



*Legacy Mares*

# THE DAUGHTERS OF THE MASTER'S TOUCH

The much-heralded park saddle stallion made a second reputation as the sire of broodmares.

**T**he Master's Touch has proven himself as a broodmare sire. If I were starting a breeding program today, I would look for his daughters to help me with this goal."

These are the words of noted trainer and Morgan breed stalwart, Harry Sebring. In making such a firm proclamation, Harry's standpoint is both that of first-hand experience and a historian's view of the last two decades of Morgan show ring results.

In the herd Harry has managed for his friend, Ann Hailey, is the mare CEN Can't Touch This (The Master's Touch x HPS

Beautiful Noise by Waseeka's In Command). In 1996 "MC" won the Ladies Park Harness World Championship with Ann Hailey at the lines. She subsequently produced winning offspring for Ann's Copper Beech LLC, and Ann has many times bestowed the title of "foundation mare" upon her.

In this article we will address the impact the daughters of "Matt" have had in the breeding shed and, subsequently, on the Morgan show ring.

First, however, let's review a bit of the history of the horse himself.

**By Suzy Lucine**

Above and on right page: *Four time Park Saddle World Champion The Master's Touch. Inset, top: his sire Serenity Masterpiece and, bottom, Masterpiece's sire Serenity Grandmaster.* (Photos © Howard Schatzberg, Scott Trees)

*Legacy Mares*

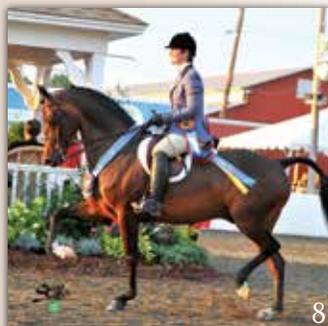
THE DAUGHTERS OF THE MASTER'S TOUCH





### CEN TOUCH AND GO & CEN CAN'T TOUCH THIS

*CEN Touch And Go's offspring CN The Commanding Touch (1) and CEN Go French (2); A son of CEN Go French, RRG Mesmerize (3); The full sisters CHMH Spice Town Girl (4) and Portfolio (5) trace in tail female line to CEN Touch And Go through the latter's daughter CHMH Grand Gift Of Honey; CEN Can't Touch This (6) and two offspring CBMF Ruling Class (7); and CBMF Designer Touch (8).*



(Photos © Debbie Uecker-Keough, Shane Shiflet, Howard Schatzberg, Casey McBride)

In 1988, a year before he won his first open world championship, Matt entered and touched the lives of owner Cindy Nord of Blythewood, South Carolina, and trainer Mike Goebig of Broadmoor in Kutztown, Pennsylvania. He became a horse-of-a-lifetime for both, and was admired by trainers, breeders and fans worldwide.

His record is well-known. Once in Mike's hands he began an undefeated career under saddle, an accomplishment of which few stallions can boast. He ascended to an historic four wins of the Park Saddle World Championship in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1994. In the 1989 win, when Matt was only four years old, he won the title showing against his own sire, then the reigning world champion, Serenity Masterpiece. When he came back to win in 1994 he again defeated the reigning world champion Tug Hill Whamunion in a two-horse work out. No one present will ever forget standing on their feet to salute this magnificent display of horses and horsemanship in the ring that night.

"Matt was very easy to break to saddle, because he was totally natural," Mike said. "There weren't any issues in getting him to wear a full bridle. He was the most normal saddle horse I've ever worked with. There was nothing that I asked of him that got in the way."

"During the six years that I campaigned Matt, I never worked or treated him any differently," Mike continued. "He didn't require a lot of training because he was so natural."

Mike did note one difference in the gifted stallion. "There was a difference from riding him at home compared to riding him in the show ring," he said. "When we rode through the ingate, he doubled in size. This was his 'It' factor—what separates a good one versus a great one."

The Master's Touch certainly made fans.

"He is one of the greatest the breed had to offer, and also possessed gorgeous type which made him a standout, one that everyone looks for and admires deeply," says Calvin Hanson, a retired breeder of Morgan horses and USEF judge from Ontario, Canada. "Matt sure made his mark on the breed as his name implies. He 'Touched' all of our lives just seeing him show and seeing his wonderful offspring in the show ring. His mark is cast in stone and will live on forever in the breed record books."

"Matt was an icon of our breed," says Gael Jaeger of Flintlock Morgan Farm in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. "We admired Matt so very much that we bred to him twice, and both offspring are joys to work with and be around daily."

