N E W S R E L E A S E

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Philadelphia Orchestra Master Class Series brings together world-class artists and young musicians

2007-08 Master Classes led by star violinist Midori, organ virtuoso Thierry Escaich, and three musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra

(*Philadelphia*, October 10, 2007) –**The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2007-08 Master Class Series** features classes led by violinist **Midori** (held on Wednesday, October 3), Philadelphia Orchestra **Principal Tuba Carol Jantsch** (Wednesday, November 14), Philadelphia Orchestra **Principal Viola Choong-Jin Chang** (Tuesday, March 11), Philadelphia Orchestra **Bass Clarinet Paul Demers** (Friday, April 18), and organist **Thierry Escaich** (Tuesday, May 6).

The Master Class Series brings together young musicians and world-class artists for a learning experience that is rewarding for the students, the teaching artists, and observing audiences. Classes are open to musicians of varying abilities, and artists offer instruction on topics ranging from practice and performance skills to instrumental techniques and artistic interpretation.

Master Classes are open to the public. Tickets are $8 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.philorch.org/education). Thierry Escaich's Organ Master Class on May 6 will be held in Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. All other upcoming Master Classes will take place in the Rendell Room at the Kimmel Center. Full listings of the remaining Master Classes are below.

About the Artists

Highlights of **Midori**'s recent concert season included concerto appearances in Australia, Europe, and the U.S.; recital tours with pianists Robert McDonald and Charles Abramovic; and the premiere of *Lost Landscapes,* a work for violin and piano by Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara. She also performed John Adams's Violin Concerto under the direction of the composer with the London and Atlanta symphonies and was part of the opening ceremonies for the new Renée and Henry Segerstrom Hall at the Orange County Performing Arts Center in California.

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Midori is increasingly involved with several outreach organizations she has founded, including Midori & Friends (providing music education, workshops, and concerts to children in New York City), Music Sharing (a similar program in Japan and Vietnam), Total Experience (a series in small Japanese towns involving experimentation and proactive audience participation), Partners in Performance (designed to broaden audiences for chamber music), the University Residencies Program (involving visits to universities by her and other artists), and Midori's Orchestra Residencies Program, in which she spends a week with a local youth orchestra. She also co-directs the new Midori Center for Community Engagement at USC's Thornton School of Music, where she holds the Jascha Heifetz Chair.

Midori records exclusively for Sony BMG. Born in Osaka, Japan, Midori began studying the violin with her mother. She received her bachelor's degree in Psychology and Gender Studies and her master's degree in Psychology at the Gallatin School of New York University.

Carol Jantsch won The Philadelphia Orchestra's tuba auditions in February 2006 while still a senior at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and began her post the following August. Ms. Jantsch's most recent awards include the Potomac Festivals Tuba Artist Competition in 2005 and first place in three international competitions in 2004: the Leonard Falcone International Euphonium and Tuba Competition; the International Tuba-Euphonium Association's Artist Solo Tuba Competition in Budapest, Hungary; and the International Instrumental Competition Markneukirchen in Germany. Ms. Jantsch has performed as a substitute tuba player in the Detroit Symphony and the Columbus Symphony, and has been featured on the National Public Radio show *From the Top*.

Ms. Jantsch began her musical studies on piano at age six in Ohio. She began euphonium lessons at age nine, and switched to tuba at age 12. Her teachers have included James Akins, principal tuba of the Columbus Symphony; Thomas Riccobono, instructor of low brass at the Interlochen Arts Academy; Wesley Jacobs, principal tuba of the Detroit Symphony; and Fritz Kaenzig at the University of Michigan.

A native of Seoul, Korea, **Choong-Jin Chang** joined The Philadelphia Orchestra as associate principal viola in November 1994 and became principal viola in April 2006. He made his performance debut as a 12-year-old violinist with the Seoul Philharmonic as winner of the grand prize in Korea's Yook Young National Competition. In 1981, at the age of 13, he moved to the United States to attend the Juilliard School. He subsequently studied in Philadelphia at the Esther Boyer College of Music of Temple University and finally at the Curtis Institute of Music, from which he received degrees in both violin and viola. His primary teachers were Jascha Brodsky and retired Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Viola Joseph de Pasquale.

As a soloist, Mr. Chang has appeared recently with the KBS Symphony of South Korea and the Temple University Symphony. An ardent chamber musician, he has given recitals throughout the United States and Korea, and has also performed in numerous chamber music festivals here and abroad, including the Marlboro Festival (both in Vermont and several times on tour), Bridgehampton, Seattle, and Santa Fe.

