

Chicago Tribune



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Rocking the inauguration

Acts scheduled at the official inaugural balls Tuesday:

Obama Home States Ball

Common
Jack Johnson
Don Cagen Orchestra

Biden Home States Ball

Maroon 5
James Gerard Orchestra

Mid-Atlantic Ball

The Dead
DJ Cassidy

Midwestern Ball

Sheryl Crow
Fabulous Motown Revue

Western Ball

Marc Anthony
Party on the Moon

Eastern Ball

James Taylor
Liquid Pleasure

Southern Ball

The Derek Trucks Band

Commander-in-chief's Ball

Jon Bon Jovi
Jordin Sparks
Right On

Neighborhood Ball

Beyonce
Mary J. Blige
Mariah Carey
Faith Hill
Jay-Z
Alicia Keys
Shakira
Stevie Wonder

SOURCE: PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL COMMITTEE

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

One big gig: Local orchestra hits the inauguration jackpot

By Howard Reich

TRIBUNE CRITIC

When you're running a society band, the gigs aren't always glamorous.

But Chicagoans Becky and Don Cagen—a married couple who operate the Don Cagen Orchestra—recently hit the jackpot: They were booked to play the Obama Home States Ball at the Washington Convention Center on Tuesday night. They'll have to share the marquee—with rapper Common and Jack Johnson.

On the eve of the big show, singer Becky and bandleader-arranger Don took a moment—in the midst of a sound check—to reflect on their good fortune:

Q Did you think you had a shot at this?

Becky: We knew in our hearts we were going to be there. ... I was watching "West Wing" DVDs all the time, to get ready.

Don: This was going to be our destiny.



Becky and Don Cagen will perform at a ball Tuesday.

Q Did you ever think that someday you'd share a stage with Common?

Don: That ... was a shock.

Q What will you play?

Becky: "Signed, Sealed and Delivered," the Stevie Wonder tune. "What's Going On," Marvin Gaye. Etta James' "At Last," of course. Sorry about the noise in the background—that's Stevie Wonder warming up!

Q Anything else on the hit list?

Becky: Don made a great

arrangement of "Michelle," for the first lady. And we heard that one of President-elect Obama's favorite songs was Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come."

Q Do you know "Hail to the Chief"?

Don: We do know "Hail to the Chief," but that's the prerogative of the military band that will be here.

Q Do you think you'll get a picture with the president?

Becky: That's in God's hands.

Q You just got the gig 10 days ago. How'd you pull this together?

Becky: On two, three hours of sleep a night.

Q Obviously you're getting paid, but hiring a bus and hotel room for 14 musicians plus staff cannot be cheap.

Becky: That's what home equity loans are for.