For Media Informat
Patrick Moran, Ex. Dir., Marian Anderson Award, 215-893-1837, pmoran@philorch.org
Katherine Blodgett, Dir. Pub./Media Relations, The Philadelphia Orchestra, 215 893-1939, kblodgett@philorch.org
Kate Ryan, KB Consultants
267-505-3277, kate@kbconsultants.net

For photos: Lauren Saul, Pub. Relations Coordinator, The Philadelphia Orchestra, 215.875.7657, lsaul@philorch.org
These numbers are not for publication

MARIAN ANDERSON AWARD TO HONOR TWO RECIPIENTS FOR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Maya Angelou and Norman Lear will be honored at a Gala with The Philadelphia Orchestra on November 17, 2008

Philadelphia, August 4, 2008 – Mayor Michael Nutter announced today that the critically acclaimed poet, actress, director, and cultural icon Dr. Maya Angelou and the distinguished television pioneer, producer, activist, and visionary Norman Lear will receive the 2008 Marian Anderson Award. The Awards will be conferred at a Gala Tribute Concert produced in partnership with The Philadelphia Orchestra on Monday, November 17, 2008, at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. In making the announcement, Mayor Nutter noted, "Since 1998, the Marian Anderson Award has honored individuals who have helped change society through their art and the courage of the convictions. This criterion is abundant in the work of Maya Angelou and Norman Lear. Dr. Angelou has done this across artistic disciplines and has been justly called a renaissance woman. Norman Lear's creation of numerous ground-breaking television series has helped us look past the differences in our diverse culture to understand how much we share as a people. We are delighted that the Marian Anderson Award has chosen these extraordinary individuals to honor in this important anniversary year, and that Philadelphia will have the opportunity to celebrate their achievements this November."

The dual presentation is a special commemoration of the Award's 10 years of service. The Marian Anderson Award is given to a critically acclaimed artist humanitarian—an individual whose support for a cause(s) has upheld humanitarian principles and/or benefited society. It carries with it a $100,000 prize.

Pamela A. Crawley, Chair of the Marian Anderson Award, commented on the particular significance of this year's Award recipients. "Since 1998, the Marian Anderson Award has honored critically acclaimed artists who have shaped our society in profound ways.

In recognition of this year's important milestone, we are delighted to honor Dr. Maya Angelou, a multi-faceted artist who is one of the most critically acclaimed literary voices of the past fifty years. And we are equally excited about the prospect of honoring Norman Lear, whose groundbreaking work in television changed American culture and whose personal leadership continues to have a significant impact on our culture through the Norman Lear Center at the University of Southern California.. Both of these individuals have helped bring our culture together through their work which has done so much to reveal our shared humanity." *(for full bios or photos please contact any of the press contacts above).*

James Undercofler, President and CEO of The Philadelphia Orchestra Association, noted that, "Marian Anderson was such an important figure in the music world and in the history of The Philadelphia Orchestra, having performed with us numerous times throughout her career. Invoking the power of music in her name is a fitting way to pay tribute to Dr. Angelou and to Norman Lear."

Crawley expressed gratitude to Governor Edward G. Rendell who founded the Award in his first term as Mayor of Philadelphia and who will also be honored at the Award Gala. "Governor Rendell is one of Philadelphia's and the Commonwealth's true visionaries. Before people like Harry Belafonte, Elizabeth Taylor, Sidney Poitier, and Richard Gere came to Philadelphia to accept the Award he knew what it could become to Philadelphia and this region. He began the effort that has made all these years of achievement possible."

Crawley went on to thank Wachovia, who has supported the Award as lead sponsor throughout the 10 years since its founding. "This is as much Wachovia's anniversary as it is ours because we could not have succeeded at the high level we have without their vision and support for the Award." Wachovia's commitment to 2008 brings its total investment in the Award program to almost $3 million since 1998. **"**Marian Anderson is a true Philadelphia icon and this honor serves as a tribute to her life and artistry, " said Hugh Long, CEO for Wachovia's MidAtlantic Banking Group. "This is one of the greatest awards that the City of Philadelphia can bestow, and we are delighted that Wachovia is again playing a leadership role in this celebration. The Marian Anderson Award enriches Philadelphia's arts community, adding immeasurably to its visibility and prestige—and we want to do our part to make sure this is the premier event of its kind anywhere.**"**

Dr. Angelou, born Marguerite Johnson on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, was raised in segregated rural Arkansas. She is a poet, historian, author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer, and director. She lectures throughout the United States and abroad and is a lifetime Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University in North Carolina since 1981.