Alongside his extensive performing activities, Mr. Chang is a respected teacher of both violin and viola. Among his former pupils are current members of The Philadelphia Orchestra, as well as several winners of major competitions. He serves on the faculty of Temple University's Esther Boyer College of Music and Temple Music Prep.

Paul R. Demers was appointed bass clarinet of The Philadelphia Orchestra in March 2006. Before his appointment, Mr. Demers performed as bass clarinetist with major orchestras, including the National Symphony and the Baltimore Symphony, among others. He was also a regular substitute bass clarinetist with The Philadelphia Orchestra, and has performed with the Orchestra on several international tours.

In 1997 Mr. Demers won a position with "The President's Own" Marine Band in Washington, D.C. During his four-year tenure with the Marine Band, he performed as a member of the clarinet section, and as a soloist, chamber musician, and E-flat clarinetist. As a chamber musician, he has performed at the Saratoga Chamber Music Festival and is a member of Network for New Music in Philadelphia.

Born in Westbrook, Maine, Mr. Demers started playing clarinet at age 10 and began private lessons at age 14. He continued his studies with Larry Combs and John Bruce Yeh at DePaul University in Chicago, where he earned a Bachelor of Music, a Master of Music, and a Performance Certificate.

Composer and renowned organist **Thierry Escaich** has been organist at St-Etienne-du-Mont in Paris since 1997. His parallel career as an international organist has made him an ambassador of the great French organ school of improvisation.

Some of his compositions include two organ concertos, *Résurgences* for trumpet and orchestra, and an oratorio, *Le Dernier Evangile*. His orchestral works feature in the repertoires of various European orchestras, including the Orchestra of the Beethovenhalle (Bonn), the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic, l'Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio-France (Paris), and l'Orchestre National de Lille, where Mr. Escaich was in residence between 2003 and 2005. His vocal and chamber music is performed all over the globe by such ensembles as the BBC Singers, A Sei Voci, and the Ludwig Quartet. Mr. Escaich studied at the Paris Conservatory, and he has been professor of composition and improvisation there since 1992.

The Philadelphia Orchestra's educational and outreach activities enrich the lives of over 35,000 youngsters and 140,000 adults in the Philadelphia region each year, through a variety of musical encounters, including subscription concerts, Sound All Around (for children ages 3 to 5), Family Concerts (for children ages 6 to 12), School Concerts, a School Partnership Program, Music Educator Workshops, Master Classes, Side-By-Side Rehearsals, Open Rehearsals, the Albert M. Greenfield Student Competition, free Neighborhood Concerts, and collaborations with conservatories and colleges.

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 tradition is carried on by Christoph Eschenbach, who became music director in 2003. The 2007-08 season, Mr. Eschenbach's last, focuses on monumental works of the symphonic repertoire, including Mahler's Symphony No. 8 ("Symphony of a Thousand"), Orff's *Carmina burana*, and Richard Strauss's *An Alpine Symphony*. 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, Florida and Puerto Rico, and the United States.

Recent Philadelphia Orchestra highlights include multi-casting a concert to large-screen venues through the Internet2 network; the launch of the Orchestra's Online Music Store, www.thephiladelphiaorchestra.com, in September 2006; regular broadcasts on NPR beginning in April 2006; a series of critically acclaimed recordings led by Mr. Eschenbach and released in partnership with Ondine Records; and a $125 million endowment campaign launched in 2003.

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, and residencies at Saratoga Performing Arts Center in upstate New York, and the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival.

MASTER CLASS – TUBA
Rendell Room at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

November 14 at 4:30 p.m. – Wednesday afternoon

Carol Jantsch, *tuba*

The Master Class series has been permanently endowed through a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Tristram C. Colket, Jr.

Tickets: $8, 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org/education

MASTER CLASS – VIOLA
Rendell Room at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

March 11 at 4:30 p.m. – Tuesday afternoon

Choong-Jin Chang, *viola*

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Tickets: $8, 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org/education

MASTER CLASS – CLARINET
Rendell Room at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

April 18 at 4:30 p.m. – Friday afternoon

Paul Demers, *clarinet and bass clarinet*

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Tickets: $8, 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org/education

MASTER CLASS – ORGAN
Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

May 6 at 6:30 p.m. – Tuesday afternoon

Thierry Escaich, *organ*

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