N E W S R E L E A S E

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The Philadelphia Orchestra opens its summer series at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

International superstar cellist Yo-Yo Ma opens the series on June 30

Rossen Milanov conducts concert version of Puccini's beloved opera **La bohème**

All Mozart-evening features pianist Leon McCawley and the return of popular pre-concert Picnic Competition

(*Philadelphia*, June 17, 2008) – The Philadelphia Orchestra opens the first week of its 2008 summer series at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts on **June 30, 2008,** with superstar cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** performing **Saint-Saëns's** lively **Cello Concerto No. 1**. The week also features a concert version of Puccini's beloved opera ***La bohème*** (July 1) and an All-Mozart evening featuring pianist **Leon McCawley** (July 2). **Rossen Milanov**, artistic director of The Philadelphia Orchestra at the Mann Center, conducts.

Yo-Yo Ma plays Saint-Saëns, Philadelphia plays Stravinsky

The Orchestra opens its summer season on Monday, **June 30**, with a concert featuring superstar cellist and Philadelphia favorite **Yo-Yo Ma**. Mr. Ma returns to The Mann Center for the Performing Arts to perform **Saint-Saëns's** stunningly virtuosic **Cello Concerto No. 1.** Mr. Ma last appeared with The Philadelphia Orchestra at the Mann Center in June 2006.

The program also features Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, a piece that captures the essence of an ideal America, one of open fields and endless possibilities, coupled with Musorgsky's haunting portrayal of a witches Sabbath — *A Night on Bald Mountain*. The concert concludes with Stravinsky's Suite from *The Firebird*. **Rossen Milanov** leads the concert.

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Yo-Yo Ma's multi-faceted career is testament to his continual search for new ways to communicate with audiences, and to his personal desire for artistic growth and renewal. He has immersed himself in subjects as diverse as native Chinese music and the music of the Kalahari bush people in Africa. In 1998 he established the Silk Road Project to promote the study of the cultural, artistic, and intellectual traditions along the ancient trade route that stretched from the Mediterranean Sea to the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Ma has premiered works by composers including Stephen Albert, Elliott Carter, Chen Yi, Richard Danielpour, Osvaldo Golijov, John Harbison, Leon Kirchner, Peter Lieberson, Christopher Rouse, Bright Sheng, Tan Dun, and John Williams.

An exclusive Sony BMG Masterworks artist with a discography of over 75 albums, including more than 15 Grammy Award winners, Mr. Ma's most recent recordings include *Silk Road Journeys: New Impossibilities* with the Silk Road Ensemble and the Chicago Symphony, *Appassionato,* and *Paris: La Belle Époque;* he also appears on Mr. Williams's soundtrack for the film *Memoirs of a Geisha.*

Born in 1955 to Chinese parents living in Paris, Mr. Ma began to study the cello with his father at age four and soon came with his family to New York, where his principal teacher was Leonard Rose at the Juilliard School. He graduated from Harvard University in 1976. Mr. Ma has received numerous awards, including the Avery Fisher Prize, the Glenn Gould Prize, the National Medal of the Arts, the Dan David Prize, and the Sonning Prize. He and his wife have two children. Mr. Ma plays a 1733 Montagnana cello and the 1712 Davidoff Stradivarius. He made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in July 1981.

La bohème

On **Tuesday, July 1**, Rossen Milanov leads a concert version of Puccini's beloved Italian opera *La bohème*. One of the most popular operas in the repertory, the plot centers around a group of artists in Paris who long for a deeper connection to society. It contains everything we might expect from an Italian opera: a compelling love story, beautiful and memorable melodies, an ardent tenor, a tragic soprano, likable secondary characters, and even a bit of spectacle.

The soloists are sopranos **Darina Takova** and **Arianna Zukerman**, tenor **Michael Fabiano**, baritones **Luis Ledesma** and **Alexander Tall**, bass **Grigory Soloviov,** and bass-baritone **Greg Vorst**. Ms. Takova, Mr. Fabiano, Mr. Ledesma, Mr. Tall, Mr. Soloviov, and Mr. Vorst make their Philadelphia Orchestra debuts with this program. Ms. Zukerman made her Philadelphia Orchestra debut in June 2007.For complete biographies of the soloists, please see attached document.

