FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: December 19, 2008

THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA, WITH CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH CONDUCTING, TOURS EUROPE AND THE CANARY ISLANDS

Three-week tour includes visits to the Canary Islands, Spain, Portugal, Luxembourg, Hungary, and Austria – violinist Leonidas Kavakos joins tour as soloist

(Philadelphia, December 19, 2008) – The Philadelphia Orchestra embarks on its 2009 Tour of Europe and the Canary Islands on January 26, 2009. Under the leadership of Christoph Eschenbach, the Orchestra visits nine cities in five countries making first visits to Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Luxembourg, and Budapest. The three-week tour, which concludes February 14, also includes performances in Barcelona, Lisbon, Madrid, Valencia, and Vienna. Violinist Leonidas Kavakos joins The Philadelphia Orchestra for eight of the tour’s concerts.

Tour Repertoire and Artists

On the 2009 tour, The Philadelphia Orchestra performs Prokofiev’s Fifth Symphony, Schubert’s Symphony in C major (“Great”), Pintscher’s Osiris, Bruckner’s Sixth Symphony, Schoenberg’s Chamber Symphony No. 1, and Beethoven’s Overture to Egmont. Guest soloist Leonidas Kavakos performs Bartók’s Violin Concerto No. 2 with the Orchestra on concerts in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, and Luxembourg, and performs Sibelius’s Violin Concerto on concerts in Lisbon, Madrid, Valencia, Budapest, and Vienna.

Conductor Christoph Eschenbach, music director of The Philadelphia Orchestra from 2003 to 2008, leads the 2009 Tour of Europe and the Canary Islands. Currently in his ninth season as music director of the Orchestre de Paris, Mr. Eschenbach is in great demand as a distinguished guest conductor with the finest orchestras and opera houses throughout the world. Recently named the sixth music director of the National Symphony as well as music director of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Mr. Eschenbach will play a key role in planning future seasons, international festivals, and special projects for these two institutions beginning in fall 2010. He is also currently principal conductor of the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival International Orchestral Academy, a position he has held since 2004.
In the 2008-09 season, Mr. Eschenbach conducts the Orchestre de Paris at the Berlin Festival and the BBC Proms. He will also appear with the Vienna Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic, the Staatskapelle Dresden, the London Philharmonic, and the Hamburg NDR Symphony, where he served as music director from 1998 to 2004. In addition, he makes his conducting debut with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and returns to the Chicago Symphony at the Ravinia Festival, where he was music director from 1994 to 2003. As a pianist, Mr. Eschenbach continues his collaboration with baritone Matthias Goerne, with whom he will record and perform Schubert’s three song cycles over the next two years.

Highlights of Mr. Eschenbach’s 2007-08 season with the Orchestre de Paris included collaborations with soloists including Lang Lang, Daniel Barenboim, and Yo-Yo Ma and world premieres of works by Kaija Saariaho and Augusta Read Thomas. Mr. Eschenbach also led The Philadelphia Orchestra on an extensive tour of Asia and appeared several times with the Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. As a guest conductor, he returned to the London Philharmonic and Hamburg NDR Symphony. He also conducted the Bavarian Radio Symphony in Munich and led three concerts at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, where he served as artistic director from 1999 to 2002.

Mentored by George Szell and Herbert von Karajan, Mr. Eschenbach went on to hold the posts of chief conductor and artistic director of the Tonhalle Orchestra (1982-1986) and music director of the Houston Symphony (1988-1999). His many honors include the Légion d’Honneur, Commandeur dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and the Officer’s Cross with Star and Ribbon of the German Order of Merit.

Guest soloist on the 2009 Tour of Europe and the Canary Islands, violinist Leonidas Kavakos is known for his virtuosity, superb musicianship, and the integrity of his playing. He achieved international recognition while still in his teens when he won the Sibelius Competition in 1985 and then the Paganini Competition in 1988. Following these successes he was invited to perform with orchestras across Europe, North America, and the Far East. He made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 1999 and last appeared with the Orchestra in 2006.

Mr. Kavakos now performs in concert with the great orchestras and conductors of the world and regularly visits the major international festivals with visiting orchestras, in chamber music, and in recital. This season he appears with the Budapest Festival Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic, the La Scala philharmonic, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the London Philharmonic, the London Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony, and the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, among others.

In 2007 Mr. Kavakos took up the position of artistic director of the Camerata Salzburg, succeeding Sir Roger Norrington. Mr. Kavakos has a distinguished catalogue of recordings and in 1991 he won the Gramophone Award for the first-ever recording of the original version of Sibelius’s Violin Concerto (1903/04) on the BIS label. His other recordings have appeared on the Chandos, Delos, Finlandia, and ECM labels.
Leonidas Kavakos plays the “Falmouth” Stradivarius of 1692.

