The Philadelphia Orchestra

Danail Rachev

Assistant Conductor

Danail Rachev was appointed assistant conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, beginning in the 2008-09 season. This season also includes Mr. Rachev's debuts with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, the Eugene Symphony, and the Eastern Connecticut Symphony.

Mr. Rachev comes to Philadelphia from the Dallas Symphony, where he had been assistant conductor since the 2005-06 season, leading classical concerts, pops programs, and family concerts, as well as school and outreach programs. Of his last Casual Classics concerts with the Dallas Symphony, the *Dallas Morning News* wrote: "If there's anything fair in life, Danail Rachev should be on his way to becoming a star orchestral conductor." In the 2007-08 season, Mr. Rachev also led concerts with the Baltimore Symphony, the City Music Cleveland Chamber Orchestra, and the Camerata Winds in Dallas, of which he is also artistic director.

From 2002 to 2005 Mr. Rachev served as conductor of the Juilliard PreCollege Symphony, and in the 2002-03 season he was the first ever conducting fellow of the New World Symphony, where he studied with Michael Tilson Thomas and worked alongside him on many occasions. Mr. Rachev's debut and subsequent appearances in numerous subscription, family, and chamber music concerts were met with consistent critical acclaim.

Mr. Rachev's other positions have included cover conductor of the Saint Louis Symphony; guest conductor of Baltimore's Opera Vivente; assistant conductor of the Columbia Orchestra; and assistant conductor of the Baltimore Opera Company for productions of Strauss's *Elektra,* Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin,* and Rossini's *La Cenerentola.* In his native Bulgaria, Mr. Rachev has worked with several ensembles including the Russe State Opera, where he led performances of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville.*

During the summer of 2002, Mr. Rachev was chosen to participate in both the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival and the National Conducting Institute in Washington, D.C. The latter culminated in his debut with the National Symphony.

Mr. Rachev was born in Shumen, Bulgaria, and trained at the State Musical Academy in Sofia, where he received degrees in orchestral and choral conducting. He moved to the United States to study at the Peabody Conservatory on a full scholarship and graduated in 2001. His conducting teachers have included Gustav Meier, Michael Tilson Thomas, Vassil Kazandjiev, David Zinman, and Leonard Slatkin. Mr. Rachev currently resides in Philadelphia with his wife, Elizabeth.