



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Katherine Blodgett
Director of Public/Media Relations
phone: 215.893.1939
e-mail: kblodgett@philorch.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 23, 2008

THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION EXCEEDS ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN GOAL, RAISING OVER \$130 MILLION

(Philadelphia, October 23, 2008)— The Philadelphia Orchestra Association announced today that it closed its five-year endowment campaign, *A Sound, A City, A Civilization*, as of August 31, 2008, having raised a total of \$130,078,771. This total exceeds the goal of \$125 million, which was set when the Association announced the public phase of the campaign in September 2003. The Association originally set a goal of \$75 million during the quiet phase of the campaign but an extraordinary \$50 million commitment from the Annenberg Foundation in 2003 encouraged the organization to raise the goal to \$125 million.

The total of \$130,078,771 raised for *A Sound, A City, A Civilization* represents outright gifts, pledges, and bequests from nearly 1,200 donors, including current and emeritus Board members, individuals, foundations, volunteers, and musicians. The endowment campaign was chaired by Peter A. Benoliel and vice-chairs Toni Garrison, Carole Haas Gravagno, and Harold A. Sorgenti.

“The successful completion of this endowment campaign helps assure the future of Philadelphia’s most renowned performing arts institution by providing greater funding stability for the organization,” said Philadelphia Orchestra Association President and CEO James Undercofler. “It allows us to continue to maintain the highest standards of artistic excellence while serving our community and bringing the music of this great Orchestra to audiences around the world. Our deepest thanks go to Peter Benoliel for his dedication, vision, and leadership and to the many donors in this community who supported the campaign.”

“We are extraordinarily grateful to our lead donors—the Annenberg Foundation and the Neubauer Family Foundation—as well as to all of the many donors who contributed to the

campaign,” commented Campaign Chairman Peter A. Benoliel. “I was fortunate to work with some outstanding individuals on the Campaign Committee and I’d like to thank each of them for the role they played in achieving this success. Hal Sorgenti, Carole Haas Gravagno, and Toni Garrison were tireless leaders and they, and the volunteers and musicians who served on the Committee, were instrumental in helping to secure the future of this beloved Orchestra. It was an inspiration to me to work with these volunteers and donors, who were so generous with their gifts and their time, and who believed so strongly in this musical gem. My deepest thanks to them all.”

“Congratulations to the family, friends, and loyal patrons of The Philadelphia Orchestra for their hard work and dedication in completing and surpassing their original campaign goal,” said Mrs. Walter H. Annenberg. “Raising \$130 million is an outstanding achievement. This gift will enable future generations to share in the wonderful performances of The Philadelphia Orchestra and ensure its role as one of our city’s cultural treasures.”

“We were so pleased to learn that The Philadelphia Orchestra has completed its campaign and raised \$130 million for the endowment,” said Joseph and Jeanette Neubauer. “The Neubauer Family Foundation was proud to make a \$10 million investment in the future of the Orchestra, understanding the vital and far-reaching role it plays in our world. “

The Philadelphia Orchestra set three specific objectives for ***A Sound, A City, A Civilization*** in the areas of artistic endeavors, education and community partnerships, and technology and innovation. Initiatives achieved under these objectives include critically-acclaimed tours to Europe in 2004 and 2006, the United States in 2007, and Asia in 2008, and celebrations of Leonard Bernstein in a month-long festival and of Krzysztof Penderecki in 2008; the return of School Concerts to the Academy of Music and the implementation of the Billy Joel Fund for Music Education; and a return to a regular recording schedule and utilization of concert hall image magnification and Internet2 technology to reach audiences at a distance from Philadelphia. A cornerstone of the campaign was the endowing of chairs in the Orchestra, which increased more than fourfold, from nine at the beginning of the campaign to a total of 38 today.

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 seven music directors throughout its history: Fritz Scheel (1900-07), Carl Pohlig (1907-12), Leopold

Stokowski (1912-41), Eugene Ormandy (1936-80), Riccardo Muti (1980-92), Wolfgang Sawallisch (1993-2003), and Christoph Eschenbach (2003-08).

This rich tradition is carried on by Charles Dutoit, who was appointed chief conductor and artistic adviser of The Philadelphia Orchestra from the 2008-09 season through the 2011-12 season. Mr. Dutoit has a long-standing relationship with the Orchestra, having made his debut with the ensemble in 1980. Highlights of his first season include the Opening Night Concert, featuring pianist Martha Argerich; performances of Berlioz's *Romeo and Juliet* and Requiem, part of Mr. Dutoit's four-year focus on the works of that composer; the U.S. premiere of Krzysztof Penderecki's Concerto grosso No. 1 for three cellos, part of the Orchestra's celebration of Mr. Penderecki's 75th birthday; and Honegger's Symphony No. 3 ("Liturgical"). During his tenure, Mr. Dutoit will also focus on the music of the Ballets Russes, beginning in the 2008-09 season with performances of Stravinsky's complete music to *The Firebird*.

Recent Philadelphia Orchestra highlights include the opening of the Orchestra's Online Music Store, www.thephiladelphiaorchestra.com; regular broadcasts on NPR; a series of critically acclaimed recordings led by Mr. Eschenbach and released in partnership with Ondine Records; and a \$125 million endowment campaign.

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 the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in upstate New York.

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