N E W S R E L E A S E

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Philadelphia Orchestra's holiday concerts offer seasonal classics for all generations

Family Concert features holiday music from across the globe

Handel's beloved **Messiah** *returns for the 47th year of this time-honored tradition*

New this year, Holiday Organ and Brass blends the sounds of the Orchestra's brass section with the "king of instruments"

The Glorious Sound of Christmas features festive orchestral classics and selections from the Orchestra's best-selling holiday album

Violinist Leila Josefowicz joins Orchestra members for a New Year's Eve Concert of music from Vienna and beyond

(*Philadelphia*, November 14, 2007) – Generations of music lovers have made The Philadelphia Orchestra part of their holiday celebrations. This December, the Orchestra once again becomes a destination for listeners who want to experience the sublime sounds of the season. A Family Concert – **Holiday Traditions Around the World** – explores music from across the globe (December 8), and **Handel's *Messiah*,** an audience favorite since the composer's time, returns for its 47th annual outing by the Orchestra (December 16). A new offering this year – **Holiday Organ and Brass** – showcases the majesty of the Kimmel Center's Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ and the Orchestra's splendid brass section (December 18). **The Glorious Sound of Christmas,** first introduced as a best-selling album in 1962, continues to delight today on compact disc and as a trio of concerts (December 20-22). Finally, the annual **New Year's Eve Concert** closes out the year with violinist Leila Josefowicz joining members of the Orchestra for music of Vienna and beyond (December 31).

Family Concert – Holiday Traditions Around the World

Music is a vital part of ceremonies and celebrations around the globe. During holiday season in America, the air is filled with the sounds of "White Christmas," "Jingle Bells," "Little Drummer Boy," and selections from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. But what do people listen to in other lands? **Holiday**

– *more* –

Traditions Around the World explores music heard in different cultures during the winter holidays. The program also features 11-year-old harpist **Katherine Kapelsohn,** a winner of the Orchestra's 2007 Albert M. Greenfield Student Competition, performing a movement from Dittersdorf's elegant Harp Concerto. Conductor **David Amado** returns to lead this program (December 8, 2007).

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.

Handel's *Messiah*

The Philadelphia Orchestras opens its holiday concerts with a time-honored tradition: a performance of **Handel's *Messiah*** (December 16). The work was a favorite of the composer and has delighted audiences for over two centuries. British conductor **Christopher Warren-Green** makes his Philadelphia Orchestra debut leading the Orchestra's 47th consecutive annual performance of the beloved oratorio. Joining him are four soloists fully versed in Baroque style. Three make their Philadelphia Orchestra debuts: young Romanian soprano **Eliana Pretorian**, South African countertenor **Christopher Ainslie**, and British bass-baritone **Stephen Richardson.** Tenor **Mark Tucker** returns after singing *Messiah* with the Orchestra in 2001. The soloists are joined by **The Philadelphia Singers Chorale**.

Christopher Warren-Green has held the position of music director of the London Chamber Orchestra since 1988. In Great Britain he has conducted the Philharmonia, the Royal Philharmonic, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the BBC Concert Orchestra, and the London Philharmonic. In North America, he led the National Symphony and has led the orchestras of St. Louis, Minnesota, Indianapolis, Vancouver, and Victoria. Mr. Warren-Green has also established strong ties with the Seattle Symphony and returns there on a regular basis. Last season he made his debut with Japan's NHK Symphony. Mr. Warren-Green has recorded extensively for BMG, EMI, Philips, Virgin, and Chandos, and most recently for Deutsche Grammophon.

Holiday Organ and Brass

New this year, **Holiday Organ and Brass** blends the sound of the Orchestra's splendid brass players and the Kimmel Center's acclaimed Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ (December 18). The concert features seasonal selections for this festive combination of instruments. The Orchestra's brass section has received glowing reviews lately, with the *San Francisco Chronicle* describing the section's sound as "darkly gleaming" and the *Chicago Tribune* writing that the brass are "as robust as ever." The organ, inaugurated in May 2006, has received its own share of praise. The *Wall Street Journal* has described it as "a versatile 6,938-pipe beast with a wide tonal palette" and the *Philadelphia Daily News* has written that its dynamics range "from whisper soft to grandly majestic to a bone-liquefying bass roar."

The Glorious Sound of Christmas

With **The Glorious Sound of Christmas,** The Philadelphia Orchestra lends its lush sound to festive orchestral classics and selections from its best-selling Christmas album of the same name (December 20-22). The program features two favorite carols from the recording – "Hark! the Herald

Angels Sing" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful" – and a holiday sing-along. Also included are a variety of pieces that are evocative of the holiday season, including Gustav Holst's "Christmas Day" (a set of variations on "In dulci jubilo") and Rimsky-Korsakov's colorful Suite from *Christmas Eve*. Philadelphia Orchestra Associate Conductor **Rossen Milanov** conducts the concert. (Mr. Milanov's bio is below.)

