



for immediate release
September 1, 2009

MUSIC DIRECTOR MANFRED HONECK LEADS THE PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ON A EUROPEAN FESTIVALS TOUR

HONECK AND PSO TO CLOSE PRESTIGIOUS LUCERNE FESTIVAL

Pittsburgh Regional Alliance Joins PSO to Preview Region' s Assets Preceding
Pittsburgh (G-20) Summit

SEPTEMBER 15 – 20, 2009

PITTSBURGH – Music Director Manfred Honeck leads the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO), in their European debut together, in two previously-announced performances to close the renowned Lucerne Festival in Lucerne, Switzerland in September 2009. The Orchestra also performs two concerts in Germany – one at the Philharmonie Essen and another at the Beethoven Festival in Bonn. Featured soloists at the festivals are violinist Viktoria Mullova and soprano Christine Schäfer, and repertoire includes Weber' s Overture to *Der Freischü tz*, Beethoven' s Violin Concerto, Dvořá k' s Eighth Symphony, Strauss' Four Last Songs, and Bruckner' s Fourth Symphony. Join the PSO on tour, through photos and blogs, at www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

- more -



Following the success of two prior years of partnership, the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance (PRA) joins the PSO on its European Festivals tour to promote investment opportunities in the Pittsburgh region. In Germany and Switzerland with the PSO, the PRA once again leverages the orchestra as a world-class cultural asset to introduce the value of doing business in Pittsburgh to global leaders.

Currently, the global media are telling the region's economic, environmental and quality-of-life transformation during the run-up to the Pittsburgh Summit on September 24 – 25. “ With the media spotlight on Pittsburgh, the timing is optimal to provide a preview – by joining the PSO on tour in Europe – of what Pittsburgh has to offer, before many of the world's most influential leaders experience it for themselves,” said PRA President Dewitt Peart. While there are already 70 German-owned companies currently operating in the Pittsburgh region, Switzerland is a newer market. The PRA presents the region as an integrated energy solutions leader and targets companies across the energy supply chain.

The first concert of the European Festivals Tour 2009 is Tuesday, September 15, 2009 in Essen, Germany at the Philharmonie. Honeck leads the Orchestra in a concert featuring Strauss' Four Last Songs and Bruckner' s Symphony No. 4. Soprano Christine Schäfer is featured soloist. This is the Orchestra' s debut performance in Essen.

The next evening, Wednesday, September 16, 2009, Honeck and the Orchestra perform in the Beethoven Festival in Bonn, Germany. The concert, at the Beethovenhalle, features Dvořá k' s Symphony No. 8, Weber' s Overture to *Der Freischü tz*, and Beethoven' s Concerto in D major for Violin and Orchestra. Violinist Viktoria Mullova is featured soloist. The Orchestra last performed at the Beethovenhalle in 1992.

Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 | 412.392.4900 | www.pittsburghsymphony.org

Lawrence Tamburri, president & CEO | Richard P. Simmons, board chairman | Manfred Honeck, music director
Leonard Slatkin, principal guest conductor | Marek Janowski, Otto Klemperer guest conductor chair | Marvin Hamlisch,
principal pops conductor



The Orchestra then travels to Lucerne, Switzerland for two concerts on September 18 and 19, 2009, to close the prestigious Lucerne Festival. The program the first night features the Dvořák's Eighth Symphony and Beethoven Violin Concerto. The Strauss and Bruckner works are featured the second night. This is the Orchestra's first performance in Lucerne, Switzerland since 2003.

International touring is made possible by the Hillman Endowment for International Performance.

In January 2007, after several highly successful guest appearances leading the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Manfred Honeck was appointed its ninth Music Director, and began this position at the start of the 2008-2009 season. In addition to his appointment in Pittsburgh, Honeck was Music Director of the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra from 2000 to 2006, and in 2007, assumed the post as Music Director of the Staatsoper Stuttgart. Beginning in September 2008, Honeck became the Principal Guest Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra in Prague. In 1996, Honeck began a three-year stint as one of three main conductors of the MDR Symphony Orchestra Leipzig, and in 1997, he served as Music Director at the Norwegian National Opera in Oslo for a year. A highly successful tour of Europe with the Oslo Philharmonic marked the beginning of a close collaboration with this orchestra, which consequently appointed him Principal Guest Conductor, a post he held from 1998-2004. Manfred Honeck was born in Austria and studied music at the Academy of Music in Vienna. An accomplished violinist and violist, Honeck spent more than 10 years as a member of the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna State Opera Orchestra. It is his experience as an orchestra musician that heavily influenced his conducting and helped give it a distinctive stamp. Honeck commenced his conducting career as assistant to Claudio Abbado at the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra in Vienna.

The **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** has been a vital part of the City of Pittsburgh's heritage for more than 100 years. With its noble history of the finest conductors and musicians and its strong commitment to artistic quality and excellence, audiences around the world have claimed the PSO as their orchestra of choice. In September 2008, the PSO welcomed its ninth Music Director Manfred Honeck. Beginning in the early 1900s with frequent performances in Canada, the PSO confirmed its ranking as a world-class orchestra, earning critical acclaim for each tour abroad. Its 33 international tours include 17 European tours, eight trips to the Far East and two to South America. In January 2004, the PSO became the first American orchestra to perform at the Vatican for Pope John Paul II, as part of the Pontiff's Silver Jubilee celebration.

Heinz Hall, 600 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 | 412.392.4900 | www.pittsburghsymphony.org

Lawrence Tamburri, president & CEO | Richard P. Simmons, board chairman | Manfred Honeck, music director
Leonard Slatkin, principal guest conductor | Marek Janowski, Otto Klemperer guest conductor chair | Marvin Hamlisch,
principal pops conductor



The **Allegheny Conference on Community Development and Affiliates** – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.alleghenyconference.org.

The **Pittsburgh Regional Alliance**, an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, markets the benefits of conducting business in southwestern Pennsylvania to companies all over the world that are growing, relocating or expanding. For more information, visit www.pittsburghregion.org.

ESSEN, Germany – Philharmonie

Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 8 p.m.

Manfred Honeck, conductor
Christine Schäfer, soprano

STRAUSS Four Last Songs
BRUCKNER Symphony No. 4 in E-flat major “ Romantic”

BONN, Germany – Beethovenhalle

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 8 p.m.

Manfred Honeck, conductor
Viktoria Mullova, violin

WEBER Overture to *Der Freischütz*
BEETHOVEN Concerto in D major for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 61
DVORAK Symphony No. 8 in G major, Opus 88

LUCERNE, Switzerland - Kultur und Kongresszentrum

Friday, September 18, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Manfred Honeck, conductor
Viktoria Mullova, violin

WEBER Overture to *Der Freischütz*
BEETHOVEN Concerto in D major for Violin and Orchestra, Opus 61
DVORAK Symphony No. 8 in G major, Opus 88



LUCERNE, Switzerland - Kultur und Kongresszentrum
Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Manfred Honeck, conductor
Christine Schäfer, soprano

STRAUSS Four Last Songs
BRUCKNER Symphony No. 4 in E-flat major “ Romantic”

###

Contact: James Barthen, Vice President of Public Affairs
Phone: 412.392.4835 | email: jbarthen@pittsburghsymphony.org

Contact: Nicole Philipp, Director of Media Relations
phone: 412.392.4827 | email: ncerrillos@pittsburghsymphony.org

Contact: Philip Cynar, Pittsburgh Regional Alliance
Phone: 412.281.4783, ext. 4573 | email: pcynar@allegencyconference.org