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**The Mann Center Presents**  
**Aretha Franklin and Condoleezza Rice in Benefit Concert**  
**with Philadelphia Orchestra on July 27<sup>th</sup>**

PHILADELPHIA (July 22, 2010) – The Mann Center for the Performing Arts is pleased to debut a very special pairing of musical artists for a star-studded evening with The Philadelphia Orchestra on Tuesday, July 27. For the first time anywhere, the Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin and former Secretary of State and accomplished pianist Condoleezza Rice will perform together for a benefit concert that will support The Mann’s educational programs for inner-city youth.

The concert is the highlight of The Mann Center’s annual gala and its celebration of 75 years of presenting live music in Fairmount Park. “This gala event with these two, incredible women promises to be an unforgettable night and is a testament to the forward-thinking programming that The Mann and its predecessor, the Robin Hood Dell, has been presenting for decades,” said Catherine M. Cahill, president and CEO of The Mann Center for the Performing Arts.

Under the direction of Maestro Rossen Milanov, Mann Center artistic director and Philadelphia Orchestra associate conductor, this under-the-stars performance will feature Ms. Franklin singing her classic hits as well as select arias and a few selections from her new album, “A Woman Falling Out of Love.” Dr. Rice, a classically trained pianist, will be heard in the second movement of Mozart’s beloved D minor Piano Concerto, accompanied by The Philadelphia Orchestra.

“Ms. Rice is a consummate classical pianist and since I sing the arias, I thought that we could do something for our favorite charities,” Franklin said.

“I am honored to share the stage with such a renowned Orchestra and the Queen of Soul,” said Dr. Rice. “It is truly a privilege to participate in such a unique concert whose proceeds will go towards helping the

Mann Center build their educational and cultural programs for the benefit of the students and communities of Greater Philadelphia.”

The Mann Center’s Education and Community Outreach Programs serve the mission of giving every young person the opportunity to be exposed, inspired, and enlightened by the performing arts; allowing and encouraging them – often for the first time – to experience the sights, sounds, and rhythms that are the magic and richness of live performances. In 2009, the variety of educational and community outreach programs offered reached more than 47,000 young people from the Philadelphia area and greater tri-state region. The Mann’s programs include its Young People’s Concert Series, Greenfield Performance Treasures, Connecting Arts-N-Schools (CANS), Connecting Arts @ The Center, Arts Teach @ The Mann and Community Engagement Festivals.

The performance with Ms. Franklin, Dr. Rice and The Philadelphia Orchestra begins at 8 p.m. on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Tickets for this event are \$95, \$75 or \$50 with Lawn tickets available for \$24. To enjoy the entire gala benefit, including a pre-concert dinner, the performance and a post-concert champagne reception with the artists, tickets are \$600/person.

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](http://www.manncenter.org). For ticket package information, call 215.893.1955 or visit [www.manncenter.org](http://www.manncenter.org).

#### 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 (known from 1935-1976 as The Robin Hood Dell Orchestra), 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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