

For Immediate Release

**OAKLAND EAST BAY SYMPHONY
PRESENTS “SOUNDS OF CHINA” CONCERT FEB. 22
WITH BAY PREMIERE OF JON JANG’S *CHINESE AMERICAN SYMPHONY*,
TAN DUN’S *WATER CONCERTO FOR WATER PERCUSSION*, AND OTHER WORKS**

Performance presented at Paramount Theatre; Tickets now on sale at 510 625 8497

OAKLAND, Calif., Jan. 08, 2008—Coinciding with the Bay Area’s celebration of Chinese New Year, **Oakland East Bay Symphony** (OEBS) will offer a special “**Sounds of China**” concert on Friday, Feb. 22 at 8 p.m., at the historic Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway. This concert is part of the Symphony’s 19th anniversary season, and is presented by **Foster & Associates** and the **Port of Oakland**.

Symphony Music Director and Conductor **Michael Morgan** will conduct the Bay Area premiere of **Jon Jang’s** *Chinese American Symphony*, a new work commissioned by OEBS and the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra. This vivid, one-movement symphony gives musical voice to a chapter in American history that has long been silent regarding the arduous work of Chinese laborers who built the first transcontinental railroad. Figuring prominently in Mr. Jang’s score, is the use of the classical Chinese two-stringed instrument, the *erhu*, to be performed by virtuoso artist **Jiebing Chen**. Equally important in the score is the extensive use of the anvil.

The salute to Chinese New Year will feature Academy Award-winning composer (*Crouching Tiger and Hidden Dragon*) **Tan Dun’s** *Water Concerto for Water Percussion and Orchestra*, featuring the Symphony’s principal percussionist, **Ward Spangler**. Tan Dun’s work from 1998 incorporates a variety of non-traditional instruments, including water gongs, basins, tubes and shakers, all creating a mysterious and powerful sonic experience.

The concert will open with **Igor Stravinsky’s** sparkling *Fireworks*, a brief, but thrilling work composed in 1908 and often played to begin a special concert or presented as an encore. The program will conclude with the very popular and highly rhythmic *The Chairman Dances: Foxtrot for Orchestra* by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **John Adams**, an outtake from the his celebrated opera *Nixon in China*.

Oakland East Bay Symphony will continue the 2008 spring season with a musical salute to Persia on March 14 including the local premiere of Aminollah Hossein’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with Persian piano soloist **Tara Kamangar**; the debut of a new work by award-winning Puerto Rican composer **Roberto Sierra** on April 18; followed by a concert version performance of Stephen Sondheim and James Goldman’s Tony Award-winning *Follies* on May 16 and 18.

Single tickets for the February concert are \$20 - \$65, and may be purchased by calling 510 625 8497 or 415 421 8497, and online at www.oeps.org. Ticket holders may attend a free pre-concert lecture at 7 p.m. with noted musician **John Kendall Bailey**.

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