N E W S R E L E A S E

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Danail Rachev appointed assistant conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, beginning in 2008-09 season

Mr. Rachev comes to the Orchestra from the Dallas Symphony, where he has been assistant conductor since 2005

(*Philadelphia,* December 19, 2007) – **Danail Rachev** has been appointed **assistant conductor** of The Philadelphia Orchestra, beginning in the 2008-09 season. He will assume some responsibilities in the 2007-08 season, including covering concerts and assisting Music Director Christoph Eschenbach. A native of Bulgaria, Mr. Rachev comes to the Orchestra from the Dallas Symphony, where he has been assistant conductor since 2005.

As assistant conductor, Mr. Rachev will assist Charles Dutoit (artistic director and principal conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center and, beginning in September 2008, the Orchestra's chief conductor and artistic adviser), Rossen Milanov (the Orchestra's associate conductor and artistic director of The Philadelphia Orchestra at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts) and guest conductors during Philadelphia Orchestra rehearsals and concerts. He will also lead special non-subscription performances and conduct Family and Student Concerts.

"I am thrilled with the appointment of Danail Rachev as assistant conductor," said Philadelphia Orchestra Music Director Christoph Eschenbach. "Mr. Rachev is very musical and incredibly talented, and his work with The Philadelphia Orchestra will shape the next phase of what will surely be a successful career."

"Since childhood, I have listened to recordings of The Philadelphia Orchestra, always as a synonym for perfection," said Mr. Rachev. "As a conductor, I now understand that very few orchestras are able to achieve this kind of greatness, which comes from an incredibly rich, living tradition; deep understanding and love of music; and true devotion to the highest standards possible. I am immensely honored to be chosen as assistant conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra. I cannot imagine a better opportunity for myself as a musician than to work with this unique ensemble."

– *more* –

Danail Rachev follows in a distinguished but short list of musicians who have served The Philadelphia Orchestra as staff conductors during the past 100-plus years. He joins Mr. Milanov who held the position from September 2000 until his promotion to associate conductor in 2005. Previous staff conductors include: Charles Schmitz (assistant conductor 1900-01), Thaddeus Rich (assistant conductor 1916-26), Artur Rodzinski (assistant conductor 1926-28), Alexander Smallens (assistant conductor 1929-31), Saul Caston (associate conductor 1936-45), Alexander Hilsberg (associate conductor 1945-52), and William R. Smith, who served for more than 40 seasons as assistant and then associate conductor, beginning in 1952, André Raphel Smith (assistant conductor 1994-2000), and Luis Biava (Conductor in Residence 1994-2004).

Bulgarian native **Danail Rachev** was named assistant conductor of the Dallas Symphony in 2005. He continues to lead the Symphony in classical and pops concerts and family, school, and outreach programs throughout the 2007-08 season. His Dallas subscription debut earned raves in the *Dallas Morning News* as "[o]ne of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's best concerts of the past year. … [S]tart to finish, assistant conductor Danail Rachev got the music unfailingly right, and viscerally compelling."

In the last year, Mr. Rachev continued his duties at the DSO and also led concerts with the Baltimore Symphony, the Cleveland City Music Chamber Orchestra, and Dallas's Camerata Winds, with which this season he began his tenure as artistic director.

In 2002-2003 Mr. Rachev was the first-ever conducting fellow of the New World Symphony in Miami, where he studied with Michael Tilson Thomas and shared the podium with him on many occasions. Mr. Rachev's debut and subsequent appearances in numerous subscription, family, and chamber music concerts were met with consistent critical acclaim.

Mr. Rachev served as conductor of the Juilliard Pre-College Symphony from 2002-05. In the 2003 season, in addition to a performance with the Juilliard Pre-College Symphony in Alice Tully Hall, Mr. Rachev led performances of Copland's *The Tender Land* with Baltimore's Opera Vivente. Mr. Rachev's recent positions also include cover conductor of the Saint Louis Symphony, assistant conductor of the Columbia Orchestra (MD), associate director of orchestras at the Baltimore School for the Arts, and assistant conductor for the Baltimore Opera Company in productions of Strauss's *Elektra*, Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, and Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. In his native Bulgaria, Mr. Rachev has worked with several ensembles including the Russe State Opera, where he led performances of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* and Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*.

During the summer of 2002, Mr. Rachev was simultaneously chosen to be an Academy conductor for the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival and one of four participants in the National Conducting Institute in Washington, D.C., which culminated in his well-received debut with the National Symphony. Mr. Rachev was a semifinalist in the inaugural Maazel/Vilar Conductors' Competition (2001) and a finalist in the Fundação Oriente International Competition for Young Conductors in Lisbon, Portugal (2000).

Originally trained at the State Musical Academy in Sofia, where he received degrees in orchestral and choral conducting, Mr. Rachev came to the United States for studies at Peabody Conservatory on full scholarship, graduating in 2001 with the Master of Music in orchestral conducting. His principal conducting teachers have included Gustav Meier, Michael Tilson Thomas, Vassil Kazandjiev, David Zinman, and Leonard Slatkin. Mr. Rachev was born and raised in Shumen, Bulgaria, and resides in Dallas with his wife, Elizabeth.

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 the launch of a Global Concert Series, which involves multi-casting concerts to large-screen venues through the Internet2 network; the opening 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.

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