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Philadelphia Orchestra Association appoints two new Vice Presidents

Jeremy Rothman is Vice President for Artistic Planning

Mario Mestichelli is Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

(*Philadelphia,* June 25, 2008) The Philadelphia Orchestra Association has appointed Jeremy Rothman to the position of vice president for artistic planning and Mario Mestichelli to the position of vice president and chief financial officer, it was announced today by Association President and CEO James Undercofler.

Jeremy Rothman, who will start in his new position September 1, 2008, comes to The Philadelphia Orchestra from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO), where he served for eight years, most recently as vice president of artistic administration.

As a member of the Association's senior management team Mr. Rothman will be responsible for working closely with Chief Conductor and Artistic Adviser Charles Dutoit and Orchestra President and CEO James Undercofler, as well as with musician and Board leadership, in guiding the artistic direction of The Philadelphia Orchestra. He will also be instrumental in providing staff leadership in the music director search.

"I am extremely pleased that Jeremy Rothman will be joining The Philadelphia Orchestra at this important time in our artistic life," said Philadelphia Orchestra President and CEO James Undercofler. "His experience, creativity, and considerable energy will contribute to the Orchestra's search for a new music director and our mission to bring its music to the broadest audiences in Philadelphia and around the world."

"It is a special thrill and an honor for me to join The Philadelphia Orchestra," said Mr. Rothman. "I have great reverence for this ensemble, having grown up hearing this orchestra at the Academy of Music and on recordings. I now look forward to returning to Philadelphia and being a part of the Orchestra's exciting future."

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During his tenure at the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Mr. Rothman programmed the BSO's classical concerts and managed an expanding portfolio of recording and broadcasting initiatives. He oversaw the development of innovative, multi-disciplinary programs including the BSO's "Explorer" and "Symphony with a Twist" concert series. He was also closely involved in the search process to identify Marin Alsop as the BSO's 12th music director. Prior to his work in Baltimore, Mr. Rothman participated in the American Symphony Orchestra League (now the League of American Orchestras) Orchestra Management Fellowship Program, working for the New Jersey, Elgin, and Baltimore symphonies and the Aspen Music Festival and School.

A native of the Philadelphia area, Mr. Rothman received a degree in music administration from the University of Rochester and studied trumpet at the Eastman School of Music as well as completing Eastman's Arts Leadership Program. He returns to Philadelphia with his wife, Catherine, and their two children.

Mr. Rothman succeeds Kathleen van Bergen, who led The Philadelphia Orchestra's artistic planning department for four years until her appointment last winter to the position of executive director of the Schubert Club in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mario Mestichelli comes to The Philadelphia Orchestra from the PFM Group, where he was a senior managing consultant. Prior to his position at the PFM Group, he worked at Drexel University for 15 years, where he concurrently served as associate vice president for finance and associate treasurer and adjunct finance instructor for both graduate and undergraduate courses. Mr. Mestichelli started in his new position on June 23, 2008.

In his role as vice president and chief financial officer, Mr. Mestichelli will be responsible for overseeing all financial operations of The Philadelphia Orchestra Association, including the $45 million operating budget and the approximately $200 million endowment investment portfolio. He will also direct the activities of the shared Human Resources and Information Technology departments in conjunction with Kimmel Center, Inc. leadership.

"Mr. Mestichelli brings an impressive array of necessary skills to the Association, from strategic planning to finance to accounting," said Mr. Undercofler. "We are all eager to begin our work with him as we shape now the future direction of this great institution."

"It is a great honor for me to join such a highly respected team that has been charged with the stewardship of one of the world's most important cultural treasures," said Mr. Mestichelli. "I am eager to help advance the timeless mission of the Orchestra as we plot our strategy for the future."

Mr. Mestichelli, a Philadelphia native, is a certified public accountant and received a Juris Doctor from Temple University in 2000. He holds a Master's of Business Administration with a concentration in finance and investment management from Drexel University and a Bachelor's of Science in Economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Mestichelli is a member of numerous professional associations, including the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants

(PICPA), American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and the American Bar Association, among others.

Mr. Mestichelli replaces Margaret B. Zminda, who led The Philadelphia Orchestra's finance department for three years until her appointment as senior vice president of business strategy and operations at the Barnes Foundation last winter.

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.

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