



Renaissance Arts Network

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Philadelphia Orchestra, Renaissance Arts Network
and Calvary Center for Culture and Community
present a free Holiday Concert for
University City District**

Liberty String Orchestra will perform a special **Winter Holiday Concert** at **Calvary United Methodist Church** (48th Street and Baltimore Avenue, Philadelphia) on Friday, December 7 from 8:00 to 9:00 PM. Admission is free. Nancy Bean, Assistant Concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra, will lead the Liberty String Orchestra in a 50-minute program of holiday favorites such as Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*, Pachelbel's Canon in D, "Winter" from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah* and other favorite works by Mozart, Haydn, Brahms, and Bach. Immediately following the concert the audience is invited to a "Meet the Musicians," open reception, and to take a tour of the church.

Formed in 1992 to perform classical string music in accessible venues during the holiday season, the **Liberty String Orchestra** has won the hearts of listeners throughout the Philadelphia area. Led by violinist Nancy Bean, Assistant Concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra, its members are drawn from The Philadelphia Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, and they represent the finest musical and technical artistry in this area.

This free concert is an outgrowth from last July's Philadelphia Orchestra Neighborhood Concert in Clark Park and continues The Philadelphia Orchestra's commitment to celebrating the vitality of neighborhoods of the Greater Delaware Valley by presenting free concerts in a variety of locations throughout the region. The Orchestra performed its first Neighborhood Concerts in 2000 (in Upper Darby, North Philadelphia, Center City, and Northeast

Philadelphia) as part of its centennial celebrations. With the success of those initial community partnerships, the Orchestra is working to make such free concerts a regular feature of its annual schedule. The free Holiday Concert is made possible through the partnership with the Renaissance Arts Project (a project of Squirrel Hill Community Association) and Calvary Center for Culture and Community and is funded in part by grants from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation.

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. Led by Music Director Wolfgang Sawallisch since 1993, the Orchestra recently celebrated its 100th Anniversary through a series of activities surrounding the year 2000, with performances, publications, tours, and broadcasts (including the internationally televised gala Birthday Concert on November 16, 2000). Six music directors have piloted The Philadelphia Orchestra through its first century, giving the ensemble an unparalleled cohesiveness and unity in artistic leadership. Its ongoing acclaim around the world is recognized through frequent overseas tours (to Asia in 1999, Europe in 2000, and to Asia again in the spring of 2001), the scope of its recording discography, and its unprecedented record of innovation in recording technologies and outreach. Following ten highly-acclaimed years at the helm here, Wolfgang Sawallisch will become Conductor Laureate in the fall of 2003 when Christoph Eschenbach becomes The Philadelphia Orchestra's seventh Music Director.

Renaissance Arts Network

Ren•ais•sance: a rebirth or revival, for example, of culture, skills, or learning forgotten or previously ignored.

A newly-founded forum for artists and musicians to provide opportunities for learning, teaching, and practicing skills in arts and music to Philadelphia residents in order to improve the quality of life and to strengthen the presence of arts in the community. We are looking to create symbiotic relationships between artists, students, staff, seniors and the community at large. This is an artist-based initiative.

As a project of The Squirrel Hill Community Association- a 501(c)(3) organization, R. A. N. reflects and values the diversity of the neighborhood in all of its endeavors. Diversity is clearly recognized as strength in our community and our association. Its importance is immeasurable. Diversity in religion, ethnicity, language and culture is visible throughout our community. Programs are being offered at local schools, churches, and other community centers. Our programs are focused on inner city, low-income neighborhoods where schools are experiencing cut backs in funding. Therefore, these schools have significantly decreased and often eliminated their arts and music classes. They value the benefits and skills, which their students derive from art and music. Neighborhood artists of the Renaissance Arts Network are eager to teach in these under-served schools.

Renaissance Arts Network and **Calvary Center for Culture and Community** have begun a partnership in developing a community world music series at the Calvary United Methodist Church. There will be several concerts offered annually with an emphasis on diverse music genres of the world. Performances are live and offer the possibility of interaction with the musicians.

Calvary Center for Culture and Community (CCCC)

A non-profit organization, founded in 2000, exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. CCCC has a dual purpose, to devise the means to restore Calvary United Methodist Church (particularly the breathtaking but dilapidated sanctuary) and to establish a program of arts and culture at Calvary.

CCCC recognizes the prodigious amount of world class musical talent right here in West Philadelphia and wants to showcase it. The CCCC is looking at world music and other art forms as well.

Admission is free. Seating for this special concert is limited. To RSVP or for further information about this event please call Renaissance Arts Project at 215-729-4851. Or e-mail: renaissance_arts@hotmail.com

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