

VIOLIN VIOLA CELLO BASS FIDDLE
STRINGS**Healing Harmonies**[Print this page](#)[Return to Article](#)

By Tiffany Martini
Requiem for Darfur.



Image courtesy of New York Phil; Glenn Dicterow

When doctors set out to combat strife and help the underprivileged, they formed Doctors Without Borders. Carpenters do their bit by orchestrating building projects through Habitat for Humanity.

So what do classical musicians do?

Recently, some of them gathered a few of their famous friends, booked a prestigious concert hall, invited a well-heeled audience, and applied all proceeds to the cause at hand. The result: Requiem for Darfur, which found members of the **NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC** and other classical players helping to alleviate the plight of millions fleeing war in the Darfur region of Sudan.

On January 22, musicians from some of the country's most prestigious orchestras participated in the benefit concert held at Carnegie Hall. The fundraiser helped raise awareness about the situation of refugees living in the war-torn East African nation. **GEORGE MATHEW** of the Manhattan School of Music helped gather the players and also conducted them in Verdi's Requiem.

"People came at their own expense to show a united appeal here to the world that we all need to do our part," says **GLENN DICTEROW**, concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic and concertmaster for the benefit.

The concert featured violinist **EUGENE DRUCKER** of the Emerson Quartet, cellist **DAVID SOYER** of the Guarneri Quartet, **TIMOTHY COBB** (principal bassist of the Met Orchestra), and musicians from the New York, Berlin, Brooklyn,

Philadelphia, Minnesota, St. Louis, and Malaysian philharmonics.

"We're united through music," Dicterow explains. "There is no feeling of competition and that's a very unique feeling."

Proceeds benefitted various humanitarian aid efforts. Since the conflict between government-backed rebels and militant groups began in 2003, more than 300,000 people have died and an estimated 2.5 million have fled to refugee camps.

The concert did not sell out.

Excerpted from *Strings* magazine, **April 2007, No.148**

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