As a breeder, Debi Boies of Castleridge Farm in Landrum, South Carolina said, "I watched one of Matt's world championship performances, and it had a huge impact on the breeding choices I made after watching it."

As has already been stated, The Master's Touch was shown frequently throughout his early years. It is what both Mike Goebig and Cindy Nord preferred to focus on during the stallion's unprecedented career. During that time he did not stand at stud to the public, though he could indeed have had a huge harem had his book been open.



### THE GIFTED TOUCH, CN JUST A THOUGHT & CN THE ELEGANT TOUCH

The Gifted Touch (1) and her son Comiskey Park (2);  
CN Just A Thought (3) and her son Whitemud Touch Of Blue  
GCH (4); CN The Elegant Touch has two in this study: CN Out  
And About (5) and CN Debutante (6).



(Photos © Howard Schatzberg, Bob Moseder, Casey McBride)

Instead, Mike made a determinedly conscious selection of broodmares that he felt would complement Matt. And Cindy was soon in the breeding business at Meadowridge, her farm in Blythewood, South Carolina.

“We wanted mares that had a good track record in their pedigrees,” Mike observed. Matt was by Serenity Masterpiece and out of Serenity Fancy, which combined the bloodlines of such greats as Fleetwing and Vigilmarch. Therefore, Matt didn’t have any of the well-known Waseeka’s Nocturne or Waseeka’s In Command blood in his pedigree, so he was a good choice for mares of this heritage. Coincidentally, the programs of both Waseeka and Martha Dupont’s Nemours Farm were winding down at that time. Hitherto unavailable mares like the exotic ER Hope Diamond (Waseeka’s In Command x Headline Hey Jude): the dynastic Waseeka Valiant Lady (Waseeka’s Showtime x Helicon Calliope); and her full sister Waseeka’s Gifted Lady were to enter the program. They were joined by other mares critical to the vision of Mike and Cindy: Wham Bam’s Aeroflyte (Wham Bam Command x Secret Flight); HPS Beautiful Noise (Waseeka’s In Command x Trophy’s Karat); and Tempo Lady Noblest (Noble Command x Quail Run Crystal) were among these mares.

While it was clear the team was making history in the show ring, history would prove that they were beginning a legacy in the breeding shed, especially when Matt’s daughters from these early acquisitions started producing in their turn.

In 1990 The Master’s Touch produced only one foal. This was CEN Touch And Go from what would be a special cross with HPS Beautiful Noise. Touch And Go was never shown, going straight to the breeding shed at young age instead. And that’s what put things in motion.

Her first foal, CN The Commanding Touch, was by HVK Courageous Flaire.

A combination of these bloodlines is why Stephen Kinney, then trainer at Regards in Bucksport, Maine, formed a partnership with Jeff Violette and Ron and Gail White to purchase CN The Commanding Touch, sight unseen as a suckling. “His unique pedigree combined two Park Saddle World Champions and was among the first to co-mingle the blood of Noble Flaire with Serenity Masterpiece,” Stephen said. The Commanding Touch won both the 1999 Park Saddle Three-Year-Old World Championship and the 2000 title for four-year-olds. In 2005 he won the title of Reserve World Champion Amateur Park Harness with his dotting owner Brenda Varney at the lines. “I believe his early success led the Morgan world to daughters of The Master’s Touch as broodmares,” Stephen observed.

CEN Touch And Go’s next offspring was the long-necked, elegant CEN Go French (by Futurity French Command), who made a few trips to the winner’s circle at the Morgan Grand National in different English pleasure divisions. She then went on to make an impact as a broodmare in Judith Caldwell’s breeding program at Rancho Rio Grande in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

“She was great in the show ring for us,” said Judy Caldwell about her mare, “And she has produced nice foals for us. She is a lovely mare, who is easy to work with, and has been an asset to our breeding program.”



# Legacy Mares

## THE DAUGHTERS OF THE MASTER'S TOUCH

### CN THE VALIANT TOUCH

CN The Valiant Touch (1) and her son BKC Valiant Star (2); BKC Valiant Star's two sons Take Cover (3) and Booyah (4); Get Ready (5) who traces in tail female line to The Valiant Touch through the latter's daughter ALB Elusive Star (a full sibling to BKC Valiant Star).