An Evening of All-Mozart

Heralded as one of Britain's finest young pianists, **Leon McCawley** joins Rossen Milanov and The Philadelphia Orchestra in concert on **Wednesday, July 2,** in an All-Mozart evening. Mr. McCawley,

who made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in June 2007, returns to perform **Mozart's** melodic and lively **Piano Concerto No. 22, K. 482.**

The program also features excerpts from Mozart's **Ballet Music from *Idomeneo*** and **Symphony No. 41 ("Jupiter"),** the final symphony written by the composer that can only be described as exuberant and introspective, charming and complicated. Mozart uses five different melodies simultaneously in the "Jupiter," making it a challenge for any orchestra that takes it on.

A Picnic Competition, a longstanding Philadelphia Orchestra tradition at the Mann, will be held prior to the performance. Audience members are invited to vie for the best picnic feast based on the theme **"Celestial Celebration."** For more information on the Picnic Competition, call the Mann Center offices at 215.546.7900.

For a complete biography of pianist Leon McCawley, please see attached document.

The Philadelphia Orchestra at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra began performing concerts in Fairmount Park at the Robin Hood Dell in 1930 in a band shell on the east side of the Schuylkill, and continued performing there until 1976 when The Mann Center for the Performing Arts opened on the west side of the Schuylkill, which became the home of The Philadelphia Orchestra's summer series. The Orchestra and the Mann recently signed a new three-year agreement, extending this long term relationship through 2009. Now celebrating its 32nd season, The Mann Center for the Performing Arts is the region's premier outdoor cultural arts center offering a diverse season of world-class entertainment. Its recently completed $15 million capital campaign has resulted in venue upgrades that have increased convenience and accessibility, and enhanced the attractiveness of the grounds for concert-goers. In addition to The Philadelphia Orchestra's summer series, programming at the Mann includes Peter Nero and the Philly Pops®, PECO Pops, Arts in the Park, jazz, dance, rock, and classical and contemporary concerts. Community and education outreach is provided through the Young People's Concert Series, Connecting-Arts-N-Schools presentations in public and parochial schools, master classes with visiting artists, and complimentary ticket distribution to more than 30,000 of the region's underserved children via the Access the Arts Program. For more information on The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, please visit www.manncenter.org.

Rossen Milanov

A sought-after guest conductor on the international music scene, **Rossen Milanov** has been hailed as "one who bears watching by anyone who cares about the future of music" (*Chicago Tribune*). He currently holds the positions of associate conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra and artistic director of The Philadelphia Orchestra at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts. In addition Mr. Milanov serves as music director of New Jersey's Symphony in C (formerly the Haddonfield Symphony), one of America's premier professional training orchestras; music director of the New Symphony Orchestra in his native city of Sofia, Bulgaria; and chief conductor of the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony.

Mr. Milanov began his association with The Philadelphia Orchestra as assistant conductor in 2000 and was promoted to associate conductor four years later. In this role he leads the Orchestra in subscription, Family, educational, community, and holiday concerts. In March 2006 Mr. Milanov was named artistic director of the Orchestra's summer series at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts.

In July 2007 he led the Orchestra in two performances during its first residency at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival in Vail, Colorado.

During the 2007-08 season, Mr. Milanov debuted with the NHK, BBC, and Seattle symphonies, and the Royal Scottish Philharmonic, and made return engagements with the Indianapolis Symphony, the Slovenian National Radio Orchestra, and the Curtis Opera Theatre. In addition he led the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in a new double bill production of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and *Petrushka* with the Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève. Mr. Milanov also conducted the Bulgarian National Radio Orchestra in a European tour with stops in Munich, Dortmund, Valladolid, and at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw.

