N E W S R E L E A S E

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Philadelphia Orchestra announces four winners of 2008 Greenfield Student Competition

Four young musicians will perform with the Orchestra during the 2008-09 season

Annual competition carries on tradition of promoting exceptional young talent

(*Philadelphia*, February 13, 2008) – Four young musicians have won the annual **Philadelphia Orchestra Albert M. Greenfield Student Competition** and will appear as soloists with the Orchestra during the 2008-09 season. Final judging was held in Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, February 1, 2008. Students performed during the final round of the Competition before an audience of invited guests.

The winners of the 2008 Greenfield Competition are **Bihn Sangbin Park** (*cello,* age 11), who competed in the Children's Division; **Ji-Won Song** (*violin*, age 15), who competed in the Junior Division; and **Bryan Lee** (*violin*, age 19) and **Vicki Powell** (*viola*, age 19), who competed in the Senior Division. The winners receive monetary awards in addition to their engagements with the Orchestra. Biographies of the winners are attached.

"The Alfred M. Greenfield Student Competition showcases an exciting and inspiring group of young musicians," said Philadelphia Orchestra Director of Education and Community Partnerships Ayden Adler. "We are thrilled this Competition has launched the careers of many successful young classical musicians, and we are proud to award these four artists the opportunity to perform with The Philadelphia Orchestra."

Music Director Leopold Stokowski first initiated The Philadelphia Orchestra's Student Competition in 1933. The Competition was named in 1992 in recognition of a generous endowment gift from the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation. Since its inception, more than 400 winners of the Competition have appeared with The Philadelphia Orchestra, and many have gone on to establish international careers. Over the years, The Philadelphia Orchestra has developed relationships with several Greenfield Student Competition winners who have been invited to return as acclaimed guest soloists.

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The annual **Philadelphia Orchestra Albert M. Greenfield Student Competition** is open to all accomplished young instrumentalists, pianists, and vocalists. Applicants must reside in, or study regularly with a teacher who resides in, the Greater Philadelphia Area. Entrants are divided into four categories by age (Children's Division, 12 & under; Junior Division, 13 to 16; Senior Division, 17 to 21; Vocal Division, 17 to 29). They compete against a standard of excellence, not each other, and are evaluated on the following merits: exceptional talent, virtuosity, artistic individuality, and projection as a performer.

Previous winners of the Competition who have gone on to develop international solo careers, include sopranos Judith Blegen and Benita Valente, pianists Richard Goode and Eugene Istomin, and violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. Current Philadelphia Orchestra musicians who are former winners of the Competition include violinists Richard Amoroso, Yayoi Numazawa, and Yumi Ninomiya Scott; violist Burchard Tang; bassoonist Mark Gigliotti (co-principal); bass trombone Blair Bollinger; and pianist Kiyoko Takeuti.

The Philadelphia Orchestra has a long tradition of bringing classical music into the lives of young people, dating back to 1921 when Leopold Stokowski initiated a series of concerts exclusively for children. Today, the Orchestra reaches Philadelphia area residents, teachers, students, and children with its numerous education and community partnership programs. The Philadelphia Orchestra presents a variety of programs for young people, including Sound All Around (for children ages 3 to 5), Family Concerts (for children ages 6 to 12 and their families), and School Concerts (for students in grades 3 through 12). The Orchestra also offers learning programs for adults, free PreConcert Conversations before every subscription concert, and Lecture-Luncheons with guest speakers.

PNC Bank is proud to sponsor Sound All Around at the Academy of Music. Sound All Around is endowed in perpetuity by the Garrison Family Fund for Children's Concerts.

The Philadelphia Orchestra Family Concerts are sponsored by Independence Blue Cross.
Additional support is provided by UGI Amerigas, the Presser Foundation, and the Zisman Family Foundation.

Wachovia is proud to be the Lead Underwriter for the "Raising the Invisible Curtain" initiative.
Supporting sponsorship for School Concerts is provided by Merck.
School concerts are funded in part by grants from the Presser Foundation, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the Rosenlund Family Foundation, the Verizon Foundation, and the Zisman Family Foundation.

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Philadelphia Orchestra Albert M. Greenfield Student Competition

Biographies of 2008 Competition winners

Children's Division

Eleven-year-old cellist **Bihn Sangbin Park** began studying the cello four years ago in Chicago. Since moving to Philadelphia, he has continued his studies with Metta Watts and Orlando Cole at Temple University Music Preparatory. His teachers have included Martine Benmann, Blake Brasch, and Karen Meier.

