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The Mann Center Presents Week Two of Philadelphia Orchestra's Summer Season

***Celebrating 75 Years of Live Music in the Park:
June 22–24 Features Angela Brown, André Watts, Idina Menzel***

PHILADELPHIA PA – June 7, 2010 – From opera to classical to Broadway, Week Two of The Philadelphia Orchestra's summer season at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts – June 22 to June 24 – promises moments of inspiration and "Glee!" An extraordinary arrangement of special guests will perform with the Orchestra, including international opera soprano Angela Brown, the classical world's most honored pianist, André Watts, and the wickedly bewitching Broadway, film and television star Idina Menzel.

"There is literally something for everyone in these performances," said Catherine M. Cahill, president and CEO of The Mann Center for the Performing Arts. "In addition to presenting the best of The Fabulous Philadelphians to those who already love them, our goal this summer is to introduce new audiences to the Orchestra's incredible music through creative artist pairings that feature other genres such as opera and popular Broadway selections," she said.

June 21 & 22 – Summertime Songs – A Tribute & Free Preview Concert

Long before African American artists the likes of Marian Anderson were permitted on concert stages, The Mann's predecessor, The Robin Hood Dell, was welcoming them to perform live for Philadelphia audiences. In a tribute to those artists, Summertime Songs will present an evening of opera's greatest hits, paying homage to the legendary names of the past that have graced the stages of The Robin Hood Dell and The Mann Center for nearly eight decades. Masterpieces

from *Carmen*, *Aida*, *Rigoletto* and *Porgy and Bess* will be sung by today's top voices, including Angela Brown (soprano), Marietta Simpson (mezzo-soprano), Adrienne Danrich (soprano), Vinson Cole (tenor) and Gordon Hawkins (baritone). All will perform with The Philadelphia Orchestra under the direction of conductor Edoardo Müller.

Prior to the Summertime Songs performance, a special pre-concert program will begin at 6:30 p.m. Soprano Adrienne Danrich presents "This Little Light of Mine," an inventive one-woman musical tribute honoring the groundbreaking careers of the opera legends Marion Anderson and Leontyne Price with additional acknowledgment of Todd Duncan, Anne Brown, Dorothy Maynor and Shirley Verrett. Danrich narrates the story and performs various songs and arias while also documenting the lives of these legends through photos and famous recordings.

As part of The Mann Center's Community Engagement Program, a free solo performance by Angela Brown is open to the public on June 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Old Pine Presbyterian Church on 4th & Pine Streets. "Opera from a Sistah's Point of View" highlights Brown's mission to bring operatic and classical vocal performance to a diverse audience. The witty and lively solo show dispels the myths of opera through commentary on opera plots and characters, show-stopping arias, poignant art songs and moving spirituals.

Tickets for Summertime Songs on June 22 are \$50, \$40 or \$30 with Lawn tickets at \$10. The June 21 performance of "Opera from a Sistah's Point of View" is free of charge.

June 23 – André Watts

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts 2010 season showcases an evening of the most respected and honored pianist before the American public today, André Watts, who will perform with The Philadelphia Orchestra led by conductor Giancarlo Guererro.

Watts made his Philadelphia debut at the Mann in 1957 at age 11, thrilling audiences both at the Academy of Music and at The Mann Center and went on to a celebrated worldwide career. He returns to play again with our great Philadelphia Orchestra with Beethoven's most romantic piano concerto, No. 4 in G. The program also features the Symphonic Dances by Sergei Rachmaninoff, written for and dedicated to our very own Philadelphia Orchestra, conducted by Giancarlo Guerrero, who will open the program leading Samuel Barber's Second Essay for Orchestra.

Tickets for this event are \$50, \$40 or \$30 with Lawn tickets at \$10.

June 24 – Wickedly Bewitching Idina Menzel

From Broadway's *Wicked* and *Rent* to FOX Television's smash hit *Glee!*, Idina Menzel is a powerhouse vocalist who joins The Philadelphia Orchestra on June 24 for a wickedly bewitching evening of music under the direction of conductor and New York Pops Music Director Steven

Reineke. Menzel won the Tony award for her portrayal of Elphaba from the international blockbuster *Wicked*, and she was nominated for a Tony for her Broadway debut performance as Maureen in the original production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning hit *Rent*.

She will perform a diverse repertoire of classic pop and musical theater favorites with The Philadelphia Orchestra (including hits from *Wicked* and *Rent*). She will also perform songs from her album "I Stand" reprising aspects of her sold-out *I Stand* U.S. concert tour last summer.

Tickets for this event are \$50, \$40 or \$30 with Lawn tickets at \$10.

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.

Editor's Note: Photos of artists are available upon request.

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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