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The Philadelphia Orchestra performs best of Mozart, Beethoven, and Tchaikovsky

Summer Best of ... concerts take place in Verizon Hall, June 20-22, 2007

(*Philadelphia*, April 5, 2007) – This summer The Philadelphia Orchestra brings selections of three favorite composers – **Mozart, Beethoven, and Tchaikovsky** – to Verizon Hall with a series of *Best of ...* concerts. Each concert contains highlights from one of the three composers. From Mozart’s graceful melodies, to Beethoven’s sublime symphonies, to Tchaikovsky’s beloved ballets, they feature some of the greatest symphonic music ever written.

Rossen Milanov, the Orchestra’s associate conductor, leads the concerts and introduces the pieces from the stage. The performances take place at **7:00 p.m.** on **June 20-22, 2007**, in **Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**. For more information, call 215.893.1999 or visit the Orchestra’s website at www.philorch.org.

These summer concerts in Verizon Hall are a new venture for The Philadelphia Orchestra. Although classical concerts today usually feature entire works by several composers, Mozart and Beethoven would have been familiar with the *Best of ...* concept. It was common in their time for composers to organize performances of their own works. These concerts could consist of newly composed pieces as well as works that were already popular with the public. They typically featured a variety of genres, including full or partial performances of symphonies, concertos, or other orchestral works; chamber selections; favorite opera excerpts or other vocal music. In a letter to his father, Mozart once described a concert that began with his Symphony No. 35 (“Haffner”). After performances of nine other works, the concert closed with the Symphony’s finale. Like the live version of a greatest hits CD, the Orchestra’s *Best of ...* concerts follow in this tradition. By featuring some of the best-loved moments in classical music, they attempt to reach both classical music lovers and first time symphony goers.

Best of Mozart

As a young boy, **Wolfgang Amadè Mozart** captured the world’s attention as a child prodigy. Today he remains a fascinating character for his prolific musical output, his colorful life and tragically early death, and

– above all – his gift for melody.

Mozart’s Symphony No. 40 forms the backbone of the *Best of Mozart* concert on **Wednesday, June 20, 2007**. The Symphony, which has been called “a work of passion, violence, and grief,” is played in its entirety. Interspersed between the four movements are the first movement of the Piano Concerto No. 20, K. 466; movements one and two of *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*; and the final movement of the Violin Concerto No. 3. The concert opens and closes with two famous opera overtures: *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Magic Flute*.

Best of Beethoven

Ludwig van Beethoven’s musical innovation, personal perseverance, and transcendent Ninth Symphony have made him an enduring symbol of the triumph of the human spirit. His symphonies represent the pinnacle of his creative output, and audiences can hear highlights at the *Best of Beethoven* concert on **Thursday, June 21, 2007**.

Although Mozart first attempted a symphony at age eight, Beethoven was a mature and experienced composer when he wrote his first full symphony. The work was hailed as a masterpiece in its time and is still popular today. By the time he completed his Ninth – and final – Symphony, Beethoven had revolutionized the genre and secured his place as one of the world’s greatest composers. The Orchestra gives audiences the rare opportunity to hear one movement from each of Beethoven’s symphonies in a single concert.

Best of Tchaikovsky

The melodic beauty and rich color of **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**’s symphonic music place him among the best-loved classical composers. The famous “Philadelphia sound” has long been associated with Tchaikovsky’s music, and the Orchestra has made numerous recordings of his works. Five of these are represented on the *Best of Tchaikovsky* concert on **Friday, June 22, 2007**.

Tchaikovsky’s masterful ballets are unmatched in popularity. Excerpts from two of the most famous, *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker*, open the concert. The composer’s musical retelling of the story of Romeo and Juliet follows. The animated final movement of Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto and the rousing *1812 Overture* end the program.