Mr. Park was accepted to the Chicago Youth Symphony Preparatory Orchestra in 2005. The following year, he performed as a soloist in Lower Merion. He also appeared as a soloist with the Ambler Symphony in 2007 as a winner of the Menges Scholarship Competition. Mr. Park attends Gladwyne Elementary School where he participates in the chorus and the orchestra. He also led his Reading Olympic team to first place in Montgomery County, PA, in 2007.

Junior Division

Born in South Korea, 15-year-old **Ji-Won Song** was a student in the Pre-College division of the Korean National University of the Arts where she studied violin with Nam-Yun Kim and Bon-Jiu Koo. She began her musical study at age 5.

Ms. Song has won many awards in Korea, including the Hankook-Ilbo Concours in 2000, the Eumak-Chunchu Music Competition in 2001, the Korean Chamber Ensemble String Competition in 2002, and the Kukmin-Ilbo/Hansei University Concours in 2002. In 2003 she was chosen to participate in the Kumho Prodigy Concert and performed as a soloist with the Seoul Philharmonic and the Kangnam Philharmonic.

After moving to the U.S. in 2003, Ms. Song enrolled in the Preparatory Division of the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying violin with David Cerone and David Russell. In 2004 she performed a Haydn violin concerto with the ENCORE String Orchestra and in 2005 she performed *Carmen Fantasy* as a soloist at the Kennedy Center of the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. At the age of 12, Miss Song entered the Kingsville International Competition as the youngest competitor, placing second in the Junior Bowed Instrument Concerto category. She has performed as a soloist with the Asheville Symphony, the Suburban Symphony, and the Wheeling Symphony, and also served as concertmaster of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra from 2006-07. Miss Song has been featured in various newspapers including *The Sun Press*, *The Asheville Citizen-Times*, *The Dominion Post*, and *The Caller-Times*, and has been interviewed on *NBC News*.

Ms. Song was accepted to the Curtis Institute of Music at age of 14 and currently studies with Victor Danchenko and Yumi Ninomiya Scott.

Senior Division

Nineteen-year-old violinist **Bryan Lee** from Radnor, PA, entered the Curtis Institute of Music in 2005 where he studies with Victor Danchenko. He is the recipient of a merit-based, full-tuition scholarship and holds the Susan and Edward Montgomery Annual Fellowship.

Mr. Lee was formerly the winner in the Junior Division of the Philadelphia Orchestra Albert M. Greenfield Competition and performed with the Orchestra during its 2005-06 season. He has also performed as a soloist with the Delaware Symphony, the Lansdowne Symphony, the Temple University Symphony, the Kennett Symphony of Chester County, and the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony. He has attended the Encore School for Strings and the Perlman Music Program. Mr. Lee was awarded the bronze medal at the 2005 Stulberg International String Competition and won second place at the 2004 Kingsville International Young Performers Competition. He has been featured on *From the Top*, broadcast nationally on NPR.

His teachers include Choong-Jin Chang, principal viola of The Philadelphia Orchestra, and Soovin Kim.

Violist **Vicki Powell**, 19, began her music studies on the violin at the age of four in Madison, Wisconsin. She currently studies viola with Roberto Díaz at the Curtis Institute of Music.

Ms. Powell was most recently the Gold Award Winner of the 2007 NFAA youngARTS week. She was also the first prize winner of the 2006 Triennial Johansen International Competition for Young String Players. She made a recital appearance at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., and also performed with the Friday Morning Music Club Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Powell has also appeared as soloist with the Aspen Conducting Academy, the Madison Symphony, the Milwaukee Symphony, and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. She was the winner of the Milwaukee Young Artists Competition in 2003, the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra Competition in 2004, the Aspen Music Festival and School Low Strings Competition, and the Walgreens National Concerto Competition in 2005. The following year, she was awarded First Prize at the St. Paul String Quartet Competition as a member of the Alethea String Quartet, and the Bronze Medal at the Fischoff National Chamber Competition.

Ms. Powell has made two appearances on *From the Top* where she collaborated with Christopher O'Riley and Joshua Bell. She has also appeared with Midori to promote music education in the Wisconsin public schools.

Ms Powell has attended the Sarasota Music Festival and the Aspen Music Festival and School. She is a former student of Sally Chisholm and Eugene Purdue.

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