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Ovations Food Services Partners with Stephen Starr Events for *Crescendo* A Dining Experience at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts

Philadelphia, PA (May 19, 2009) – The Mann Center for the Performing Arts and Ovations Food Services are excited to announce their partnership with Stephen STARR Events for a new tented dining facility called *Crescendo*. Scheduled to open for The Mann’s first concert of the season on June 5th, *Crescendo* will feature a daily menu of culinary vignettes as well as picnic basket packages to be enjoyed by ticketholders.

“We are thrilled to be working with Stephen STARR Events,” states President and CEO of The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, Catherine Cahill. “Stephen Starr’s name is synonymous with culinary excellence, and when combined with The Mann Center’s long and legendary history of artistic excellence, you have the recipe for the perfect marriage!”

Produced by Stephen STARR Events– the full service catering and contract dining company from renowned restaurateur Stephen Starr– *Crescendo* at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts will offer the perfect complement to the stellar performances and breathtaking atmosphere of Philadelphia’s most beloved outdoor arena. Amidst views of the skyline, patrons will be provided a “STARR Restaurant”-quality experience with knowledgeable and attentive service, superior cuisine and dynamic presentation. With seating for approximately 180 guests, *Crescendo*’s dining room will exude summer fun with its bright lime green color palette and rattan and raffia accents.

“As we looked at ways to enhance the guest experience this year, our focus centered on fresh innovative food and exceptional service.” said Linda Recke, General Manager of Ovations. “Partnering with Stephen STARR Events, a highly recognized name in culinary experiences, will help take our focus to the next level.”

The menu at *Crescendo* will change regularly as inspired by the performers yet consistently feature delectable salad and antipasto selections from Executive Chef Shane Cash in addition to a sauté station featuring entrees, small plates and carved meats and fish. Fresh house-baked breads from Parc restaurant and a delicious selection of dessert tapas will be the perfect start and end of every meal. A full-service bar and lounge area featuring unique signature *Crescendo* cocktails and small plates will provide guests an additional opportunity to enhance their dining experience. The full three-course dining experience at *Crescendo* can be enjoyed for \$45.00 (including tax) per person. In addition, Stephen STARR Events will also offer picnic dinner boxes for pre-order for those guests wanting to spread out their blankets and dine underneath the stars.

“The STARR brand is consistently associated with excellence in service, creative cuisine and unrivaled atmosphere. *Crescendo* at the Mann will offer a pre-performance dining experience along those lines,” says Simon Powles, President of Stephen STARR Events. “*Crescendo* will provide concert attendees the perfect opening act to their experience at the Mann.”

Crescendo will be open for the June thru September concert season and for private events. For reservations and additional information, please call (215) 879-4871 or visit www.manncenter.org.

ABOUT THE MANN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

A summer destination since the 1930's, The Mann Center for the Performing Arts is located in Philadelphia's beautiful Fairmount Park. Now in its 33rd season, the Mann continues its rich tradition as the Delaware Valley's premiere outdoor cultural arts center with concerts and programs encompassing all musical genres from pop, jazz, rhythm & blues, rock and contemporary to dance theater, opera and classical. Amenities include full-service tented dining offering a spectacular vista of Philadelphia's skyline, lush lawn seating including a picnic grove, several bars, concession stands and merchandise tents. For details call 215.546.7900 ext 102 or visit www.manncenter.org.

ABOUT OVATIONS FOOD SERVICES

Considered by many as the best managed, most innovative food services company in the industry, Ovation Food Services emphasizes a creative menu with local flavors in its selections. Ovations features signature exhibition cooking techniques, cutting-edge buffet décor and fresh cuisine. Ovations Food Services provides quality catering and concession services to over 90 different venues throughout North America. Ovations Food Services is owned by Comcast-Spectacor, the Philadelphia based sports and entertainment firm.

ABOUT STARR RESTAURANTS

Founded in 1995 by Stephen Starr, Philadelphia-based Starr Restaurants is one of the fastest growing multi-concept restaurant companies in the country. Starr Restaurants include Buddakan, Morimoto, The Continental, Barclay Prime, Continental Mid-Town, El Vez, Jones, Alma de Cuba, Pod, Tangerine, Parc and Butcher and Singer in Philadelphia; Morimoto and Buddakan in New York City's thriving Meatpacking District; and Steak 954 in Ft. Lauderdale. Starr Restaurants expanded to Atlantic City, NJ, with Buddakan and Continental restaurants at The Pier at Caesar's in 2006, and Teplitzky's and Chelsea Prime at the Chelsea in 2008. Stephen STARR Events is the group's full-service catering and special events division.

Stephen Starr has earned numerous awards and accolades, and was named "Restaurateur of the Year" by Bon Appétit magazine in 2005 and Zagat Survey New York City in 2007. Starr also received *TimeOut New York* Readers' Choice Award for "Best New Out-of-Town Restaurateur" in 2007.

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