



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **The Philadelphia Orchestra Announces its 2012 Summer Season**

**The Orchestra returns to the Mann Center in Fairmount Park for six exciting summer concerts under the Philadelphia stars**

**Yannick Nézet-Séguin makes his conducting debut with the Orchestra at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center**

(Philadelphia, May 29, 2012)—The Philadelphia Orchestra launches the 2012 summer season with a return to its outdoor summer home, the **Mann Center for the Performing Arts**, for two weeks in June and July of much-anticipated music-making. In July the Orchestra decamps to the Rocky Mountains for its sixth annual residency at the **Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival**, where Music Director Designate Yannick Nézet-Séguin makes his conducting debut. The summer season culminates with three weeks of performances at the **Saratoga Performing Arts Center**, which also marks Nézet-Séguin's first conducting appearances at that venue.

#### **The Mann Center for the Performing Arts—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—June 27-30 and July 19-21**

The Philadelphia Orchestra returns once again to its summer home at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts, marking the 37th season at the Mann Center and the Orchestra's 83rd year appearing in Fairmount Park. Led by conductor Xian Zhang the Orchestra kicks off its summer series on June 27 with one of the world's most recognizable works, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, featuring soprano **Othalie Graham**, mezzo-soprano **Margaret Mezzacappa**, tenor **Zach Borichevsky**, baritone **Luis Ledesma**, and **The Philadelphia Singers Chorale**; First Associate Concertmaster **Juliette Kang** and Principal Second Violin **Kimberly Fisher** are featured soloists in Bach's Concerto for Two Violins and String Orchestra.

Orchestra Assistant Conductor Cristian Macelaru leads the traditional "All-Tchaikovsky Spectacular" program on June 29 featuring pianist Alexander Ullman, complete with fireworks. New York Pops Music Director **Steven Reineke** leads the Orchestra in programs featuring vocalist and Tony Award-winner **Idina Menzel** and trumpeter and Grammy Award-winner **Chris Botti** (June 30 and July 19). **Lucas Richman** once again returns to the Mann stage on July 20 to conduct an evening of works that celebrate composer John Williams's 80th birthday; the Orchestra's final Mann performance on July 21 features a "symphonic spectacular" led by **Michael Krajewski**, in his Philadelphia Orchestra debut, which includes visuals and fireworks.

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Members of The Philadelphia Orchestra began playing summer concerts at the Robin Hood Dell in Fairmount Park as early as 1930. The Mann Center for the Performing Arts was founded in 1935 under the name Robin Hood Dell Concerts, as the summer venue for the concert presentations of The Philadelphia Orchestra. The Center moved into its present outdoor facility in 1976, where the Orchestra has performed every year since.

Visit <http://manncenter.org/> for tickets and more information.

### **Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival—Vail, Colorado—July 6 to 14**

The Philadelphia Orchestra travels to Colorado to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival from July 6 to 14. In his debut appearances at Vail, Philadelphia Orchestra Music Director Designate **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** leads the Orchestra in concerts on July 6 and 7 featuring works by Brahms, Rachmaninoff, and Tchaikovsky. Philadelphia Orchestra Assistant Conductor **Cristian Macelaru** leads a performance of *Cirque de la Symphonie* on July 8, accompanied by visuals and live circus acts aligned with the music. New York Pops Music Director **Steven Reineke** conducts an evening of popular music from Broadway and film on July 11. Concluding the residency, frequent Orchestra collaborator **Stéphane Denève** leads programs on July 13 and 14 that include iconic works by Dvořák, Mendelssohn, and Shostakovich.

The Orchestra welcomes renowned guest artists to join them on the Festival stage throughout the residency, including violinists **James Ehnes** and **Joshua Bell**, the latter in his Vail Music Festival debut; pianist **Kirill Gerstein**; cellist **Alban Gerhardt**; and vocalists **Stephanie J. Block** and **Julia Murney**.

