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**Cross-Cultural Youth Festival
The Armory Track & Field Center
New York
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New York, September 2009—The Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland (CBOI), Ireland’s most acclaimed youth orchestra will host a free concert for 2500 New York public school children at The Armory Track & Field Center in Washington Heights, New York.

The free concert will be held from 10am-12pm on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 and will feature dance acts in hip-hop, gymnastics, ballroom dancing, salsa, merengue and more. The Orchestra will provide the music as the audience is engaged by spectacular performances of the Harlem School of the Arts, the Dance Theatre of Harlem, Dancing Classrooms, the Keltic Dreams, the 92nd Street Y, and the Wendy Hilliard Foundation among others to be announced.

The CBOI was founded in 1995 by former music teacher Sharon Treacy-Dunne as a means of bringing young people from different backgrounds and communities together through the powerful medium of music. The CBOI celebrates youth, music and peace, and hopes to bring that message with them as they tour the United States. "I believe through music we can empower young people to help in the healing of their differences and overcome the division of race and religion by teaching children tolerance. They are the future of cultural transformation," Treacy-Dunne said. The orchestra is composed of 130 young musicians from all over Ireland, aged 12-24, who reflect and embrace the group’s spirit of universal tolerance, inclusion and cooperation. As ambassadors of peace, the CBOI has become the most acclaimed youth orchestra that Ireland has ever produced.

Co-chairs Orla Maguire-Moore, and Dr. Ciarán Grant created the 'Cross-Cultural Youth Festival' (CCYF) in an effort to raise awareness of music and arts programs within public schools and convey peace among New York City school children of different cultural backgrounds just as the CBOI operates in Ireland.

Following the Cross Culture Youth Festival at The Armory, the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland will present "*The Crossing, Celebrating Cultures and Connections*," at Avery Fisher Hall Lincoln Center in New York City, on October 29, 2009, at 8 PM.

The Orchestra tours regularly throughout Europe and The United States, and its achievements over the past 14 years are staggering. The CBOI is the only amateur Orchestra in Ireland’s history to have sold out Carnegie Hall, and repeated this success at Chicago Symphony Hall, Boston Symphony Hall, as well as an eight-city tour of California. In addition to its core membership, CBOI provides essential musical education to over 5000 children from Primary and Secondary Schools all over Ireland and often fills a void where no musical outlet exists. As part of the CBOI program, children’s choirs are part of the performance in each city visited, allowing over 500 children to perform on stage with the orchestra in New York and Washington DC this year.

About the Armory Track & Field Center

The Armory Foundation, a NYC not-for-profit and home to the premier indoor track and field center in America, is committed to serving youth by promoting excellence and fitness through a broad range of educational, community and athletic programs. The Armory Foundation’s primary emphasis is reaching and motivating the youth of all five boroughs by offering them a variety of cultural and school-coordinated educational and competitive track and field activities, and broadening their horizons with computer classes and college preparation programs. The Foundation hosts over 100 track events each year, maintaining the National Track and Field Hall of Fame and operating the largest after school activity center in New York in its world-class facility. The Armory Foundation was created in 1993 to rehabilitate the 168th Street Armory in Washington Heights. Led by Dr. Norbert Sander, Jr. MD and Michael Frankfurt, Esq., the Armory Foundation has raised \$30 million in public and private funding over 16 years to transform the Armory into a spectacular multi-purpose community center.

For more information on the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland, visit www.the.cboi.org. For media inquiries or to arrange an interview with Sharon Treacy-Dunne, or New York Co-Chairs: Orla Maguire-Moore or Dr. Ciarán Grant, please contact Nicola Parish of Parish Public Relations at (718) 369-7760 or via email at Nicola@parishpr.com.