



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACTS:

Katherine Blodgett
Director of Public/Media Relations
phone: 215.893.1939
e-mail: kblodgett@philorch.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 10, 2006

Philadelphia Orchestra opens 2006-07 Access Series

75-minute, lower-priced Access concerts are designed for new or curious classical music listeners

(Philadelphia, October 10, 2006) – The Philadelphia Orchestra’s **2006-07 Access Series**, designed for listeners who are new to or curious about classical music, opens on October 12, 2006. Hosted by the Orchestra’s Music Animateur Thomas Cabaniss, the lower-priced four-concert series takes the audience behind the scenes of the musical process. The 75-minute concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. and feature full performances of classical works preceded by explanations and excerpts. Each Access Concert is followed by an opportunity for the audience to get to know the musicians better through a free post-concert recital or a Meet & Mingle with musicians of the Orchestra.

The first Access Concert of the season, on **October 12, 2006**, features pianist and Philadelphia native **André Watts**. Mr. Watts made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut 50 years ago at age 10 as a winner of the Orchestra’s student competition. He takes on Brahms’s expansive Piano Concerto No. 2, with **Christoph Eschenbach** conducting. Following the concert, the audience is invited to a Meet & Mingle with musicians of the Orchestra at Alfa Bar and Restaurant (1709 Walnut St., 1st floor, Philadelphia).

Conductor **Marin Alsop** leads the Orchestra in the second Access Concert on **January 4, 2007**. **Copland’s Third Symphony**, which contains the famous **Fanfare for the Common Man**, is featured. As a pupil of Leonard Bernstein, who was a close friend and advocate of Copland, Ms. Alsop brings special insight to the work of this American composer. The concert is followed by a Meet & Mingle with musicians of the Orchestra.

On **February 13, 2007**, during one of Philadelphia’s coldest months, the third Access Concert explores how Vivaldi used music to depict winter – along with the other three seasons. The Orchestra’s four principal violinists – Concertmaster **David Kim**, First Associate Concertmaster **Juliette Kang**, Principal Second Violin **Kimberly Fisher**, and Associate Principal Second Violin **Paul Roby** – each play one movement of **The Four Seasons**. Music Animateur and Host Thomas Cabaniss introduces the audience to the sonnets that Vivaldi intended to precede each movement and highlights the ways in which the composer used music to evoke each season. Wind, rain, a boisterous harvest celebration, and

the sounds of spring follow, as **Rossen Milanov** leads a full performance of this favorite masterwork. The concert is followed by a free Postlude Recital and a Meet & Mingle with musicians of the Orchestra.

The final Access concert, on **April 26, 2007**, takes listeners inside the psychedelic world of Hector Berlioz, complete with a march to the guillotine and a witches' sabbath – all inspired by an obsession with a famous actress. **Christoph Eschenbach** leads the vivid and colorful **Symphonie fantastique**, one of his favorite pieces, for the first time in Philadelphia. The concert is followed by a Meet & Mingle with musicians of the Orchestra.

Music Animateur **Thomas Cabaniss** appears onstage with the Orchestra as host of its Access Concert series, as well as numerous Family and School concerts. He works with Music Director Christoph Eschenbach, Orchestra musicians, and administrative staff to develop ideas and programming that support the goals of the Orchestra's "Raising the Invisible Curtain" initiative, including the development of the Orchestra's Access Concert series, School Partnership Program, Camden Community Partnership, College Performance Program, and additional programs that enrich the concert experience for audiences. Mr. Cabaniss came to The Philadelphia Orchestra from the New York Philharmonic, where he served as director of education following several years as a lead teaching artist on the Philharmonic's education staff. Before his work with the Philharmonic, he was director of education for the New York Chamber Symphony and the Tisch Center for the Arts at the 92nd Street Y. Mr. Cabaniss is a faculty member at the Juilliard School and has also been a guest lecturer at the Manhattan School of Music, New York University, the Yale School of Drama, and Brooklyn College. In 1998, he received the ASCAP Foundation Award for his contributions to arts education in New York City. As a composer, Mr. Cabaniss has written music for theater, dance, film, and the concert stage, and has received various awards for his 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. 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 leads 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 two recordings taken from live concerts with a third scheduled for October 2006. 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.

ACCESS CONCERT NO. 1

Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

October 12 at 7:00 p.m. – Thursday evening

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*

Thomas Cabaniss, *music animateur and host*

André Watts, *piano*

Brahms

Piano Concerto No. 2

Free Meet & Mingle: This performance is followed by a free Meet & Mingle with musicians of the Orchestra at Alfa Bar and Restaurant (1709 Walnut St, 1st Floor, Philadelphia).

Tickets: \$10-\$46, 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org

ACCESS CONCERT NO. 2

Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

January 4 at 7:00 p.m. – Thursday evening

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Marin Alsop, *conductor*

Thomas Cabaniss, *music animateur and host*

Copland

Symphony No. 3

Free Meet & Mingle: This performance is followed by a free Meet & Mingle with musicians of the Orchestra.

Tickets: \$10-\$46, 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org

ACCESS CONCERT NO. 3

*Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts***February 13** at 7:00 p.m. – Tuesday evening**The Philadelphia Orchestra****Rossen Milanov**, *conductor***Thomas Cabaniss**, *music animateur and host***David Kim**, *violin***Juliette Kang**, *violin***Kimberly Fisher**, *violin***Paul Roby**, *violin*Vivaldi *The Four Seasons*

Free Post-Concert Events: This performance is followed by a free Postlude Recital in Verizon Hall and a Meet & Mingle with musicians of the Orchestra.

Tickets: \$10-\$46, 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org

ACCESS CONCERT NO. 4

*Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts***April 26** at 7:00 p.m. – Thursday evening**The Philadelphia Orchestra****Christoph Eschenbach**, *conductor***Thomas Cabaniss**, *music animateur and host*Berlioz *Symphonie fantastique*

Free Meet & Mingle: This performance is followed by a free Meet & Mingle with musicians of the Orchestra.

Tickets: \$10-\$46, 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org

*The Philadelphia Orchestra's Access Series is sponsored by Wachovia,
proud sponsor of the "Raising the Invisible Curtain" initiative.*

*Access concerts are funded in part by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation,
with additional funding from the Presser Foundation.*

Print media support for the Access Series is provided by City Paper.