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Freeway Philharmonic follows local musicians on Bay Area highways

*-- A new documentary from Truly CA on KQED Public Television 9 --
-- Premieres Sunday, January 27 at 6:00pm --*

December 21, 2007, San Francisco CA--- Join seven talented local musicians as they hit the road in **Freeway Philharmonic**, the newest film from KQED's **Truly CA** series (www.kqed.org/trulyca). These freelance classical musicians perform with regional orchestras across Northern California while struggling to acquire a permanent position with a major symphony. Forced to lead a road-warrior lifestyle, their unrelenting desire to perform for a living can come at the expense of their families and well-beings. **Freeway Philharmonic** premieres Sunday, January 27 at 6pm on KQED 9.

Freeway Philharmonic follows two cellists, a trombonist, a French horn player, a bassoonist, a violinist, and a trumpeter to their gigs spanning much of Northern California. This lyrical film shows the dedication, perseverance and rigorous life of the musicians, while they grapple with their desire to succeed and come to terms with their limitations in their quest for artistic accomplishment.

While profiling the individual and often interconnected stories of the seven musicians, **Freeway Philharmonic** shines a light on the state of music and the arts in local communities across California. Like many small arts organizations, most regional orchestras don't have enough funding to hire full-time musicians. Instead they fill their chairs with freelance musicians who must piece together a living from multiple sources. Without these individuals, smaller regional orchestras like those in Marin, Santa Rosa, Napa, Berkeley and Stockton would simply not exist.

Freeway Philharmonic also takes a look at the next generation of potential musical road warriors. Many of the freelance musicians have come up through public school music programs and as such, they are ambassadors for the promotion of funding music education. With music programs disappearing from many schools due to insufficient funding and a shift in educational priorities, players often contribute by teaching and performing for students. **Freeway Philharmonic** follows them into the classroom as they provide a unique example of one way to fulfill one's dream of playing music for a living.

About Truly CA

Truly CA is KQED's series of independent documentaries about life in the

Golden State. It airs monthly on Sundays at 6pm on KQED 9. **Truly CA** is a **KQED** production presented in association with the **Bay Area Video Coalition** and **Film Arts Foundation**. Support for **Truly CA** is provided by The Campaign for the Future Program Venture Fund, by Ambassador James C. Hormel and Timothy C. Wu, The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, and the members of KQED.

About KQED Public Television

KQED Public Television 9 (www.kqed.org), a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB), is one of the nation's most-watched public television stations during primetime. KQED produces local weekly series in high definition and available on Comcast On Demand: *The Josh Kornbluth Show*; *QUEST*; *Spark*; *Check, Please! Bay Area* and *This Week in Northern California*; and national series: *Jacques Pepin: Fast Food My Way* and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include KQED HD, KQED Life-Encore, KQED World, KQED Kids and KQED V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. Download programs for viewing and video podcasts at www.kqed.org, featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.