**Tour Itinerary (see end of news release for detailed schedule)**

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<tr>
<td>Friday, January 30</td>
<td>Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands</td>
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<td>Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Canary Islands</td>
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<td>Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Canary Islands</td>
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<td>Saturday, February 14</td>
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**Tour History**

The 2009 Tour of Europe and the Canary Islands marks The Philadelphia Orchestra’s 34th tour outside North America and 16th visit to Europe. In addition to first performances in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Luxembourg, and Budapest, the Orchestra visits Barcelona for the first time in over a decade, having last performed in that city in 1997. The Philadelphia Orchestra’s last tour of Europe was in 2006, under the direction of Christoph Eschenbach.

The Philadelphia Orchestra has a long and distinguished history of touring around the world. Through its tour concerts, recordings, and broadcasts, the Orchestra has generated interest and enthusiasm for symphonic music among tens of millions of people, while also carrying the name of Philadelphia across the globe. The ensemble was the first American orchestra to make a transcontinental tour, in 1936, when it played 34 concerts in 36 days, from Boston to Holdredge, Nebraska, and from Toronto to San Francisco. In 1949 Philadelphia was the first American orchestra to cross the Atlantic after World War II, and the first to cross the ocean since 1930, with a special three-week concert tour of Great Britain. Since that time, the Orchestra has crisscrossed the globe on a regular basis, becoming one of the most-traveled American symphonic ensembles.

**Additional Activities**

In conjunction with The Philadelphia Orchestra’s performances in Madrid and Valencia on the 2009 Tour of Europe and the Canary Islands, the Intercultural Journeys ensemble will present programs that pay tribute to Spain’s role in the Middle East peace process and in international relations. Intercultural Journeys, an ensemble founded by Philadelphia Orchestra cellist Ohad Bar-David, is dedicated to promoting understanding among people of diverse
cultures through the performance of music, poetry, and other art forms. On the Orchestra’s tour Intercultural Journeys will present two events, one at the University of Madrid on February 5, 2009 at 13:00 CET and one at the Fundacion Bancaja Auditorio in Valencia on February 9, 2009, at 19:30 CET. The ensemble, which will be comprised of Arab, Jewish, and Spanish performers, hopes to inspire all who attend, sharing the message of cross-cultural understanding and encouraging cultural and business collaborations between Spain, the United States, and the Middle East. Both events are free and open to the public.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides lead support for the 2009 Tour of Europe and the Canary Islands.

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.
2009 Tour of Europe and the Canary Islands

**SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE, CANARY ISLANDS**

**Auditorio de Tenerife**

**Thursday, January 29, at 8:30 PM**

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach Conductor

PINTSCHER Osiris
BEETHOVEN Overture to Egmont
SCHUBERT Symphony in C major ("Great")

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**SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE, CANARY ISLANDS**

**Auditorio de Tenerife**

**Friday, January 30, at 8:30 PM**

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach Conductor
Leonidas Kavakos Violin

BARTÓK Violin Concerto No. 2
BRUCKNER Symphony No. 6

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**LISBOA, PORTUGAL**

**Coliseu dos Recreios**

**Wednesday, February 4, at 9:00 PM**

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach Conductor
Leonidas Kavakos Violin

BEETHOVEN Overture to Egmont
SIBELIUS Violin Concerto
PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 5

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**MADRID, SPAIN**

**Auditorio Nacional de Música**

**Thursday, February 5, at 7:30 PM**

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach Conductor
Leonidas Kavakos Violin

SCHOENBERG Chamber Symphony No. 1
SIBELIUS Violin Concerto
PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 5

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**MADRID, SPAIN**

**Auditorio Nacional de Música**

**Friday, February 6, at 10:30 PM**

The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach Conductor

PINTSCHER Osiris
BEETHOVEN Overture to Egmont
SCHUBERT Symphony in C major ("Great")
VALENCIA, SPAIN
Palau de la Música
Sunday, February 8, at 7:30 PM
The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach Conductor
Leonidas Kavakos Violin
SCHOENBERG Chamber Symphony No.
SIBELIUS Violin Concerto
PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 5

LUXEMBOURG, LUXEMBOURG
Philharmonie
Tuesday, February 10, at 8:00 PM
The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach Conductor
PINTSCHER Osiris
BEETHOVEN Overture to Egmont
SCHUBERT Symphony in C major
(“Great”)

LUXEMBOURG, LUXEMBOURG
Philharmonie
Wednesday, February 11, at 8:00 PM
The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach Conductor
Leonidas Kavakos Violin
BARTÓK Violin Concerto No. 2
BRUCKNER Symphony No. 6

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY
Béla Bartók National Concert Hall
Thursday, February 12, at 7:30 PM
The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach Conductor
Leonidas Kavakos Violin
BEETHOVEN Overture to Egmont
SIBELIUS Violin Concerto
SCHUBERT Symphony in C major
(“Great”)

VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Musikverein
Friday, February 13, at 7:30 PM
The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach Conductor
SCHOENBERG Chamber Symphony No.
1
BRUCKNER Symphony No. 6

VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Musikverein
Saturday, February 14, at 7:30 PM
The Philadelphia Orchestra
Christoph Eschenbach Conductor
Leonidas Kavakos Violin
BEETHOVEN Overture to Egmont
SIBELIUS Violin Concerto
PROKOFIEV Symphony No. 5

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