



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Judy Neale, 955-8821

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**SYMPHONY MUSICIANS ANNOUNCE BENEFIT RECITAL WITH CHRISTOPHER O'RILEY;
Acclaimed Concert Pianist To Appear in UH/Manoa's Orvis on Sunday, November 29th at 4:00 p.m.**

Chamber Music Hawaii and the Musicians of the Honolulu Symphony are proud to present acclaimed concert pianist Christopher O'Riley, who will perform a benefit recital on behalf of the Honolulu Symphony musicians at 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 29, 2009 in UH/Manoa's Orvis Auditorium. O'Riley was originally scheduled to perform as a soloist with the Honolulu Symphony in concerts at the end of this month, and the recital is actually scheduled at one of the two times he originally was contracted to play with the full orchestra. O'Riley will be performing solo works by Beethoven and Chopin, and will be joined by a string quartet of Symphony Musicians for the Schumann Piano Quintet in E flat, Op. 44. Tickets for the November 29th concert are \$50 general admission, and may be purchased through the Chamber Music Hawaii web site at www.chambermusicahawaii.org or by calling Hawaii Public Radio at 955-8821 and reserving tickets by telephone.

The proceeds from the concert will go to the Musicians' two support funds, one of which makes interest-free loans available to musicians for emergencies, and the other of which makes funds available to support public performances by Symphony musicians. The two funds are: Honolulu Symphony Musicians (not tax-deductible)

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and Live Music Awareness - Honolulu Symphony Musicians Fund (tax-deductible). Contributions to either can be sent to Honolulu Symphony Musicians, 949 Kapiolani Boulevard, Honolulu, HI 96814.

O’Riley says, “We live in challenging times for orchestras across the country. As those challenges are addressed, it is hoped that solutions will be found and adjustments made between the musicians and management in a sense of good faith and honesty.” He continues, “I had been looking forward to performing with the Honolulu Symphony at the end of November, but my concerts were among the several November events cancelled by the Symphony management, and the Symphony musicians now have no work until at least the end of the calendar year. It is my fervent hope that I will be only one among many in joining together in support of the dedicated musicians of the Honolulu Symphony.”

Symphony Musicians’ representative Steve Dinion said, “The musicians are profoundly grateful to Christopher O’Riley for this very generous expression of support, and we are touched by the outpouring of concern from the community. We’d also like to thank the UH/Manoa Music Department for making Orvis Auditorium available to us for this event.”

The Symphony musicians who will be performing the Schumann quintet with O’Riley include Concertmaster Ignace Jang, violin, and the others will be announced shortly.

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All of the Honolulu Symphony's concerts originally scheduled for November have been cancelled, and there is nothing scheduled for the musicians for the rest of the calendar year. Those musicians who had HMSA medical plans lost their medical coverage at the beginning of November.

In addition to his prolific recital and recording careers, O'Riley is, of course, well known as the host of National Public Radio's award-winning program *From the Top*, and will in fact be returning to Hawaii in January 2010 for two performance tapings for national broadcast on Hawaii Island. The first is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20th at the Kahilu Theatre in Kamuela; the second for Friday, January 22nd in the William Charles Lunalilo Center of the Kamehameha Schools Hawaii in Kea'au, just north of Hilo. Hawaii Public Radio is presenting both events; this is the fourth time that HPR has brought *From the Top* to Hawaii, and the very first time for performances on Hawaii Island.

From his groundbreaking transcriptions of Radiohead to his unforgettable interpretations of classic and new repertoire, pianist Christopher O'Riley has redefined the possibilities of classical music. An interpreter and arranger of some of the most important contemporary rock music of our time, O'Riley lives by the Duke Ellington adage, "there are only two kinds of music, good music and bad." His first recording of Radiohead transcriptions, "True Love Waits" (Sony/Odyssey), was as critically acclaimed as it was commercially successful. His second set entitled "Hold Me to This: Christopher O'Riley Plays Radiohead," was released on World Village/Harmonia Mundi in the Spring of 2005. In 2006, he released his third set of transcriptions, "Home to Oblivion; An Elliott

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Smith Tribute.” His most recent CD, “Second Grace: Music of Nick Drake,” interprets the work of singer/songwriter Nick Drake.

O’Riley has been honored with many awards at the Leeds, Van Cliburn, Busoni and Montreal competitions, as well as an Avery Fisher Career Grant. He toured the U.S. with the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Orchestra playing Bach, Mozart and Lizst concerti, and has recently appeared with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony.

Listing Information

Chamber Music Hawaii and the Honolulu Symphony Musicians present

Christopher O’Riley in Recital

Sunday, November 29, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Orvis Auditorium, UH/Manoa

Tickets: \$50

Reservations: call 955-8821 or for on-line orders,

go to www.chambermusicahawaii.org

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