



Press Release

Philadelphia Orchestra Musicians Visit Caritas Macau Elderly

A relaxing and meaningful afternoon to share joy with elderly through music

(Macao, Feb. 3, 2015) – Since The Philadelphia Orchestra’s first concert in China in 1973, it has had an influence on the cultural exchange and diplomatic relations between China and the United States. With a group of the orchestra’s musicians returning to perform in Macao this year, presenting sponsor The Venetian® Macao organised a community music event at an elderly day care service centre in Taipa on Tuesday. The event at the Caritas Macau Longevity Special Day Care Centre was an initiative of the Sands China Community Academy, providing a joyful afternoon for elderly in the local community.

Three cellists from The Philadelphia Orchestra, **John Koen, Derek Barnes** and **Alex Veltman**, performed for nearly 50 of the centre’s residents, and also had an opportunity to interact with some of them. The elderly residents, who seldom have an opportunity to leave the centre and interact with the community, were clearly delighted when the cello trio musicians spent 45 minutes sharing the music and passion with them. The event offered them a rare chance to listen to a live music performance.

“We are very happy to participate in events like this – thanks to Sands China for organizing it,” said Craig Hamilton, Vice President for Global Initiatives and Government Relations and President of China Residency Project of The Philadelphia Orchestra. “This is the fourth consecutive year for the Philadelphia Orchestra to organize residency programs in China and we are very pleased to bring back our music into the local communities again. Music has a transformative power that transcends cultural and language barriers. We’re glad that our unique role in the cultural exchange across countries and regions continues to evolve.”

The Caritas Macau Longevity Special Day Care Centre is an elderly centre that aims to provide comprehensive day care services – including social and recreational activities, nursing and therapeutic care – to the elderly living in Taipa. “We’re very happy that the musicians from The Philadelphia Orchestra came to our centre, since we don’t have many chances to see live music here,” said one elderly resident. “We hope more performances like this can be arranged at our centre in the future.”

Apart from the community music event at Caritas Macau Longevity Special Day Care Centre, the orchestra's first day of the Pearl River Delta Residency Week was packed with a series of community events that aim to interact and exchange with local youth musicians at Macao Youth Symphony Orchestra Association, Macao Band Directors Association, and Pui Ching Middle School. The Philadelphia Orchestra's Pearl River Delta Residency Week is a one week programme that organizes performances and community events at different entities across Greater China. This year, the orchestra will tour around Macao, Shenzhen and Hong Kong, so as to foster camaraderie and mutual learning with communities in China.

Sands China is committed to carrying out community events across Macao to enrich the lives of its residents. By organising activities like Tuesday's community event with The Philadelphia Orchestra musicians, the company was able to offer a rare opportunity for some of Macao's elderly to enjoy a performance by one of the world's best orchestras. The aforementioned events are all parts of the Pearl River Delta Residency Week, which is sponsored by The Venetian Macao as Presenting Sponsor.



Photo caption: Three talented musicians from The Philadelphia Orchestra perform for 50 elderly residents Tuesday at the Caritas Macau Longevity Special Day Care Centre. The Venetian Macao is the presenting sponsor of The Philadelphia Orchestra's Pearl River Delta China Residency Week.



Photo caption: Musicians from The Philadelphia Orchestra take photos Tuesday with residents of the Caritas Macau Longevity Special Day Care Centre, with the presence of Ambassador Nicholas Platt (first from Left), Secretary General of Caritas Macau, Mr. Paul Pun (second from Left).

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Entertainment at Sands China Ltd. Resorts

Sands China Ltd. has as a clear vision to establish Macao as Asia's top entertainment destination.

The 15,000-seat Cotai Arena is the only venue in Asia ranked in *Pollstar's* Top 100 Worldwide Arena Venues based on ticket sales. It is the top entertainment destination in southern China, hosting the world's and the region's biggest names in music, sports and awards shows. Superstars frequently choose the venue as the starting point of their Asian tours.

