N E W S R E L E A S E

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The Philadelphia Orchestra and Christoph Eschenbach embark on 2008 Anniversary Tour of Asia

Three-week tour includes stops in Japan, Korea, and China

Anniversary Tour commemorates 35th anniversary of historic first visit to China in 1973 and 30th anniversary of first visit to Korea

Midori and Lang Lang join Orchestra as soloists;
First Associate Concertmaster Juliette Kang and Principal Viola Choong-Jin Chang also make solo appearances

AstraZeneca is presenting sponsor of 2008 Anniversary Tour

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides lead support through leadership of Governor Edward G. Rendell, State Senator Vincent J. Fumo, and State Representative Dwight Evans

(*Philadelphia,* May 14, 2008) – **The Philadelphia Orchestra** commemorates the 35th anniversary of its historic 1973 trip to China during a three-week tour of Asia following the close of the Orchestra's 2007-08 subscription season. Under the leadership of Music Director Christoph Eschenbach, the Orchestra also performs in Japan and Korea, commemorating the 30th anniversary of its first visit to that country. The tour, which runs **May 20-June 9**, includes first performances in Hyogo, Japan, and Guangzhou, China. It also features return trips to Tokyo, Japan; Seoul, Korea; and Beijing and Shanghai, China. Celebrated violinist **Midori** joins The Philadelphia Orchestra for the tour's four concerts in Japan and international piano sensation **Lang Lang** joins the tour for four concerts in China. The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2008 Anniversary Tour of Asia is part of the **Beijing Music Festival**. The anniversary of the Orchestra's first visit to China in 1973 will be celebrated by Festival organizers with a gala concert and dinner in Beijing on June 2, organized on behalf of the China International Friendship Association. **AstraZeneca** is presenting sponsor of the 2008 Anniversary Tour. The **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania** provides lead support.

"I am so pleased to once again share the magnificent artistry of the fine musicians of The Philadelphia Orchestra with our audiences in Asia this spring," said Philadelphia Orchestra Music Director Christoph Eschenbach. "We look forward with

– more –

anticipation to greeting so many music-lovers in Japan, Korea, and China on this tour, all treasured members of our musical family."

"The Philadelphia Orchestra has a great tradition of sharing its music with audiences around the world and it gives us great pleasure to continue this with our 2008 Anniversary Tour of Asia, which commemorates important anniversaries in both China and Korea," said Philadelphia Orchestra Association President and CEO James Undercofler. "Through these many visits we have developed rich friendships with many wonderful people, who share our belief that the transformational power of music bridges cultural differences and brings people together. We are deeply appreciative to our presenting sponsor, AstraZeneca, and to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, whose support makes this tour possible."

Tour Anniversaries

The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2008 Anniversary Tour of Asia marks two important anniversaries: the 35th anniversary of the Orchestra's historic 1973 tour to China, as well as the 30th anniversary of its first visit to Korea. In 1973 the Orchestra, under Eugene Ormandy's direction, became the first American orchestra to perform in the People's Republic of China, at the special request of President Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger. The Orchestra returned to mainland China 20 years later, in 1993, again in 1996, and most recently in 2001, led by Wolfgang Sawallisch on each occasion. Ten musicians of the Orchestra who were on the 1973 trip return to China on the tour: Violinists Herold Klein, Herbert Light, Booker Rowe, and Jerome Wigler; violist Renard Edwards; double bassists Neil Courtney (assistant principal bass), Emilio Gravagno, and Michael Shahan (associate principal bass); harpist Margarita Montanaro (co-principal harp); and percussionist Anthony Orlando (associate principal percussion). The Orchestra made its first visit to Korea in 1978, performing during the inaugural season of the Sejong Center, where it returns on the 2008 Anniversary Tour of Asia. The Orchestra made subsequent visits to Korea in 1981, 1985, 1996, and 2005. The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2008 Anniversary Tour of Asia marks its 30th tour outside North America and 13th visit to Asia. The Orchestra's first tour of Asia took place in 1967, with performances in Osaka, Kanazawa, Nagoya, and Tokyo, Japan. The Philadelphia Orchestra has a long and distinguished touring history throughout the world. Just four days after its inaugural concert on November 16, 1900, it was already on the road, traveling to the neighboring city of Reading. Since that time, the Orchestra has crisscrossed the globe on a regular basis, becoming one of the most-traveled American symphonic ensembles.

