

**THE MANN**  
CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
FAIRMOUNT PARK | PHILADELPHIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Mann Center for the Performing Arts Presents Opening Week,**  
**Featuring The Philadelphia Orchestra**

***Star-Studded Line-Up of Guest Performers Celebrate  
75 Years of Live Music in the Park***

**PHILADELPHIA (June 3, 2010)** – Heralding the return of summer, The Philadelphia Orchestra will open the 75<sup>th</sup> season of live music in Fairmount Park at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts on June 15. Maestro Rossen Milanov will conduct the season’s premiere, a presentation of Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1 and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9. Week one of the Orchestra’s summer at The Mann also features an all-star line-up of special guest performers, including television’s king of daytime, Regis Philbin, and his wife, Joy, as well as trumpeter Chris Botti, the top selling jazz instrumentalist in the United States.

“Summertime in Philadelphia means summer concerts and memorable, starry night experiences at The Mann. We’re delighted to be returning for our 75<sup>th</sup> season of live music in the park,” said Catherine M. Cahill, president and CEO of The Mann Center for the Performing Arts. “The performances for The Philadelphia Orchestra and special guests this season are extraordinary, and that’s certainly true for our opening week.”

**Opening Night – June 15**

All-time favorite musical selections punctuated by the award-winning talent of a rising star create the program for a memorable 2010 opening night concert. Making his Mann Center debut is pianist Haochen Zhang, the latest co-Gold Medal Winner of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and a student at Philadelphia’s own Curtis Institute of Music. Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1, one of the most beloved of all concertos, will kick off the season followed by Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9. Opening night will also feature Mann Center debuts for young virtuoso singers Heidi Melton (soprano), Katherine Lerner (mezzo-soprano), Kevin Ray (tenor) and Jonathan Beyer (baritone) as well as The Philadelphia Singers Chorale. All are current or former Curtis Institute students. Tickets for this event are \$50 and \$35, with Lawn tickets at \$10.

**June 16 – Mozart, Prokofiev, Dukas and Ravel**

An evening of music by the kings of classical will be center stage on Wednesday, June 16. So will the king of daytime television, Regis Philbin, when he and his wife, Joy, join The Philadelphia Orchestra to narrate Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*. With Maestro Milanov at the helm, the night will also celebrate Orchestra virtuosos as members of its wind section step forward to play Mozart's beautiful Sinfonia concertante for winds and orchestra (Peter Smith, associate principal oboe; Samuel Caviezel, associate principal clarinet; Daniel Matsukawa, principal bassoon; Jeffrey Lang, associate principal horn). The second half will include Dukas' *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, made popular in the 1940 Disney film *Fantasia*, and the program will conclude with the greatest showpiece of them all, Ravel's *Bolero*. Tickets for this event are \$60, \$50 or \$40, with Lawn tickets at \$10.

#### June 17 – Chris Botti and The Philadelphia Orchestra

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 Lisa Fisher, in a performance reminiscent of his PBS special, *Chris Botti in Boston*. Since the release of his 2004 critically acclaimed CD *When I Fall in Love*, Botti has become the top-selling American instrumental artist. Botti's sophisticated elegance and sensuality will inspire with the incomparable Philadelphia Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Milanov. Tickets for this event are \$60, \$50 or \$36 with Lawn tickets at \$10.

A full season celebrating The Mann Center's 75<sup>th</sup> season and the audience, artists and experience that are unique to this outdoor concert venue awaits you – visit [www.manncenter.org](http://www.manncenter.org) for more information and to purchase tickets.

#### **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. The venue 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 an *Encore* booth for concert keepsakes.

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

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