



NEWS RELEASE

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The Philadelphia Orchestra Association announces details of Billy Joel Fund for Music Education

(*Philadelphia*, January 25, 2008) – The Philadelphia Orchestra Association announces details of its new Billy Joel Fund for Music Education. Legendary singer/songwriter/composer Billy Joel was inspired to create the Fund when he accepted The Philadelphia Orchestra’s invitation to perform with the Orchestra on the Academy of Music’s 151st Anniversary Concert. The Fund is being created with a donation from Mr. Joel.

“It’s a thrill for me to perform with The Philadelphia Orchestra and an honor to have one of my own compositions premiered by a world-class orchestra,” said Billy Joel. “I am grateful for the support which The Philadelphia Orchestra has shown for my music and for the Fund for Music Education.”

“We are deeply honored that Billy Joel has chosen to support music education in such a significant fashion,” said Philadelphia Orchestra President and CEO James Undercofler. “This fund will help make a difference for countless children in the City of Philadelphia. We extend our grateful thanks to Mr. Joel for his generosity.”

The Philadelphia Orchestra shares with Billy Joel the belief that music education is a necessity for all children. The Orchestra’s Billy Joel Fund for Music Education will be dedicated to improving access to the Orchestra’s School Concerts for underserved youth in the City of Philadelphia and will significantly enhance the Orchestra’s present efforts to expand and improve music education in Philadelphia schools. Programs benefiting from the Fund will begin in the 2008-09 season and the Orchestra is currently engaged in discussions with the School District of Philadelphia to determine the specifics of implementing the Fund.

The Philadelphia Orchestra’s Billy Joel Fund for Music Education will support activities that help break down barriers in bringing City of Philadelphia school children to the Orchestra’s School Concerts. Among the possibilities are assisting schools with concert or bus fees and supporting the transmission of concerts into city schools in conjunction with the Orchestra’s partnership with the Internet2 consortium. The Fund will also provide essential support for collaborative work with music teachers in the school system on a variety of programs and projects, some of which may include developing curricular and extra-curricular programs in the

public schools, such as master classes, classroom visits by Philadelphia Orchestra musicians and teaching artists, teacher training, and participating in efforts that support music education in the public schools.

The Philadelphia Orchestra's Billy Joel Fund for Music Education marks the first time Mr. Joel has created an endowment fund with an orchestra. He has previously donated to the music programs of New York University, the Juilliard School, Syracuse University, Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester, the State University of New York at Purchase, the New England Conservatory, Tanglewood Music Center, and the Boston Symphony's Academy for Advanced Musical Study.

Additional donations to The Philadelphia Orchestra's Billy Joel Fund for Music Education are welcome. Gifts to the Fund can be made through the Academy of Music Restoration Fund Office at 215.893.1941.

The Philadelphia Orchestra, led by Music Director Christoph Eschenbach, celebrates the 151st anniversary of the Academy of Music with the annual Anniversary Concert and Ball, on Saturday, January 26, 2008. Billy Joel makes his Philadelphia Orchestra debut with this performance, his first appearance with a major American orchestra. The Orchestra gives the world premiere performance of the first symphonic orchestration of Mr. Joel's *Waltz No. 2 (Steinway Hall)* and Mr. Joel and the Orchestra will perform a selection of his popular works from a career spanning 43 years. The evening's program also includes performances by rising young talents Dísella Lárusdóttir, soprano, and Conrad Tao, piano. Blue Man Group will perform an original work with The Philadelphia Orchestra, and the concert, which begins at 7:30 p.m., will be hosted by MSNBC's Chris Matthews. The Academy Ball follows at the Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue. Blank Rome LLP is the lead underwriter of the 151st Anniversary Concert and Ball.

The Philadelphia Orchestra's educational and outreach activities enrich the lives of over 35,000 youngsters and 140,000 adults in the Philadelphia region each year, through a variety of musical encounters, including subscription concerts, Sound All Around (for children ages 3 to 5), Family Concerts (for children ages 6 to 12), School Concerts, a School Partnership Program, Music Educator Workshops, Master Classes, Side-by-Side Rehearsals, Open Rehearsals, the Albert M. Greenfield Student Competition, free Neighborhood Concerts, and collaborations with conservatories and colleges.

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 multi-casting a concert to large-screen venues through the Internet2 network; the launch 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.

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