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Christoph Eschenbach and The Philadelphia Orchestra tour Florida and Puerto Rico

*Orchestra performs for the first time in Naples and San Juan –
returns to Sarasota and Fort Lauderdale*

Tzimon Barto, Julia Fischer, and Principal Clarinet Ricardo Morales make solo appearances

(Philadelphia, February 9, 2006) – The Philadelphia Orchestra and Music Director Christoph Eschenbach head south in March for a five-concert tour of Florida and Puerto Rico. The 2006 tour is Mr. Eschenbach's first tour of United States cities with The Philadelphia Orchestra and will be highlighted by the Orchestra's first performances in Naples, Florida (March 6) and San Juan, Puerto Rico (March 10 and 11). The Orchestra makes return trips to Sarasota (March 7) and Fort Lauderdale (March 8), Florida. Pianist Tzimon Barto joins The Philadelphia Orchestra for the tour's three concerts in Florida. The Orchestra's performances in San Juan, Puerto Rico, close the celebrated Casals Festival. Principal Clarinet Ricardo Morales is soloist for one concert and violinist Julia Fischer joins the Orchestra for the second concert. The Orchestra performs Beethoven's Third, Seventh, and Eighth symphonies, as part of the 2005-06 season's focus on Beethoven.

"For decades, The Philadelphia Orchestra has shared its music with America through touring," said Philadelphia Orchestra Interim Executive Director Elizabeth Warshawer. "We are delighted to visit Puerto Rico and Naples, Florida, for the first time as we continue to reach new audiences throughout the United States and serve as cultural ambassadors for the Philadelphia region."

"This season we rediscover Beethoven as a revolutionary and visionary," said Music Director Christoph Eschenbach. "The struggle for nobility, for liberty and human dignity embodied in his music inspires us as strongly as ever, and I am thrilled to share it with audiences in cities where the Orchestra has never performed or has not performed in a long time."

Tour Repertoire and Guest Soloists

Mr. Eschenbach and The Philadelphia Orchestra open the tour on March 6 in Naples, Florida, with a concert featuring Beethoven's Seventh and Eighth symphonies, as well as Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2, with Tzimon Barto as soloist. They repeat this program on March 7 in Sarasota and on March 8 in Fort Lauderdale. They then travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico, where they perform two concerts. The first, March 10, features Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, paired with Mozart's Clarinet Concerto played by Orchestra Principal Clarinet Ricardo Morales. The tour closes on March 11 with Brahms's Violin Concerto, performed by Julia Fischer, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 ("Eroica").

Tour History

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. The ensemble was the first American orchestra to make a transcontinental tour, in 1936, when it played 34 concerts in 36 days, from Boston to Holdredge, Nebraska, and from Toronto to San Francisco. Extended transcontinental tours were offered again in 1946, 1948, 1957, and 1962. In 1949 Philadelphia was the first American orchestra to cross the Atlantic after World War II, and the first to cross the ocean since 1930, with a special three-week concert tour of Great Britain. Since that time, the Orchestra has crisscrossed the globe on a regular basis, becoming one of the most-traveled American symphonic ensembles. The Orchestra's last tour of America stopped in five U.S. cities before traveling to Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile.

The 2006 Tour of Florida and Puerto Rico marks The Philadelphia Orchestra's 12th tour of the United States. The Orchestra makes its fifth visit to Fort Lauderdale, having last performed there in 1979 under the direction of Eugene Ormandy. The Orchestra last performed Sarasota in 1989 under Charles Dutoit, and this tour marks its fourth visit there.

Tour Sponsorship

Buchanan Ingersoll PC sponsors The Philadelphia Orchestra's appearance in Fort Lauderdale, and Wachovia sponsors the Orchestra's appearance in Sarasota.

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. As Mr. Eschenbach and the Orchestra inaugurate a new era in the ensemble's esteemed history, the Orchestra has announced the launch of the public phase of a five-year, \$125-million endowment campaign, entitled *A Sound, A City, A Civilization*. Commitments to the campaign include a lead gift of \$50 million from the Annenberg Foundation, along with other major leadership gifts that have allowed the Orchestra to raise the original campaign goal from \$75 million to \$125 million.