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. The Orchestra has maintained an unparalleled unity in artistic leadership with only six music directors piloting its first century: Fritz Scheel (1900-07), Carl Pohlig (1907-12), Leopold Stokowski (1912-41), Eugene Ormandy (1936-80), Riccardo Muti (1980-92), and Wolfgang Sawallisch (1993-2003).

This rich tradition is carried on by Christoph Eschenbach, who became music director in 2003. The 2006-07 season, Mr. Eschenbach’s fourth, highlights the music of Mozart and Shostakovich. In January 2007,

Mr. Eschenbach led the Orchestra in the Academy of Music 150th Anniversary Concert. During his tenure, Mr. Eschenbach has conducted Beethoven's nine symphonies paired with music of our time; led a four-week Late Great Works Festival; launched the Orchestra's first-ever multi-year cycle of Mahler's complete symphonies; and led tours of Europe, Asia, and Florida and Puerto Rico.

The Orchestra began a three-year partnership with Ondine Records in 2005, and has released four recordings taken from live concerts with a fifth scheduled for May 2007. In September 2006, the Orchestra became the first major American orchestra to offer downloads of recent and archival music through its own Online Music Store, www.thephiladelphiaorchestra.com. As of April 2006, the Orchestra is broadcast regularly on NPR. Other recent highlights include a five-year, \$125 million endowment campaign launched in 2003; the Orchestra's move to The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in 2001; and the Orchestra's 100th anniversary in 2000.

The Philadelphia Orchestra annually touches the lives of more than one million music lovers worldwide through its performances, publications, recordings, and broadcasts. The Orchestra presents a subscription season in Philadelphia each year from September to May, in addition to education and community partnership programs, and appears annually at Carnegie Hall. Its summer schedule includes an outdoor series at Philadelphia's Mann Center for the Performing Arts, free Neighborhood Concerts, a three-week residency at Saratoga Performing Arts Center in upstate New York, and an annual week-long residency at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival beginning July 2007.

For more information on The Philadelphia Orchestra, please visit www.philorch.org.

THE BEST OF MOZART

June 20 at 7:00 p.m. – Wednesday evening – Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
Pianist TBA
Violinist TBA

Mozart	Overture to <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>
Mozart	Symphony No. 40, Mvmt. I
Mozart	Piano Concerto No. 20, K. 466, Mvmt. I
Mozart	Symphony No. 40, Mvmt. II
Mozart	<i>Eine kleine Nachtmusik</i> , Mvmts. I and II
Mozart	Symphony No. 40, Mvmt. III
Mozart	Violin Concerto No. 3, Mvmt. III
Mozart	Symphony No. 40, Mvmt. IV
Mozart	Overture to <i>The Magic Flute</i>

Tickets: \$10-\$80 (call for box seat prices), 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org

THE BEST OF BEETHOVEN

June 21 at 7:00 p.m. – Thursday evening – Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*

Beethoven	Symphony No. 1, Mvmt. I
Beethoven	Symphony No. 2, Mvmt. II
Beethoven	Symphony No. 3 (“Eroica”), Mvmt. III
Beethoven	Symphony No. 4, Mvmt. IV
Beethoven	Symphony No. 5, Mvmt. I
Beethoven	Symphony No. 6 (“Pastoral”), Mvmt. I
Beethoven	Symphony No. 7, Mvmt. II
Beethoven	Symphony No. 8, Mvmt. III
Beethoven	Symphony No. 9 (“Choral”), Mvmt. I

Tickets: \$10-\$80 (call for box seat prices), 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org

THE BEST OF TCHAIKOVSKY

June 22 at 7:00 p.m. – Friday evening – Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
Violinist TBA

Tchaikovsky	Excerpts from <i>Swan Lake</i>
Tchaikovsky	Excerpts from <i>The Nutcracker</i>
Tchaikovsky	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
Tchaikovsky	Violin Concerto, Mvmt. III
Tchaikovsky	<i>1812 Overture</i>

Tickets: \$10-\$80 (call for box seat prices), 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org

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