheway.org.

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