

Entertainment



New York Based Conductor Organizes Benefit Set To Beethoven

DIAL UP BROAD BAND

January 19, 2006

A group of international musicians is turning to Beethoven to help the earthquake stricken region in South Asia. NY1's Shazia Khan filed the following report.

Beethoven's beloved symphony number nine is a sound universally recognized as a call for humanity.

"It's actually a kind of an exhortation of our responsibility as stewards of life on this earth," says conductor George Matthew.

"With that in mind, the New York based conductor chose the symphony for an upcoming benefit concert to help the victims of the South Asian earthquake.

The October 2005 disaster left nearly 90,000 dead and more than 3 .5 million homeless.

Seeing the images of families torn apart and homes reduced to rubble, the Singapore-born Indian conductor felt compelled to organize a fundraiser that went beyond raising money.

"In this music, we have music that's very playful, there's music that is tragic and there's music of hope, and what it is then is the music that reflects our human condition," says Matthew.

The concert will be held at Carnegie Hall with musicians from not just New York but from around of the world.

Ninety musicians, 4 soloists and a chorus of 160 members will perform at the main event. The famous German poem "Ode to Joy" is set to music in the fourth and final movement.

"The text is a universal declaration of joy, of happiness, of comfort- as a human right," he adds.

A right Mathew hopes each earthquake victim will soon regain.

The concert will take place January 23rd.

For more information www.beethoven9forsouthasia.org

- Shazia Khan

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