New Year's Eve Concert

For the Orchestra's annual **New Year's Eve Concert,** Associate Conductor **Rossen Milanov,** violinist **Leila Josefowicz**, and members of The Philadelphia Orchestra take audiences on a musical journey on the Danube River (December 31). The concert opens in Vienna with **Johann Strauss Jr.'s "On the Beautiful Blue Danube" Waltz.** From there, the program follows the River through the Czech Republic (**Smetana's "The Moldau,"** from *Má vlast*), Hungary (gypsy-tinged selections by Johann Strauss Jr., Ravel, and Brahms), and Romania (**Dinicu's *Hora-staccato***).

Formerly a model for Chanel's Allure fragrance, Ms. Josefowicz brings glamour and "explosive virtuosity and stylistic versatility" to the stage (*Washington Post*). She performs two works by the Austrian-born violin virtuoso **Fritz Kreisler. "Liebesleid"** and **"Liebesfreud"** are two of Kreisler's best-loved works, and the Orchestra's first performed them on its 1977 New Year's Eve Concert 30 years ago. After a final stop in Slovakia (**Dvo ák's Slavonic Dance, Op 26, No. 1**), the concert closes in Vienna, with Johann Strauss Jr.'s celebratory **"Emperor" Waltz.**

Rossen Milanov is 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); music director of the New Symphony Orchestra in his native city of Sofia, Bulgaria; and chief conductor of the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony. During the 2007-08 season, Mr. Milanov debuts with Tokyo's NHK Symphony, London's BBC Symphony, the Seattle Symphony, and the Royal Scottish Philharmonic. He has return engagements with the Indianapolis Symphony, the Slovenian National Radio Orchestra, and the Curtis Opera Theatre, and he conducts the Bulgarian National Radio Orchestra in a European tour.

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.

– more –

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.

FAMILY CONCERT – HOLIDAY TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

December 8 at 11:30 a.m. – Saturday morning – Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
David Amado, *conductor*
Katherine Kapelsohn, *harp* – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Tchaikovsky	Excerpts from *The Nutcracker*
Vaughan Williams	Fantasia on "Greensleeves"
Bizet	"Farandole," from *L'Arlésienne*, Suite No. 2
Humperdinck	Prelude to *Hansel and Gretel*
Dittersdorf	Third movement from Harp Concerto
Bernard & Smith	"Winter Wonderland"
Mizesko	Excerpts from *A Chanukah Celebration*
L. Anderson	*A Christmas Festival*

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Tickets: $5-$45, 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org. For holiday gift ideas, visit www.philorch.org/holiday.

HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

December 16 at 2:00 p.m. – Sunday afternoon – Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christopher Warren-Green, *conductor* – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Eliana Pretorian, *soprano* – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Christopher Ainslie, *countertenor* – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Mark Tucker, *tenor*
Stephen Richardson, *bass-baritone* – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
The Philadelphia Singers Chorale (David Hayes, *music director*)

Handel	*Messiah*

Tickets: $10-$123, 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org. For holiday gift ideas, visit www.philorch.org/holiday.

THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION PRESENTS: HOLIDAY ORGAN AND BRASS

December 18 at 7:00 p.m. – Tuesday evening – Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Members of The Philadelphia Orchestra's brass section
Organist TBA

Tickets: $10-$123, 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org. For holiday gift ideas, visit www.philorch.org/holiday.

THE GLORIOUS SOUND OF CHRISTMAS

December 20 at 7:00 p.m. – Thursday evening – Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
December 21 at 7:00 p.m. – Friday evening – Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
December 22 at 7:00 p.m. – Saturday evening – Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
The Philadelphia Singers Chorale (David Hayes, *music director*)

Mendelssohn	"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"
Holst	"Christmas Day" – FIRST PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCES
Respighi	Ancient Airs and Dances for the Lute, Suite No. 3
various	*The Many Moods of Christmas*, Suite II
Borodin	Polovtsian Dances, from *Prince Igor*
Rimsky-Korsakov	Excerpts from Suite from *Christmas Eve*
Wade	"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
Gruber	"Silent Night"
Traditional	"Deck the Halls"

Tickets: $10-$123, 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org. For holiday gift ideas, visit www.philorch.org/holiday.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT

December 31 at 8:00 p.m. – Monday evening – Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
Leila Josefowicz, *violin*

J. Strauss, Jr.	"On the Beautiful Blue Danube" Waltz
Smetana	"The Moldau," from *Má vlast*
J. Strauss, Jr.	"Éljen a Magyar!" Polka
Ravel	*Tzigane*, for violin and orchestra
Brahms	Hungarian Dance No. 1
J. Strauss, Jr.	Overture to *The Gypsy Baron*
Dinicu	*Hora-staccato*
Kreisler	"Liebesleid" and "Liebesfreud," for violin and orchestra
Dvo ák	Slavonic Dance, Op. 46, No. 1
J. Strauss, Jr.	"Emperor" Waltz

Tickets: $10-$123, 215.893.1999 or www.philorch.org. For holiday gift ideas, visit www.philorch.org/holiday.

UBS, a global financial services leader, is the proud sponsor of The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2007-08 season.

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