



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Christine Reimert / 610-639-2136 / creimert@devinepowers.com
Lucy MacNichol / 215-568-2525 / lmacnichol@devinepowers.com

**THE MANN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES
2010 YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT SERIES
"A Global Kaleidoscope" Season Debuts July 7**

PHILADELPHIA (June 23, 2010) – Since the inception of its Educational and Community Engagement Programming in 1997, The Mann Center for the Performing Arts has impacted the lives and cultural perspectives of more than 320,600 students. Fortunately, the summer of 2010 promises to unlock more of the magic of the performing arts at The Mann for Philadelphia-area children of all ages and backgrounds.

"The Mann Center's Educational and Community Engagement Programming has become an invaluable source of performing arts education for Philadelphia's youth," said Rhoda Blount, Director of Education & Community Engagement for The Mann Center for the Performing Arts. "In a city where schools often do not have the funding to support strong music programs and where families may not have the resources to attend cultural performances, we are pleased that The Mann Center can be an accessible and positive place for music education and appreciation."

Case in point is the 12th season of the Young People's Concert Series, "A Global Kaleidoscope," which provides young people with the opportunity to be inspired by the talents of their peers through a series of diverse performances. Last year, the program featured 388 global performing artists at The Mann Center and attracted more than 31,000 young people and their families to experience the diverse cultures around us. The concerts are free and open to the public. All concerts are at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, 5201 Parkside Avenue, Philadelphia.

2010 Young People's Concert Series Schedule:

Songs from Our Children – Wednesday, July 7th 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Philadelphia Boys Choir

The Philadelphia Boys Choir provides the finest musical training to talented boys from the Greater Philadelphia area. The boys learn the importance of hard work, decorum, diversity and appreciation for international traditions. Dubbed America's Ambassadors of Song, this Choir represents the United States and Philadelphia throughout the world.

Philadelphia Sinfonia Youth Orchestra

Often described as "the Delaware Valley's finest youth and young adult orchestra" this versatile group has toured Great Britain, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Austria, and beyond.

Founded in 1997, the orchestra features 100 exceptionally talented instrumentalists, aged 13-22.

Kenya ALIVE! - Wednesday, July 14th 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Jabali African Acrobats

Direct from Mombassa, Kenya these phenomenal acrobats combine the artistry of fast paced movement, music, dance and incredible acrobatic elegance to perform a full stage theatrical extravaganza. This thrilling performance exemplifies the link between athletics and the arts, as incredible acrobatics, contortions, and tumbling turns to dance, with the Congo Snake Dance, the Flaming Limbo Bar Dance, Skip Rope Footwork techniques. Audience participation included!

Jabali Afrika – Beat Keepers

Originating from Kenya, this band has a distinctive sound gleaned from its own unique mixture and fusion of African rhythms with modern styles like rock, funk and jazz. Powerful percussion and big vocal harmonies provide a sound that resonates throughout the world, and makes audiences get up and dance!

Fiddlin' In Philly – Wednesday, July 21st 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

The Hunt Family Fiddlers

What do you get when you mix world ranked step dancing, champion fiddling and a charming, amazingly talented family? A high powered, energetic and refreshing experience with the Hunt Family! The Hunt Family performs Celtic, bluegrass, inspirational and original music, offering a unique blend of diversity to each show. In addition to fiddling and step dancing, this amazing family of nine also plays guitar, bass, keys, drums and mandolin.

Rhapsody of Rock - Tuesday, August 3rd 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

The Rock School for Dance Education

Relish the fusion of classical ballet, modern dance, rhythmic gymnastics, urban hip-hop moves and grooves in this exhilarating dance performance. The Rock School enjoys a reputation as a leading training institute for aspiring dancers. The Rock School remains steadfast in its mission to develop the finest artists for professional companies and, through its outreach program, is committed to making dance more accessible to local communities.

Dance Voyage - Tuesday, August 10th 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Embark on a multicultural journey through the beautiful lands of Cambodia, Mexico and West Africa and sample the exciting and diverse cultures through their rich traditions of celebratory dancing and music.

Cambodian Arts Youth Dance Ensemble

This ensemble is part of the Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia's long running cultural program that teaches young people the traditional Cambodian arts of song, dance and storytelling. The dancers perform for various cultural organizations and festivals throughout the year.

Danza Mexican Dance Company

A Mexican folkdance group dedicated to preserving the traditional Mexican folk dances, this group of young people focuses on educating and entertaining in schools and the community. Performing since 1992, many of the present choreographers are former members of the group who have completed their education and are giving back to the

community through volunteer work. Authentic traditional dresses and accessories are used to enhance the performance of the various regional dances.

Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble

“The pulse of the drum is the spirit of the heart.” Since its inception in 1984, the ensemble has grown to be one of the largest professional African Dance & Drum Ensembles in the United States. Consisting of African dance, drum, and masquerade, the ensemble also features the famous "Pasha" - the Stilt walker/dancer. Based in Camden, New Jersey and comprised of members from various inner-city African-American families of contrasting religions and different ways of life, this group proves through the understanding of love and discipline that unity can exist in the inner cities of America.

About the Educational & Community Engagement Programs at The Mann

The mission of the Education Department at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts is to give every young person the opportunity to be exposed, inspired, and enlightened by the performing arts, giving them the opportunity to experience the sights, sounds, and rhythms that celebrate the magic and richness of live performances – often for the first time. In 2009, the variety of programs offered reached 47,971 participants in the tri-state region. In addition to the Young People’s Concert Series and Greenfield Performance Treasures, The Mann’s Educational & Community Programming also consists of Connecting Arts-N-Schools (CANS), Connecting Arts @ The Center, Arts Teach @ The Mann, and Community Engagement Festivals.

About The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

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, 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.

For all 2010 season information, go to www.manncenter.org. To make reservations at Crescendo, please call 267.886.1475.

###