

## With Heartfelt Thanks to the De Pietro Family

In 1990 we decided to flirt with the idea of producing a play for the first time. Living in Glendale, it seemed only logical to find a venue in the area, and after some investigation, we chose the Boy Scouts of America Hall in Glendale. They had auditorium space connected to their administrative offices and were willing to rent it out for several days, just for our performances. Having chosen a rarely produced Tennessee Williams play entitled *Period of Adjustment*, we had a cast and enthusiasm but no space to rehearse. At the recommendation of a friend, we contacted the Glendale Historical Society in the hope that they might know of empty space around town that we could use for the rehearsal period. These nice folks introduced us to Dennis and Robert De Pietro for the first time, and we met in front of what was to become the future home of *A Noise Within*, the former Masonic Temple on the corner of Brand and Colorado in Glendale. After giving us a tour of this wonderful old building and listening to our request, they tossed us the keys. With a handshake, they allowed our small cast of wayward troubadours to inhabit the space for the several weeks we needed.

Our short run of the Tennessee Williams play was successful, if for no other reason than we learned a great deal in a short period of time about what it takes to produce even one play. After a small respite and a summer working at a theatre up north, we decided to give it another try—but this time with arguably the greatest play ever written, William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. We spoke with Dennis and Robert about the possibility of again using their space for rehearsals. We were delightfully shocked when Dennis replied, "Why don't you just rehearse *and perform* your play at the Masonic Temple? It's not being used right now, and we'd be happy to let you stay for a bit."

This was the beginning of a long and fruitful friendship with the De Pietro family. Dennis, Robert and their families have been patrons, donors and friends for 17 years. Through good times and bad, we have always been able to count on their loyal generosity. Whether offering

financial support, providing guidance with regard to the maintenance of the facility, or introducing friends to *A Noise Within*, these two brothers have always been ready to roll up their sleeves and give of themselves. They have opened up their homes for fundraising events, have been available for Glendale City Council meetings involving the company, and have helped to spread the word about *A Noise Within* and its work.

Throughout history, every worthwhile endeavor has benefited from the guidance of a host of angels, ensuring its success. Robert and Dennis De Pietro and the entire De Pietro family are honored members of that precious club. Without their generous support, *A Noise Within* would not have been given the opportunity to continue to grow. We are eternally grateful!

Julia Rodriguez-Elliott and Geoff Elliott  
Founders/Artistic Directors  
*A Noise Within*