N E W S R E L E A S E

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

Vicky Kramer
Publicity and Promotions Manager
Mann Center for the Performing Arts
phone: 215.546.7900
email: vkramer@manncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: April 14, 2008

The Philadelphia Orchestra announces 2008 Summer Concert Series at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

Series opens June 30 – Lawn tickets are FREE if reserved online in May

Rossen Milanov, artistic director of The Philadelphia Orchestra at the Mann, leads five concerts including Opening Night featuring superstar cellist Yo-Yo Ma; concert version of **La bohème**, *and encore performance of* **Carmina burana**

Guest artist lineup includes violinists Leila Josefowicz and Jennifer Koh and pianists Jon Kimura Parker, Orion Weiss, Kirill Gerstein, and Leon McCawley; conductors include Thomas Wilkins, Bramwell Tovey, Giancarlo Guerrero, and Andrew Grams

Annual all-Tchaikovsky with fireworks returns July 22

(*Philadelphia*, April 14, 2008) – **The Philadelphia Orchestra** celebrates summer with nine concerts at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. The **Orchestra's 2008 Summer Series at the Mann** features well-known star performers and rising talents performing a wide variety of classic favorites. The series runs **June 30-July 2**, **July 17-18**, and **July 21-24, 2008**. **Rossen Milanov**, artistic director of The Philadelphia Orchestra at the Mann Center, leads five of the nine concerts, with the remaining four led by guest conductors.

General admission **lawn tickets are free** if reserved online at www.manncenter/freelawn.org **between May 1 and 31, 2008**. The free lawn ticket program returns for a second year after proving enormously popular in 2007. The program is made possible through the generous support of *City Paper*.

– *more* –

Beginning June 1 lawn tickets are $10 each. The Mann Center for the Performing Arts continues to give away 50,000 complimentary lawn tickets for Philadelphia Orchestra concerts through nonprofit/community organizations throughout the region.

The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2008 series at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts opens **June 30** with a night of popular favorites featuring superstar cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**, who performs **Saint-Saëns's Cello Concerto No. 1**. **Rossen Milanov** conducts a concert version of Puccini's beloved opera ***La bohème*** **(July 1)**, an **all-Mozart evening (July 2)**, **Jennifer Koh** in **Sibelius's Violin Concerto (July 23),** and an encore performance of ***Carmina burana*** to close the summer season **(July 24).** The season also includes guest conductor **Bramwell Tovey** leading the Orchestra in Berlioz's passionate ***Symphonie fantastique*** on a program that also includes **Orion Weiss** performing **Beethoven's First Piano Concerto** (**July 17**), and **Leila Josefowicz** performing **Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto**, under the baton of **Giancarlo Guerrero (July 18)**. The final week of The Philadelphia Orchestra's Mann series features Philadelphia favorite **Thomas Wilkins** leading **Beethoven's Seventh Symphony (July 21**) and the annual tradition of an **all-Tchaikovsky concert with fireworks** led by **Andrew Grams (July 22)**, in addition to the two concerts conducted by Mr. Milanov.

"I always look forward to bringing the music of our great Philadelphia Orchestra to summer audiences at the Mann Center," says Rossen Milanov, artistic director of The Philadelphia Orchestra at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts. "Our season includes many of the works that made so many people fall in love with classical music in the first place. We are also fortunate to feature the talents of some of the world's most gifted guest soloists as well as the youthful energy of many up-and-coming artists. All of this contributes to summer evening experiences that are incomparable in the region."

Picnic Competitions, a longstanding Philadelphia Orchestra tradition at the Mann, return once again this summer. Audience members are invited to vie for the best picnic feast based on a pre-selected theme. Picnic Competitions will be held on the following three concerts: **Tuesday, July 2, "Celestial Celebration"; Friday, July 18, "Pretty as a Picture";** and **Thursday, July 24, "Wheel of Fortuna."**

The Philadelphia Orchestra at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

The Philadelphia Orchestra began performing concerts in Fairmount Park at the Robin Hood Dell in 1930 in a band shell on the east side of the Schuylkill, and continued performing there until 1976 when The Mann Center for the Performing Arts opened on the west side of the Schuylkill, which became the home of The Philadelphia Orchestra's summer series. Now celebrating its 33rd season, The Mann Center for the Performing Arts is the region's premier outdoor cultural arts center offering a diverse season of world-class entertainment. Its recently completed $15-million capital campaign has resulted in venue upgrades that have increased convenience and accessibility, and enhanced the attractiveness of the grounds for concert-goers. In addition to The Philadelphia Orchestra's summer series, programming at the Mann includes Peter Nero and the Philly Pops®, PECO Pops, Arts in the Park, jazz, dance, rock, and classical and contemporary concerts. Community and education outreach is provided through the Young People's Concert Series, Connecting-Arts-N-Schools presentations in public and parochial schools,

master classes with visiting artists, and complimentary ticket distribution to more than 30,000 of the region's underserved children via the Access the Arts Program. For more information on The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, please visit www.manncenter.org.

