



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Patty Thayer, Marketing Director

patty@slosymphony.com

Ph.543-3533 Fx.781-3534

**San Luis Obispo Symphony Teams with the SLO County Food Bank Coalition
to Orchestrate a Food Drive to Benefit Local Citizens in Need**

*Joining a Nationwide Program called “Orchestras Feeding America” Food Collected at the Symphony’s
March Performances Will Help Homeless and Other Hungry People in San Luis Obispo County*

(SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA) Taking part in a nationwide program called “Orchestras Feeding America,” the San Luis Obispo Symphony is calling on concert-goers to bring non-perishable food and cash donations to their performances in March:

- **No Ties Allowed! Free Dress Rehearsal**
Saturday, March 6th at 1 pm at the Christopher Cohan Center
- **Classics Concert featuring violinist David Kim**
Saturday, March 6th at 8 pm at the Christopher Cohan Center
- **San Luis Obispo Youth Symphony Spring Concert**
Sunday, March 14th at 3 pm at the Clark Center for the Performing Arts in Arroyo Grande

Staff from the SLO County Food Bank Coalition will be on hand at all three events to offer information and accept much-needed staples such as canned food, peanut butter, rice and beans and pasta as well as cash donations in support of Food Bank programs.

The *Orchestras Feeding America* initiative was begun last year at this time in conjunction with the release of the internationally-acclaimed film *The Soloist*. Locally, the effort was such a success that the Food Bank and the Symphony decided to make it an annual event during the month of March. At the national level last year, with more than 250 orchestras representing all 50 states, *Orchestras Feeding America* was the single largest orchestra project serving communities nationwide, collecting over 200,000 pounds of food for local communities.

The Food Bank stretches contributions to the fullest extent possible. Every dollar donated translates to 10 pounds of food the organization can acquire, and every 10 pounds of food can be transformed into 7 meals.

Both the Food Bank and the San Luis Obispo Symphony hope that local music lovers get the message and contribute what they can to the local version of “Orchestras Feeding America.” For more information, call the Food Bank at 805-238-4664 or the San Luis Obispo Symphony at 805-543-3533.

About the Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County: The Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County opened in 1989. Today, the organization is the only countywide source of large quantity donated and low-cost food for low-income families, seniors, children, veterans and the disabled. Through direct programs like the Backpack Program for school children and the Senior Brown Bag Program, and in partnership with over 200 SLO County agencies, the Food Bank will provide 5.5 million pounds of food for the tables of more than 15% of the county’s residents in 2010.

Since 1961, the San Luis Obispo Symphony has been an artistic, economic, educational and community-centered force on the Central Coast. Now in its 9th Season, the Symphony presents a nine-month season of concerts including a classical masterworks series in San Luis Obispo, a chamber music series in more intimate venues around the county, a seaside Pops concert in Avila Beach and a series of Children’s Concerts at the Performing Arts Center. San Luis Obispo Symphony Music Education reaches more than 16,000 children every year with a variety of programs for all ages.

Food Bank Contributions will be accepted in the lobby at the following concerts and events:

San Luis Obispo Symphony

No Ties Allowed! FREE Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, March 6, 2010 – 1 pm

Christopher Cohan Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo

San Luis Obispo Symphony

Evening Classics Concert with David Kim

Saturday, March 6, 2010 – 8 pm

Christopher Cohan Center, 1 Grand Ave., San Luis Obispo

San Luis Obispo Youth Symphony

Spring Concert

Sunday, March 14, 2010 – 3 pm

Clark Center, 487 Fair Oaks Ave., Arroyo Grande

For more information, please contact Patty Thayer at the San Luis Obispo Symphony, (805) 543-3533 or patty@slosymphony.com.

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