



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 17, 2007

# NEWS RELEASE

**CONTACT:**

Katherine Blodgett  
Director of Public/Media  
Relations

*phone:* 215.893.1939

*e-mail:* [kblodgett@philorch.org](mailto:kblodgett@philorch.org)

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## The Philadelphia Orchestra announces 2008-2009 season

**Charles Dutoit begins tenure as chief conductor and artistic adviser,  
focusing on music of Berlioz and music of the Ballets Russes**

**Orchestra celebrates 75th birthday of Krzysztof Penderecki with U.S. premiere**

**Partnership with Carnegie Hall continues with four concerts, including  
Orchestra's participation in festival celebrating African American cultural heritage**

**Christoph Eschenbach returns to lead two weeks of concerts and a European tour**

**Returning guest conductors include Andrey Boreyko, James Conlon,  
Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Hans Graf, Vladimir Jurowski, Kurt Masur,  
Rossen Milanov, André Previn, Simon Rattle, David Robertson,  
Donald Runnicles, and David Zinman**

**Conductors Michael Tilson Thomas and Emmanuel Krivine make subscription debuts;  
Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Philadelphia Orchestra Assistant Conductor Danail Rachev  
make their Philadelphia Orchestra debuts**

**Returning soloists include pianists Martha Argerich, André Previn,  
Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and André Watts; violinists Leila Josefowicz,  
Leonidas Kavakos, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, and Christian Tetzlaff; cellists  
Truls Mørk and Daniel Müller-Schott; and bass-baritone Thomas Quasthoff**

**Artists making Philadelphia Orchestra debuts include pianist Imogen Cooper, cellist Arto  
Noras, and tenor Giuseppe Sabbatini**

**Violinists Lisa Batiashvili and violinist Sergey Khachatryan,  
Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Viola Choong-Jin Chang,  
and cellist Han-Na Chang make subscription debuts**

**Orchestra increases options for subscribers with new Concert Collections**

– more –

(Philadelphia, February 17, 2008) – **The Philadelphia Orchestra** welcomes **Charles Dutoit** as chief conductor and artistic adviser and announces its **2008-09 season** under his leadership.

“I look forward to embarking on my new role with The Philadelphia Orchestra and deepening my relationship with these marvelous musicians and with Philadelphia audiences,” said Philadelphia Orchestra Chief Conductor and Artistic Adviser Charles Dutoit. “It gives me great pleasure to present a season during which we will encounter some of Berlioz’s grandest works, explore the Ballets Russes, celebrate composer Krzysztof Penderecki, and welcome many guest artists with whom I have long collaborated. The 2008-09 season will be one of many rich musical experiences.”

During the 2008-09 season—and throughout his four-year tenure—Mr. Dutoit will focus on music of **Hector Berlioz** and pieces written for the **Ballets Russes**. Charles Dutoit is especially well-known for his interpretations of French, Russian, and 20th-century music. Works by Berlioz, Ravel, and other French composers make up a large portion of his extensive recording catalog. According to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Mr. Dutoit “remains the authority on the Russian-French tradition.” The upcoming season will also feature the U.S. premiere, led by Mr. Dutoit, of a work by composer **Krzysztof Penderecki**, celebrating the composer’s 75th birthday.

Mr. Dutoit is joined by a distinguished list of returning guest conductors, including **Andrey Boreyko**, **James Conlon**, **Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos**, **Hans Graf**, **Vladimir Jurowski**, **Kurt Masur**, Philadelphia Orchestra Associate Conductor **Rossen Milanov**, **André Previn**, **Simon Rattle**, **David Robertson**, **Donald Runnicles**, and **David Zinman**. **Michael Tilson Thomas**, who last conducted the Orchestra in 1985, makes a long-awaited Philadelphia Orchestra subscription debut. French conductor **Emmanuel Krivine** also makes his subscription debut, and **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** and Philadelphia Orchestra Assistant Conductor **Danail Rachev** make their Philadelphia Orchestra conducting debuts. In addition, **Christoph Eschenbach** returns to lead two weeks of concerts and a European tour.

Charles Dutoit has invited guest artists of the highest caliber to perform with The Philadelphia Orchestra next season. Returning soloists include pianists **Martha Argerich**, **André Previn**, **Jean-Yves Thibaudet**, and **André Watts**; violinists **Leila Josefowicz**, **Leonidas Kavakos**, **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg**, and **Christian Tetzlaff**; cellists **Truls Mørk** and **Daniel Müller-Schott**; mezzo-soprano **Magdalena Kožená**; and bass-baritone **Thomas Quasthoff**.

