The Cleveland Orchestra and Miami Performing Arts Center announce 10-year agreement for annual residency appearances

Franz Welser-Möst and The Cleveland Orchestra begin long-term partnership in January 2007 during Miami Performing Arts Center’s 2006-07 Inaugural Season

Miami Residencies will include three weeks of subscription performances, family concerts and educational collaborations

CLEVELAND, May 9, 2005 – The Cleveland Orchestra and Miami Performing Arts Center today announced an initial 10-year agreement, commencing with the Center’s 2006-07 Inaugural Season. Beginning in January 2007, The Cleveland Orchestra will devote three weeks each winter to performances at the new Miami Performing Arts Center, which opens in late 2006. The residencies will consist of series of concerts, programs for families and school children, and educational collaborations between the Orchestra and music institutions in the Miami area. The Cleveland Orchestra adds the new Miami partnership to its three existing long-term performing relationships in Lucerne, Vienna and New York.

The $412 million Miami Performing Arts Center is scheduled to open in late 2006. The Center is designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli of Cesar Pelli & Associates and acoustician Russell Johnson of ARTEC, Inc. In addition to the 2,200-seat Carnival Concert Hall where The Cleveland Orchestra will perform, Miami Performing Arts Center will include the 2,400-seat Sanford and Dolores Ziff Ballet Opera House, a 200-seat black box Studio Theater, the 57,000-
square foot Plaza for the Arts suitable for free outdoor performances, and the Peacock Education Center.

Music Director Franz Welser-Möst and The Cleveland Orchestra will launch the new 10-year partnership with two weeks of concerts at Miami Performing Arts Center’s Carnival Concert Hall beginning January 18, 2007. The first week of concerts will include performances of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 as well as educational programs. The Cleveland Orchestra will complete its 2007 residency with a week of concerts in March.

Franz Welser-Möst will make annual appearances with The Cleveland Orchestra at Miami Performing Arts Center. The Orchestra also will perform concerts with a roster of distinguished guest conductors. In addition to its performances, The Cleveland Orchestra will engage in educational activities with the New World Symphony and University of Miami’s Frost School of Music.

Commenting on the Miami Residencies, Cleveland Orchestra Music Director Franz Welser-Möst said, “I love the artistic energy of this cosmopolitan city and am impressed by the scale and sophistication of the new Miami Performing Arts Center. The Orchestra musicians and I are eager to build a strong relationship with Miami audiences, and therefore my focus will be on creating programs that combine Greater Miami’s international outlook with the qualities that have made The Cleveland Orchestra famous.”

Gary Hanson, Executive Director of The Cleveland Orchestra, said, “We are proud to add Miami to the short list of important cities that regularly host The Cleveland Orchestra. Like Carnegie Hall in New York and the Musikverein in Vienna, where we also have long-term relationships, Miami’s new performing arts center promises to be at the heart of South Florida’s cultural life. What is most important to us is that, like The Cleveland Orchestra, Michael Hardy and his team at Miami Performing Arts Center are clearly committed to excellence in performance, education, audience development and community service.”

“This landmark agreement with The Cleveland Orchestra is one of Miami’s most innovative and exciting initiatives, and it will have a tremendous impact on the international reputation of our city as a cultural destination,” said Michael Hardy, President and CEO of Miami Performing Arts Center. “Miami is very fortunate to embark on this new partnership with Franz Welser-Möst, whose musicianship has made him one of the most sought-after conductors in the world, and with the dedicated musicians of The Cleveland Orchestra, for whom there is a growing demand for concerts world-wide. Franz and the Orchestra will certainly become excellent additions to Miami’s cultural and social life, and will help solidify our position at America’s cultural crossroads. We welcome this
exhilarating orchestra to their new home away from home, and believe that the Clevelanders will transform the concert-going scene in South Florida.”

Collaborations with New World Symphony and University of Miami

The Cleveland Orchestra’s long-standing relationship with the New World Symphony will be expanded with the annual three-week residencies. Plans include sectional and individual coaching, open rehearsals, and performances. Founded in 1988 by Artistic Director Michael Tilson Thomas, the New World Symphony prepares gifted graduates of the nation’s top music schools for successful careers in symphony orchestras and other musical ensembles. Since 1998, The Cleveland Orchestra’s principal musicians have held week-long educational residencies each season at the New World Symphony, acting as musical coaches and professional mentors to New World Symphony fellows.

During the residencies, The Cleveland Orchestra will establish a formal relationship with the University of Miami’s Frost School of Music, which offers 31 undergraduate and graduate programs in music education and performance and is one of the most comprehensive music schools in the United States. With these new Florida-based initiatives, The Cleveland Orchestra will broaden its role as an educational partner to universities and conservatories, which thus far has focused on the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

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Miami partnership adds to Orchestra’s existing long-term performance relationships in New York, Lucerne and Vienna

In addition to its new residency at Miami Performing Arts Center, The Cleveland Orchestra currently has three other intensive and regular performing relationships, including residencies, outside of Cleveland: with Carnegie Hall in New York, the Lucerne Festival in Switzerland, and the Musikverein in Vienna, Austria. Continuing a long relationship with Carnegie Hall, the Orchestra committed to a multi-year association of performances there under the direction of Franz Welser-Möst. Following performances at Carnegie Hall in 2005, The New York Times pondered, “I wonder if New Yorkers know what an exceptional week for symphonic music they have just been neighbors to.” With Carnegie Hall and the Lucerne Festival, the Orchestra is involved in an annual commissioning project, the Roche Commissions, which includes world premiere performances by the Orchestra at the Lucerne Festival each summer. Following performances at the 2004 Lucerne Festival, the Orchestra will return for concerts during the 2005 and 2006 Festivals. Of Cleveland’s new relationship with the Lucerne Festival, the leading daily Neue Zürcher Zeitung said in 2004, “one could hear immediately that it is one of the greatest orchestras in the world.” The Musikverein
Residency was conceived as a long-term relationship, which includes series of concerts at the Musikverein under the direction of Franz Welser-Möst. The Orchestra’s five concerts at the Musikverein in 2003 marked the first such residency by an American orchestra in the history of that venue. The influential *Die Presse* observed that “Cleveland ranks among the very best of the world.” The next in the series of biennial residencies will take place during the 2005-06 season.

The Cleveland Orchestra has performed concerts in Florida during seven tours, beginning in February 1927, and most recently in January/February 2001. Between January 25 and 29, 2006, The Cleveland Orchestra will make a Florida Tour that includes two concerts in Sarasota and concerts in Fort Lauderdale and Orlando, as well as a concert in Athens, Georgia. The tour will be under the direction of guest conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy.

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Beginning May 10, 2005, music lovers interested in attending Cleveland Orchestra performances in Miami can be added to the priority subscription mailing list by logging on to clevelandorchestra.com, e-mailing miami@clevelandorchestra.com, or by calling (305) 695-8344. Tickets for the Orchestra’s first residency at Miami Performing Arts Center will go on sale to the public in April 2006.

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Background information on The Cleveland Orchestra, Franz Welser-Möst, and Miami Performing Arts Center follows this release. Photographs and additional information are available upon request.

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