Tour Itinerary *(see end of news release for detailed schedule)*

Friday, May 23	Tokyo, Japan	Suntory Hall
Saturday, May 24	Tokyo, Japan	Suntory Hall
Sunday, May 25	Hyogo, Japan	Hyogo Performing Arts Center
Tuesday, May 27	Tokyo, Japan	Suntory Hall
Friday, May 30	Seoul, Korea	Sejong Center for the Performing Arts
Saturday, May 31	Seoul, Korea	Sejong Center for the Performing Arts
Monday, June 2	Beijing, China	Cultural Palace of Nationalities
Tuesday, June 3	Beijing, China	Poly Theatre
Friday, June 6	Guangzhou, China	Xinghai Concert Hall
Saturday, June 7	Shanghai, China	Oriental Arts Center
Sunday, June 8	Shanghai, China	Oriental Arts Center

Tour Repertoire and Guest Soloists

The Philadelphia Orchestra performs Prokofiev's and Shostakovich's fifth symphonies, Schubert's Symphony in C major ("Great"), Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 ("Pathétique"), Bernstein's Overture to *Candide*, and Beethoven's Overture to *Egmont*. Famed violinist Midori solos with the Orchestra on the four concerts in Japan, performing the Tchaikovsky and Britten violin concertos. Joining the Orchestra for four concerts in China, pianist Lang Lang performs the Grieg Piano Concerto. Commemorating

the 35th anniversary, the Orchestra performs two works that were on the program in 1973: the *Yellow River* Concerto, featuring Lang Lang, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 ("Pastoral"). Two of The Philadelphia Orchestra's own musicians also perform as soloists on the tour – Philadelphia Orchestra First Associate Concertmaster Juliette Kang and Principal Viola Choong-Jin Chang perform Mozart's Sinfonia concertante, K. 364, for violin, viola, and orchestra in Seoul and Shanghai. The tour marks Ms. Kang's and Mr. Chang's first solo performances with the Orchestra on a tour.

Outreach and Additional Activities

Numerous outreach activities will be part of the 2008 Anniversary Tour of Asia. *Music from the Inside Out*, a film about The Philadelphia Orchestra released in 2004, begins a month-long run in Tokyo on May 17. In conjunction with the showings, Orchestra musicians will work with students at the National Tokyo Art University and will also perform briefly and introduce the film on the evening of May 22. Tour soloists Juliette Kang and Choong-Jin Chang conduct a master class at Sejong Center in Seoul. An ensemble headed by Principal Cello Hai-Ye Ni will conduct a master class at Ms. Ni's alma mater, Shanghai Conservatory. Presenting sponsor AstraZeneca plans special master classes and recitals in Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing, and Shanghai. The **ALCOA Foundation** sponsors the Orchestra's outreach activities in China. In the spirit of fun, the Philadelphia Firebirds, the Orchestra's softball team, plays a game against musicians from the Tokyo Symphony. The team hits the diamond at 9:00 A.M. on May 22, shortly after arriving in Tokyo. The Firebirds also make their debut as a soccer team in Seoul, playing a match against musicians of the Seoul Philharmonic.

Tour Sponsorship

AstraZeneca is presenting sponsor of The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2008 Anniversary Tour of Asia.

AstraZeneca is a major international healthcare business engaged in research, development, manufacturing, and marketing of prescription pharmaceuticals and supplier for healthcare services. AstraZeneca is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies with healthcare sales of US $29.55 billion and is a leader in gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, neuroscience, respiratory, oncology, and infection product sales. AstraZeneca is listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (Global) as well as the FTSE4Good Index.

