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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Oberlin Conservatory of Music Presents
United States West Coast Tour for January 2009**

***Oberlin Conservatory Symphony Orchestra Premieres Huang Ruo Commission in
Los Angeles at Walt Disney Concert Hall on Saturday, January 24; Program
Featured in Oberlin's Finney Chapel on Monday, January 19***

***eighth blackbird, the Prima Trio and Members of the Oberlin Contemporary
Music Ensemble perform in San Francisco (January 11) and Seattle (January 13)
with West Coast Premieres of Reich and Rzewski***

OBERLIN, OHIO (November 5, 2008)—The Oberlin Conservatory of Music, the school the *New York Times* has called “a hotbed of contemporary-classical players,” presents its own brand of cutting-edge contemporary music as part of its inaugural West Coast tour in January 2009. The first two stops feature award-winning Oberlin alumni ensembles **eighth blackbird** and the **Prima Trio** with members of the **Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble** in San Francisco at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre on Sunday, January 11, at 7 p.m. and in Seattle at Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall in Benaroya Hall on Tuesday, January 13, at 7:30 p.m. **The Oberlin Conservatory Symphony Orchestra**, conducted by Bridget-Michaele Reischl, performs in Los Angeles at Walt Disney Concert Hall on Saturday, January 24, at 2 p.m. The afternoon performance is highlighted by the world premiere of ***Hanging Cliffs***, composed by critically acclaimed composer and Oberlin alumnus **Huang Ruo**. The Oberlin Conservatory of Music presents the same program in Oberlin's Finney Chapel on **Monday, January 19, at 7 p.m.** The Oberlin concert is free and open to the public.

The tour begins with performances in San Francisco and Seattle and features musicians whose specialty, writes the *Los Angeles Times*, “is making music of our moment come to life”—the groundbreaking and Grammy Award-winning contemporary chamber ensemble **eighth blackbird**, formed at Oberlin more than 10 years ago. Members of the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble join the conductor-less sextet for performances of works by two legendary American mavericks, **Frederic Rzewski** and **Steve Reich**. Commissioned by eighth blackbird with the generous support of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the

University of Chicago, Rzewski's work was inspired by Albrecht Dürer's haunting 16th-century engraving, ***Knight, Death and the Devil***; it receives its West Coast premiere on this tour, as does an all-live* version of Steve Reich's funky, rhythmic tour de force, ***Double Sextet***. Eighth blackbird also performs ***Stephen Hartke's Meanwhile***, a piece the ensemble commissioned and debuted in 2007. ***The Prima Trio***, another chamber ensemble formed at Oberlin and winner of the grand and gold prizes at the 2007 Fischhoff Competition, opens the program with ***Peter Schickele's Serenade for Three***.

From intimate chamber settings on the northern part of the Coast, the scene shifts—with broad orchestral strokes—to Los Angeles, when the Los Angeles Philharmonic presents the Oberlin Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Bridget-Michaele Reischl, on its "Sounds About Town" series at Walt Disney Concert Hall. The performance is highlighted by the world premiere of ***Hanging Cliffs***, an Oberlin commission from critical favorite and Oberlin class of 2000 graduate Huang Ruo, 2008 winner of the prestigious International Composition Prize, sponsored by the Luxembourg Society for Contemporary Music. Other works on the program include ***Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58***, featuring pianist ***Angela Cheng***, a member of the Oberlin faculty, and ***Mahler's Symphony No. 1 in D Major***. A pre-concert panel discussion in Walt Disney Concert Hall's BP Hall features ***Distinguished Visiting Professor of Composition and Composer in Residence David Lang***, winner of the ***Pulitzer Prize in Music for 2008***, Huang Ruo, and Dean of the Conservatory David H. Stull, among others.

Reserved seat tickets for the San Francisco concert on January 11 are \$20 and available at the City Box Office (415-392-4400 or www.cityboxoffice.com); reserved seat tickets for the Seattle concert on January 13 are \$20 and are available for purchase through Ticketmaster (206-292-2787 or Ticketmaster.com). For more information, visit www.oberlin.edu/westcoast.