Artists making Philadelphia Orchestra debuts include pianist **Imogen Cooper**, cellist **Arto Noras**, and tenor **Giuseppe Sabbatini**. Violinists **Lisa Batiashvili** and **Sergey Khachatryan**, Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Viola **Choong-Jin Chang**, and cellist **Han-Na Chang** make subscription debuts.

## Charles Dutoit makes Berlioz a focus of his tenure

The works of **Hector Berlioz** will be a major focus of Mr. Dutoit's tenure as chief conductor and artistic adviser. Although Berlioz is now considered one of the great French Romantics, his works were not fully accepted in his day. For much of his life, he earned his living as a music critic and, later, a conductor. While he won international fame leading performances of his own work, these concerts generally took place outside of France.

Berlioz was a person of intense emotional feeling, which he expressed in his music. Orchestral color, theatrical effects, and spacious sonorities combine to capture his unique vision. Seen as eccentric during much of his lifetime, Berlioz is now respected as a highly original and imaginative composer who refused to compromise his artistic vision.

Three of Berlioz's largest and most dramatic works are featured during the 2008-09 season: *Romeo and Juliet* (October 16-18, 21) and the **Requiem** (June 18-19, 21), both led by Charles Dutoit, and *The Damnation of Faust* (April 29, May 1-2), conducted by Simon Rattle.

Berlioz's *Romeo and Juliet*, described as a "dramatic symphony," draws on two sources that were deeply inspirational for the composer: Shakespeare and Beethoven. "Shakespeare, coming upon me unawares, struck me like a thunderbolt," the composer wrote of attending performances of *Hamlet* and *Romeo and Juliet* in Paris. His passion quickly grew into an obsession for the Bard's plays and for the actress Irish Harriet Smithson, who had played the leading lady in both performances. Smithson inspired Berlioz's famous *Symphonie fantastique* and later became his wife. Over the following decades, Shakespeare became a source of inspiration for many of Berlioz's works, including *Beatrice and Benedict* (a comic opera based on *Much Ado About Nothing*), *Fantasy on The Tempest*, the *King Lear Overture*, and *The Death of Ophelia* (inspired by *Hamlet*).

Of hearing Beethoven's music, Berlioz wrote: "The shock was almost as great as that of Shakespeare had been. Beethoven opened before me a new world of music, as Shakespeare had revealed a new universe of poetry." *Romeo and Juliet* combines words with dramatic writing for orchestra and vocalists, paying homage to Shakespeare's drama and to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

The German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was another source of inspiration – even obsession – for Berlioz. "The marvelous book fascinated me from the first," wrote Berlioz of Goethe's *Faust*. "I could not put it down. I read it incessantly, at meals, in the theatre, in the street." His obsession led to *The Damnation of Faust*, a highly personal retelling of Faust's dealings with the devil.

Although not religious in an orthodox sense, Berlioz was drawn to the imagery and drama of the *Grande Messe des Morts*, the Catholic mass for the dead. His **Requiem**, one of his few

works that won acclaim in France during his lifetime, is an impassioned vision of death and judgment. The work travels through fear and confusion to a conclusion full of hope and peace. It was a favorite of Berlioz, who once wrote, "If I were threatened with the destruction of the whole of my works save one, I should crave mercy for the *Messe des Morts*."

## Ballets Russes – A Russian Art Form in Paris

The term **Ballets Russes** refers to the great ballet company led by the Russian impresario, Sergei Diaghilev, in early-20th-century Paris. Although not a professional artist, Diaghilev had a powerful artistic vision for dance, and his work set a new direction for ballet in the West. He brought together some of Russia's leading dancers and choreographers, well-known or promising European composers (usually French or Russian), and avant-garde artists as designers.

Diaghilev founded his Ballets Russes in 1909. Over the next two decades, he worked with choreographers such as Michel Fokine, George Balanchine, Leonid Massine, and Vaslav Nijinsky. His designers included Matisse, Picasso, and Rouault. He chose equally distinguished names to compose for his groundbreaking ballets. Igor Stravinsky was virtually discovered and introduced to the world by Diaghilev, for whom the composer wrote *The Firebird* (1910), *Petrushka* (1911), and *The Rite of Spring* (1913), among other works. Other composers who wrote for the impresario include Borodin, Chopin, Falla, Debussy, Poulenc, Prokofiev, Ravel, Satie, and Richard Strauss.

