N E W S R E L E A S E

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"Podchestra," The Philadelphia Orchestra's podcast series, returns for exciting second season

Podcasts will be available monthly throughout 2007-08 season

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(*Philadelphia*, October 10, 2007) – "Podchestra," The Philadelphia Orchestra's podcast series returns for a second season on **Thursday, October 11, 2007**. After a trial venture into podcasts last April, "Podchestra" will now be available for download on the second Thursday of each month throughout the 2007-08 season. Listeners can expect to hear interviews with Philadelphia Orchestra Music Director Christoph Eschenbach, Philadelphia Orchestra musicians, and guest soloists, highlighting works that appear throughout the season and sharing personal anecdotes and stories. Philadelphia Orchestra Music Animateur Thomas Cabaniss serves as host for the series. To subscribe, visit **podcasts.philorch.org** or search the **iTunes** music store under **"podchestra."**

In the first episode, Philadelphia Orchestra Music Director Christoph Eschenbach talks about some of the monumental works of the 2007-08 season, including the highly-anticipated performances of Mahler's Symphony No. 8 ("Symphony of a Thousand"); guest conductor Nicholas McGegan discusses his upcoming concerts with the Orchestra; and Orchestra violinist Davyd Booth talks about Brahms's Second Piano Concerto. Podcast audiences may be surprised to learn that Booth is not only a member of the Orchestra violin section but is also an accomplished pianist and harpsichord player.

Last April, the Orchestra ventured into podcasts for the first time, producing a trial series of four podcasts. The podcasts featured interviews with Philadelphia Orchestra musicians as well as an inside look at the lives of three guest soloists. To listen to previous podcasts, visit **podcasts.philorch.org.**

The Philadelphia Orchestra's podcast series follows several recent media ventures for the Orchestra including the Global Concert Series, which involves multi-casting concerts to large-screen venues through the Internet2 network; the launch of its Online Music Store, www.thephiladelphiaorchestra.com; its return to national radio broadcasts through an agreement with National Public Radio; and its first recording contract in nearly 10 years with Ondine Records.

– *more* –

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.

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, 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.

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

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