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## THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA

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### NEWS

**Philadelphia Orchestra announces new principal clarinet and three musician appointments**

**Ricardo Morales joins as principal clarinet in June**

**Efe Baltacigil, assistant principal cello; Carrie Dennis, assistant principal viola; and Zachary DePue, violin, joined the Orchestra during the 2002-03 season**

(Philadelphia, March 10, 2003)

The Philadelphia Orchestra has announced the appointment of Ricardo Morales to the position of principal clarinet. Mr. Morales, who is currently principal clarinet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, joins The Philadelphia Orchestra on June 23, 2003. In addition, the Orchestra has announced three other musician appointments in the current season, all of which occurred this past fall; they are Efe Baltacigil, assistant principal cello; Carrie Dennis, assistant principal viola; and Zachary DePue, violin. The Philadelphia Orchestra principal clarinet chair is endowed by the Orchestra's Volunteer Committees.

Mr. Morales's appointment will mark Music Director Wolfgang Sawallisch's last addition to the Orchestra's roster before becoming conductor laureate in September 2003. During his decade-long tenure with the Orchestra, Mr. Sawallisch has appointed 40 musicians, including 11 principal players. Seeking "the very best musicians" to fill the Orchestra's coveted positions, Mr. Sawallisch is responsible for selecting one third of the current Orchestra members. Given the relatively young age of these outstanding artists, Mr. Sawallisch's mark will be felt in the Orchestra for a very long time. Indeed, perhaps his most enduring legacy to The Philadelphia Orchestra is the Orchestra itself.

**Ricardo Morales**, principal clarinet, comes to The Philadelphia Orchestra from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, where he was appointed principal clarinet in 1993 at the age of 21. A native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, he began his studies at the Escuela Libre de Musica, along with his five siblings, all of whom are distinguished musicians. He continued his studies at Indiana University, where he received his Artist Diploma, and the Cincinnati College Conservatory.

Mr. Morales began his professional career as principal clarinet of the Florida Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared as soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the North Carolina Symphony, the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra, the Florida Symphony Orchestra, and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, among others. He has soloed with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra under the baton of James Levine in Carnegie Hall and on two European tours. He also has performed in the Met Chamber Ensemble series at Weill Hall, soloing with James Levine at the piano and participating in numerous chamber concerts. Mr. Morales has performed at the Kennedy Center, in the Metropolitan Museum of Art Concert Series, with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and on NBC's *Today*.

Hailed by the *New York Times* as having "... fleet technique, utterly natural musical grace, and the lyricism and breath control of a fine opera singer," Mr. Morales was again recognized in the recent *New York Times* review of the new Metropolitan Opera production of Berlioz's *Les Troyens*, where his playing was singled out as "exquisite" and that he "deserved a place onstage during curtain calls."

Mr. Morales has been an active recitalist and has given master classes at many universities, summer music festivals, and woodwind conferences. He currently serves on the faculties of the Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College, and the Verbier Academy in Switzerland during the summer.

**Efe Baltacigil** is the newly appointed assistant principal cello of The Philadelphia Orchestra. A native of Istanbul, Turkey, he came to the United States to study with Guarneri Quartet cellist Peter Wiley at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. He began playing the violin at age five and switched to the cello at age seven. He studied at the Mimar Sinan Conservatory in Istanbul under Ihsan Kartal and Nusret Kayar. In the summer of 1995, Mr. Baltacigil was invited to play in the Jeunesses Musicales Orchestra's summer festival in Switzerland as

principal cellist. The following year he traveled to Egypt and Germany to give performances with the Alla Turca Piano Quintet.

Mr. Baltacigil has appeared as an orchestral soloist on many occasions, performing the standard works for cello and orchestra by Fauré, Tchaikovsky, Haydn, Schumann, Dvorák, and Elgar. He won first prize in concerto competitions in Istanbul and New York, and recently won the Allentown (Pennsylvania) Schadt String Competition. An active and sought-after chamber music partner, he has had associations with some of the most prestigious artists and venues. He performed at the Berlin Philharmonic's Chamber Music Concert Hall in 1998 and in Carnegie Hall last year as a member of the Delancey Quartet at the Isaac Stern Chamber Music Workshop. Earlier this year, Yo-Yo Ma invited him to share the stage in the Silk Road Project. Mr. Baltacigil has also spent numerous summers at the renowned Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont.