The 1800-seat, multi-purpose Venetian Theatre is one of the most luxurious entertainment venues in greater China. Featuring ushers in black-tie, champagne service, gourmet food and beverage items and other unique, premium amenities, it offers an intimate, luxurious and exclusive venue experience. The Venetian Theatre is playing a key role in bringing the best in international and Chinese entertainment to Macao, with a luxury theatre experience like no other in the region.

The 650-seat Sands Theatre regularly features internationally-renowned singers, performers and artists of the highest calibre. From traditional Chinese-costumed dancers to modern performances, and from singing troupes to contemporary bands, everything from Western rock to Cantonese pop is covered.

With an unbeatable diversity, the entertainment offering of Sands China Ltd. is ushering in a new era of entertainment in Macao.

For information about upcoming shows and events, visit <http://en.sandsresortsmacao.com/macau-shows.html> and www.sandsmacao.com/entertainment.html.

About The Philadelphia Orchestra

The Philadelphia Orchestra is one of the preeminent orchestras in the world, renowned for its distinctive sound, desired for its keen ability to capture the hearts and imaginations of audiences, and admired for a legacy of innovation in music-making. The Orchestra is inspiring the future and transforming its rich tradition of achievement, sustaining the highest level of artistic quality, but also

challenging—and exceeding—that level by creating powerful musical experiences for audiences at home and around the world.

Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin triumphantly opened his inaugural season as the eighth artistic leader of The Philadelphia Orchestra in the fall of 2012. His highly collaborative style, deeply-rooted musical curiosity, and boundless enthusiasm, paired with a fresh approach to orchestral programming, have been heralded by critics and audiences alike. The New York Times has called him “phenomenal,” adding that under his baton, “the ensemble ... has never sounded better.” He is embraced by the musicians of the Orchestra, audiences, and the community itself. His concerts of diverse repertoire attract sold-out houses, and he has established a regular forum for connecting with concert-goers through Post-Concert Conversations.

Under Nézet-Séguin’s leadership the Orchestra returns to recording with a newly-released CD on the Deutsche Grammophon label of Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring* and Leopold Stokowski transcriptions. In his inaugural season the Orchestra has also returned to the radio airwaves, with weekly Sunday afternoon broadcasts on WRTI-FM.

Philadelphia is home and the Orchestra nurtures an important relationship not only with patrons who support the main season at the Kimmel Center but also those who enjoy the Orchestra’s other area performances at the Mann Center, Penn’s Landing, and other venues. The Philadelphia Orchestra Association also continues to own the Academy of Music, a National Historic Landmark.

The Philadelphia Orchestra maintains a strong commitment to collaborations with cultural and community organizations on a regional and national level. Since Orchestra President and CEO Allison Vulgamore’s arrival in 2010 the Orchestra has reinvigorated and launched new partnerships with Opera Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet, Philadelphia Live Arts (FringeArts), Philadanco, the Curtis Institute of Music, Ridge Theater Company, and stage director James Alexander, among others.

Through concerts, tours, residencies, presentations, and recordings, the Orchestra is a global ambassador for Philadelphia and for the United States. Having been the first American orchestra to perform in China, in 1973 at the request of President Nixon, today The Philadelphia Orchestra boasts a new partnership with the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing. The ensemble annually performs at Carnegie Hall while also enjoying a three-week residency in Saratoga Springs, New York, and a strong partnership with the Bravo! Vail Festival.

The Philadelphia Orchestra continues its decades-long tradition of presenting learning and community engagement opportunities for listeners of all ages across the Delaware Valley. Concerts for families and schoolchildren; eZseatU, which allows full-time college students to attend an unlimited number of Orchestra concerts for a \$25 annual membership fee; free Neighborhood Concerts; and PreConcert Conversations before every subscription concert are only a few examples of ways in which the Orchestra introduces orchestral music to a new generation of listeners.

Musician-led initiatives, including recent highly-successful PlayINs, shine a spotlight on the Orchestra’s musicians, as they spread out from the stage into the community, and serve a key role in growing young musician talent and a love of classical music in their own dedicated roles as teachers, coaches, and mentors.

For more information on The Philadelphia Orchestra, please visit <http://www.philorch.org>.