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News Release \_\_\_\_\_

## **WINGS OF SPRING: A CELEBRATION OF LITERACY BENEFITS VICKERY MEADOW LEARNING CENTER**

DALLAS--- April 12, 2010--- Experience the spectacular artistry and fiery technique of world-renowned pianist Wendy Chen on Monday April 12, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in Horchow Hall at the Meyerson Symphony Center. Ms. Chen's recital, followed by a wine and dessert reception, will benefit Vickery Meadow Learning Center (VMLC) as part of its annual event *Wings of Spring: A Celebration of Literacy*.

VMLC is dedicated to *Changing Lives Through Literacy* by providing programs in communication and life skills to nearly 725 adult students and 165 young children at locations in Vickery Meadow and West Dallas. Proceeds from the event will allow VMLC to fulfill its mission of improving English literacy levels among non-English speaking adults and their young children. Ticket prices start at \$150 and are available for purchase by contacting VMLC at 214-265-5057 or info@vmlc.org.

Ms. Chen debuted with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the age of 15 under conductor André Previn. In 1990 she became the youngest winner ever of the National Chopin Competition, was one of the inaugural recipients of the Irving S. Gilmore Young Artists Award, and was named a Presidential Scholar by the National Foundation for the Arts. Ms. Chen gives master classes and lectures throughout the U.S. and serves as panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts. Her performances are regularly heard on NPR's Performance Today.

"Wendy Chen's performance of the Chopin Concerto No. 2 was distinguished by a singularly beautiful, sonorous tone which, no matter how powerful, never lost its singing quality, and by the crystal clarity of the passage work even at the highest speed. Her virtuosity is easy and effortless, and always at the service of the music," –New York Concert Review.

At VMLC, our goal is to address the critical need for English literacy classes in the West Dallas and Vickery Meadow communities. These areas are extremely high-density, low-income neighborhoods in the 75231 and 75212 zip codes. VMLC serves as the largest provider of both adult English literacy and early childhood programs in both neighborhoods. Through VMLC's free, award-winning adult English literacy and early childhood education programs, students are able to improve their lives and become independent and productive members of our community.