(Photos © Howard Schatzberg)

Go French is the dam of RRG Mesmerize, a young stallion by Mizrahi. In 2009, Ralph Stuart presented the smooth and refined colt and delivered the long sought after title of Circle J Yearling Futurity Champion to Judith Caldwell. RRG had a one-two punch that year as RRG Camelot was Reserve Circle J Yearling Futurity Champion.

Bred to the Noble Flaire son, HVK Grand Entrance, CEN Touch And Go foaled CHMH Grand Gift Of Honey in 2001. And with her a new story begins.

CHMH Grand Gift Of Honey produced five foals after a successful career as a broodmare for owner Lynn Peeples of Waterford Farm in Oxford, New Jersey. Four of these offspring are by Town Assets, combining the blood of Noble Flaire and Vigilmarc on the bottom side with Nocturne and Upwey Ben Don on the top. Lynn bought her with her Town Assets daughter, CHMH Spice Town Girl GCH, at her side. "I bred 'Honey' to Born To Boogie at first because the filly at her side looked like lots of parts and pieces," Lynn said. "But when this filly turned two, everything blended together, and I knew I needed to get Honey back in foal to Town Assets."

CHMH Spice Town Girl GCH, fondly known as 'Posh,' culminated her first show season winning the 2009 Two-Year-Old Pleasure Driving World Championship with trainer Nancy Flower. Then she was purchased by Tony Lee, who put her in training with Broadmoor. For four years in a row, Tony has driven Posh to the Grand National Amateur Pleasure Driving Mares Championship. She and Tony also have four wins of the Amateur Pleasure Driving Reserve World Championship.

Portfolio, also by Town Assets and out of Honey, followed in her full sister's footsteps as Nancy drove her to the 2013 Two-Year-Old Pleasure Driving World Championship and the World Futurity Two-Year-Old Pleasure Driving Championship for owner Lynn Peeples.

Nancy just started lining the two-year-old full sister, LPS Forever Hopeful, and Lynn thinks she is like Portfolio. The yearling colt, LPS Time After Time, is turned out for the winter, and Lynn thinks he is more like Posh.

"Honey's offspring are like her grandsire in that they are very trainable with show horse ways," Lynn said. "They really like their work."

Honey's story is one of several that shows the third generation continues to have that 'Touch' in the show ring.

Meanwhile, HPS Beautiful Noise gave the breed a second daughter by Matt. CEN Can't Touch This was the only foal by him born in 1991. In 1995 she showed owner and breeder Cindy Nord the way to an Oklahoma victory pass when she was crowned Ladies Park Harness Reserve World Champion. By 1996 she was owned by Ann Hailey and, as already noted, won the ladies title for her that year. In the year 2000 "MC" gave birth to one of the most popular show horses of his generation, the gelding CBMF Ruling Class, a long legged beauty by Ann's herd sire GLB Bell Pepper. Ruling Class would be named World Champion Gelding in 2007, 2008 and 2009 for Holly (Pugh) Johnson showing under the Tara Farm banner. Before selling this stellar individual Ann collected and froze



### CN SOPHISTICATED LADY, THE STYLISH TOUCH & THE DIAMOND TOUCH

CN *Sophisticated Lady's* son *SpringMill Souvenir* (1);  
*The Stylish Touch's* son CN *Grand Style* (2);  
and *The Diamond Touch's* daughter CN *In Grand Style* (3).



(Photos © Howard Schatzberg, Shane Shiflet, Debbie Uecker-Keough)

semen. Ruling Class was the sire of 2008 Reserve World Champion Gelding CBMF Wild Ruler and 2009 World Futurity Champion Two-Year-Old Filly CBMF Class Act. Both of these are out of Wild Imaginings, herself well-bred, being by Born To Boogie and out of UVM Unity. (Note, CBMF Ruling Class died an untimely death in 2010). CEN Can't Touch This is also the dam of CBMF Designer Touch (by Mizrahi), who was Grand National Champion Hunter Pleasure Ladies Gelding for owner Lisa Foley.

"MC was a true ladies mare," Ann said. "In addition to having beauty and talent, she had that true Morgan attitude of wanting to please her people. She always gave her best.

"She was a foundation mare for the Copper Beech breeding program," Ann continued. "She passed along her talent and importantly, her attitude of wanting to do the right thing. Her legacy continues as her foals (and their foals) are successful in a variety of disciplines, including the important role of 'family horse'."

