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The Philadelphia Orchestra announces principal horn, principal viola, and bass clarinet appointments

*Jennifer Montone appointed principal horn, Choong-Jin Chang appointed
principal viola, and Paul Demers appointed bass clarinet*

(Philadelphia, June 29, 2006) – The Philadelphia Orchestra Association announces the appointment of **Jennifer Montone** as **principal horn**, **Choong-Jin Chang** as **principal viola**, and **Paul Demers** as **bass clarinet**. Ms. Montone comes to the Orchestra from the position of principal horn at the Saint Louis Symphony. Her appointment is effective September 2006. Choong-Jin Chang has been the Orchestra's associate principal viola since 1994 and began his new post in April 2006. Paul Demers was a regular substitute bass clarinetist with the Orchestra, performing with the Orchestra on several recordings and on international tours, and has performed as a freelance musician with many of the region's orchestras. His appointment was effective beginning March 2006.

Prior to her position as principal horn in St. Louis, **Jennifer Montone** was associate principal horn of the Dallas Symphony from 2000 to 2003, as well as an adjunct professor at Southern Methodist University. Before joining the Dallas Symphony, she was third horn of the New Jersey Symphony, and performed regularly with the Metropolitan Opera, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic, and as a substitute musician on several Broadway shows.

Ms. Montone performed as a soloist with the Dallas Symphony in 2001, the National Symphony on numerous occasions, and was a featured artist at both the 1999 International Horn Society Workshop and the 2000 International Women's Brass Conference.

As a chamber musician, Ms. Montone has performed with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and at the 2005 La Jolla Chamber Music Festival, the 2002 and 2004 Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, the 2003 Bellingham Music Festival, the 2001 Spoleto (Italy) Chamber Music Festival, and the Marlboro Music Festival in 1999, 2000, and 2001. She has also performed with the Bay Chamber Concerts, Boston Chamber Music Society, and BargeMusic. She was on the faculty of the Kendall Betts Horn Camp in 2003, and taught and performed at the Aspen Music Festival and School in 2004 and 2005.

In May 2006, Ms. Montone was awarded the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant. She is also the winner of the 1996 Paxman Young Horn Player of the Year Award in London and the 1998 Philadelphia Concerto Soloists Competition. She was a fellow in the Tanglewood Music Festival Orchestra in 1996 and 1997.

Ms. Montone is a graduate of the Juilliard School, where she studied with Julie Landsman, principal horn of the Metropolitan Opera. A native of northern Virginia, Ms. Montone studied with Edwin Thayer, principal horn of the National Symphony, as a fellow in the Symphony's Youth Fellowship Program.

A native of Seoul, Korea, **Choong-Jin (CJ) Chang** joined The Philadelphia Orchestra as associate principal viola in November 1994. He made his performance debut as a 12-year-old violinist with the Seoul Philharmonic as winner of the grand prize in Korea's Yook Young National Competition. In 1981, at the age of 13, he moved to the United States to attend the Juilliard School. He subsequently studied in Philadelphia at the Esther Boyer College of Music of Temple University and finally at the Curtis Institute of Music, from which he received degrees in both violin and viola. His primary teachers were Jascha Brodsky and retired Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Violin Joseph de Pasquale.

As a soloist, Mr. Chang has appeared recently with the KBS Symphony of South Korea and the Temple University Symphony. An ardent chamber musician, he has given recitals throughout the United States and Korea, and has also performed in numerous chamber music festivals here and abroad, including the Marlboro Festival (both in Vermont and several times on tour), Bridgehampton, Seattle, and Santa Fe. The list of distinguished musicians with whom he has collaborated includes Emanuel Ax, Yefim Bronfman, Jaime Laredo, André Previn, Mstislav Rostropovich, and most recently, Yo-Yo Ma, with whom he performed as viola soloist in Strauss's *Don Quixote* with The Philadelphia Orchestra.

In 1997 Mr. Chang joined violinists Robert Chen and Soovin Kim, and cellist Peter Stumpf to found the Johannes Quartet. Its debut performances at Philadelphia's Ethical Society and at Carnegie Hall in New York City received glowing reviews. Since then the Quartet has performed to audience and critical acclaim throughout the United States.

Alongside his extensive performing activities, Mr. Chang is a respected teacher on both violin and viola. Among his former pupils are current members of The Philadelphia Orchestra, as well as several winners of major competitions. He currently serves on the faculty of Temple University's Esther Boyer College of Music and Temple Music Prep.

Before his appointment as bass clarinet of The Philadelphia Orchestra, **Paul Demers** performed as bass clarinetist with major orchestras, including the National Symphony and the Baltimore Symphony, among others. He was also a regular substitute bass clarinetist with The Philadelphia Orchestra, and has performed with the Orchestra on several international tours. Mr. Demers can be heard on the Orchestra's most recent recordings and can be seen in *Music from the Inside Out* playing solo bass clarinet in Tan Dun's *On Taoism*.

In 1997 Mr. Demers won a position with "The President's Own" Marine Band in Washington,

D.C. During his four-year tenure with the Marine Band, he performed as a member of the clarinet section, and as a soloist, chamber musician, and E-flat clarinetist. As a chamber musician, he has performed at the Saratoga Chamber Music Festival and is a member of Network for New Music in Philadelphia.

Born in Westbrook, Maine, Mr. Demers started playing clarinet at age 10 and began private lessons at age 14. He continued his studies with Larry Combs and John Bruce Yeh at DePaul University in Chicago, where he earned a Bachelor of Music, a Master of Music, and a Performance Certificate. When not playing in the Orchestra, Mr. Demers enjoys photography, cooking, and spending time with his wife, Lourdes, daughter, Emily, and two border terriers.

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. With only six music directors piloting The Philadelphia Orchestra through its first century, the ensemble has maintained an unparalleled cohesiveness and unity in artistic leadership.

This rich tradition is carried on by Christoph Eschenbach, who began his tenure as the Orchestra's seventh music director in September 2003. His acclaimed first season saw the launch of the Orchestra's first-ever multi-year cycle of Mahler's complete symphonies and ended with a tour of the music capitals of Europe. The 2004-05 season celebrated the works of the great masters, and included a four-week festival entitled Late Great Works, featuring late works by Mozart, Strauss, Mahler, Tchaikovsky, Wagner, and Berio. The season closed with a three-week tour of Asia. The Orchestra's 2005-06 season features all nine Beethoven symphonies, conducted by Mr. Eschenbach and paired with music of our time, including several world premieres.

In May 2005, Mr. Eschenbach and The Philadelphia Orchestra announced a three-year recording partnership with Ondine Records, the Orchestra's first recording contract in 10 years. Taken from live concerts, the first recording under the agreement was released in fall 2005 and the second in April 2006. Other recent highlights include the Orchestra's 2002-03 season, which celebrated Wolfgang Sawallisch's 10 highly acclaimed years at the Orchestra's helm. During his tenure, the Orchestra moved into its new home at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in December 2001, and celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

The Philadelphia Orchestra annually touches the lives of more than one million music lovers worldwide through its performances (more than 300 concerts and other presentations each year), publications, recordings, and broadcasts. A winter subscription season is presented in Philadelphia each year from September to May, including expanded education and community partnership programs. The Orchestra also appears annually at New York's Carnegie Hall. Its schedule each summer includes an outdoor season in Philadelphia with concerts in local neighborhoods and at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, followed by a three-week residency each August at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in upstate New York. The Orchestra recently announced a three-year agreement for an annual week-long summer residency at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival beginning in July 2007.