

For immediate release

**PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF MUSIC
BROKE GROUND FOR ITS NEW, \$21 MILLION FACILITY
ON THURSDAY, 18 MAY 2006 AT 9:30 AM**

**THE NEW BUILDING IN LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA, IS THE
LAST MUSIC VENUE DESIGNED BY THE LATE PHILIP JOHNSON;
ACOUSTICS ARE BY CYRIL HARRIS**

The Pennsylvania Academy of Music in Lancaster, PA, had its ceremonial groundbreaking on Thursday, 18 May 2006, at 9:30 a.m., initiating the construction of a new, \$21 million facility. The event took place at 42 Prince Street.

As part of the groundbreaking ceremony, a string quartet of young performers from the Academy was raised into the air by a scissor-lift truck to symbolize the rising of the new building. Participants included Academy founders Michael Jamanis and Frances Veri Jamanis, Academy Board Chairman Paul Ware, Mayor Rick Gray, architect Alan Ritchie, acoustician Cyril Harris, and Benchmark Construction President Robert A. Brandt, Jr.

Michael Jamanis and Frances Veri Jamanis spoke of their expectations for the school in its new headquarters: “We are very humbled to be part of a community that shares our vision. The Pennsylvania Academy fills an important cultural and educational niche locally and regionally as well – reaching from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. Many people don’t think of Lancaster as the home of a world-class music institute. But our students regularly have gone on to Juilliard, Oberlin and Eastman. The growth of the school, since its inception in 1990, was so dramatic that we were bursting at the seams in the original building. The new venue will enable us, as an educational and performance institution, to realize our potential, and to help generations of young musicians to realize theirs, as artists and as human beings.”

The new building will serve as an anchor to the Lancaster Arts Corridor (a section of downtown that is host to art galleries and studios, the Fulton Opera House, the Pennsylvania College of Art & Design, among other venues). The new building will envelop the original, historic building which will stand at the core of the new structure.

The new facility is the last music venue designed by the late Philip Johnson of Philip Johnson and Alan Ritchie Architects (designers of the AT&T headquarters in New York City and several renowned concert venues); Johnson designed this building in collaboration with his partner, Alan Ritchie. The acoustics have been designed by Cyril Harris, whose work includes the Metropolitan Opera, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, S. Mark Taper Auditorium at Benaroya Hall in Seattle, and the Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City. The project, financed by Union National Bank, will be constructed by Benchmark Construction Company who recently completed the Rolex Lititz Watch Technicum and the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design.

The construction will take approximately two years. When completed, the new facility will feature:

- **63,000-square-feet**
- **4 stories**
- **a 367-seat recital hall with a Grand Foyer**
- **65' x 65' Roof Top Terrace that can be used for outdoor performances (which might also be glass-enclosed)**
- **13 private studios, a string institute, a percussion studio, and rooms for choral study and performance**
- **state-of-the-art recording facilities with broadcast capabilities and a computer lab**
- **a modern and expanded library featuring reading and listening rooms**
- **classrooms for theory and composition**
- **public spaces for conferences, conventions and community functions**

Founded in 1990, the Pennsylvania Academy of Music is a non-profit, pre-collegiate institution that has grown to educate nearly 500 students annually. It is one of only 12 autonomous music schools in the country accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. The Academy attracts students from an immediate nine-county area as well as internationally, and offers an extensive curriculum from instrumental and vocal performance to music composition and theory, improvisation, accompanying, and recording. All classes are taught by an accomplished, international faculty. Alumni of the school have continued their music education at schools including The Juilliard School, Oberlin Conservatory and Eastman School of Music. The Newstead Trio, the featured ensemble in residence, was started at the Academy and is in residence there.

Additional information about the Academy can be found at www.pamusacad.org.

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION: For additional information, interview access or photographs, please contact Nancy Shear Arts Services, National Press Representatives for the Pennsylvania Academy of Music, Tel: 212/496-9418, or SHEARARTS@AOL.COM; WWW.NANCYSHEAR.COM