

PORTLAND COLUMBIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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Press Release

Contact: Betsy Hatton
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2008

CHINA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF CONCERT TO BENEFIT THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

PORTLAND, OR MAY 21, 2008: The Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra along with Willamette University and Portland Opera are sponsoring a **China Earthquake Relief Concert** on Sunday, June 1, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St in Portland. Admission is by donation. 100% of donations directly benefit the American Red Cross China earthquake relief effort.

Jay Chen will narrate compelling slides of the earthquake and speak about how this disaster has affected people's lives. Three groups will play brass chamber music: Horn Orchestra, Trumpet Choir and Low Brass Ensemble made up of players from the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Portland Ballet, and Columbia Symphony.

Jay Chen, instructor of trumpet at Willamette University, is spearheading this concert. He is a native of Chengdu, from the Sichuan Province of China, 50 miles from the epicenter of the

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earthquake. He has been watching the images emerging from China and said, "I have never cried so much in my life."

The quake occurred in the middle of the day, so schools were the hardest hit. In just one school alone, more than a thousand children were buried, Chen said. "When they were uncovered, they were found wrapped in their teachers' arms. There is a true humanity here. The response by the Chinese government is also unprecedented."

Chen, who is also principal trumpet with the Portland Opera, is organizing a response. He is short on time and big on heart, and hopes to get the word out quickly.

Electronic photo of Mr. Chen is available by request. Other contacts listed below:

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