She has authored numerous magazine articles and has written 14 best-selling books, including *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *A Song Flung Up to Heaven* and *Even the Stars Look Lonesome*, earning her Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award nominations, and has also received three Grammy Awards in the Spoken Word category. In the '60s, at the request of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Angelou became the northern coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and in 1975 she received the *Ladies Home Journal* Woman of the Year Award in communications. She has received numerous honorary degrees and is on the Board of the American Film Institute and is one of the few female members of the Director's Guild.

Norman Lear has had one of the most influential careers in the history of television in the United States. He was born in New Haven, Connecticut, on July 27, 1922, and attended Emerson College from 1940-1941, after which he enlisted in the Army Air Force and flew 52 missions over Germany. After the war he began his career in entertainment as a comedy writer for television programs in the 1950's and by the 1970s was serving as creator, producer, and writer for a number of television series that proved to be cultural landmarks including *All in the Family; Sanford and Son; The Jeffersons; Maude; Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman*. In 1982 Lear founded People for the American Way to speak out for Bill of Rights guarantees and to monitor violations of constitutional freedoms. By 1996 the organization had become one of the most influential and effective voices for freedom. At the conclusion of the Marian Anderson Award Announcement, Crawley acknowledged the Award's other important sponsors, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; the City of Philadelphia; Citizens Bank; American Airlines, the Official Airline of the Marian Anderson Award; Sofitel Philadelphia, the Official Hotel of the Marian Anderson Award

Crawley also thanked PECO for sponsoring the Gala Dinner once again this year, and also COMCAST for its ongoing sponsorship of the Gala Cocktail Reception and David L. Cohen for agreeing to Chair the Gala Dinner for the third year in a row. Crawley concluded her remarks with an expression of gratitude to the Award object sponsor, J.E. Caldwell & Co., for sponsoring the beautiful award object presented at every Award Gala since 1998.

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MARIAN ANDERSON AWARD

The Marian Anderson Award honors artists whose leadership on behalf of a humanitarian cause(s) or issue benefits society. Previous recipients include Richard Gere (2007), Sidney Poitier (2006), Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis (2005), Oprah Winfrey (2003), Danny Glover (2002), Quincy Jones (2001), Elizabeth Taylor (2000), Gregory Peck (1999), and Harry Belafonte, (1998). No award was given in 2004.

Created in 1998, the Award is named for the great Philadelphian and American singer Marian Anderson, and is produced and administered under the direction of J. Patrick Moran. Since its inception, the Award program has provided more than $500,000 in free public programs, residencies, commissions, and grants to young artists.

This year's Gala Performance, the details of which will be announced in August, will be preceded by the annual black-tie Gala Dinner, also at the Kimmel Center, which is a fundraiser for the Marian Anderson Award grant programs that support young artists. Those interested in attending the Gala Dinner, which includes a premium ticket to the Gala Performance, can call the Marian Anderson Award office at 215-893-1837 to receive an invitation. Single tickets for the Gala Performance are available now by calling Ticket Philadelphia at 215-893-1999 or by visiting The Philadelphia Orchestra's website at www.philorch.org.

MARIAN ANDERSON

Marian Anderson, the most celebrated contralto of the 20th century, was born in Philadelphia on February 27, 1897, to an African-American family of modest means. Recognized for her extraordinary musical talent, as well as her generosity and commitment to others, Ms. Anderson was a master of repertoire across operatic, recital, and American traditional genres. Throughout her musical career, she played an incalculably vital role in the acceptance of African-American musicians in the classical musical.

In 1957 Ms. Anderson was appointed by the U.S. Department of State to serve as a Special Envoy to the Far East, and the following year President Dwight D. Eisenhower named her to the post of delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations. She sang at President John F. Kennedy's inauguration in 1961 and in 1963 President Lyndon B. Johnson bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom upon her. On her 75th birthday, in 1974, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution ordering a special gold medal minted in her honor. On April 8, 1993, Marian Anderson died at the age of 96 in Portland, Oregon.