N E W S R E L E A S E

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The Philadelphia Orchestra closes its summer series at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts with four spectacular back-to-back concerts

Conductor Andrew Grams debuts with an all-Tchaikovsky concert featuring pianist Kirill Gerstein, a performance of the **1812 Overture**, *and fireworks*

Guest conductor Thomas Wilkins, pianist Jon Kimura Parker, and violinist Jennifer Koh also perform

Performance of Orff's spectacular **Carmina burana** *closes summer season*

(*Philadelphia*, July 14, 2008) – The final week of The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2008 summer series at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts in Fairmount Park features concerts on **July 21, 22, 23, and 24, 2008**. All concerts begin at 8:00 p.m. Philadelphia favorite **Thomas Wilkins** returns to lead a concert featuring pianist **Kirill Gerstein** (July 21), the young American conductor **Andrew Grams** leads a program of works by Tchaikovsky with pianist **Jon Kimura Parker** (July 22), and Philadelphia Orchestra Associate Conductor and Artistic Director of The Philadelphia Orchestra at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts **Rossen Milanov** leads the final two concerts of the season featuring violinist **Jennifer Koh** (July 23) and Carl Orff's spectacular ***Carmina burana*** (July 24). Tickets for pavilion and lawn seating are available by calling Ticket Philadelphia at 215.893.1999 or by visiting www.philorch.org.

Gerstein plays Rachmaninoff, Orchestra plays Beethoven

On Monday, July 21, conductor **Thomas Wilkins**, a favorite among Philadelphia audiences, returns to lead the Orchestra in a program including **Grieg's Lyric Suite, Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini**, with Russian pianist **Kirill Gerstein**, and **Beethoven's Symphony No. 7**. Mr. Wilkins recently completed his second season as music director of the Omaha Symphony; this was also his eighth season as resident conductor of the Detroit Symphony. He made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 2003. Mr. Gerstein made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in August 2007. His career

– *more* –

highlights include appearances with the San Francisco Symphony, the Royal Liverpool Philarmonic, the Munich Philharmonic, and the Filarmonica della Scala.

The program begins with Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg's **Lyric Suite followed by** Rachmaninoff's ***Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini.*** The piece is not, as the title falsely implies, really a rhapsody at all. The term "rhapsody" suggests a loosely organized structure, but in fact, Rachmaninoff's work follows a very clear, taut design. Wit, charm, romance, rhythmic verve, and masterly orchestration all combine in what many consider to be one of Rachmaninoff's greatest compositions.

Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 presents the listener with an arm-flinging affirmation of joy, the clouds of despair being kept firmly at bay. The opening, one of the longest and most spacious introductions ever written, initially gives not a hint of the dance to come. Before too long, however, an obsessive rhythmic figure (sounding for all the world like a message in Morse code) sweeps away the former expansiveness with the tightly wound energy, and the revelry begins, pounding away at the incessant telegraph-key rhythm.

For complete biographies of Mr. Wilkins and Mr. Gerstein, please see attached document.

All-Tchaikovsky program features *1812 Overture*, fireworks, and more

Conductor **Andrew Grams** makes his Philadelphia Orchestra debut on **Tuesday, July 22,** with the Orchestra's **annual all-Tchaikovsky concert.** The program includes a sampling of two of the Russian composer's beloved ballets and other popular works. Pianist **Jon Kimura Parker** joins the Orchestra as soloist to perform the composer's **Piano Concerto No. 1**. Mr. Grams recently completed a one-year tenure as the resident conductor of the Florida Orchestra and has concluded a three-year term as assistant conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra. Jon Kimura Parker has appeared as guest soloist with the New York Philharmonic, The Cleveland Orchestra, the Warsaw Philharmonic, and the NHK Tokyo Orchestra.

Considering how naturally the dance idiom seemed to come to him, it is surprising that Tchaikovsky composed only three ballet scores. ***The Sleeping Beauty***, the least known of the three, is based on the baroque fairy tale *La belle au bois dormant* (*The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood*) and remains the archetypical fairy tale romance. It is also in the opinion of many music-lovers, the Tchaikovsky ballet with the most powerful music.

Expansive but economical, orchestrally rich but pianistically dazzling, Tchaikovsky's **Piano Concerto No. 1**. was initially ill-received by the pianist for whom it was written, Nikolai Rubinstein, which infuriated the Russian composer. He then sent the piece to the legendary pianist Hans von Bülow, who in turn gave the concerto its world-premiere. Though initial reviews called the work an "extremely difficult, strange, wild, ultra-modern Russian Concerto," the audience was enthusiastic and the concerto has since solidified its place in standard piano repertoire.

