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WHERE CAN YOU FIND A KING, A QUEEN, A DIPLOMAT, A WITCH, A RHINO AND BRASS HORN?

PHILADELPHIA (April 21, 2010) – Answer: Sharing the stage with The Philadelphia Orchestra at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts this summer!

As part of its three-week, nine-concert schedule at The Mann, The Philadelphia Orchestra will share the stage with a star-studded line-up of special guest artists – from the king of daytime TV, Regis Philbin and his wife Joy narrating “Peter and the Wolf” to the Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin in an unforgettable night of her greatest hits and opera arias. Special guest and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will accompany “The Queen” at the piano and perform with the orchestra.

The star power continues with Idina Menzel, Tony® winning witch from Broadway’s “Wicked” and now star of TV’s highest rated show “Glee,” who will join the orchestra with hits from “Wicked” and her CD “I Stand.” Not to be outdone by mere mortals, the Planet Earth has its own starring role with The Philadelphia Orchestra as part of a blockbuster evening featuring moving imagery from the BBC’s “Planet Earth” television series along with the Philadelphia premier of the TV show’s original score by George Fenton, who will also conduct.

An additional highlight of The Philadelphia Orchestra season will be an evening with trumpeter Chris Botti. Since Botti’s release of his acclaimed CD “When I Fall in Love,” he has become America’s largest selling jazz instrumental artist. He will be recreating, with The Philadelphia Orchestra, parts of his smash hit PBS program “Chris Botti in Boston,” which was performed originally with The Boston Pops. This marks a double debut for Botti – his first performance with The Philadelphia Orchestra and first appearance at The Mann.

75 Years of Live Music in the Park

“This season is all about celebrating The Philadelphia Orchestra and the audiences who love them as well as introducing the Fabulous Philadelphians to a broader audience than ever before at The Mann,” said Catherine Cahill, president and CEO of The Mann Center for the Performing Arts. “To showcase 75 years of live music in the park, we have assembled a dynamic season schedule. There are classic masterworks and the finest soloists – both rising stars from the esteemed Curtis Institute of Music as well as respected masters. We’ve also incorporated new, exciting collaborations between the Orchestra and dynamic artists from the worlds of popular music, Broadway and jazz,” Cahill said. She added that much of the season will be under the direction of Mann Center Artistic Director and Philadelphia Orchestra Associate Conductor Rossen Milanov.

In addition, Cahill said this season is building on the relationship that was established in 2009 to showcase the extraordinary talents of students, both present and past, from the Curtis Institute of

Music. Two concerts feature superbly gifted young Curtis soloists making their Mann Center debuts. The Mann also celebrates the 2010 centenary of a Curtis student of an earlier age who became one of America's most beloved and important composers when it offers the Second Essay for Orchestra by Samuel Barber, a 1934 Curtis graduate, as part of the June 23 program.

The 2010 season marks 75 years since The Robin Hood Dell, predecessor to The Mann, was incorporated as Philadelphia's premier summer music home. Known for its summer concerts originally as The Robin Hood Dell Orchestra and later as The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Fabulous Philadelphians have performed for decades in Fairmount Park.

"The Philadelphia Orchestra looks forward to making great music this summer at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts under the inspired leadership of Rossen Milanov," said Philadelphia Orchestra President and CEO Allison Vulgamore. "With the 2010 season, the Orchestra continues to entertain and inspire music lovers with a wide range of classical and popular programs. We welcome audiences of all ages to join us in creating new musical memories."

Week One – June 15-17

The Philadelphia Orchestra will open June 15 with Maestro Milanov conducting a performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1, the most beloved of all concertos, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with its famous "Ode to Joy." This evening of all-time favorites features Curtis Institute of Music student, Haochen Zhang, the latest co-Gold Medal Winner of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, and leading young vocalists in Beethoven's 9th Symphony along with The Philadelphia Singers.

On June 16, television's king of daytime Regis Philbin and his wife Joy will beguile the young and the young at heart with their narration of "Peter and the Wolf." With Maestro Milanov at the helm, the night will celebrate the virtuosos in The Philadelphia Orchestra whose four wind players will step forward to play Mozart's beautiful "Sinfonia concertante" for winds and orchestra (Peter Smith, oboe; Samuel Caviezel, clarinet; Daniel Matsukawa, bassoon; Jeffrey Lang, horn). The second half will include Dukas' "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," concluding with the greatest showpiece of them all, Ravel's "Boléro."

The following evening, June 17, critically acclaimed trumpeter Chris Botti takes the stage with his all-star band and special guests, violinist, Lucia Micarelli, and vocalist, Sy Smith, in a performance reminiscent of his PBS special, "Chris Botti in Boston." Botti is America's top selling jazz instrumental artist, whose sophisticated elegance and sensuality will inspire with the incomparable Philadelphia Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Milanov.