The Philadelphia Orchestra's focus on Ballets Russes begins with **Stravinsky's *Firebird*** in the 2008-09 season (March 19-22, 24) and continues throughout Mr. Dutoit's tenure. Based on a Russian folk tale about a magical bird with plumage that shines like fire, *The Firebird* centers on the hero Ivan, who falls in love with a beautiful captured maiden and enlists the bird to free his love. It was Stravinsky's first ballet for Diaghilev and its success brought the 28-year-old composer fame in Paris and abroad.

Charles Dutoit has a close connection with the musical tradition of the Ballets Russes through two teachers, French-born conductor Pierre Monteux and Swiss conductor Ernest Ansermet. Monteux became conductor of the Ballets Russes in 1911 and led the premieres of Stravinsky's *Petrushka* and *The Rite of Spring* (1913), as well as Debussy's *Jeux* and Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloé* (1912). Ansermet followed Monteux, serving as conductor for the Ballets Russes from 1915 to 1923. As a young music student, Mr. Dutoit attended Ansermet's rehearsals with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and considered the conductor a mentor.

## Krzysztof Penderecki's Concerto grosso No. 1, for three cellos

The Philadelphia Orchestra celebrates the 75th birthday of Krzysztof Penderecki with the United States premiere of the composer's **Concerto grosso No. 1, for three cellos**. Led

by Charles Dutoit, the work is paired with Stravinsky's *Dumbarton Oaks* and Sibelius's Symphony No. 1 (October 10, 11) and performed with Lutoslawski's Piano Concerto (with Krystian Zimerman) on an Access Concert (October 14). The Orchestra will also honor Mr. Penderecki with an all-Penderecki **Chamber Music Concert** performed by musicians of the Orchestra, violinist Chantal Juillet, and cellist Arto Noras (October 12).

The three cellists who will perform the Concerto grosso are Han-Na Chang, Daniel Müller-Schott, and Arto Noras. Ms. Chang performed the world premiere with Tokyo's NHK Symphony under Charles Dutoit in 2001. Since then the work has gained great popularity and has been performed throughout Europe and Asia.

Writing for Andante.com, music critic Koh Yoshimura described the premiere: "This new work is typical of [Penderecki's] recent idiom: eclectic, dramatic, often overtly tonal, and appealing to the public. The Concerto grosso's writing is ... very much like Bartók and Shostakovich, with a flavor of late Mahler and with few tone clusters (Penderecki's trademark in the 1960s)."

Mr. Dutoit and Mr. Penderecki have collaborated for many years. In the summer of 2007, Mr. Penderecki was composer-in-residence at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC), where Mr. Dutoit has been the Orchestra's artistic director and principal conductor since 1990. In 1996, Mr. Dutoit led the Montreal Symphony in the world premiere of Mr. Penderecki's Third Symphony at Carnegie Hall.

Mr. Penderecki has led The Philadelphia Orchestra in performances of his own works on several occasions. He conducted his *Metamorphosen* (Violin Concerto No. 2), with Chantal Juillet as soloist, in 1996 and his *Te Deum* in 1982. As composer in residence at SPAC in August 2007, he led a performance of his Symphony No. 2 ("Christmas"). Under Eugene Ormandy, the Orchestra gave the U.S. premiere of Mr. Penderecki's *Utrenja, the Entombment of Christ* in 1970. In 2002 Wolfgang Sawallisch led the world premiere of the composer's Piano Concerto ("Resurrection"), performed by Emanuel Ax.

## In Partnership with Carnegie Hall

The Philadelphia Orchestra continues its partnership with New York City's Carnegie Hall, performing four concerts there during the 2008-09 season. **Charles Dutoit** leads two of the four programs. The first features Mr. Dutoit's long-time collaborator Martha Argerich performing the first piano concertos of Prokofiev and Shostakovich. The program also feature Ravel's *Valses nobles et sentimentales* and Musorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* (October 7).