Reserved seat tickets for the Los Angeles concert on January 24 are \$20, \$15, and \$10 for the general public. Call the Walt Disney Concert Hall Box Office at 323-850-2000 or visit www.laphil.com for more information.

*Eighth blackbird presented Steve Reich's *Double Sextet* last season in San Francisco and Los Angeles, using a recorded version of the group as the "other" sextet.

ABOUT THE OBERLIN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

The Oberlin Conservatory of Music, founded in 1865 and situated amid the intellectual vitality of Oberlin College since 1867, is the oldest continuously operating conservatory in the United States. Renowned internationally as a professional music school of the highest caliber and pronounced a "national treasure" by the Washington Post, Oberlin's alumni have gone on to achieve illustrious careers in all aspects of the serious music world. Many of them have attained stature as solo performers, composers, and conductors, among them Jennifer Koh, Steven Isserlis, Denyce Graves, Franco Farina, Christopher Robertson, Lisa Saffer, George Walker, Christopher Rouse, Huang Ruo, David Zinman, and Robert Spano. All of the members of the contemporary sextet eighth blackbird, most of the members of the International Contemporary Ensemble, and many of the members of Apollo's Fire are Oberlin alumni. The Miró, Pacifica, Juilliard, and Fry Street quartets, among other chamber ensembles, include Oberlin-trained musicians, as do major orchestras and opera companies throughout the world. For more information about Oberlin, visit www.oberlin.edu/con.

CALENDAR LISTINGS:

Sunday, January 11, 2009, 7 PM

eighth blackbird
The Prima Trio
Members of the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble

Program:

Peter Schickele *Serenade for Three*
Stephen Hartke *Meanwhile*
Frederic Rzewski *Knight, Death and the Devil**
Steve Reich *Double Sextet*

*Commissioned by eighth blackbird with the generous support of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the University of Chicago

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

3301 Lyon Street
San Francisco, California
Reserved Seating
Tickets: \$20
Call City Box Office: 415-392-4400
www.cityboxoffice.com

Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 7:30 PM

eighth blackbird
The Prima Trio
Members of the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble

Program:

Peter Schickele *Serenade for Three*
Stephen Hartke *Meanwhile*
Frederic Rzewski *Knight, Death and the Devil**
Steve Reich *Double Sextet*

*Commissioned by eighth blackbird with the generous support of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the University of Chicago

**Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall
in Benaroya Hall**

200 University Street
Seattle, Washington
Reserved Seating
Tickets: \$20
Call Ticketmaster: 206-292-2787
www.ticketmaster.com

Monday, January 19, 2009, 7 PM

The Oberlin Conservatory Symphony Orchestra
Bridget-Michaele Reischl, *conductor*
Angela Cheng, *piano*

Program:

Huang Ruo *Hanging Cliffs* (WORLD PREMIERE)
Ludwig van Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58*
Gustav Mahler *Symphony No. 1 in D Major*

Finney Chapel

90 North Professor Street
Oberlin, Ohio
FREE
Call 440-775-6933

Saturday, January 24, 2009, 2 PM

LA Phil Presents
The Oberlin Conservatory Symphony Orchestra
Bridget-Michaele Reischl, *conductor*
Angela Cheng, *piano*

Program:

Huang Ruo *Hanging Cliffs* (WORLD PREMIERE)
Ludwig van Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major, Op. 58*
Gustav Mahler *Symphony No. 1 in D Major*

Walt Disney Concert Hall

111 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, California
Reserved Seating
Tickets: \$20, \$15, and \$10
Call 323-850-2000 or visit
www.laphil.com

NOTE: An Upbeat Live pre-concert lecture will take Place at 1 PM in BP Hall. The panelists will include Pulitzer Prize-winning David Lang (Distinguished Visiting Professor of Composition and Composer in Residence at Oberlin), Huang Ruo, David H. Stull (Dean of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music), and more.

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