The 2012 season is a milestone for the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival, which started 25 years ago as a small series of chamber music concerts assembled by violinist Ida Kavafian and organized by John Giovando. The Philadelphia Orchestra has performed at the Bravo! Vail Music Festival every year since 2007; the 2012 season marks Mr. Giovando's final season as executive director of the Festival. Running from late June through early August, the Bravo! Vail Music Festival touches the lives of thousands of people each year. Visit [www.vailmusicfestival.org](http://www.vailmusicfestival.org) for tickets and more information.

### **Saratoga Performing Arts Center—Saratoga Springs, New York—August 1 to August 18**

The Philadelphia Orchestra returns to the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC) for its 47th annual residency from August 1 to August 18. Highlights of the 12-concert series include debut SPAC conducting appearances by Music Director Designate **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, three performances led by **Stéphane Denève**, guest appearances by world-renowned cellist **Yo-Yo Ma** and pianist **Lang Lang**, performers of *Cirque de la Symphonie*, and a multi-media performance of the film *The Wizard of Oz*.

Throughout the residency, the Orchestra will also be led by **Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos**, Queens Symphony Music Director **Constantine Kitsopoulos**, Philadelphia Orchestra Assistant Conductor **Cristian Macelaru**, **Gianandrea**

**Nosedá**, New York Pops Music Director **Steve Reineke**, and Saint Louis Symphony Music Director **David Robertson**. Additional guest artists include pianists **Garrick Ohlsson** and **Jean-Yves Thibaudet**, violinists **Joshua Bell** and **Arabella Steinbacher**, cellist **Johannes Moser**, soprano **Angela Meade**, tenor **Bryan Hymel**, vocalist **Montego Glover**, and pianist/vocalist **Tony DeSare**.

Since its opening in 1966, Saratoga Performing Arts Center has created a reputation as one of America's most prestigious summer festivals. Its tranquil setting among the woods of Saratoga State Park north of Albany, New York, draws vacation crowds and arts connoisseurs each year to its summer programming. The Philadelphia Orchestra has shared the Saratoga season with the New York City Ballet every year since 1966, with each taking up residency for two to four weeks. The annual Saratoga Chamber Music Festival takes place surrounding the Philadelphians' orchestral concerts each August. Visit [www.spac.org](http://www.spac.org) for more information.

**\*Please visit <http://www.philorch.org/news.html> for complete calendar listings for The Philadelphia Orchestra's 2012 Summer Season.\***

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### **The Philadelphia Orchestra**

Renowned for its distinctive sound, desired for its keen ability to capture the hearts and imaginations of audiences, and admired for an unrivaled legacy of "firsts" in music-making, The Philadelphia Orchestra remains one of the preeminent orchestras in the world.

The Philadelphia Orchestra has cultivated an extraordinary roster of artistic leaders in its 112 seasons, including music directors Fritz Scheel, Carl Pohlig, Leopold Stokowski, Eugene Ormandy, Riccardo Muti, Wolfgang Sawallisch, and Christoph Eschenbach, as well as the Orchestra's current chief conductor, Charles Dutoit. In the 2012-13 season, Yannick Nézet-Séguin will become the eighth music director of The Philadelphia Orchestra. Named music director designate in 2010, Nézet-Séguin brings a vision that extends beyond symphonic music and into the vivid world of opera and choral music.

Philadelphia is home and the Orchestra nurtures an important relationship with patrons who support the main season at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. The Orchestra also performs for Philadelphia audiences at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts, Penn's Landing, and other regional venues. The Philadelphia Orchestra Association continues to own the Academy of Music—a National Historic Landmark—as it has since 1957.

The ensemble maintains an important tradition of presenting community educational programs for local audiences. Today the Orchestra executes a myriad of education and civic partnership programs, notably its Neighborhood Concert Series, Sound All Around and Family Concerts, eZseatU, and more.

Through concerts, tours, residencies, presentations, and recordings, The Philadelphia Orchestra touches the lives of countless music lovers around the world. The Orchestra annually performs at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center while also enjoying a three-week residency at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in New York and a strong partnership with the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival.

For more information on The Philadelphia Orchestra, please visit [www.philorch.org](http://www.philorch.org).