



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **The Philadelphia Orchestra Receives Challenge Grant from William Penn Foundation**

(Philadelphia, March 17, 2009)—The Philadelphia Orchestra announced today that it has received a \$250,000 challenge grant from the William Penn Foundation. The two-to-one challenge grant must be matched by July 31, 2009 with \$500,000 in new or increased contributions to the Orchestra's Annual Fund. This fund provides critical operating support for the institution.

"We're delighted to offer our support to one of Philadelphia's outstanding cultural jewels, and we hope that other donors will take up the challenge and join us in making a strong statement of community support for this world class orchestra," said William Penn Foundation President Feather Houstoun.

"In a challenging economic climate this award from the William Penn Foundation stands as a vote of confidence in The Philadelphia Orchestra," said Philadelphia Orchestra Association Executive Director and CEO Frank Slattery. "The grant will provide important momentum and help inspire Board members and donors to contribute additional support toward the future financial stability of the organization."

The William Penn Foundation, founded in 1945 by Otto and Phoebe Haas, is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Greater Philadelphia region through efforts that foster rich cultural expression, strengthen children's futures, and deepen connections to nature and community. In partnership with others, the Foundation works to advance a vital, just, and caring community. Learn more about the Foundation online at [www.williampenfoundation.org](http://www.williampenfoundation.org).

## **The Philadelphia Orchestra**

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](http://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 visit [www.philorch.org](http://www.philorch.org).

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