Week Two – June 22- 24

The second week of Philadelphia Orchestra concerts will begin on June 22 with an evening of opera's greatest hits and a tribute to the pioneering commitment of The Robin Hood Dell in its support of African-American opera singers in a collection of "Summertime Songs: A Celebration." Selections from "Carmen," "Aida," "Rigoletto" and "Porgy and Bess" will be sung by opera stars of today, featuring soprano Angela Brown, and will pay homage to the great names of the past who graced the stage of the Mann and the Robin Hood Dell for nearly eight decades. Guest conductor Edoardo Müller makes his Philadelphia Orchestra debut. Before the show starts, the audience will enjoy a prelude event, "This Little Light of Mine: The Stories of Marian Anderson and Other Pioneering African American Singers," created by Adrienne Danrich. Additionally on June 21, The Mann Center in partnership with Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church (4th & Pine) will present Angela Brown in her unique performance of "Opera from A Sistah's Point of View," a witty and inspired solo show dispelling the myths of opera through a lively commentary and selection of arias, songs, and spirituals that lift audiences to their feet.

On June 23, Giancarlo Guererro conducts an evening of Barbers' "2nd Essay for Orchestra," Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with the legendary pianist André Watts, who made his Philadelphia debut in the 1957 season at age 11. Concluding the evening's performance is Rachmaninoff's "Symphonic Dances," written for and dedicated to The Philadelphia Orchestra.

The following evening, June 24, The Mann presents Idina Menzel, the wickedly bewitching Broadway star best known as the Tony® Award winning witch in the musical blockbuster "Wicked" and for her performance in the revolutionary Broadway hit "Rent." Her career continues with her starring role on the critically acclaimed television series, "Glee." This evening's concert marks The Mann debut of guest conductor Steven Reineke. It is the first of the PECO Pops at The Mann series.

Week Three – July 26-29

Maestro Milanov returns to the podium on July 26 to lead The Philadelphia Orchestra in its annual tradition – an all-Tchaikovsky spectacular featuring the Curtis Institute of Music's Gabriel Cabezas, a 17-year-old cellist who is making his Mann Center debut in Tchaikovsky's "Rococo Variations." The evening includes rousing music from opera "Eugene Onegin" and favorites from "Swan Lake" and "Marche slave," concluding with the ever popular "1812 Overture," which will once again be accompanied by festive fireworks lighting up the night sky.

On July 27, Maestro Milanov leads The Mann's annual Gala Celebration featuring none other than The Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice for an unforgettable evening with The Philadelphia Orchestra. Rice will be heard in the slow movement of Mozart's beloved D minor Piano Concerto and will accompany Franklin in select aria favorites.

As a thrilling finale to The Philadelphia Orchestra's annual summer season, July 29, stunning video images from the worldwide hit BBC television series "Planet Earth" along with its sweeping majestic original score will fill The Mann. The performance explores everything from the mountains to the oceans as "Planet Earth" composer George Fenton, himself, leads the Orchestra in an evening the whole family will enjoy.

For detailed ticket information, call **215.893.1999**, visit the Mann Center box office at 52nd and Parkside Avenue in Fairmount Park, or buy online: www.manncenter.org or www.ticketmaster.com. For ticket package information, call **215.893.1955** or visit www.manncenter.org.

ABOUT THE MANN CENTER

Accessible, attractive, festive and fun, The Mann Center for the Performing Arts presents diverse, world class entertainment in a casually elegant and relaxing setting at affordable prices. It underwent extensive renovations in 2007, enhancing the uniquely wonderful Mann Center experience for its 173,000 visitors annually.

The summer home of The Philadelphia Orchestra since the 1930's, The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, located in Philadelphia's beautiful Fairmount Park, continues its rich tradition as Delaware Valley's premiere outdoor cultural arts center. Concerts and programs encompass all musical genres from pop, jazz, r & b, rock and contemporary, to dance theater, opera and classical. Dine under the stars at Stephen Starr's Crescendo, our tented restaurant overlooking the spectacular Philadelphia skyline, or spread out a picnic blanket on the lush lawn of the Mann. There are several bars and concession stands for food and beverages as well as the *Encore* booth for concert keepsakes.

To make reservations at Crescendo, please call **267.886.1475**.

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Editor's Notes:

- **Photos of artists are available upon request.**
- **Additionally, The Mann Center for the Performing Arts will issue a second release shortly with details on the pop, rock and contemporary artists who will also be part of the 2010 summer season.**