N E W S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 12, 2008

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

Lauren Saul
Public Relations Coordinator
phone: 215.875.7657
e-mail: lsaul@philorch.org

The Philadelphia Orchestra performs free Neighborhood Concert at City Hall

Orchestra's first-ever performance at City Hall, and final Neighborhood Concert of the season, takes place September 23 in Dilworth Plaza

Wachovia is presenting sponsor of the Neighborhood Concert series

(*Philadelphia,* August 12, 2008) – **The Philadelphia Orchestra** performs for the first time ever at Philadelphia's **City Hall** when it presents a **free Neighborhood Concert** on **Tuesday, September 23, at 7:00 PM**. The concert, which will be held in Dilworth Plaza on the west side of City Hall, is part of the Orchestra's annual series of outdoor Neighborhood Concerts and is the final one of the season. Philadelphia Orchestra Associate Conductor Rossen Milanov conducts a program that features music of Leonard Bernstein, Giuseppe Verdi, Arturo Marquez, Aaron Copland, and George Gershwin.

Wachovia is presenting sponsor of The Philadelphia Orchestra's Neighborhood Concert series for the fifth consecutive year. **The City Hall Neighborhood Concert is free and open to the public.**

"It gives us great pleasure to perform a Neighborhood Concert at City Hall, in conjunction with the City of Philadelphia, for the first time ever in The Philadelphia Orchestra's 108-year history," said Philadelphia Orchestra President and CEO James Undercofler. "The Philadelphia Orchestra has a deep commitment to the City of Philadelphia and our free Neighborhood Concerts provide us the opportunity to connect with thousands of people who might not otherwise attend an Orchestra performance. Although the Orchestra performs all over the world, we are particularly pleased to now perform in our very own backyard, right up the Avenue of the Arts from our home at the Kimmel Center. We are grateful to our dedicated partner, Wachovia, whose generous sponsorship makes our Neighborhood Concert program possible."

– *more* –

"The Philadelphia Orchestra is one of the brightest stars in the Philadelphia region's artistic firmament," Mayor Michael A. Nutter said. "I'm delighted that the Orchestra has chosen City Hall for its final concert venue of the 2008 Neighborhood Concert series and that Wachovia continues its very generous sponsorship of the series. City Hall is the public's home and holding a concert at Dilworth Plaza is bringing dazzling professional artistry to the public's living room."

"We have been sponsoring The Philadelphia Orchestra's free Neighborhood Concert series for five years, and we are proud to help make this landmark event at City Hall possible," said Susanne Svizeny, Wachovia Regional President for Greater Philadelphia/Delaware and Southern New Jersey. "This partnership between the City of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and Wachovia gives city residents a terrific opportunity to come together as one big neighborhood and enjoy a live performance of one of the world's great classical music ensembles."

The Philadelphia Orchestra's Neighborhood Concert series

The 2008 Neighborhood Concert series continues The Philadelphia Orchestra's commitment to celebrating the vitality of neighborhoods throughout the Philadelphia region, bringing the Orchestra into communities in a variety of settings, and introducing the world-renowned ensemble to new audiences. The Orchestra revived its free Neighborhood Concerts in 2000 as part of its centennial celebrations as a tangible expression of the Orchestra's gratitude to the people of Philadelphia for their 100 years of support. By bringing the gift of music into the communities where people live, the Orchestra has worked to break down barriers that separate it from many people in the community. The Neighborhood Concerts have continued each year since the centennial and have taken place in Upper Darby, North Philadelphia, Rittenhouse Square, and Northeast Philadelphia in 2000; University City in 2001; Washington Township, NJ, in 2002; South Philadelphia in 2003; Camden and Penn's Landing in 2004; Camden and Montgomery County Community College in 2005; Villanova University, Penn's Landing, and Camden in 2006; and Chestnut Hill, Camden, and University City in 2007; and Camden in 2008.

The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2008 Neighborhood Concert Series is presented by WACHOVIA and funded in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Presser Foundation, and the Zisman Family Foundation. Printing is provided by Canon Business Solutions.

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 seven music directors throughout its history: 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), and Christoph Eschenbach (2003-08).

This rich tradition is carried on by Charles Dutoit, who was appointed chief conductor and artistic adviser of The Philadelphia Orchestra from the 2008-09 season through the 2011-12 season. Highlights of his first season include the Opening Night Concert, featuring pianist Martha Argerich; performances of Berlioz's *Romeo and Juliet* and Requiem, part of Mr. Dutoit's four-year focus on the works of that composer; the U.S. premiere of Krzysztof Penderecki's Concerto grosso No. 1 for three cellos, part of the Orchestra's celebration of Mr. Penderecki's 75th birthday; and Honegger's Symphony No. 3 ("Liturgical"). During his tenure, Mr. Dutoit will also focus on the music of the Ballets Russes, beginning in the 2008-09 season with performances of Stravinsky's complete music to *The Firebird*.

Recent Philadelphia Orchestra highlights include the opening of the Orchestra's Online Music Store, www.thephiladelphiaorchestra.com; regular broadcasts on NPR; a series of critically acclaimed recordings led by Mr. Eschenbach and released in partnership with Ondine Records; and a $125 million endowment campaign.

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

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

CITY HALL NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERT
September 23 at 7:00 p.m. – Tuesday evening – Dilworth Plaza, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*

Bernstein	Overture to *Candide*
Verdi	Overture to *Nabucco*
Marquez	*Danzon* No. 2
Copland	Hoe-Down, from Four Dance Episodes from the ballet *Rodeo*
Gershwin	*Porgy and Bess*, A Symphonic Picture

This concert is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.philorch.org/neighborhood or call 215.893.1988.

The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2008 Free Neighborhood Concert Series is presented by WACHOVIA and funded in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Presser Foundation, and the Zisman Family Foundation. Printing is provided by Canon Business Solutions.

# # #