



CONTACT:

Katherine Blodgett  
Director of Public/Media Relations  
phone: 215.893.1939  
e-mail: [kblodgett@philorch.org](mailto:kblodgett@philorch.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 23, 2005

## Philadelphia Orchestra presents 2006 Kuhn Award to Roberto Díaz

*Orchestra also honors David Cramer, Philip Kates, and Kazuo Tokito  
on their 25th anniversaries*

(Philadelphia, May 23, 2005) – At a special ceremony during its subscription concert on Friday, May 19, 2006, The Philadelphia Orchestra presented the **C. Hartman Kuhn Award** to former Principal Viola **Roberto Díaz**. Mr. Díaz was the Orchestra's principal viola from 1996 until he left towards the end of the 2005-06 season to become president/director of the Curtis Institute of Music. Philadelphia Orchestra Association Board Chairman Harold A. Sorgenti presented the Kuhn Award to Mr. Díaz. Volunteer Committees President Despina F. Page presented **David Cramer**, **Philip Kates**, and **Kazuo Tokito** with the traditional watch recognizing their 25 years of service.

The **C. Hartman Kuhn Award** is given annually to “the member of The Philadelphia Orchestra who has shown ability and enterprise of such character as to enhance the standards and the reputation of The Philadelphia Orchestra.” The recipient is selected by the music director each year. The Award was established in 1941 and is named for a charter member of the Board of Directors.

A violist of international reputation, **Roberto Díaz** has recently assumed the position of president/director of the Curtis Institute of Music. Some of Mr. Díaz's recent and upcoming performances include the Kansas City Symphony with Michael Stern, New World Symphony with Michael Tilson Thomas, Netherlands Philharmonic with Yakov Kreizberg, and The Philadelphia Orchestra with Gilbert Varga. In May 2007, Mr. Díaz will perform the Penderecki Concerto at Carnegie Hall with Christoph Eschenbach and the Curtis Symphony Orchestra. Other orchestral engagements include the National Symphony, the Boston Pops, the Bavarian Radio Orchestra, the Gulbenkian Orchestra, the Orquesta Nacional de España, the Russian State Symphony, the Saarbrücken Radio Orchestra, and the Orquesta Simón Bolívar. Mr. Díaz has collaborated with conductors such as Roberto Abbado, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Riccardo Chailly, Charles Dutoit, Richard Hickox, Christopher Hogwood, Peter Oundjian, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Hugh Wolff, and David Zinman. Mr. Díaz has also worked with important 20th- and 21st-century composers including Edison Denisov, Krzysztof Penderecki, and Roberto Sierra.

New World Records has released a critically acclaimed live recording of the Jacob Druckman Viola Concerto with Mr. Díaz and The Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Wolfgang Sawallisch. On the Naxos

label, he has recorded works for viola and piano by Henri Vieuxtemps and transcriptions by William Primrose with pianist Robert Koenig.

An active chamber musician, Roberto Díaz has performed with artists such as the Emerson String Quartet, Emanuel Ax, Yefim Bronfman, Christoph Eschenbach, Yo-Yo Ma, Wolfgang Sawallisch, and Isaac Stern. His festival appearances include Kuhmo, Marlboro, Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Center, Spoleto, and Verbier, among many others. As a member of the Díaz Trio, with violinist Andrés Cárdenes and cellist Andrés Díaz, he has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Mexico, and Chile. The trio was one of two ensembles invited by Isaac Stern to participate in a special concert celebrating the next one hundred years of music-making at Carnegie Hall. The Díaz Trio is currently an ensemble in-residence at the Brevard Music Festival and will tour China in the summer of 2006.

Roberto Díaz was principal violist of the National Symphony under Mstislav Rostropovich, a member of the Boston Symphony under Seiji Ozawa, and a member of the Minnesota Orchestra under Sir Neville Marriner. He has received numerous awards, including prizes at the Naumburg and Munich international viola competitions, and was featured on the cover of the January 2003 issue of *The Strad* magazine. Mr. Díaz was born in Chile and raised in the United States.