The Orchestra's second concert at Carnegie is part of a special program curated by Jessye Norman and titled "**Honor! A Celebration of the African American Cultural Legacy.**" The Orchestra's program includes Milhaud's jazz-tinged *The Creation of the World*

and Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 ("From the New World") (March 17). The festival offers a personal exploration of the Spiritual, gospel, jazz, R&B, and classical voices that have made African American music celebrated throughout the world; it also pays tribute to these pioneering artists with nearly 20 concerts, recitals, and panel discussions at Carnegie Hall, the Apollo Theater, The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and other venues in the city.

The Orchestra's third and fourth Carnegie concerts are led by **André Previn** (April 7) and **Simon Rattle** (May 1), respectively. Mr. Previn, who leads the Philadelphians for the first time since 1995, conducts and plays Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24, K. 491. He has only appeared as pianist once with the Orchestra, performing the same Mozart concerto in Saratoga in 1969.

The concert's second half features Richard Strauss's *Symphonia domestica*. While many composers have taken inspiration from their personal lives, Richard Strauss's *Symphonia domestica* is like a dose of reality TV to the symphonic world. This multi-movement work details a 24-hour period in the Strauss household complete with screaming child Franz, family feuds, and a love scene between Strauss and his wife.

British conductor and Berlin Philharmonic Music Director **Simon Rattle** returns to The Philadelphia Orchestra (the only American ensemble he conducts) for the second season in a row. Towards the beginning of his two-week stay, he leads four outstanding soloists—mezzo-soprano Magdalena Kožená, tenor Giuseppe Sabbatini (in his Philadelphia Orchestra debut), and bass-baritones Eric Owens and Thomas Quasthoff—in Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust* (May 1).

## Programs Led by Charles Dutoit

In his first season as chief conductor and artistic adviser, Charles Dutoit leads The Philadelphia Orchestra in 10 weeks of concerts and the 2008-09 season's Opening Night Concert, featuring pianist Martha Argerich (October 4). In addition to the previously mentioned programs, Mr. Dutoit also leads performances of Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* and Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2, performed by Lisa Batiashvili in her Philadelphia Orchestra subscription debut, paired with Stravinsky's complete *Firebird* (March 19-22, 24). He also conducts Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture*, Honegger's Symphony No. 3 ("Liturgical"), and Brahms's Violin Concerto with Julia Fischer as soloist (May 28-31). In June, Mr. Dutoit leads Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand and Liszt's *Totentanz* (both featuring Jean-Yves Thibaudet), paired with Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances and Ravel's *La Valse* (June 3-7), and Debussy's *Images* with Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 (June 12-13, 16).

## Returning Guest Conductors

The 2008-09 season boasts visits by some of the world's most distinguished conductors.

Two august maestros—**Kurt Masur** and **André Previn**—return after long absences, while several familiar favorites—**Christoph Eschenbach**, **Simon Rattle**, **Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos**—return for multiple weeks.

**Kurt Masur** last led The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1991 and returns for a program featuring Brahms's Second Symphony, Shostakovich's First Violin Concerto (with Sergey Khachatryan), and Richard Strauss's humorous tone poem *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*, a colorful portrait depicting the antics of a notorious prankster and folk icon (April 16-18). **André Previn's** Carnegie Hall program receives three performances in Philadelphia (April 2-4).

**Christoph Eschenbach** returns in January to lead two weeks of concerts. Violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg joins him for the first week, performing Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1. For two performances, the work is paired with Matthias Pintscher's *Osiris* and Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony (January 15-16). For the third performance it is paired with Bruckner's Sixth Symphony (January 17). The following week Mr. Eschenbach conducts Bartók's Violin Concerto No. 2 (with Leonidas Kavakos as soloist), paired respectively with Bruckner's Sixth Symphony (January 22) and Schubert's "Great" Symphony in C major (January 23). Mr. Eschenbach also joins Orchestra members as pianist for a Chamber Music Concert (January 18) and conducts an Access Concert (January 21) and the Academy of Music 152nd Anniversary Concert (January 24). He and the Orchestra then embark on a three-week European tour, performing in the Canary Islands, Spain, Portugal, Luxembourg, Hungary, and Austria.

**Simon Rattle** begins his two-week stay with Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust* (April 29, May 1-2). In his second week of concerts, he leads **Bruckner's Eighth Symphony**, preceded by the Philadelphia Orchestra debut of renowned pianist **Imogen Cooper**, who performs **Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25, K. 503** (May 7-9). Two of Great Britain's most celebrated classical musicians, Mr. Rattle and Ms. Cooper have performed together for many years.

**Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos** leads two programs. The first is a colorful collection of five pieces, each describing or evoking the musical sounds of a place. Schumann's Symphony No. 3 ("Rhenish") celebrates the Rhine River. Ernest Chausson's *Poème*, for violin and orchestra, was inspired "by the landscapes or works of art" in Florence. Ravel's *Tzigane* imitates the sound of gypsy violin music, and two suites from Falla's opera *The Three-Cornered Hat* replicate Spanish folk music. Concertmaster David Kim is soloist, celebrating 10 years as concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra (October 23-25). Mr. Frühbeck de Burgos's second program features Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 and excerpts from Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, sung by soprano and tenor soloists (yet to be announced), renowned Wagnerian bass James Morris, and The Philadelphia Singers Chorale.

Russian conductor **Vladimir Jurowski** returns for five performances of Mahler's *Das klagende Lied*, paired with Berg's Three Pieces for Orchestra. Based on stories by Ludwig

Bechstein and the Brothers Grimm, Mahler's work tells a tale of two brothers; the older one murders the younger to win the hand of a queen. When a minstrel finds the younger brother's remains and fashions a flute out of one of the bones, the instrument sings a song recounting the evil deed and exposing the murderer. Soloists for this work are soprano Twyla Robinson, mezzo-soprano Iris Vermillion, and tenor Michael Hendrick (all making their Philadelphia Orchestra debuts) and a baritone to be announced at a later date (March 5-8, 10).

French conductor **Stéphane Denève** made his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in 2007 and was hailed as "a thoroughly superb musical thinker" and "a guest most welcome" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*). He returns in April 2009 for a program featuring Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 (with pianist Jonathan Biss) and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5 ("Reformation"). The program opens with a work by Guillaume Connesson titled *Une Lueur dans l'age sombre*, which translates "a glimmer in the age of darkness." The work depicts the birth of the stars. Mr. Denève has conducted the world and U.S. premieres of the work. The young French composer has described the work as "a vast, contemplative slow movement" with moments of "glistening, infinitely sweet music."

Philadelphia Orchestra Associate Conductor **Rossen Milanov** conducts two weeks of concerts (September 26 and 30 and May 14-16) in addition to leading a New Year's Eve Concert (December 31), a Family Concert (April 4), and an Access Concert (April 21).

**David Robertson** is joined by violinist Leila Josefowicz for the first Philadelphia Orchestra performances of Thomas Adès's Violin Concerto ("Concentric Paths"). They perform this work on an Access Concert (May 21) and a week of concerts in which it is paired with Vaughan Williams's Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis, Sibelius's *En Saga*, and Scriabin's *The Poem of Ecstasy* (May 22-23).

**James Conlon** returns with a program featuring Schreker's Prelude to a Drama, Scenes from Zemlinsky's opera *The Dwarf*, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 (October 31 and November 1); **Hans Graf** leads Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22, K. 482 (with Stewart Goodyear as soloist) and Bruckner's Symphony No. 4 ("Romantic") (November 20-22); **Andrey Boreyko** leads performance of Wagner's Prelude and "Liebestod" from *Tristan and Isolde*, Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 (with Garrick Ohlsson), and Brahms's Piano Quartet No. 1, orchestrated by Schoenberg (November 28-29 and December 2); **David Zinman** conducts Barber's Symphony No. 1, Elgar's Cello Concerto (with Truls Mørk), and Strauss's *Also sprach Zarathustra* (December 4-6); and **Donald Runnicles** returns to lead Webern's *Im Sommerwind*, Beethoven's Violin Concerto (with Christian Tetzlaff as soloist), and Brahms's Symphony No. 4 (January 8-11).

## Conducting Debuts

Two conductors make their subscription concert debuts and two lead the Orchestra for

the first time during the 2008-09 season. San Francisco Symphony Music Director **Michael Tilson Thomas** returns after a long absence to make his Philadelphia Orchestra subscription debut. (Mr. Tilson Thomas led the Orchestra in 23 concerts at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts from 1971 and 1985.) His program features Copland's Symphony for Organ and Orchestra and Mahler's Fifth Symphony (November 6-9). Mr. Tilson Thomas has won eight Grammy awards, including three for his recordings of works by Mahler with the San Francisco Symphony.