Rossen Milanov

A sought-after guest conductor on the international music scene, **Rossen Milanov** has been hailed as "one who bears watching by anyone who cares about the future of music" (*Chicago Tribune*). He currently holds the positions of 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), one of America's premier professional training orchestras; music director of the New Symphony Orchestra in his native city of Sofia, Bulgaria; and chief conductor of the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony.

Mr. Milanov began his association with The Philadelphia Orchestra as assistant conductor in 2000 and was promoted to associate conductor four years later. In this role he leads the Orchestra in subscription, Family, educational, community, and holiday concerts. In March 2006 Mr. Milanov was named artistic director of the Orchestra's summer series at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts. In July 2007 he led the Orchestra in two performances during its first residency at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival in Vail, Colorado.

During the 2007-08 season, Mr. Milanov debuts with the NHK, BBC, and Seattle symphonies, and the Royal Scottish Philharmonic, and he has return engagements with the Indianapolis Symphony, the Slovenian National Radio Orchestra, and the Curtis Opera Theatre. In addition he leads the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in a new double bill production of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and *Petrushka* with the Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève. Mr. Milanov also conducts the Bulgarian National Radio Orchestra in a European tour. The tour stops in Munich, Dortmund, Valladolid, and at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, and features acclaimed Bulgarian mezzo-soprano Vesselina Kasarova.

With The Philadelphia Orchestra, Mr. Milanov's recent highlights have included critically acclaimed concerts on the Orchestra's summer series at the Mann Center; subscription performances of Adams's Violin Concerto and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 15; and the world premiere of Maw's English Horn Concerto.

Mr. Milanov has led concerts and tours with the Aspen Festival; the Auckland, Rotterdam, and Seoul philharmonics; the Baltimore, Colorado, Duluth-Superior, Honolulu, Lucerne, New World, Omaha, Syracuse, and Virginia symphonies; the Saint Paul and Cincinnati chamber orchestras; the Civic Orchestra of Chicago; the Festival Orchestra of the Grand Teton Music Festival; the Curtis Opera Theatre; the national orchestras of Colombia and Mexico; the Residentie Orchestra of the Hague; and the Teatro Colón Buenos Aires. He was music director of the Chicago Youth Symphony from 1997 to 2001, and he has participated in numerous summer festivals, including Tanglewood and Interlochen. His recording of works by the Russian composer Alla Pavlova with the Moscow Philharmonic is available on the Naxos label.

– *more* –

Mr. Milanov retains a close association with his native city of Sofia in Bulgaria. As music director of the New Symphony Orchestra, Eastern Europe's first privately funded orchestra, his work has included commissions and premieres of new works, the introduction of American music to Bulgarian audiences, and several recordings. Currently he is in the midst of leading a multi-year Mahler cycle with the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony. Mr. Milanov has received the Award for Extraordinary Contribution to Bulgarian Culture, awarded by the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture. In 2005 he was chosen as Bulgaria's Musician of the Year.

Mr. Milanov studied conducting at the Juilliard School (recipient of the Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship), the Curtis Institute of Music, Duquesne University, and the Bulgarian National Academy of Music.

The Philadelphia Orchestra

Founded in 1900, The Philadelphia Orchestra has distinguished itself as one of the leading orchestras in the world through over a century of acclaimed performances, historic international tours, best-selling recordings, and 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. This rich tradition has been carried on by Christoph Eschenbach, who became music director in September 2003.

Recent Philadelphia Orchestra highlights include multi-casting a concert to large-screen venues through the Internet2 network; the launch of the Orchestra's Online Music Store 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 an ongoing $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 at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, in addition to education and community partnership programs, and appears annually at Carnegie Hall. Its summer schedule includes a series at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, free Neighborhood Concerts, and residencies at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center and Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival.

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

SUMMER 2008

The Philadelphia Orchestra's Concert Series at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

Ticket information

Single tickets: Single ticket prices for June 30 are $30, $45, $68, and $94. Single ticket prices for all other concerts are $30 and $50. **General admission lawn seats are FREE if ordered online between May 1 and May 31, 2008.** Beginning June 1, lawn tickets are $10. Single tickets can be purchased online (www.manncenter.org) or by phone (215.893.1999).

Subscriptions: Subscription prices are $270, $285, $468, and $494 for a 9-concert series. "Pick Three" packages are available – pricing varies. All subscribers receive free parking. Subscriptions can be purchased by phone (215.893.1955).

Complimentary Lawn Passes for Non-Profit/Community Organizations: Each summer, the Mann gives away 50,000 complimentary lawn tickets for Philadelphia Orchestra concerts through nonprofit/community organizations throughout the region. Organizations interested in participating in this program should fax the following information to 215.546.9524: mission statement, constituent information, full contact information, and reasons for requesting tickets.

Prices listed below are for single tickets only.

