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**The Mann Center Presents Final Week of
The Philadelphia Orchestra's Summer Season in Philadelphia**

*Celebrating 75 Years of Live Music in the Park:
June 26–29 Features Fireworks Spectacular, Aretha Franklin,
Condoleezza Rice and Planet Earth Live*

PHILADELPHIA, July 8, 2010 – From classical to soul, Week Three of The Philadelphia Orchestra's summer season at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts – July 26 to July 29 – promises moments of inspiration and unprecedented collaborations. The week begins with the Tchaikovsky Spectacular, an annual Philadelphia tradition at The Mann. An extraordinary arrangement of special guests will perform with the Orchestra throughout the week, including Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and George Fenton, composer and conductor of BBC Earth's Planet Earth Live.

“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, we hope that new audiences will fall in love with the Orchestra's incredible music and will enjoy this season's creative artist pairings.”

July 26th – Tchaikovsky Spectacular with Fireworks

The all-Tchaikovsky night celebrates an annual Philadelphia tradition of the most exciting and beautiful music performed by the world-class Philadelphia Orchestra under the stars and ending with an extravagant fireworks display. Led by Maestro Rossen Milanov, the 1812 Overture will once again light up the night along with favorite music from Tchaikovsky's “Swan Lake” and rousing music from his opera “Eugene Onegin.” Philadelphia Orchestra Associate Principal Cello Efe Baltacigil is soloist in the

composer's Rococo Variations, for cello and orchestra. This promises to again be a don't-miss evening of music in the park.

This performance begins at 8:00 PM

Tickets for Tchaikovsky Spectacular on July 26 are \$50, \$40 or \$30 with Lawn tickets at \$10.

July 27 – Aretha Franklin and Condoleezza Rice

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts Annual GALA for the 2010 season showcases a special evening with the Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, both of whom will perform with The Philadelphia Orchestra led by Maestro Milanov.

The evening will feature Aretha's selections from her new album, "A Woman Falling Out of Love," as well as select arias. Dr. Rice, an accomplished classically trained pianist, will enchant the audience with selections from Mozart accompanied by The Philadelphia Orchestra. This extraordinary pairing is sure to be a crowd pleaser. Don't miss this amazing duo with those fabulous Philadelphians for one night only!

This performance is a benefit for Mann Center programs supporting inner-city children.

This performance begins at 8:00 PM

Tickets for this event are \$95, \$75 or \$50 with Lawn tickets at \$24.

July 29 – Planet Earth Live

Stunning high-definition images from the worldwide hit BBC documentary series, Planet Earth, along with the sweeping majestic original Emmy award winning score will provide a thrilling finale to The Philadelphia Orchestra's annual summer season at The Mann.

Concert-goers will explore everything from the mountains to the oceans as Planet Earth composer George Fenton himself leads the Orchestra in an extraordinary evening the whole family will enjoy.

This performance begins at 8:30 PM

Tickets for this event are \$55, \$45 or \$35 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, www.ticketphiladelphia.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 at <http://www.manncenter.org/news/pressroom> and 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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