N E W S R E L E A S E

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Philadelphia Orchestra continues Global Concert Series with live concert transmissions to multiple colleges and universities

(*Philadelphia*, January 21, 2008) –The Philadelphia Orchestra continues its Global Concert Series, live performances with enhanced and interactive content, transmitted in HD to multiple remote large-screen venues on college and university campuses. The Orchestra has six transmissions scheduled for the remainder of the 2007-08 season: January 25, February 22, March 7, April 10, May 3 and May 16, 2008.

At least 40 schools will participate in the January 25 multi-cast, including Princeton University, Duke University, and the University of Southern California, who are testing the technology, and the University of Delaware, Montgomery County Community College, and Villanova University, who have partnered with the Orchestra on previous transmissions, among others. Additionally, the Greek Research and Technology Network in Athens, Greece, will participate in the transmission.

The January 25 concert is part of The Philadelphia Orchestra's Bernstein Festival, which runs throughout the month of January. The program, conducted by Philadelphia Orchestra Music Director Christoph Eschenbach, features Leonard Bernstein's powerful Symphony No. 1 ("Jeremiah"), which portrays the destruction of ancient Jerusalem. The composer described the final movement, sung in this program by mezzo-soprano Rinat Shaham, as "the cry of Jeremiah, as he mourns his beloved Jerusalem, ruined, pillaged, and dishonored after his desperate efforts to save it." Bernstein wrote the work when he was 23 years old and performed it with the Pittsburgh Symphony in January 1944. Coming towards the end of World War II, the premiere was timely, and Bernstein soon led the work all over the United States and in Prague and Jerusalem.

The concert also features two recently-premiered works by Jennifer Higdon, a Philadelphia composer who embodies Bernstein's diverse influences and adventurous spirit. Ms. Higdon wrote her *Concerto 4-3* for the Philadelphia-based string trio Time for Three, whose eclectic and animated performances have been a hit from coast to coast. Ms. Higdon's second commission, *The Singing Rooms*,

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was written for violinist Jennifer Koh and the Philadelphia Singers Chorale. The work features six poems by Philadelphia poet Jeanne Minahan.

Concerts in the Global Concert Series provide the audience with an up-close look at the musicians and conductor, in views not seen by live audiences. The live concert is transmitted using seven high definition cameras installed in Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. The transmissions are hosted by Margie Smith, who brings live backstage commentary and interviews with conductors and musicians to concert-goers around the world. The January 25 transmission will include interviews with Christoph Eschenbach, Jennifer Koh, and Jennifer Higdon. Off-site audiences are encouraged to ask questions of the performers leading up to the concert and during intermission via e-mail, instant messenger, and text message.

The Philadelphia Orchestra is the first major orchestra to transmit live concerts to multiple large screen venues on college and university campuses. Its Global Concert Series, begun in September 2007, is made possible through a partnership among the Orchestra, the Internet2 Consortium, and the presenting schools.

The Global Concert Series uses a high speed and high bandwidth network available to the Orchestra through the Internet2 network to send the audio and video stream to large screen venues at organizations connected to the Internet2 network. Internet2 is a non-profit consortium of over 200 universities who serve as hubs to connect thousands of schools to a high speed advanced network that allows advanced applications and technologies for research and higher education. The Philadelphia Orchestra accesses this network through MAGPI, the Internet2 network hub of the University of Pennsylvania since 1999. Participating institutions are required to be connected to the Internet2 network and must meet additional technical and equipment criteria.

The Philadelphia Orchestra has recently been engaged in a number of initiatives designed to explore new and creative means of distributing the Orchestra's music outside of conventional concerts in its home hall, including an Online Music Store and podcasting, in addition to traditional radio broadcasts on National Public Radio and a recording contract with Ondine Records. The Philadelphia Orchestra boasts an extraordinary record of media firsts. It was the first symphonic orchestra to make electrical recordings (1925), the first to perform its own commercially sponsored radio broadcast (1929), the first to perform on the soundtrack of a feature film (Paramount's *The Big Broadcast of 1937*), the first to appear on a national television broadcast (1948), and the first major orchestra to give a live cybercast on the internet (1997).

The Philadelphia Orchestra

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.

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

For more information about The Philadelphia Orchestra's Global Concert Series please visit www.philorch.org/internet2.

BERNSTEIN FESTIVAL CONCERT
January 25 at 2:00 p.m. – Friday afternoon – Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Jennifer Koh, *violin*
Rinat Shaham, *mezzo-soprano*
Time for Three
Zachary De Pue, *violin*
Nicolas Kendall, *violin*
Ranaan Meyer, *double bass*
The Philadelphia Singers Chorale (David Hayes, *music director*)

Higdon	*The Singing Rooms*, for violin, chorus, and orchestra CO-COMMISSION OF THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION WITH THE ATLANTA SYMPHONY AND MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA, MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY GRANTS FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND THE ARGOSY FOUNDATION CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FUND AND THROUGH THE MUSIC ALIVE PROGRAM OF MEET THE COMPOSER AND THE AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA LEAGUE.
Bernstein	Symphony No. 1 ("Jeremiah")
Higdon	*Concerto 4-3,* for string trio and orchestra CO-COMMISSION OF THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION WITH THE PITTSBURGH AND WHEELING SYMPHONIES, MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY GRANTS FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND THE ARGOSY FOUNDATION CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FUND AND THROUGH THE MUSIC ALIVE PROGRAM OF MEET THE COMPOSER AND THE AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA LEAGUE.

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