

Dear ICSOM Officers and Delegates, AFM and Local Officers and guests:

On behalf of Local 77 and The Members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, I am delighted to welcome you to the City of Brotherly Love! We especially wanted to remedy never having hosted a Conference in our city, considering The Philadelphia Orchestra was one of the founding members of ICSOM.

Philadelphia was our nation's first capital, known as "The Birthplace of Freedom" due to the writing and signing of the Declaration of Independence as well as the U.S. Constitution. This democratic spirit often carries over into our orchestra meetings with "vigorous" debate!

The Sonesta is a short walk from Rittenhouse Square, one of the four spaces demarcating William Penn's "green country town". It should also be mentioned, since the fashion street is Walnut below 18th, that there is no tax on clothing in Pennsylvania. There is also an Apple Store, for which you will be taxed (even watches, which are luxury rather than apparel).

The mixer will be held at the DoubleTree hotel, where many a contract ratification has been held, sometimes even in the Ormandy Ballroom. The DoubleTree has a 5th floor roof deck overlooking the Academy of Music and Kimmel Center, which we will then tour. PO Librarian, former delegate and Brewmaster Bob Grossman is whipping up a fantastic commemorative brew or two for the party!

For those arriving early, Tuesday afternoon we have planned a voluntary community service activity at Broad Street Ministries which promises to be a mutually enriching experience. Details attached separately.

We hope to offer a brief "highlights" tour in addition to the ball game—stay tuned!

#### **What to do:**

Philadelphia is the fifth-largest city in the country, with a city population of more than 1.5 million and growing, and the sixth-largest metropolitan area with over 6 million residents in the tri-state area. There are many things to see and do (and so little time for the delegates!). Vibrant Jazz and Theater scenes as well as art galleries round out the cultural landscape. Local 77 represents several other CBA orchestras: Opera Philadelphia, The Philly POPS [not part of The Philadelphia Orchestra in spite of a brief co-management terminated in bankruptcy!], the Pennsylvania Ballet and The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia.

#### **Historic Area**

- Independence National Historical Park. Tickets for the 30 minute tour of Independence Hall may be booked online [<http://www.nps.gov/inde/index.htm>] but must be picked up at least 45-minutes prior on the day of the reservation.
- The Liberty Bell: no tickets but lines can be long in the summer.
- Betsy Ross and Benjamin Franklin houses

#### **Art Museum area**

- The Philadelphia Museum of Art [<http://www.philamuseum.org/>], including the separately housed Rodin museum, Perelman Building and historic houses in nearby Fairmount Park. Yes, these are the steps Sylvester Stallone famously ran up and down in *Rocky* and you are welcome to try it or you could just pose by the street-level statue of Rocky Balboa.
- The Barnes Foundation [<http://www.barnesfoundation.org/>] is a collection by one man, eccentrically and uniquely arranged

**Food:** Philly's restaurant scene is poppin'! With "Top Chefs", Iron Chefs and just plain amazing chefs, you can spend your per diem on food that keeps up with the hottest trends in dining globally. You can find quirky food spots a couple of blocks from the Sonesta on Sansom [sic] Street. For those wishing to sample probably our most

famous food we will plan excursions to "cheesesteak central" as well as a list of our favorite locations we will share later. Do yourself a favor and avoid the ones in the airport!

- Soft pretzels
- Italian Water Ice (don't dare call it a snow cone!)
- Federal Donuts, which makes amazing fried chicken (1 doughnut included)
- Giwa's Korean Tacos.
- Elixir has some of the best local pour-over coffees and espresso-based drinks
- Ditto at La Colombe
- Starbucks is practically on every corner if you need a venti vanilla-soy skim latte with light whip
- Chinatown is a 5 minute cab or a short walk with other cuisines too
- Reading Terminal Market's Amish and Pennsylvania Dutch food stands
- Diners and Delis and Pizza (neither NY- nor Chicago-style!)
- Seafood
- Revolutionary era food served in period costume

For more extensive ideas for your visit to Philadelphia, consult the Visit Philadelphia website [<http://www.visitphilly.com>]

John Koen

The Philadelphia Orchestra Members' Committee Chair

on behalf of Joseph Parente, President, Local 77, American Federation of Musicians