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Concert Honoring Daniel Pearl Features Famed Baritone Vladimir Chernov, Oct. 25

ORANGE, Calif., Oct. 10, 2008 – Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter who was murdered by terrorists in Pakistan in 2002, will be honored at a Chapman University concert to be attended by Pearl's parents. World-renowned operatic baritone Vladimir Chernov joins the Chapman University Chamber Orchestra, under conductor and music director Daniel Alfred Wachs, for the concert at 5 p.m. Saturday, October 25 in Memorial Hall. The concert is sponsored by Chapman University's Conservatory of Music and Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education. Admission is \$10 general, \$5 students and seniors. For information, the public can call 714-997-6871.

Chernov joins the orchestra for the haunting song cycle "Songs of a Wayfarer" by Gustav Mahler. The orchestra will also perform the world premiere of a new work by Texas composer Timothy Brown, written in honor of Pearl. The program will also include works by Aaron Copland and Claude Debussy.

Vladimir Chernov, the Russian-born baritone who has appeared in concert and recital around the world and with many of the top opera companies (including Los Angeles Opera), is currently on the faculty at UCLA. The Cleveland Plain Dealer called him "an artist at the height of his vocal and dramatic powers...nothing short of magnificent!" while OperaOnline raved "Chernov bared his soul and touched our hearts...a complete artist in performance."

Pearl's parents, Ruth and Judea Pearl, plan to attend the concert, which is an official event of Daniel Pearl World Music Days, an international network of concerts using the power of music to reaffirm a commitment to tolerance and humanity.

On February 22, 2002, a day after the world learned that kidnapped Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl had been brutally murdered by his captors in Pakistan, conductor George Pehlivanian, Pearl's neighbor and friend from Paris, was scheduled to lead the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra as a guest conductor. Deeply troubled by the news, he was initially reluctant to perform; instead, he decided to defy the evil by proudly dedicating the concert to Pearl. "As the orchestra played Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, I finally understood the triumph of hope over despair," said Pehlivanian. It was an emotional and exultant concert, ending with 15 minutes of sustained applause.

After Pearl's funeral in August 2002, in the spirit of his love for music, his family decided to inspire hope and unity by inviting people everywhere to dedicate a musical event on the day he would have turned 39 years old: October 10, 2002. Thus, the seeds were planted for Daniel Pearl World Music Days. The event has now become two weeks of worldwide "Harmony for Humanity" concerts, reminding the world of the principles by which Daniel Pearl lived and the universal power of music.

Such famed performers as Barbra Streisand, Itzhak Perlman, Herbie Hancock, REM, the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Sir Elton John have taken part in this international network of concerts, which includes performances by professionals, school and university groups and amateurs alike.