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Rossen Milanov named Artistic Director of The Philadelphia Orchestra at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

(Philadelphia, March 20, 2006) – The Philadelphia Orchestra’s associate conductor, Rossen Milanov, has been named artistic director of The Philadelphia Orchestra at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts. Mr. Milanov became the Orchestra’s Assistant Conductor in 2000 and was promoted to the position of associate conductor in 2004. The Orchestra’s 2006 summer concert series at the Mann Center is the first under his artistic leadership, and Mr. Milanov conducts six of the 15 concerts. The 2006 summer series celebrates the music of Beethoven – a theme of the Orchestra’s 2005-06 subscription season – while looking forward to the upcoming season’s focus on Mozart and Shostakovich.

“I am extremely pleased that Rossen Milanov has been appointed artistic director of The Philadelphia Orchestra at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts,” said Philadelphia Orchestra Music Director Christoph Eschenbach. “Rossen has the artistic vision to align our summer season at the Mann with our winter season, and he has a strong connection with audiences in this area. This appointment is an important next step for Rossen, a conductor who has already achieved a great deal in his career and for whom I predict a great future.”

“I am delighted by Rossen’s appointment, and we are excited to watch him implement his vision,” said Mann Center President and CEO Peter Lane. “Rossen is loved by our patrons, and we believe he will help build audiences for the future. His engaging nature and talent make him a great addition to the Orchestra’s season at the Mann.”

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, located in Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park, celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2006. The center opened as Robin Hood Dell West in 1976 and became the home of The Philadelphia Orchestra’s summer series. In 1978, it was renamed in honor of longtime Philadelphia resident Fredric R. Mann (1903-1987), a businessman whose advocacy of summer concerts in Fairmount Park extended back for more than half a century. The Orchestra’s 2006 summer series at the Mann Center consists of 15 concerts from June 20 to July 20.

Rossen Milanov has already been hailed as “one who bears watching by anyone who cares about the future of music” (*Chicago Tribune*). As associate conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, he leads subscription, family, educational, and holiday concerts. Mr. Milanov also serves as music director of both the Haddonfield Symphony in New Jersey and the New Symphony Orchestra in his native city of Sofia, Bulgaria. In 2003, he was named chief conductor of the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra.

During the 2005-06 season, Mr. Milanov appears with the Honolulu and Syracuse symphony orchestras, the Teatro Colón Buenos Aires, the National Orchestra of Mexico, and the National Orchestra of Colombia. He also makes his debut at Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw with the Slovenia National Radio and Television Orchestra and returns to the Curtis Institute to conduct a production of Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*. In 2006-07, he will conduct the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, the Residentie Orchestra of the Hague in the Netherlands, the Seoul Philharmonic, the Lucerne Symphony, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Auckland Philharmonic, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and the Honolulu Symphony.

With The Philadelphia Orchestra, Mr. Milanov’s concert highlights have included recent performances of Adams’s Violin Concerto and Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 15, a critically acclaimed production of Stravinsky’s *The Soldier’s Tale*, the closing concert of the Orchestra’s summer series at the Mann Center in 2005 featuring Beethoven’s First and Ninth symphonies, the world premiere of Nicholas Maw’s English Horn Concerto, and a week of concerts celebrating the 75th birthday of pianist Gary Graffman in a program featuring Ravel’s Left-Hand Piano Concerto, Tchaikovsky’s Fourth Symphony, and Jennifer Higdon’s *blue cathedral*.

Mr. Milanov has led concerts and tours with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, the Colorado Symphony, the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the New World Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony, the Omaha Symphony, the Duluth-Superior Symphony, the Juilliard Opera Center, and the Curtis Opera Theater. He was music director of the Chicago Youth Symphony from 1997 to 2001, and has participated in numerous summer festivals, including Tanglewood and the Interlochen Arts Festival. His recording of works by the Russian composer Alla Pavlova with the Moscow Philharmonic is available on the Naxos label.

Mr. Milanov retains a close association with his native city of Sofia in Bulgaria. As music director of the New Symphony Orchestra, Eastern Europe’s first privately funded orchestra, his work has included commissions and premieres of new works, the introduction of American music to Bulgarian audiences, a cycle of Brahms’s complete symphonies and concertos, a production of Wagner’s *The Flying Dutchman*, Musorgsky’s *Songs and Dances of Death* with the legendary Bulgarian bass Nikolai Ghiaurov, and several recordings. In the 2005-06 season, he leads a tribute to Shostakovich, honoring the 100th anniversary of the composer’s birth. Contributing to the city’s cultural life, Mr. Milanov founded the Sofia-Mt. Vitosha International Conducting Institute, a summer festival dedicated to the training of young aspiring conductors. Currently he is in the midst of leading a multi-year Mahler cycle with the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Milanov has received the Award for Extraordinary

Contribution to Bulgarian Culture, awarded by the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture. In 2005, he was chosen as Bulgaria's Musician of the Year.

Mr. Milanov studied conducting at the Juilliard School (recipient of the Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship), the Curtis Institute of Music, Duquesne University, and the Bulgarian National Academy of Music.

Founded in 1900, **The Philadelphia Orchestra** has distinguished itself as one of the leading orchestras in the world through a century of acclaimed performances, historic international tours, best-selling recordings, and its unprecedented record of innovation in recording technologies and outreach. With only six music directors piloting The Philadelphia Orchestra through its first century, the ensemble has maintained an unparalleled cohesiveness and unity in artistic leadership.

This rich tradition is carried on by Christoph Eschenbach, who became the Orchestra's seventh music director in September 2003. His acclaimed first season in Philadelphia saw the launch of the Orchestra's first-ever multi-year cycle of Mahler's complete symphonies and ended with a tour of the music capitals of Europe. The 2004-05 season celebrated the works of the great masters, and included a four-week festival entitled Late Great Works featuring late works by Mozart, Strauss, Mahler, Tchaikovsky, Wagner, and Berio. In October 2004, Mr. Eschenbach and the Orchestra opened Carnegie Hall's season with an all-Strauss program, featuring Renée Fleming and Yo-Yo Ma and broadcast on PBS' *Great Performances*. The season closed with a three-week tour of Asia.

In May 2005, Mr. Eschenbach and the Orchestra announced a three-year recording partnership with Ondine Records, the Orchestra's first recording contract in 10 years. Taken from live concerts, the first recording under the agreement was released in fall 2005. Other recent highlights include the launch of the public phase of a five-year, \$125 million endowment campaign, entitled A Sound, A City, A Civilization, in 2003. The Orchestra's 2002-03 season celebrated Wolfgang Sawallisch's 10 highly acclaimed years at the Orchestra's helm and paid tribute to his artistic achievements with the release of a Grammy-nominated three-disc set of Schumann recordings, the first recordings made in Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. In 2000 the Orchestra celebrated its 100th Anniversary, and in the following year, moved to its new home in the Kimmel Center.

The Philadelphia Orchestra annually touches the lives of more than one million music lovers worldwide through its performances (more than 300 concerts and other presentations each year), publications, recordings, and broadcasts. A major winter subscription season is presented in Philadelphia each year from September to May, in addition to education and community partnership programs. The Orchestra presents a series of concerts each year at New York's Carnegie Hall, performing encores of some of its acclaimed concerts from Philadelphia. Its summer schedule includes a month-long outdoor season in Philadelphia at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, free concerts in local neighborhoods, and a three-week residency each August at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in upstate New York.