

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC EXPANDS WEEKLONG FOOD DRIVE
TO NEW JERSEY AND LONG ISLAND
DURING ORCHESTRA'S FREE
CONCERTS IN THE PARKS SERIES, JULY 9-17, 2007**

**2007 NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS IN THE PARKS
ARE PRESENTED BY DIDI AND OSCAR SCHAFFER**

**Concertgoers May Donate Non-Perishable Food Items
At Concerts in New York City, New Jersey, and Long Island**

The New York Philharmonic will expand its previously announced weeklong, citywide food drive to include New Jersey and Long Island during the **2007 New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks, Presented by Didi and Oscar Schaffer**, sponsored by **CIT**, July 9–17, 2007. In addition to the partnership with the **Food Bank For New York City** in the five boroughs of New York City, the Orchestra will also collaborate with the **FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties** on Monday, July 9, 2007, at the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, New Jersey; and **Long Island Cares, Inc. – The Harry Chapin Food Bank** on Saturday, July 14, 2007, at Heckscher State Park in East Islip, Long Island. This summer marks the 43rd season of free Philharmonic concerts under the stars.

Throughout the series, concertgoers are invited to donate non-perishable food items. Representatives will be stationed at collection bins located at the entrances to each park, as well as at centrally located tables in each park: PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel, New Jersey; Prospect Park, Brooklyn; Central Park, Manhattan; Cunningham Park, Queens; Snug Harbor, Staten Island; Heckscher State Park, East Islip, Long Island; and Van Cortlandt Park, the Bronx. For more information, visit nyphil.org. (See concert schedule below.)

Since their inception in 1965, the Philharmonic's parks concerts have delighted more than 14 million listeners, including 122,300 last summer alone.

(more)

About the New York Philharmonic

Founded in 1842, the New York Philharmonic is the oldest symphony orchestra in the United States and one of the oldest in the world. Lorin Maazel became Music Director in September 2002, succeeding Kurt Masur, who was Music Director from 1991 until the summer of 2002. Other recent Music Directors include Zubin Mehta, Pierre Boulez, and Leonard Bernstein. Since its inception, the Philharmonic has played a leading role in American musical life, reaching out to audiences with touring that began in 1882; recordings beginning in 1917; radio broadcasts since 1922, now represented by *The New York Philharmonic This Week*, syndicated nationally 52 weeks a year, and available on the Orchestra's Website, nyphil.org. The Internet has further expanded the Philharmonic's audiences: the Philharmonic recently became the first major American orchestra to offer downloadable concerts, recorded live, on the DG Concerts label, exclusively on iTunes.

About the Food Bank For New York City

Food Bank For New York City, the city's primary supplier of food for those who would otherwise go hungry, helps provide more than 250,000 free meals served each day by more than 1,000 emergency and community food programs throughout the five boroughs — including soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, low-income daycare centers, Kids Cafes and senior, youth and rehabilitation centers. Those in need include women and children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and the working poor. Recent honors include a consecutive four-star rating from Charity Navigator — the nation's largest charity evaluator. The Food Bank was also recognized by America's Second Harvest, The Nation's Food Bank Network, with its second "Mighty Apple" award for the most fresh produce collected and distributed within the network.

About the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties

The FoodBank of Monmouth & Ocean Counties is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to provide food for as many needy people as possible. Since 1984, the FoodBank has collected donated and surplus food in its warehouse and distributed this to families in need in these two counties in New Jersey via a network of member charities. Two out of every five people receiving emergency food are children; the third is an elderly person. Last year, the FoodBank distributed 3.4 million pounds of food to soup kitchens, shelters, daycare, and residential programs for children, the disabled, and the elderly. For every dollar donated, the FoodBank can distribute seven pounds of food. Call (732) 918-2600 or go to www.foodbankmoc.org for more information.

About Long Island Cares, Inc. – The Harry Chapin Food Bank

Founded in 1980 by the late singer-activist, Long Island Cares, Inc. – The Harry Chapin Food Bank, is the regional food bank for Long Island, working with over 600 human service agencies across Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Its mission is to bring all available resources together for the benefit of the hungry on Long Island. Its goals are to provide emergency food where and when it is needed, sponsor programs that help families achieve self-sufficiency, and educate the general public about the causes and consequences of hunger on Long Island. Its Community Outreach Programs are designed to increase self-sufficiency and self-reliance in those individuals most at risk of needing emergency food assistance during their lifetime. These programs are The New Paths to Achievement Program, The Long Island Cares' Job Training Program, The School Tools Program, Kids Cafes After School Program, and the Hunger 101 Hunger Awareness Education Program. For more information about donation and volunteering opportunities, call (631) 582-FOOD (3663) or visit www.licares.org.

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The New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks are presented by **Didi and Oscar Schafer**, sponsored by **CIT**. Major support also provided by **The City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs, The Starr Foundation, The Carson Family Charitable Trust, and Arthur Ross Foundation.**

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**2007 NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS IN THE PARKS
PRESENTED BY DIDI AND OSCAR SCHAFFER
SPONSORED BY CIT**

Food Drive Concert Locations:

Monday, July 9	PNC Bank Arts Center, Holmdel, New Jersey
Tuesday, July 10	Prospect Park, Brooklyn
Wednesday, July 11	The Great Lawn, Central Park, Manhattan
Thursday, July 12	Cunningham Park, Queens
Friday, July 13	Snug Harbor, Staten Island
Saturday, July 14	Heckscher State Park, East Islip, Long Island
Monday, July 16	Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx
Tuesday, July 17	The Great Lawn, Central Park, Manhattan

All concerts begin at 8:00 p.m., with fireworks following in all locations except at the PNC Bank Arts Center. For further information, call the New York Philharmonic hotline: (212) 875-5709, or visit the Orchestra's Website, **nyphil.org**.

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