**Carrie Dennis** was appointed to the position of assistant principal viola shortly after completing her artist's diploma in viola performance at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Before her appointment to the Orchestra, Ms. Dennis was principal viola of the Curtis Institute of Music Symphony Orchestra, and a member of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. Throughout her studies at Curtis, Ms. Dennis was also a member of the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, the Curtis Opera Orchestra, and the Curtis Lab Orchestra. Ms. Dennis has participated in several prestigious music festivals, including the Marlboro Festival, Music from Angel Fire, the Verbier Festival, the Tanglewood Festival, the Sarasota Music Festival, and the New York Strings Seminar. A native of Saratoga Springs, New York, Ms. Dennis received a bachelor of music degree from the Curtis Institute of Music in 1999 in violin performance. As a student at the Institute, Ms. Dennis was the recipient of a merit-based full-tuition scholarship, and held the Institute's Louisa Knapp Curtis Fellowship. She has studied viola with Joseph de Pasquale and Michael Tree, and violin with Victor Danchenko and Roland and Almita Vamos.

**Zachary DePue**, violin, joined the Orchestra this season. In May 2002 he graduated from Curtis, where he studied with Ida Kavafian and Jaime Laredo. While at Curtis he was concertmaster of the Curtis Orchestra and the 2000 New York String Seminar Orchestra. He also attended the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with William Preucil. An avid chamber musician, Mr. DePue has performed at such festivals as Angel Fire, Sarasota, La Jolla, Saratoga, and the Isaac Stern Workshops at Carnegie Hall and in Jerusalem. A member of the Grancino Quartet, he has performed at New York's Weill Recital Hall and on the New School Schneider Concert Series. He also performs with Time for Three, a trio that combines bluegrass and folk music.

Founded in 1900, **The Philadelphia Orchestra** has distinguished itself as one of the leading orchestras in the world through a century of acclaimed performances, historic international tours, and best-selling recordings. Christoph Eschenbach will mark a new beginning in the ensemble's esteemed history as he becomes The Philadelphia Orchestra's seventh music director in September 2003, following a season-long celebration of Wolfgang Sawallisch's ten highly acclaimed years at the Orchestra's helm.

Six music directors have piloted The Philadelphia Orchestra through its first century, giving the ensemble an unparalleled cohesiveness and unity in artistic leadership. The Orchestra moved to its new home at The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in December 2001, after celebrating its 100th Anniversary through a series of activities surrounding the year 2000, including the internationally televised gala Birthday Concert on November 16, 2000. Its ongoing acclaim around the world is recognized through frequent overseas and domestic tours (to Europe in 2000, to Asia in 2001, and to Central and South America in the spring of 2003, as well as tours throughout the United States in the fall of 2001 and the spring of 2003), the scope of its recording discography, and its unprecedented record of innovation in recording technologies and outreach.

The Philadelphia Orchestra annually touches the lives of more than 1 million music lovers worldwide through its live performances (more than 300 concerts and other presentations each year), publications, recordings, and broadcasts. A major winter subscription season is presented in Philadelphia each year from September to May, including education and community partnership programs. The Orchestra's schedule each summer includes a month-long outdoor season in Philadelphia at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts, followed by a three-week residency each August at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in upstate New York. In addition, the Orchestra appears annually at New York's Carnegie Hall, performing encores of some of its acclaimed concerts from Philadelphia.

With the opening in December 2001 of the Orchestra's new home, The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (KCPA) and the historic Academy of Music (where the Orchestra performed for 101 seasons) are now operated together as a single cultural facility by Kimmel Center, Inc (KCI). KCI owns, manages, supports, and maintains the KCPA, which includes Verizon Hall, Perelman Theater, Innovation Studio, and the Merck Arts Education Center. KCI also manages the Academy of Music, owned by The Philadelphia Orchestra Association since 1957. The KCPA and the Academy of Music serve as home to eight Resident Company performing arts organizations, including The Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, American Theater Arts for Youth, PHILADANCO, Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and

Peter Nero and the Philly Pops®. KCI's mission also includes arts in education, community outreach, and a rich diversity of programming through its Kimmel Center Presents and Broadway at the Academy series of performances.

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