In addition to Mr. Eschenbach's appointment as music director, the Orchestra has observed several important milestones in recent years. The Orchestra's 2002-2003 season celebrated Wolfgang Sawallisch's ten highly acclaimed years at the Orchestra's helm and paid tribute to his artistic achievements with the release of a Grammy-nominated three-disc set of Schumann recordings, the first recordings made in Verizon Hall at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. The Orchestra moved to its new home at the Kimmel Center in December 2001, after celebrating its 100th Anniversary through a series of activities surrounding the year 2000, including the internationally televised gala Birthday Concert on November 16, 2000, a tour of Europe in 2000, and tours of Asia and the United States in 2001. A tour in the spring of 2003 took the Orchestra to nine cities in the United States, Mexico, and South America. Christoph Eschenbach and the Orchestra capped their first full season together with a tour of the music capitals of Europe in the spring of 2004.

The Philadelphia Orchestra annually touches the lives of more than 1 million music lovers worldwide through its performances (more than 300 concerts and other presentations each year), publications, recordings, and broadcasts. A major winter subscription season is presented in Philadelphia each year from September to May, in addition to education and community partnership programs. The Orchestra presents a series of concerts each year at New York's Carnegie Hall, performing encores of some of its acclaimed concerts from Philadelphia. Its summer schedule includes a month-long outdoor season in Philadelphia at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, free concerts in local neighborhoods, and a three-week residency each August at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in upstate New York.

The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts hosts the Orchestra's home subscription concerts. The Center includes two performance spaces, the 2500-seat Verizon Hall, designed and built especially for the Orchestra, and the 650-seat Perelman Theater for chamber music concerts. Designed by architect Rafael Viñoly along with acoustician Russell Johnson of Artec Consultants Inc., the Kimmel Center provides the Orchestra with a state-of-the-art facility for concerts, recordings, and education activities. The landmark building is named in honor of Philadelphia businessman and philanthropist Sidney Kimmel, who gave the largest individual gift toward its construction. Mr. Kimmel has served on the Board of Directors of The Philadelphia Orchestra since 1995.

The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (KCPA) and the historic Academy of Music (where the Orchestra performed for 101 seasons) are operated together as a single cultural facility by Kimmel Center, Inc. (KCI). A variety of Philadelphia's other performing arts groups serve as resident companies for the two buildings. KCI owns, manages, supports, and maintains the KCPA. Kimmel Center, Inc., also manages the Academy of Music, owned by The Philadelphia Orchestra Association since 1957, and where the Orchestra continues to present the highly anticipated annual Academy Anniversary Concert and Ball. Additional information about The Philadelphia Orchestra can be found at www.philorch.org.



2006 Tour of Florida and Puerto Rico

NAPLES, FLORIDA

Monday, March 6, at 8:00 p.m. – *Philharmonic Center for the Arts*

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Tzimon Barto, *piano*

BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 8
LISZT	Piano Concerto No. 2
BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 7

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Tuesday, March 7, at 8:00 p.m. – *Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall*

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Tzimon Barto, *piano*

BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 8
LISZT	Piano Concerto No. 2
BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 7

Wachovia is proud to sponsor The Philadelphia Orchestra's appearance in Sarasota.

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

Wednesday, March 8, at 8:00 p.m. – *Broward Center for the Performing Arts*

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Tzimon Barto, *piano*

BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 8
LISZT	Piano Concerto No. 2
BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 7

Buchanan Ingersoll PC is proud to sponsor The Philadelphia Orchestra's appearance in Fort Lauderdale.

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Friday, March 10, at 8:00 p.m. – *Centro de Bellas Artes*

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Ricardo Morales, *clarinet*

MOZART	Clarinet Concerto
BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 7

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Saturday, March 11, at 8:00 p.m. – *Centro de Bellas Artes*

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach, *conductor*
Julia Fischer, *violin*

BRAHMS	Violin Concerto
BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 3 ("Eroica")