Lead support for The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2008 Anniversary Tour of Asia is provided by the **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**. The combined efforts of Governor Edward G. Rendell, State Senator Vincent J. Fumo, and State Representative Dwight Evans secured $1.3 million in support of the Orchestra's community outreach in the Philadelphia area and global touring activities.

Additional support for the June 3 concert in Beijing is provided by **BMP Sunstone**.

The Philadelphia Orchestra

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 the launch of a Global Concert Series, which involves multi-casting concerts to large-screen venues through the Internet2 network; the opening 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.

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

THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA
CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH
Music Director

2008 Anniversary Tour of Asia

TOKYO, JAPAN
Suntory Hall
Friday, May 23, at 7:00 p.m.

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Midori, *violin*

TCHAIKOVSKY	Violin Concerto
PROKOFIEV	Symphony No. 5

TOKYO, JAPAN
Suntory Hall
Saturday, May 24, at 2:00 p.m.

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Midori, *violin*

TCHAIKOVSKY	Violin Concerto
SHOSTAKOVICH	Symphony No. 5

HYOGO, JAPAN
Hyogo Performing Arts Center
Sunday, May 25, at 4:00 p.m.

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Midori, *violin*

BRITTEN	Violin Concerto
SHOSTAKOVICH	Symphony No. 5

TOKYO, JAPAN
Suntory Hall
Tuesday, May 27, at 7:00 p.m.

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Midori, *violin*

BRITTEN	Violin Concerto
SCHUBERT	Symphony in C major (Great")

SEOUL, KOREA
Sejong Center for the Performing Arts
Friday, May 30, at 8:00 p.m.

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*

BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 6 ("Pastoral")
TCHAIKOVSKY	Symphony No. 6 ("Pathétique")

SEOUL, KOREA
Sejong Center for the Performing Arts
Saturday, May 31, at 8:00 p.m.

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Juliette Kang, *violin*
Choong-Jin Chang, *viola*

BERNSTEIN	Overture to *Candide*
MOZART	Sinfonia concertante, K. 364, for violin, viola, and orchestra
SHOSTAKOVICH	Symphony No. 5

BEIJING, CHINA
Cultural Palace of Nationalities
Monday, June 2, at 4:00 p.m.

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*

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Lang Lang, *piano*

BEETHOVEN	Overture to *Egmont*
VARIOUS	*Yellow River*, concerto for piano and orchestra
BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 6 ("Pastoral")

BEIJING, CHINA
Poly Theatre
Tuesday, June 3, at 7:30 p.m.

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Lang Lang, *piano*

BEETHOVEN	Overture to *Egmont*
GRIEG	Piano Concerto
TCHAIKOVSKY	Symphony No. 6 ("Pathétique")

GUANGZHOU, CHINA
Xinghai Concert Hall
Friday, June 6, at 8:00 p.m.

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Lang Lang, *piano*

BEETHOVEN	Overture to *Egmont*
GRIEG	Piano Concerto
SHOSTAKOVICH	Symphony No. 5

SHANGHAI, CHINA
Oriental Arts Center
Saturday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m.

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Lang Lang, *piano*

BERNSTEIN	Overture to *Candide*
GRIEG	Piano Concerto
SHOSTAKOVICH	Symphony No. 5

SHANGHAI, CHINA
Oriental Arts Center
Sunday, June 8, at 7:30 p.m.

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Juliette Kang, *violin*
Choong-Jin Chang, *viola*

BEETHOVEN	Overture to *Egmont*
MOZART	Sinfonia concertante, K. 364, for violin, viola, and orchestra

TCHAIKOVSKY Symphony No. 6 ("Pathétique")

AstraZeneca is the Presenting Sponsor for The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2008 Anniversary Tour of Asia.

Lead support for The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2008 Anniversary Tour of Asia is provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Community Outreach in China is supported by ALCOA Foundation.

Additional support for the June 3 concert in Beijing is provided by BMP Sunstone.

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