French conductor **Emmanuel Krivine** makes his Philadelphia Orchestra subscription debut with Debussy's *Printemps*, Khachaturian's Violin Concerto (with Gil Shaham as soloist), and Dvořák's Symphony No. 8 (March 26-29). Mr. Krivine conducted the Orchestra at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts in 2001 and 2002.

The young conductor **Yannick Nézet-Séguin** makes his Philadelphia Orchestra conducting debut leading Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 (with André Watts) and Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique" Symphony. Newly-appointed Philadelphia Orchestra Assistant Conductor **Danail Rachev** leads the Orchestra for the first time in a Family Concert featuring Poulenc's *The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant*, with actor Michael Boudewyns as narrator (October 11). Mr. Rachev also conducts Family Concerts (November 22 and March 14), The Glorious Sound of Christmas (December 18-20), and an Access Concert (November 25).

## Guest Soloists – Piano and Strings

Guest artists joining The Philadelphia Orchestra for the 2008-09 season include nine pianists, nine violinists, 12 vocal soloists, four cellists, one violist, two ensembles, and a narrator. Of these artists, nine are making their Philadelphia Orchestra debuts: pianist **Imogen Cooper**; cellist **Arto Noras**; soprano **Twyla Robinson**; mezzo-soprano **Iris Vermillion**; tenors **Michael Hendrick**, **Gregory Kunde**, and **Giuseppe Sabbatini**; and baritone **David Wilson-Johnson**. Violinists **Lisa Batiashvili** and **Sergey Khachatryan**, Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Viola **Choong-Jin Chang**, and cellist **Han-Na Chang** make subscription debuts.

Of the nine pianists featured during the 2007-08 season only the renowned British pianist **Imogen Cooper** will appear with the Orchestra for the first time. She joins her friend, collaborator, and compatriot Simon Rattle for performances of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25, K. 503 (May 7-9). Polish pianist **Krystian Zimerman**, who was last here in 1997, returns to perform the Piano Concerto by his countryman Witold Lutosławski on the first Access Concert of the season (October 14). Conductor, pianist, and composer **André Previn** returns to conduct and play Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 24, K. 491 (April 2-4, 7).

**Martha Argerich** is among the many familiar faces who return. The legendary pianist performs the first piano concertos of Prokofiev and Shostakovich, under Mr. Dutoit's direction, in

Philadelphia (October 2-3) and at Carnegie Hall (October 7). She encores Prokofiev's work on Opening Night (October 4). **Jean-Yves Thibaudet** takes on a similarly daunting program, also led by Mr. Dutoit. The pianist performs Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand, and then returns to the stage for Liszt's *Totentanz*, a set of variations on the "Dies irae" (June 3-7).

Other returning pianists are **Jonathan Biss** (Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 with Stéphane Denève, April 23-25), **Stewart Goodyear** (Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22, K. 482, with Hans Graf, November 20-22), **Garrick Ohlsson** (Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, with Andrey Boreyko, November 28-29, December 2), and **André Watts** (Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2, with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, December 11-13).

As a teenager Armenian violinist **Sergey Khachatryan** became the youngest person ever to win first prize in the International Jean Sibelius Competition. Now in his 20s, he debuted with the New York Philharmonic and the Cleveland Orchestra under Kurt Masur's direction, and they will perform Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1 (April 16-18). Also in her 20s, **Lisa Batiashvili** returns for her subscription debut, after performing with the Orchestra and Charles Dutoit in Saratoga in 2005. She will play Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2 with Mr. Dutoit on the podium (March 19-22, 24).

In addition, violinist **Julia Fischer** performs Brahms's Violin Concerto with Charles Dutoit (May 28-31), **Leila Josefowicz** plays Thomas Adès's Violin Concerto led by David Robertson (May 21-23), **Leonidas Kavakos** performs Bartók's Violin Concerto No. 2 with Christoph Eschenbach (January 22-23), **Gil Shaham** performs Khachaturian's Violin Concerto under Emmanuel Krivine (March 26-29), **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** plays Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 with Mr. Eschenbach (January 15-17), and **Christian Tetzlaff** joins Donald Runnicles to play Beethoven's Violin Concerto (January 8-11).