A 1993 daughter would also distinguish the sire line in many ways. The Gifted Touch (x Waseeka's Gifted Lady who was on lease to Mike Goebig and Dwayne Knowles) earned show ring titles before entering the breeding shed. In 1996 she was Three-Year-Old English Pleasure Reserve World Champion. In 2001 she produced a foal by HVK Courageous Flaire (echoing the cross that produced CN The Commanding Touch). This is the bold gelding Comiskey Park who would take rider Amanda McHatten to the title of Amateur English Pleasure Reserve World Champion in 2008, cementing the popularity of crossing of Noble Flaire lines with those of The Master's Touch.

ER Hope Diamond was a sweet-heart of the show ring in the 1980s and considered among the most beautiful of the Waseeka's In Command mares. She produced several by Matt, including the 1994 daughter CN Just A Thought. In 2001 Just A Thought, bred to Liberation Rhythm N Blues, produced the steady and unflappable show horse Whitemud Touch Of Blue GCH for Rhoda Hoenman's program. In 2004 Mike Goebig would ride Touch Of Blue to the Three-Year-Old English Pleasure Geldings Grand National Championship. It has been, however, in the classic pleasure discipline that the gelding has best found his stride. Under the ownership of Carol Fletcher, Touch Of Blue was named 2009 Ladies Classic Pleasure Saddle Reserve World Champion.

"Larry is very smart, knows his job and he's the happiest horse I've ever owned," said Carol Fletcher about Whitemud Touch Of Blue GCH. "He loves people and he has his own fan club out here at the local shows. He's the type of horse that if you have kids coming to the barn to learn about the Morgan breed, he's the one I bring out to meet and greet. He'll stand forever while youngsters are patting him.

"In the show ring, he's all show horse," Carol continued. "He's got a good, natural trot, and when turned out barefoot in the field during the winter months, he will trot level with his tail up over his back."

CN The Elegant Touch is the 1995 daughter of ER Hope Diamond. She produced two with titles for Cindy Nord, both being by the Noble Flaire son (and, at one time, Cindy's amateur pleasure driving entry) HVK Grand Entrance. One of these, CN Debutante,



### TOUCH OF SPRING & VISUAL ADDICTION

Touch Of Spring (1) and her son Centaurus Rising (2);  
and Visual Addiction's daughter Super Moon(3).



(Photos © Doug Shiflet, Terry Young, Howard Schatzberg)

born in 2001, won the 2004 Three-Year-Old Pleasure Driving Mares Reserve Grand National Championship. Debutante remains a broodmare in Cindy's program and is the dam of the winning CN Outer Limits, who won the New York Regional Junior Pleasure Driving Championship with Dwayne Knowles at the lines in 2013. Debutante's full sibling from 2006, CN Out And About, has carried young rider Spencer Shample to many walk trot English pleasure and equitation wins on New England's competitive circuit under the direction of Taylor River Farm.

CN Sophisticated Lady, the 1996 daughter out of Tempo Lady Noblest, was very productive on behalf of the Doctors John and Patti Huse's SpringMill Morgans. Best known of her offspring is SpringMill Souvenir, again sired by a Noble Flaire son, namely the Huse's foundation sire Nostradamus. In 2007 Souvenir was named the Four-Year-Old English Pleasure Reserve World Champion. In 2005 he was the World Futurity Pleasure Driving Two-Year-Old Reserve Champion.

"We purchased Sophie specifically because she was a Master's Touch daughter as we wanted to breed her to our Noble Flaire son, Nostradamus," said Dr. Patti Huse of SpringMill Morgans in Indianapolis, Indiana, about CN Sophisticated Lady. "She was good off both her front end and hind end, was shown on a limited basis, but made a large impact on our breeding program.

"As a breeder, what more can you ask of a broodmare whose first foal becomes a reserve world champion as a two-year-old," Patti said. "SpringMill Souvenir, was so talented and so good natured, we called him 'Teddy.'

"Teddy was also athletically talented and had a natural, fluid trot," Patti continued. "His full brother, a two-year-old, SpringMill Momento is like him, being very beautiful and having a long neck.

"Teddy made us proud to be breeding Morgans, because when he showed we would get comments from other breeders stating how cool he was and how much they liked him. It was a very tough decision when we sold him."

