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*For immediate release, May 23, 2013*

### **Pitt Press author chosen to write poem for Boston benefit**

PITTSBURGH—Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco will join a star-studded cast at the Boston Garden on May 30, for a concert to benefit victims of the recent Boston Marathon bombings.

Blanco, chosen by President Obama to write a poem for the 2013 inauguration, has been commissioned to write and read another special work for "Boston Strong: An Evening of Support and Celebration." Proceeds from this event will go to The One Fund Boston, the main charitable effort for donations supporting bombing victims and their families.

The University of Pittsburgh Press, publishers of Blanco's inaugural poem "One Today" and his most recent collection, *Looking for the Gulf Motel*, will also publish "Boston Strong," the poem he's written for the benefit. "Boston Strong" will be available in two versions. On May 30, it will be released in digital Kindle Single format on Amazon. Later, the poem will be published as an elegant chapbook.

UPP will donate net proceeds from "Boston Strong" to The One Fund Boston.

The slate of performers for May 30 includes such luminaries as Aerosmith, James Taylor, Jimmy Buffet, Boston, The J Geils Band, Extreme, Carole King, New Kids on The Block, Ben Affleck, Dane Cook, Steven Wright, and Blanco, among many others.

In a recent interview, Blanco said, "Poetry has a unique way of galvanizing people and getting at a deep truth that can heal. That's what I hope to contribute to the concert through poetry."

UPP Director Peter Kracht stated, "As book publishers, we are happy to use our professional abilities to help the victims of the tragedy in Boston, and to contribute to this worthy cause on behalf of the whole University community."

Kracht added that making "Boston Strong" available in a combination of digital and print editions "will permit us to get Blanco's inspiring work to as many people as possible"—instantly via Kindle, and later in a beautiful print edition.

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"Boston Strong," a poem by Richard Blanco, will be published  
by the University of Pittsburgh Press  
eBook Kindle Single • ISBN 9780822979258  
20 pp. • 4.75 x 6.5 • ISBN 9780822962755 • Paper \$8.95