Two of the Orchestra's principal strings solo during the season. Concertmaster **David Kim** celebrates his 10th anniversary with the Orchestra, performing Chausson's *Poème* and Ravel's *Tzigane* under Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos (October 23-25). Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Viola **Choong-Jin Chang** makes his subscription debut with Bartók's Viola Concerto on an all-Eastern European program led by Rossen Milanov (May 14-16).

Four cellists perform with the Orchestra in the 2008-09 season: three are soloists for Penderecki's Concerto grosso. **Han-Na Chang** of Korea (in her subscription debut), **Daniel Müller-Schott** of Germany, and Finland's **Arto Noras** (in his Philadelphia Orchestra debut) (October 10-11, 14). Norwegian cellist **Truls Mørk** performs Elgar's bittersweet and beautiful Cello Concerto (December 4-5, 6).

## **Guest Soloists – Vocalists, Narrator, and Ensembles**

Vocal soloists are featured in five major works programmed for the 2008-09 season. The

excerpts from Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* call for soprano, tenor, and bass soloists. Philadelphia-trained bass **James Morris**, renowned for his Wagner roles, sings the part of Hans Sachs (November 13-15). Soprano and tenor soloists will be announced at a later date.

Mahler's *Das klagende Lied* features three debut artists: American soprano **Twyla Robinson**, whose last few years have been filled with orchestral debuts around the world; German mezzo-soprano **Iris Vermillion**, who has sung on stages through Europe and on over 30 recordings; and American tenor **Michael Hendrick** (March 5-8, 10). The baritone soloist will be announced at a later date.

Soloists for Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust* are mezzo-soprano **Magdalena Kožená**, who made her Orchestra debut under Simon Rattle in 2006; **Giuseppe Sabbatini**, an Italian tenor with an international career; bass-baritone **Eric Owens**, a Philadelphia native and a regular at Opera Company of Philadelphia and stages worldwide; and the exquisite German bass-baritone **Thomas Quasthoff** (April 29, May 1-2).

The young Romanian mezzo-soprano **Ruxandra Donose** returns as Juliet in Berlioz's retelling of Shakespeare's classic tale. Joining her are two debut singers who have previously performed the work with Charles Dutoit: tenor **Gregory Kunde** as Romeo and baritone **David Wilson-Johnson** as Friar Laurence.

Tenor **Paul Groves**, who has previously sung Handel's *Messiah* and Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Orchestra, returns as tenor soloist for Berlioz's Requiem. All vocal works also feature **The Philadelphia Singers Chorale**.

Actor **Michael Boudewyns** has narrated several Philadelphia Orchestra Family and School Concerts and returns for Poulenc's *The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant* (October 5). The **Intercultural Journeys** ensemble, created by Philadelphia Orchestra cellist Ohad Bar-David, performs on Family and Access Concerts (November 22 and 25, respectively).

## Additional Concert Series and Programs

While the season's subscription concerts in Philadelphia, as well as at New York's Carnegie Hall, represent a major focus of The Philadelphia Orchestra's time and talent, a variety of additional concerts and musical presentations round out the ensemble's offerings for Philadelphia and the region. These offerings at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts include a regular series of six chamber concerts, and special concerts – including the Marian Anderson Award Concert (November 17), Handel's *Messiah* (December 14), the Glorious Sound of Christmas (December 18-20), and a New Year's Eve Concert (December 31) – to commemorate community events and holidays. The Orchestra also performs an annual Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute Concert (January 19). Other special event concerts include Opening

Night (October 4) and the 152nd Academy of Music Anniversary Concert (January 24). The Orchestra also performs family and education concerts and programs.

## **New Concert Collections Give Subscribers More Choices**

The Philadelphia Orchestra has redesigned its concert packages for the 2008-09 season and introduces four **Concert Collections**: Masterworks, Connoisseur, Odyssey, and Celebration. The new Concert Collections are based on audience feedback and designed to give subscribers more choices in how they experience an Orchestra concert. Each of the Collections is built around fundamental audience attitudes and concert desires, some of which overlap between Collections, with musical programs selected from across the season to appeal to differing audience choices. In addition, concert enhancements, called **MUSIC+**, are offered for select series in three of the four Collections. They include 1) in-performance live-image projection of artists and the Orchestra on screen, 2) spoken concert introductions, 3) free Postlude Recitals, and 4) pre- or post-concert social opportunities with musicians and other audience members.

