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## Free Tickets to Feb. 11 American Frontier Concert

Free tickets are being offered to all Chapman faculty, staff and students for the Portraits of the American Frontier concert a week from today Monday, Feb. 11 in Memorial Hall, as part of Pacific Symphonys acclaimed American Composers Festival.

This concert will be historic in that its the first time the Pacific Symphony has ever partnered with a university, and will feature principal musicians from Pacific Symphony performing alongside the student members of the Chapman Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Prof. Daniel Alfred Wachs. The Chapman University Choir, conducted by Prof. Joseph Modica, and Prof. Grace Fong, newly appointed director of the keyboard program in the Conservatory of Music, will also perform.

Besides such well-known pieces as the Largo from Dvorks *New World Symphony* and the Hoedown from Aaron Coplands *Rodeo*, the concert will include the American premiere of Curt Cacioppo's *Tucson Scherzo* and the North American premiere of Cacioppo's *Four Indigenous North American Songs*, based on American Indian melodies.

But the highlight is sure to be the screening of the 1936 U.S. government-produced Dust Bowl documentary *The Plow That Broke the Plains*, with the ensemble performing the classic musical score by Virgil Thomson. Any film buff will want to see this movie, which is, in the words of film-music historian Neil Lerner, the most widely publicized attempt by the federal government to communicate to its entire citizenry through a motion picture. Fellow composer Copland praised Thomsons score, calling it fresher, more simple and more personal than the average Hollywood norm. Though *The Plow* was (accurately) denounced as New Deal propaganda, and the major Hollywood studios -- afraid of what would happen if the U.S. government got into the movie business -- tried to bar it from distribution, audiences across the nation flocked to it and cheered it nightly.

The concert is at 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 11, with a pre-concert talk by Prof. Wachs and Pacific Symphonys artistic advisor, Joseph Horowitz, at 7 p.m. Free tickets can be picked up at the Chapman Ticketing Office, 302 Argyros Forum, during regular hours, up until noon on Feb. 11. Free tickets will also be available with I.D. at the door. One free ticket per I.D. For more information: [www.americancomposersfestival.org](http://www.americancomposersfestival.org).