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RUSSIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA MAKES EXCLUSIVE EAST COAST PERFORMANCES AT THE MANN JULY 27-29

**WORLD-RENOWNED ORCHESTRA TO SHARE STAGE WITH
JOURNALIST JANE PAULEY FOR "BLUE PLANET" AND CIRQUE AERIAL ACROBATS
Tickets Now On Sale**

PHILADELPHIA (July 8, 2011) – The Russian National Orchestra takes the stage July 27, 28 and 29 for the Mann’s classical season finale. First, as part of the Mann’s crossover classical programming that’s been made possible by a grant from the James S. and John L. Knight Foundation as part of its Knight Arts Challenge, guests are invited to journey deep below the sea as the Russian National Orchestra performs the majestic score of the BBC’s award-winning “Blue Planet” television series with esteemed broadcast journalist, Jane Pauley, narrating high-definition video scenes on two massive screens (July 27). With another nod to the Mann’s crossover programming, the RNO will play the music of Russia’s greatest composers while aerial artists of *Cirque de la Symphonie* perform overhead their breathtaking acrobatics and artistry (July 28). Finally, the RNO will leave its mark on Philadelphians with a tribute from its homeland in “From Russia with Love” (July 29), complete with fireworks.

“We are delighted to host the Russian National Orchestra at the Mann this summer as their only East Coast venue before their European tour,” said Catherine M. Cahill, President and CEO of the Mann. “Additionally, the RNO concerts represent a series of coups for the Mann and its audiences. We’ve married the best of classical music with original, visual programming to create memorable concert experiences. My many thanks to the Knight Foundation for its tremendous support in helping us make possible these unique productions,” she said.

Here are the concert details:

***July 27th – The Russian National Orchestra – The BBC’s “Blue Planet” Video Spectacular
Broadcast Journalist Jane Pauley, narrator
8:30 p.m.***

The Russian National Orchestra, conducted by Lucas Richman, will perform a luminous score by British composer George Fenton, accompanying remarkable BBC film sequences. Renowned broadcast journalist Jane Pauley joins the Orchestra on stage as narrator, giving the audience a unique perspective of aquatic life including schools of fish migrating across the oceans, species of whales, and other

spectacular marine life, all beautifully shot in high definition. In addition to the video screen on the pavilion, a new screen on the lawn will allow audience members seated under the stars to enjoy the visually captivating images. This “Blue Planet” Spectacular continues the BBC series that the Mann showcased last summer with the wildly popular “Planet Earth” concert.

July 28th – The Russian National Orchestra – Cirque de la Symphonie

8 p.m.

A first for the Mann is *Cirque de la Symphonie*. The evening will showcase a troupe of aerial flyers and acrobats, with Cirque and Orchestra performing together. Many of the Cirque de la Symphonie performers are alumni of Cirque du Soleil. They will perform to the music of Russia’s greatest composers under the direction of conductor Mikhail Tatarnikov (debut) in this Orchestra’s only East Coast engagement. Repertoire will include works by Tchaikovsky, Borodin, Shostakovich, Khachaturian, Rimsky-Korsakov and Glinka.

July 29th – The Russian National Orchestra – From Russia with Love, with Fireworks

8 p.m.

Don’t miss the final RNO concert showcasing many of the greatest works by the mighty Russian masters. “From Russia With Love” highlights Dr. Zhivago’s haunting melody, Rachmaninoff’s most popular piano tour de force – Paganini’s “Rhapsody,” and music from Tchaikovsky’s most beloved ballet – Act II of “The Nutcracker,” complete with fireworks. This concert also concludes the Mann’s three-concert partnership this season with soloists from the Curtis Institute of Music, as pianist Kwan Yi, a 2008 Curtis graduate, makes his debut under the baton of Mikhail Tatarnikov.

Tickets for all Russian National Orchestra shows are \$49.50, \$25 or \$10 (lawn). To purchase tickets and for more information on the Mann’s 2011 season, please visit www.manncenter.org.

ABOUT THE JOHN S. AND JAMES L. KNIGHT FOUNDATION

Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. We believe that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation’s Knight Arts Challenge is a 3 year, \$9 million initiative supporting innovative projects that inspire and enrich Philadelphia’s communities.

ABOUT THE MANN

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. Concerts and programs encompass all musical genres from pop, jazz, R&B, rock and contemporary, to dance theater, opera and classical. The summer home of the Philadelphia Orchestra since the 1930s, the Mann is located in Philadelphia’s beautiful Fairmount Park. More than 170,000 visitors annually enjoy its rich tradition as the Philadelphia region’s premier outdoor cultural arts center.

For more information, visit www.manncenter.org.

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