OPENING NIGHT OF THE 2008 PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA SERIES
Mann Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia

June 30 at 8:00 p.m. – Monday evening

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
Yo-Yo Ma, *cello*

Copland	*Appalachian Spring*
Saint-Saëns	Cello Concerto No. 1
Musorgsky	*A Night on Bald Mountain*
Stravinsky	Suite from *The Firebird*

Single tickets: $30, $45, $68, and $94 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.manncenter.org). General admission lawn tickets are free when purchased at www.manncenter.org between May 1 and May 31, after which they are $10.

Mann Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia

July 1 at 8:00 p.m. – Tuesday evening

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
Darina Takova, *soprano (Mimì)* – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Michael Fabiano, *tenor (Rodolfo)* – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Arianna Zukerman, *soprano (Musetta)*
Luis Ledesma, *baritone (Marcello)* – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Alexander Tall – *baritone (Schaunard)* – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Grigory Soloviov, *bass (Colline)* – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Puccini	*La bohème* (in concert)

This performance will use a slightly edited version of the score.

Single tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.manncenter.org). General admission lawn tickets are free when purchased at www.manncenter.org/freelawn between May 1 and May 31, after which they are $10.

Mann Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia

July 2 at 8:00 p.m. – Wednesday evening

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
Leon McCawley, *piano*

Mozart	Ballet Music from *Idomeneo*
Mozart	Piano Concerto No. 22, K. 482
Mozart	Symphony No. 41 ("Jupiter")

Picnic Competition: "Celestial Celebration" – visit www.manncenter.org for more details.

Single tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.manncenter.org). General admission lawn tickets are free when purchased at www.manncenter.org/freelawn between May 1 and May 31, after which they are $10.

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

July 17 at 8:00 p.m. – Thursday evening

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Bramwell Tovey, *conductor* – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Orion Weiss, *piano* – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT

Berlioz	"Rákóczy" March, from *The Damnation of Faust*
Beethoven	Piano Concerto No. 1
Berlioz	*Symphonie fantastique*

This concert will be followed by fireworks.

Single tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.manncenter.org). General admission lawn tickets are free when purchased at www.manncenter.org/freelawn between May 1 and May 31, after which they are $10.

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

July 18 at 8:00 p.m. – Friday evening

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Giancarlo Guerrero, *conductor*
Leila Josefowicz, *violin*

Ginastera	Suite from *Estancia*
Mendelssohn	Violin Concerto
Musorgsky	*Pictures at an Exhibition*

Picnic Competition: "Pretty as a Picture" – visit www.manncenter.org for more details.

Single tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.manncenter.org). General admission lawn tickets are free when purchased at www.manncenter.org/freelawn between May 1 and May 31, after which they are $10.

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

July 21 at 8:00 p.m. – Monday evening

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Thomas Wilkins, *conductor*
Kirill Gerstein, *piano*

Grieg	Lyric Suite
Rachmaninoff	Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini
Beethoven	Symphony No. 7

Single tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.manncenter.org). General admission lawn tickets are free when purchased at www.manncenter.org/freelawn between May 1 and May 31, after which they are $10.

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

July 22 at 8:00 p.m. – Tuesday evening

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Andrew Grams, *conductor* – PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA DEBUT
Jon Kimura Parker, *piano*

Tchaikovsky	Excerpts from *The Sleeping Beauty*
Tchaikovsky	Piano Concerto No. 1
Tchaikovsky	Excerpts from *The Nutcracker*
Tchaikovsky	*1812 Overture*

Single tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.manncenter.org). General admission lawn tickets are free when purchased at www.manncenter.org/freelawn between May 1 and May 31, after which they are $10.

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

July 23 at 8:00 p.m. – Wednesday evening

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
Jennifer Koh, *violin*

Wagner	Prelude to *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*
Sibelius	Violin Concerto
Brahms	Symphony No. 4

Single tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.manncenter.org). General admission lawn tickets are free when purchased at www.manncenter.org/freelawn between May 1 and May 31, after which they are $10.

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

July 24 at 8:00 p.m. – Thursday evening

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Rossen Milanov, *conductor*
Joanna Mongiardo, *soprano*
Christopher Pfund, *tenor*
Hugh Russell, *baritone*
The Philadelphia Singers Chorale (David Hayes, *music director*)
Pennsylvania Girlchoir (Mark Anderson, *artistic director*)

Orff	*Carmina burana*

Picnic Competition: "Wheel of Fortuna" – visit www.manncenter.org for more details.

Single tickets: $30 and $50 (call 215.893.1999 or visit www.manncenter.org). General admission lawn tickets are free when purchased at www.manncenter.org/freelawn between May 1 and May 31, after which they are $10.

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

Lexus is the exclusive automotive sponsor of The Philadelphia Orchestra.

US Airways is the exclusive airline sponsor of The Philadelphia Orchestra.

The Philadelphia Orchestra Online Music Store
Downloads • CDs
www.thephiladelphiaorchestra.com

# # #