

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oregon Symphony Players Association

[www.concertgoersguide.org](http://www.concertgoersguide.org)

contact: Mary Ann Coggins Kaza, 503-228-4294

### Orchestras Feeding America

During March and early April, orchestras across America will be participating in a national food bank drive called “Orchestras Feeding America”. This venture is a joint project between the League of American Orchestras and Feeding America, the country’s largest food bank network. The project is endorsed by the President’s Council on National and Community Service, and also carries the full endorsement of the governing board of the International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians.

Oregon Symphony musicians, in support of this national drive, which will directly serve the Oregon Food Bank, have joined over 200 orchestras in 49 states in this important project. Food banks are currently facing depleting supplies at a time when more citizens are in need of help.

This project is inspired by the soon-to-be-released film *The Soloist*, starring Jamie Foxx, based on the book of the same title about Nathaniel Ayers, a Juilliard-trained musician who became homeless in Los Angeles due to schizophrenia and has become a source of inspiration to many, including fellow musicians.

Oregon Symphony violinist Mary Ann Coggins Kaza, Chair of this historic food drive involving Oregon Symphony Musicians, invites concertgoers, the general public, fellow professional and non-professional musicians, students, seniors, local businesses and local arts organizations to become involved and to help us reach our goal of one million pounds of food in advance of the premier of the film in April.

Oregon Food Bank serves as the hub of our statewide hunger-relief network. OFB collects and distributes food to 20 regional food banks across Oregon, and directly operates four regional food banks serving the Portland Metropolitan area, Southeast Oregon and Tillamook County and Clarke County, Washington. OFB will work with us to accomplish this historic drive.

You can help by doing one of the following:

Give food      Donate three cans or more as possible, at Oregon Food Bank donation barrels located at Oregon Symphony Ticket Office, 923 SW Washington St. in Portland, or at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall for all Oregon Symphony concerts in March and April. Donations also accepted on March 19 at Smith Auditorium in Salem, on March 20 at Bauman

Auditorium in Newberg or on March 31 at the Newmark Theatre in Portland.

Most wanted foods:

- Canned meats (such as tuna, chicken, salmon)
- Canned and boxed meals (such as soup, chili, stew, macaroni and cheese)
- Canned or dried beans and peas (such as black, pinto and lentil)
- Dried pasta, rice or cereal
- Canned fruit
- 100% fruit juice (canned, plastic or boxed)
- Cooking oil
  
- (Check most recent FDA recall list before donating products containing peanut butter)

Give funds     Make a monetary contribution to the Oregon Food Bank in the name of Oregon Symphony Musicians Feeding America, at donations sites, or directly to Oregon Food Bank. Cash and checks are accepted at donation sites. Credit cards may be used online at [www.oregonfoodbank.org](http://www.oregonfoodbank.org) or over the phone at 503-282-0555.

You can make your concert going experience more fulfilling by joining others in this historic food-funds drive. Groups of 10 or more also qualify for ticket discounts, contact Oregon Symphony Ticket Office at 503-228-1353 for details. Share a concert and food donations for the ultimate concert experience this month.

With your help, our one-million-pound goal is absolutely attainable.