The perennial Christmastime favorite, ***The Nutcracker***, vividly displays Tchaikovsky's virtuosity in creating varied orchestral colors. The story is enchanting – toys come alive, flowers dance, and princes

transport girls to a happily-ever-after world in the clouds – but it is Tchaikovsky's music which has helped the ballet stand the test of time.

Finally, no Tchaikovsky celebration would be complete without the triumphant ***1812 Overture*** and a spectacular fireworks display.

For complete biographies of Mr. Gram and Mr. Parker, please see attached document.

Koh Plays Sibelius

Heralded by the *New York Times* as a "fearless soloist," who has a formidable capacity for "living through" the music she performs on stage, violinist **Jennifer Koh** appears with The Philadelphia Orchestra to perform **Sibelius's** passionate **Violin Concerto** on **Wednesday, July 23**. Ms. Koh made her Philadelphia Orchestra debut in January of this year during the Orchestra's Bernstein Festival, performing a new work by composer Jennifer Higdon. Rossen Milanov leads the concert.

The program also features Wagner's **Prelude to *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg***. The composer's only comic opera**, t**he work remains one of music's most profound contemplations of the nature of love and art.

Brahm's lushly romantic **Symphony No. 4** closes the program. The symphony, the composer's last, provides with its serious tone, striking complexities, and inspired construction, a fitting final statement to the composer's work in this genre.

For a complete biography of Ms. Koh, please see attached document.

Carmina burana closes summer season

A modern-day *Canterbury Tales*, Carl Orff's spectacularly popular *Carmina burana* comes complete with lusty hymns to springtime, animated drinking songs, and a swan's anguishingly ironic farewell to life (on a barbeque spit!). It addresses issues similar to those we face today: love, sex, drinking, gambling, fate, and fortune. Much of the piece's compositional structure is based on the idea of the turning Fortuna Wheel. With each movement, the Wheel of Fortune turns — joy turning to bitterness, hope turning to grief. The chorus "O Fortuna," undoubtedly the most famous piece of this work, having appeared in hundreds of films and television commercials, completes the circle, being both in the opening and closing movements. Rossen Milanov leads the concert.

The soloists are soprano **Joanna Mongiardo**, tenor **Christopher Pfund**, and baritone **Hugh Russell**. They are joined by **the Philadelphia Singers Chorale**, under the direction of David Hayes, and the **Pennsylvania Girlchoir**, under the direction of Mark Anderson. For complete biographies of the soloists, please see attached document.

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 **"Wheel of Fortuna."** For more information on the Picnic Competition, call the Mann Center offices at 215.546.7900.

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 – Artistic Director of The Philadelphia Orchestra at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

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 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.

July 21 at 8:00 p.m. – Monday evening – The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Thomas Wilkins, *conductor*
Kirill Gerstein, *piano*

Grieg	Lyric Suite
Rachmaninoff	Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
Beethoven	Symphony No. 7

Single tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.philorch.org/mann). General admission lawn tickets are $10.

July 22 at 8:00 p.m. – Tuesday evening – The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Andrew Grams, *conductor*
Jon Kimura Parker, *piano*

Tchaikovsky	Excerpts from Suite from *The Sleeping Beauty*
Tchaikovsky	Piano Concerto No. 1
Tchaikovsky	Excerpts from *The Nutcracker*
Tchaikovsky	*1812 Overture*

Fireworks follow the performance.

Single tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.philorch.org/mann). General admission lawn tickets are $10.

July 23 at 8:00 p.m. – Wednesday evening – The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
Jennifer Koh, *violin*

Wagner	Prelude to *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*
Sibelius	Violin Concerto
Brahms	Symphony No. 4

Single tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.philorch.org/mann). General admission lawn tickets are $10.

July 24 at 8:00 p.m. – Thursday evening – The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
Joanna Mongiardo, *soprano*
Christopher Pfund, *tenor*
Hugh Russell, *baritone*
The Philadelphia Singers Chorale (David Hayes, *music director*)
Pennsylvania Girlchoir (Mark Anderson, *music director*)

Orff	*Carmina burana*

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.

Single tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.philorch.org/mann). General admission lawn tickets are $10.

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