The Philadelphia Orchestra also honored David Cramer, Philip Kates, and Kazuo Tokito for their 25 years of service to the Orchestra. Since 1928 the Volunteer Committees have funded and presented watches to musicians who are completing their 25th year of service.

**David Cramer** is a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He joined The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1981, became assistant principal flute in 1982, and since 1984 has been associate principal flute. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, his teachers have included Murray Panitz, William Hebert, Barbara Peterson, and James Pappoutsakis; he has also played in master classes with Marcel Moyse. Mr. Cramer has participated in the Tanglewood Festival and the Central City Colorado Opera Festival. Before joining The Philadelphia Orchestra, he was a member of the Montreal and Pittsburgh symphonies. A frequent chamber music performer in the Philadelphia area, Mr. Cramer has also appeared as soloist with The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Haddonfield (NJ) Symphony, the West Jersey Chamber Symphony, and the Temple University Orchestra. He has served on the faculty of Carnegie-Mellon University and currently teaches at Temple University.

**Philip Kates** began his studies before the age of three with his father, violinist-composer Henry Kates, and later studied with Jascha Brodsky, Sally Thomas, and former Philadelphia Orchestra Concertmaster Norman Carol. Mr. Kates also studied viola with former Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Viola Joseph de Pasquale. Mr. Kates joined The Philadelphia Orchestra in November 1980. He was formerly a guest concertmaster with Peter Nero and the Philly Pops and the Orchestra Society of Philadelphia, with which he has made nearly annual solo appearances since 1981.

Mr. Kates is a violinist with Liebesfreud and a frequent performer of chamber music. He is also a composer of several dozen works for voice, solo violin, and various chamber groupings. He leads an active life in community service, raising funds for numerous humanitarian charities and other organizations. Since

1990 he has performed as solo violinist at Philadelphia's annual Holocaust Memorial Observance Ceremony, and since 1977 he has performed at Thanksgiving and Christmas in Philadelphia-area nursing homes, hospices, and soup kitchens. He also performed at the memorial service for Andrei Sakharov at the New York Public Library in 1990, at the request of the family. As an educator, Mr. Kates has been guest lecturer for Temple University and Philadelphia Elderhostel, and he has presented programs to children in schools throughout the United States and during the Orchestra's international tours.

**Kazuo Tokito** joined The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1981 and was previously assistant first flute/piccolo with the Vancouver Symphony and principal flute in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Chamber Music Orchestra of Vancouver. Mr. Tokito holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in flute performance from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music degree in flute performance from Indiana University School of Music, where he was an associate instructor of flute. As a student, Mr. Tokito participated in the Tanglewood Music Festival and American Wind Symphony orchestras. Currently, he is on the extended flute faculty at Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance.

---

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 became the Orchestra's seventh music director in September 2003. His acclaimed first season in Philadelphia saw the launch of the Orchestra's first-ever multi-year cycle of Mahler's complete symphonies and ended with a tour of the music capitals of Europe. The 2004-05 season celebrated the works of the great masters, and included a four-week festival entitled Late Great Works featuring late works by Mozart, Strauss, Mahler, Tchaikovsky, Wagner, and Berio. The Orchestra's 2005-06 season features all nine Beethoven symphonies, conducted by Mr. Eschenbach and paired with music of our time.

In May 2005, Mr. Eschenbach and the Orchestra announced a three-year recording partnership with Ondine Records, the Orchestra's first recording contract in 10 years. Taken from live concerts, the first recording under the agreement was released in fall 2005 and the second in April 2006. Other recent highlights include the launch of the public phase of a five-year, \$125 million endowment campaign, entitled A Sound, A City, A Civilization, in 2003. The Orchestra's 2002-03 season celebrated Wolfgang Sawallisch's 10 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. In 2000 the Orchestra celebrated its 100th Anniversary, and in the following year, moved to its new home in the Kimmel Center.

The Philadelphia Orchestra annually touches the lives of more than one 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.