The Orchestra has also expanded two popular programs of recent years. The **Create-Your-Own Concert Collection** previously allowed listeners to create customized packages of four or more subscription concerts, but did not include special subscriber benefits. The expanded Create-Your-Own Concert Collection now offers listeners six or more concerts, plus the full benefits offered to other subscribers, and is available earlier than ever before.

Due to growing demand for tickets, the Orchestra has also increased the size of its **Access Concert Series** from four to six concerts. Designed for new or curious classical music listeners, the 75-minute, lower-priced Access concerts feature full performances of classical works preceded by explanations and excerpts.

The four new Collections, the Create-Your-Own, the Access Series, and the Orchestra's Chamber Music Concerts join together to offer a broad range of choices for differing audience tastes and desires.

## **Season Sponsorship**

The Philadelphia Orchestra is proud to partner with the global financial services firm UBS, sponsor of the 2008-09 season. "UBS is pleased to continue our partnership with The Philadelphia Orchestra as its ongoing season sponsor," said Marten Hoekstra, head of UBS Wealth Management Americas. "This partnership builds upon our firm's longstanding, global commitment to orchestral music, and to the communities in which we live and work. We are proud of our relationship with this world renowned orchestra and wish The Philadelphia Orchestra a successful upcoming season."

## **Charles Dutoit**

Recently appointed chief conductor and artistic adviser of The Philadelphia Orchestra, beginning in September 2008, as well as artistic director and principal conductor of the Royal Philharmonic, beginning in 2009, **Charles Dutoit** regularly collaborates with the world's leading orchestras. Since his debut with The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1980, Mr. Dutoit has been invited each season to conduct all the major orchestras of the United States, including those of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland. He has also performed regularly with all the great orchestras of Europe, including the Berlin Philharmonic and Amsterdam's Concertgebouw Orchestra, as well as the Israel Philharmonic and the major orchestras of Japan, South America, and Australia. Mr. Dutoit has recorded extensively for Decca, Deutsche Grammophon, EMI, Philips, CBS, Erato, and other labels with American, European, and Japanese orchestras. His more than 170 recordings, half of them with the Montreal Symphony, have garnered more than 40 awards and distinctions.

Since 1990 Mr. Dutoit has been artistic director and principal conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra's summer festival at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Between 1990 and 1999, he also directed the Orchestra's summer series at the Mann Center, and led them in a series of distinctive recordings. From 1991 to 2001, he was music director of the Orchestre National de France. In 1996 he was appointed principal conductor, and in 1998 music director, of the NHK Symphony in Tokyo. For 25 years (1977 to 2002), Mr. Dutoit was artistic director of the Montreal Symphony.

When still in his early 20s, Mr. Dutoit was invited by Herbert von Karajan to lead the Vienna State Opera. Mr. Dutoit has since conducted regularly at Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera, and the Deutsche Oper in Berlin. He also led productions at the Los Angeles Music Center Opera and the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires.

In 1988 the government of France made Mr. Dutoit an Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres and in 1996 he was promoted to Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. In 1991 he was made an Honorary Citizen of the City of Philadelphia. In 1995 the government of Québec named him Grand Officier de l'Ordre National du Québec. He has also been awarded the Canadian Music Council Medal as well as the Diploma of Honor by the Canadian Conference of the Arts. In 1998 he was invested as Honorary Officer of the Order of Canada, the country's highest award of merit. Mr. Dutoit was born in

Lausanne, Switzerland, and his musical training took him to Geneva, Siena, Venice, and Tanglewood, where he worked with Charles Munch.

A globetrotter motivated by his passion for history and archaeology, political science, art, and architecture, Mr. Dutoit has traveled and visited all the nations of the world. He maintains residences in Switzerland, Paris, Montreal, Buenos Aires, and Tokyo.

## **The Philadelphia Orchestra**

Founded in 1900, The Philadelphia Orchestra has distinguished itself as one of the leading orchestras in the world through over a century of acclaimed performances, historic international tours, best-selling recordings, and 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. This rich tradition has been carried on by Christoph Eschenbach, who became music director in September 2003. Charles Dutoit takes on the role of chief conductor and artistic adviser beginning with the 2008-09 season.

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 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 an ongoing \$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 at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia, in addition to education and community partnership programs, and appears annually at Carnegie Hall. Its summer schedule includes a series at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, free Neighborhood Concerts, and residencies at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center and Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival.

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

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