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CALTECH CONCERT ON APR. 11 TO BENEFIT NEEDY PASADENANS

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**WHAT:** *Friends in Concert: Together in Music & Service*, a performance featuring the Caltech-Occidental Symphony, music director Allen(cq) Robert Gross and cellist Cécilia(cq) Tsan(cq)

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 11, 2015, at 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, 151 S. Hill Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91106

**WHY:** A benefit for Friends in Deed, a Pasadena charity that helps financially struggling San Gabriel Valley residents

Organizers of an Apr. 11 benefit concert said Tuesday that they hope Pasadenans will help their less-fortunate neighbors by attending the Caltech-Occidental Symphony performance.

Pasadena is thought of as a wealthy city, but dire poverty haunts its northwestern corner and parts of the San Gabriel Valley. Concert organizers said that they want to bring assistance to these areas with the classical music concert. The event will benefit Friends in Deed, a Pasadena charity that helps financially struggling Valley residents with its women's shelter, food giveaways and social-service programs. Tickets are \$25-75.

"We're in a very rich city, but there are 22,000 homeless people in the San Gabriel Valley," said Joseph Rene(cq), chairman of the concert-organizing committee of Friends in Deed. "Many people don't realize that." The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Council of Los Angeles--a Catholic nonprofit that serves the poor and homeless of any religious denomination--is co-sponsoring the fundraiser.

The symphony--a combination of the California Institute of Technology and Occidental College orchestras—will perform at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Pasadena at the Saturday night concert. The symphony will be led by highly regarded music director and conductor Allen Robert Gross. A music professor at Occidental College, Gross led the Santa Monica Symphony for 21 years.

Acclaimed cellist Cécilia Tsan will solo with the orchestra. She is the principal cellist of the Long Beach Symphony and has toured extensively on four continents. The program features Dvořák's(cq) "New World" Symphony and music by Weber(cq), Fauré(cq) and Tchaikovsky(cq). A concert-goer with a \$75 ticket can attend an exclusive pre-concert reception with Gross and Tsan.

"What's great about this concert is that we have five organizations joining forces to serve the community through this beautiful music," said Rev. Donna Byrns(cq), executive director of 121(cq)-year-old Friends, tipping her hat to partners Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Philip's church, the Caltech orchestra and the Occidental orchestra. Occidental College is located in the Eagle Rock neighborhood of Los Angeles.

With the concert, Friends hopes to raise \$14,000, which will go toward its operating budget for its social-service programs. St. Philip's offered to "rent" its historic, Mission-style church for almost nothing. It is charging Friends only \$200 to cover cleaning costs and liability insurance. In contrast, another church quoted Friends an exorbitant \$16,000 rental fee, while others just turned it down.

Volunteers at St. Philip's—the St. Vincent de Paul group —sponsored Friends' application to hold the concert at the church. St. Vincent de Paul had worked with Friends before, to help low-income Valley residents.

"What I like about Friends in Deed is that they work with multiple religions," said Kevin Young(cq), president of the church's St. Vincent de Paul group. "People are getting together."

For tickets and information, go to [www.friendsindeedpas.org](http://www.friendsindeedpas.org).