

BY REBECCA D'ANGELO



Rockin' the mike to raise some dough

"Capitol Careoke" brought together local journalists, politicians and sports personalities Tuesday at the Ronald Reagan Building. They lifted their voices in song for Childhelp, a nonprofit group that prevents and treats child abuse and neglect. About \$150,000 was collected.

1. Luke Russert of NBC News performs his rendition of Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run."
2. Fox 5's crew, from left, Christin Fernandez, Shawn Yancy, Laura Evans and Melanie Alwick relax in the green room.
3. Pamela Sorensen confers with D.C. Council member Jack Evans, one of the night's featured performers.
4. ABC7's Rebecca Cooper, center, started the "Capitol Careoke" fundraiser four years ago. She is with Childhelp co-founders Sara O'Meara, left, and Yvonne Feddersen.
5. Jackie and Ross Vann place a bid during the silent auction held in conjunction with the karaoke night. Tickets for the fundraiser averaged \$500 a person.
6. John King and Dana Bash represent CNN, which faced off against Fox News for bragging rights.
7. WUSA (Channel 9) has a strong showing with, from left, Topper Shutt, Lesli Foster, Anita Brikman and Angie Goff.

BY ANN HORNADAY
AND JEN CHANEY

Our 2011 OSCAR PICKS

Ready to make your selections for Sunday night's big Academy Awards show? Here's your ballot — and a little help from our movie experts, Ann Hornaday and Jen Chaney, who offer their predictions on winners in the most-important categories.



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CROWNING GLORIES: Nominees Colin Firth and Helena Bonham star in "The King's Speech," which is highly favored for Best Picture.

Best Picture

- "Black Swan"
- "The Fighter"
- "Inception"
- "The Kids Are All Right"
- "The King's Speech"
- "127 Hours"
- "The Social Network"
- "Toy Story 3"
- "True Grit"
- "Winter's Bone"

A.H.: By most accounts, this is "The King's Speech's" to lose, and in some ways that would be appropriate for a category that's about more than the sum of a film's parts. "The King's Speech" wasn't ambitious or inherently cinematic (it could easily have existed as a "Masterpiece Theater" series), but there's no doubt that it captured the imagination of the movie-going public. In my heart, though, I know the smartest, most well-crafted, most resonant movie of the year was "The Social Network." :(

J.C.: My gut tells me "The King's Speech" will triumph as expected. My suspicious nature makes me wonder if somehow "Speech" and "The Social Network" will cancel each other out,

leading "True Grit" to a surprise victory. And my heart says that, though it will never happen, it would be so sweet to see "Toy Story 3" become the first animated Best Picture winner in history.

Actor

- Javier Bardem, "Biutiful"
- Jeff Bridges, "True Grit"
- Jesse Eisenberg, "The Social Network"
- Colin Firth, "The King's Speech"
- James Franco, "127 Hours"

A.H.: Colin Firth will win for "The King's Speech," and anyone who thought he deserved it last year for "A Single Man" won't begrudge him. Still, in a similarly recessive turn, Jesse Eisenberg earned just as much of the audience's emotional investment — without once asking to be liked.

J.C.: Add Colin Firth — who brings a brilliantly subtle mix of pride and vulnerability to his role as a stammering King George VI — to the list of winners we all saw coming months ago.

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