CN The Valiant Touch has a legacy all her own. She is Matt's 1996 daughter out of Waseka Valiant Lady. It should be noted here that Valiant Lady is the dam of both Valiant Tony and Nobelle. Nobelle is herself dam to a dynasty: Futurity French Command, HVK Ancient Cry and The Noblest are all out of her. So this is a royal family. The Valiant Touch, also known as "Shaboom," was among the best trotting of The Master's Touch's get. She would really find her stride when she entered the broodmare band, producing in 2002 BKC Valiant Star, by Liberation First Star. BKC Valiant Star holds many titles, perhaps best known as the 2007 Amateur Park Saddle World Champion, a title he won for Casey McDonald under the direction of David Rand. Today the stallion stands at RAND for owner Pauline Dube, and his get, namely Take Cover, Ledgefield Leonidas and Boyaah, have had a remarkable hold on the title of World Futurity Champion Yearling Stallion for the last three years. He has a popular following among breeders.

A full sister to Valiant Star is ALB Elusive Star, Shaboom's 2005 filly. Elusive Star is carrying on the trotting ability of the line as dam of Get Ready, the sensational son of Get Busy (Astricallee x So Vain). When Mike Goebig drove Get Ready to the title of Three-



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Year-Old Park Harness Reserve World Champion he was harnessing decades of Broadmoor stewarded breeding, in this instance on behalf of Bill Haines of Ledyard Farms.

"We bought The Valiant Touch in 1998 as a two-year-old prospect," said Linda Brewer of Lebanon, Pennsylvania. "Mike Goebig showed her for us as a junior horse, winning the Grand National Three-Year-Old Mare &

Gelding Park Harness Championship.

"Since then, she has produced six foals for us," Linda continued. "We've bred her to four different stallions, and all of her offspring have been good sized, and are more like their sires than their dam. They have lots of trot and a good length of neck."

Few of Matt's grand-get have a longer and more distinguished show record than CN Grand Style. This gelding is the 2001

son of HVK Grand Entrance crossed on The Stylish Touch. The Stylish Touch is by Matt and out of Wham Bam's Aeroflyte. (It should be noted here, even though this article is about daughters and their produce, that Wham Bam's Aeroflyte produced a near look-alike son of The Master's Touch in 2001. This was The Master's Flyte who, before his untimely death, would carry Allyson Nord Wandtke to the title of Amateur Park Saddle World Champion twice, once in 2006 and again in 2008 (with the reserve title in 2007 to the aforementioned Matt grandget, BKC Valiant Star). His true trotting ability brought him multiple junior horse titles, as well, when shown by Mike Goebig (including the Four-Year-Old Park Saddle World Championship in 2005 and the reserve title for three-year-olds the year prior). Back to The Stylish Touch and her son CN Grand Style. The bright chestnut gelding was something of an "it" horse as a young harness contender at Grand National. Then under the guidance of Jimmy Lowry, he was spotted by David Rand and, subsequently, was a fierce contender under the RAND banner. The highlight of his show career was winning the 2008 English Pleasure Amateur Masters World Championship for the Tassinari family.

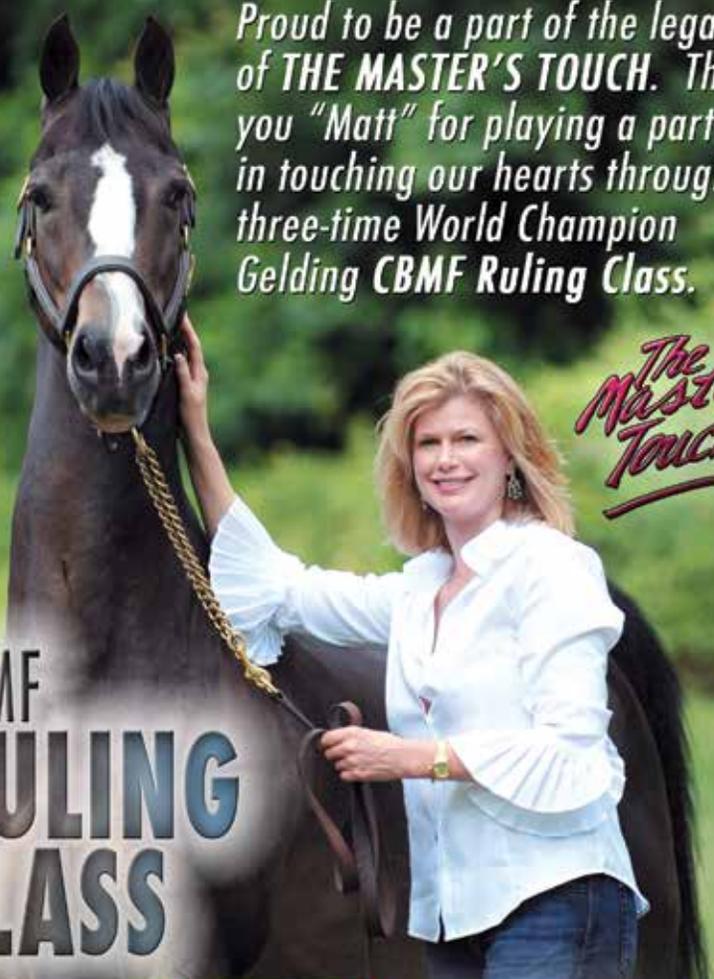
"This gelding is a true athlete and he always does his job, no matter who is asking," said David Rand about CN Grand Style. "In fact, the Tassinaris' daughter, Emily, learned to ride English on this gelding and she learned to drive a horse using him during her lessons. He's that great natured."

