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Thalians Gala Honors Smokey Robinson, Raises \$1 Million For UCLA Operation Mend



Pictured: Smokey Robinson and Guy Sebastian on the red carpet of Saturday's 56th Annual Thalians Gala. Courier Photo by Matt Lopez

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On a night when music legend Smokey Robinson was honored for his lifetime achievements as “Mr. Wonderful”, the 56th annual Thalians gala raised \$1 million for UCLA’s Operation Mend on Saturday at the House of Blues on the Sunset Strip.

The Thalians, Hollywood’s leading nonprofit organization dedicated to the treatment of mental health, feted Robinson for his achievements in music and philanthropy. International recording star and winner of the first season of “Australian Idol” Guy Sebastian, Operation Mend Soldiers, Gordy/Motown family members, and a host of celebrities were all on hand for top notch performances and a live auction.

Artists performing Smokey’s songs included multi-platinum recording artist Guy Sebastian (“Battle Scars,” “Like A Drum”-SONY), Taylor Dayne, “Cheech” with his wife Natasha Marin, Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis, rock group *Player*, *The Fifth Dimension*’s Florence LaRue, Joy Enriquez, AKNU from “THE X-FACTOR,” Quinton Marcel and Bobby Arvon, all backed by musical director Todd Schroeder and The Thalians Orchestra.

[The Thalias](#), long led by entertainment legend and President Debbie Reynolds and Board Chair Ruta Lee, has raised over \$30 million in support of mental health diseases. UCLA Operation Mend works to treat U.S. military personnel wounded during service in Iraq and Afghanistan.