



ORCHESTRA
OF ST. LUKE'S

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: JENNIFER WADA COMMUNICATIONS
TEL 718 855 7101 jennifer.wada@verizon.net

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**ORCHESTRA OF ST. LUKE'S ANNOUNCES \$500,000 GIFT FROM
BOARD CHAIRMAN NORMAN BENZAQUEN AND HIS WIFE, DIANA –
THE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL HALL OF
THE DIMENNA CENTER FOR CLASSICAL MUSIC
TO BE NAMED IN THEIR HONOR**

***Additional Gifts Raise the Fund for the Future Total to Over \$27.5 Million, and the
Orchestra Ends Fiscal Year 2009 with a Balanced Budget***

The Orchestra of St. Luke's has received a \$500,000 gift from OSL Board Chairman Norman Benzaquen and his wife, Diana, towards its *Fund for the Future* capital and endowment campaign. In recognition of the Benzaquens' generosity to St. Luke's, the Chamber Orchestra Rehearsal Hall of The DiMenna Center for Classical Music will be named in their honor. The DiMenna Center, the creative home of the Orchestra of St. Luke's and the first-ever rehearsal center dedicated to New York's classical music community, is scheduled to open in 2011.

"The DiMenna Center for Classical Music is not only St. Luke's dream for a home but a vitally needed center for the musicians of New York City," said Mr. Benzaquen. "We hope that our gift will encourage others to invest in this important resource for the City, and in the future of what we believe is the best orchestra in New York."

This gift brings the combined total of the Benzaquens' endowment and capital gifts to \$800,000.

It is also one of a series of recent gifts to OSL that brings the *Fund for the Future* total to over \$27.5 million of its \$50 million goal. The campaign supports the purchase, renovation, and operating endowment for The DiMenna Center for Classical Music, and an endowment for OSL's programs and operations. The endowment comprises three funds: general operating, arts education, and artistic initiatives. It is estimated that the campaign will be completed by 2013.

Additional recent gifts to the Fund for the Future include those from: The Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust; The Alice Tully Foundation; The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation and President Norman Peck; the New York State Council on the Arts Architecture Program; and the 42nd Street Development Corporation and President Frederic Papert.

The Orchestra of St. Luke's continues to enjoy good fiscal health, and is pleased to announce that it ended its fiscal year 2009 in August with a balanced general operating budget.

The DiMenna Center for Classical Music

The DiMenna Center for Classical Music, which is projected to open in the beginning of 2011, will occupy half of a six-story building, located at 450 West 37th Street, and will provide a creative home for the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, and the St. Luke's Arts Education Program. It will also address the urgent needs of small-to-mid-size organizations and groups challenged by increasingly prohibitive real estate costs while trying to maintain their work and visibility in New York City. Upon completion, the 20,000-plus square foot facility will enable classical musicians to work and strengthen their artistic identities. It will include a large rehearsal hall with state-of-the-art recording capabilities, a chamber orchestra rehearsal hall, two sectional rehearsal rooms, two artist studios, a musician lounge and café, an education center, music library, and the OSL's administrative offices.

The architect for The DiMenna Center is Hugh Hardy of H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture and the acoustician is A'kustiks.

The 2009-2010 season marks the 35th year of America's foremost chamber orchestra, the **Orchestra of St. Luke's**. This unique musical organization comprises three divisions: the Orchestra of St. Luke's, St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, and St. Luke's Arts Education Program. St. Luke's currently performs nearly 100 orchestral, chamber, and educational concerts throughout New York each year, all showcasing the hallmark collaborative spirit that has garnered consistent critical acclaim for vibrant music-making of the highest order. Visit www.oslmusic.org.