



NEWS RELEASE

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The Philadelphia Orchestra Association and The Mann Center for the Performing Arts sign three-year agreement

(Philadelphia, March 27, 2007) – The Philadelphia Orchestra Association has renewed its commitment to The Mann Center for the Performing Arts through 2009, providing concerts by The Philadelphia Orchestra and Peter Nero and the Philly Pops[®]. The three-year agreement may be extended by a second three-year term.

Under the terms of the agreement with the Mann Center, The Philadelphia Orchestra will perform a minimum of nine concerts and Peter Nero and the Philly Pops will perform up to three concerts each summer. This summer the Orchestra will perform nine concerts and Peter Nero and the Philly Pops will perform two concerts. Details of these concerts will be announced on April 17, 2007, when the Mann Center announces its entire season.

The new contract between The Philadelphia Orchestra and The Mann Center for the Performing Arts continues the collaborative arrangement the two organizations have shared in recent seasons. The agreement allows for mutual consideration around booking of artists and fundraising and consolidates the Association's offerings within the overall marketing of the Mann summer season. The agreement also continues the practice of distributing up to 5,000 free Philadelphia Orchestra tickets to community organizations through the Mann Center's Access the Arts program.

“We are delighted that our longtime collaboration with The Mann Center for the Performing Arts will continue,” said Philadelphia Orchestra Association President and CEO James Undercofler. “The Orchestra’s series at the Mann Center is the cornerstone of its diverse summer offerings, which include Philadelphia area Neighborhood Concerts and residencies in Vail, Colorado, and Saratoga Springs, New York. We are further

pleased that this also allows Peter Nero and the Philly Pops to return to the Mann Center and perform there on a regular basis.”

Peter Lane, president and CEO of The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, added, “We are so pleased to renew our commitment to the Philadelphia Orchestra for another three years. This collaboration benefits not only The Mann and The Philadelphia Orchestra but the entire community as we continue the tradition of bringing top-caliber summer arts to Fairmount Park.”

Celebrating its 31st season, The Mann Center for the Performing Arts is the region’s premiere outdoor cultural arts center offering a diverse season of world-class entertainment. As a result of the newly completed 15 million dollar capital program, The Mann has become more convenient, more accessible, more attractive, and more *fun* than ever before. Conveniently located in beautiful Fairmount Park, programming at The Mann transcends genres and includes PECO Pops, jazz, dance, rock, classical and contemporary concerts and serves as the summer home of The Philadelphia Orchestra. Community and education outreach opportunities exist through the Young People’s Concert Series, Connecting-Arts-N-Schools presentations in public and parochial schools, professional development through master classes with visiting artists, and complimentary ticket distribution to more than 30,000 of the region’s underserved children via the Access the Arts Program. For more information, visit www.manncenter.org.

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 rich tradition is carried on by Christoph Eschenbach, who became music director in 2003. The 2006-07 season, Mr. Eschenbach’s fourth, highlights the music of Mozart and Shostakovich. In January 2007, Mr. Eschenbach led the Orchestra in the Academy of Music 150th Anniversary Concert. 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, and Florida and Puerto Rico.

The Orchestra began a three-year partnership with Ondine Records in 2005, and has released four recordings taken from live concerts with a fifth scheduled for May 2007. In September 2006, the Orchestra became the first major American orchestra to offer downloads of recent and archival music through its own Online Music Store, www.thephiladelphiaorchestra.com. As of April 2006, the Orchestra is broadcast regularly on NPR. Other recent highlights include a five-year, \$125 million endowment campaign launched in 2003; the Orchestra’s move to The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in 2001; and the Orchestra’s 100th anniversary in 2000.

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, a three-week residency at Saratoga Performing Arts Center in upstate New York, and an annual week-long residency at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival beginning July 2007.

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

One of America's premier pops orchestras, **Peter Nero and the Philly Pops** was founded in 1979 under the musical leadership of Mr. Nero, whose unique talents and innovative programming blending all musical genres have made their concerts widely popular in the pops world. POPS concerts run the gamut from great classics to jazz improvisation, big band to Broadway hits, ragtime to rock 'n' roll. Mr. Nero's participation as piano soloist has been received with boundless enthusiasm and acclaim. Guest artists—both established stars as well as outstanding new vocalists from Broadway and the concert stage—join The POPS each season. The Voices of The POPS, the resident vocal group, has become a member of the Philly Pops family as well.

Peter Nero and the Philly Pops is the Official Pops Orchestra of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a significant part of Philadelphia's cultural scene. The POPS has produced continuously growing and loyal audiences and performs to regularly sold-out crowds as a resident company of The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts.

On July 4, 2006, Peter Nero and the Philly Pops performed a free outdoor concert on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Their concert on the Parkway the previous Independence Day, featuring Sir Elton John, Patti LaBelle, and Bryan Adams, reached over a half million people. Other notables who have joined them for past city celebrations include James Earl Jones, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, Ray Charles, Boyz II Men, and Dionne Warwick.

During the 2003-04 season, Peter Nero and the Philly Pops celebrated its 25th anniversary. One of the most significant events of that year was the signing of a three-CD contract with DRG Records, making them one of only a few orchestras in the country with such a deal. Peter and The POPS had the honor of performing at the opening of the National Constitution Center in 2003, and participating in National Public Radio's nation-wide radio broadcast on July 4, 2002. Another highlight took place in April 2002, when Astronaut and U.S. Senator John Glenn made a guest appearance in a special performance of Peter's original composition *Voyage into Space*. Peter and The POPS were featured on ABC-TV's "Independence Day 2001," a live, star-studded national broadcast, sharing the stage with such luminaries as Michael Douglas, Morgan Freeman, Kevin Spacey, Whoopi Goldberg, and Garth Brooks.

More information about Peter Nero and the Philly Pops can be found at www.phillypops.org.