One more daughter has added to the successful story for breeder Cindy Nord. That is The Diamond Touch, the 1997 daughter out of ER Hope Diamond. This mare, bred to HVK Grand Entrance, produced the 2004 foal CN In Grand Style. Again showing under the Broadmoor banner with Cindy's daughter Allyson Wandtke at the lines, this lovely mare took victory passes at Oklahoma: she was named 2007 World Futurity Classic Pleasure Driving Three-Year-Old Reserve Champion and 2008 Junior Classic Pleasure Driving Reserve World Champion. She won under saddle as well. She and Allyson

*Proud to be a part of the legacy of THE MASTER'S TOUCH. Thank you "Matt" for playing a part in touching our hearts through three-time World Champion Gelding CBMF Ruling Class.*

*The Master's Touch*

**CBMF RULING CLASS**




Sire: **GLB Bell Pepper**  
 Dam: **CEN Can't Touch This**  
 Owned by: **Holly Johnson**  
 Raleigh, North Carolina  
 Trained by: **Tara Farm**  
 Ken & Dini Swanson  
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 Howard Schatzberg



# Legacy Mares

## THE DAUGHTERS OF THE MASTER'S TOUCH

claimed top honors in the Grand National Classic Pleasure Saddle Junior Finals in both 2007 and 2008, as a three-year-old and as a four-year-old. Her record as a classic pleasure horse in her junior years was remarkable.

Most recently, the daughter Touch Of Spring (The Master's Touch x Brookstone Apricaire who traces in tail male line to Trophy's Jade) is proving a producer for Charles Marcon. Her son by Astronomicallee, Centaurus Rising, was the 2011 Three-Year-Old English Pleasure World Champion and the 2012 English Pleasure Four-Year-Old Reserve World Champion with Dwayne Knowles. In 2013 he carried Elizabeth Marcon to the Amateur English Pleasure Championship title at Mass Morgan.

**W**hat is interesting from sitting all these pedigrees is how dominant The Master's Touch has been in passing on his trotting gene. Most of the get and grand get we've written about —The likes of CN The Commanding Touch, BKC Valiant Star, CN Grand Style—have succeeded in the saddle seat/fine harness traditions.

Foal crop after foal crop, including second and third generations, Cindy Nord feels the same way today that she has for more

than two decades. "Year after year, as I watched Matt's offspring in the field, I couldn't believe that I had bred that nice of a foal," Cindy said. "I couldn't believe Matt had sired such nice foals."

Mike noted that Matt's legacy as a breeding stallion continues through his daughters, who have proved to be exceptional broodmares, ensuring his impact on another generation of the breed. "It became apparent, after working a number of offspring out of The Master's Touch's by different studs, that they were passing on his athletic ability and cadence."



The Master's Touch and Mike Goebig at the 1989 American Royal Symphony of Horses. (Photo © Avis Girdler)

**A**lthough The Master's Touch passed away in 2011, his fans continue to breed and foals continue to be registered by him, begotten through frozen semen. So there is a not insignificant inventory of very young daughters.

An example: Visual Addiction, foaled in 2006 out of the gifted show mare Triton Royal Dawn, has already produced the 2012 Futurity Park Harness Reserve World Champion, Super Moon. Both Super Moon and Visual Addiction are owned and bred by Mike Goebig and Dwayne Knowles at Broadmoor.

Which means, The Master's Touch's story is far from over. His legacy, while significant, has only begun to be fully realized. ■



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