



## 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.

These concerts are a reunion of the two choruses for what they are calling "Walk of Faith – Mission to America." The name "Walk of Faith" points to the journey members of both the American and Romanian choruses have experienced as they have followed where God has led in ministry. "Mission to America" speaks to the fact that the chorus will be traveling in the Northwest and then to the eastern U.S.

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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 share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in some of Romania's most renowned concert halls, accompanied by some of the country's best symphony orchestra musicians. Each of the performance venues – whether concert hall, opera house or church – 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 April 2009 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, traveled 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 finally realized God was calling him to start such a men's chorus.

In addition, when the OAMC traveled to the Seventh-day Adventist world church meetings in 2000 in Toronto, Canada, more than once people from Romania 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 two-week Mission to Romania in April 2009.

The final performances of this year's 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 historic Glenn Memorial Auditorium 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 demonstrate the power of God working through men to change lives and to spark a desire to form men's music ministries in other parts of the world.

Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year of ministry, OAMC is a group of Christian men who join in worship, praise and public sharing of their faith through music. Formed in 1994, the Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus, under the direction of Lou Wildman, performs anthems, selections from the master composers, traditional hymns and spirituals. Every year, between 100 and 200 men sing in the annual festival chorus.

For more information about the Walk of Faith – Mission to America concert schedule, visit the OAMC website at [www.OAMC.org](http://www.OAMC.org) or call (503) 789-0306.

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