With The Philadelphia Orchestra, Mr. Milanov's recent highlights have included critically acclaimed concerts on the Orchestra's summer series at the Mann Center; subscription performances of Adams's Violin Concerto and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 15; and the world premiere of Maw's English Horn Concerto.

Mr. Milanov has led concerts and tours with the Aspen Festival; the Auckland, Rotterdam, and Seoul philharmonics; the Baltimore, Colorado, Duluth-Superior, Honolulu, Lucerne, New World, Omaha, Syracuse, and Virginia symphonies; the Saint Paul and Cincinnati chamber orchestras; the Civic Orchestra of Chicago; the Festival Orchestra of the Grand Teton Music Festival; the Curtis Opera Theatre; the national orchestras of Colombia and Mexico; the Residentie Orchestra of the Hague; and the Teatro Colón Buenos Aires. He was music director of the Chicago Youth Symphony from 1997 to 2001, and he has participated in numerous summer festivals, including Tanglewood and Interlochen. 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, and several recordings. Currently he is in the midst of leading a multi-year Mahler cycle with the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony. 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.

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Founded in 1900, The Philadelphia Orchestra has distinguished itself as one of the leading orchestras in the world through over a century of acclaimed performances, historic international tours, best-selling recordings, and 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. This rich tradition has been carried on by Christoph Eschenbach, who became music director in September 2003.

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 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 an ongoing $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 at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, in addition to education and community partnership programs, and appears annually at Carnegie Hall. Its summer schedule includes a series at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, free Neighborhood Concerts, and residencies at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center and Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival.

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

SUMMER 2008

The Philadelphia Orchestra's Concert Series at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

Ticket information

Single tickets: Single ticket prices for June 30 are $30, $45, $68, and $94. Single ticket prices for all other concerts are $30 and $50. Lawn tickets are $10. Single tickets can be purchased online (www.manncenter.org) or by phone (215.893.1999).

Subscriptions: Subscription prices are $270, $285, $468, and $494 for a 9-concert series. "Pick Three" packages are available – pricing varies. All subscribers receive free parking. Subscriptions can be purchased by phone (215.893.1955).

Complimentary Lawn Passes for Non-Profit/Community Organizations: Each summer, the Mann gives away 50,000 complimentary lawn tickets for Philadelphia Orchestra concerts through nonprofit/community organizations throughout the region. Organizations interested in participating in this program should fax the following information to 215.546.9524: mission statement, constituent information, full contact information, and reasons for requesting tickets.

OPENING NIGHT OF THE 2008 PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA SERIES AT THE MANN CENTER
June 30 at 8:00 p.m. – Monday evening – Mann Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
Yo-Yo Ma, *cello*

Copland	*Appalachian Spring*
Saint-Saëns	Cello Concerto No. 1
Musorgsky	*A Night on Bald Mountain*
Stravinsky	Suite from *The Firebird*

Tickets: $30, $45, $68, $94 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.manncenter.org). General admission lawn tickets are $10.

July 1 at 8:00 p.m. – Tuesday evening – Mann Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
Darina Takova, *soprano* (Mimì) – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Michael Fabiano, *tenor* (Rodolfo) – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Arianna Zukerman, *soprano* (Musetta)
Luis Ledesma, *baritone* (Marcello) – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Alexander Tall, *baritone* (Schaunard) – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Grigory Soloviov, *bass* (Colline) – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Greg Vorst, *bass-baritone* (Alcindoro) – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Puccini	*La bohème* (in concert)

This performance will use a slightly edited version of the score.

Tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.manncenter.org). General admission lawn tickets are $10.

July 2 at 8:00 p.m. – Wednesday evening – Mann Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
Leon McCawley, *piano*

Mozart	Excerpts from Ballet Music from *Idomeneo*
Mozart	Piano Concerto No. 22, K. 482
Mozart	Symphony No. 41 ("Jupiter")

Picnic Competition: The tradition continues as the 2008 Mann season once again hosts its much anticipated Picnic Competition prior to the concert. Check www.manncenter.org for more details about categories, prizes, and how to enter.

Tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.manncenter.org). General admission lawn tickets are $10.

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