



News Release

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Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus Presents Concert with Adventist Men's Chorus of Romania in Walla Walla

(Portland, Ore.) – The 150 voices of the Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus (OAMC) and the Corul Barbatesc Adventist din Romania (Adventist Men's Chorus of Romania) will join together in a free concert on Saturday, June 19, at 4 p.m., at the Walla Walla University Church, 212 SW 4th St., College Place, Wash. The concert is sponsored in part by Adventist Health.

The combined chorus will then perform in two concerts on June 20 with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in Vancouver, Wash., before traveling for an appearance at the Georgia Dome on June 25 in Atlanta, Ga., and holding a festival concert on June 26 on the campus of Emory University in Atlanta.

The 2010 concert tour is a reunion of the American and Romanian choruses.

It was just a year ago in April 2009 that some 100 singers from the OAMC traveled to Romania for two weeks where they joined with the Romanian chorus to perform in some of Eastern Europe's most renowned concert halls, accompanied by some of the country's best symphony orchestra musicians.

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Each of the performance venues – whether concert hall, opera house or house of worship – was filled to capacity for every performance. On the final day in Bucharest, an additional concert was scheduled to accommodate the demand for seating.

The joining of the two choruses in Romania was the result of a series of providential events. In the late nineties, Vancouver pastor John Wesslen traveled to Romania to speak in a series of evangelistic meetings. There, a young Romanian, who planned to attend the seminary to study to become a pastor, learned that it was possible to study both theology and music in America, something that was not available to him in Romania.

The young man, Alin Apostol, came to study at then Walla Walla College in Eastern Washington. On the soccer field he was invited to travel to Portland to rehearse with a men's choir. During his four years singing with OAMC, he secretly nurtured a dream for a similar men's chorus in Romania, a country with a rich choral tradition. His dream came to fruition in 2007 when he took up the cause and started such a men's chorus.

In addition, when the OAMC traveled in 2000 to the Seventh-day Adventist world church meetings in Toronto, Canada, more than once people from Romania at the meetings urged OAMC members to "come to Romania" to share the music. Those incidents culminated in some 100 American singers, family members and musicians embarking on the April 2009 tour.

The final performances of the combined multinational chorus will take place in Atlanta, Ga., on June 25 and 26. The chorus has been invited to perform two anthems during the Friday, June 25, evening program for the quinquennial meetings of the Seventh-day Adventist world church. On June 26, the combined chorus will present a full festival concert at the Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church on the campus of Emory University in Atlanta.

For both of these performances, individual singers and ensembles from the United States and countries around the world will join the Americans and Romanians, reflecting the global nature of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. One of the OAMC's goals for inviting others to join them is to spark a desire to form men's choruses in other parts of the world.

Now in its 17th year, OAMC is a group of Christian men who join in worship, praise and public sharing of their faith through music. Every year, between 100 and 200 men sing in the annual festival chorus.

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