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For more information contact:
Marjorie Rochon
Harron and Associates
(617) 267-7366

Marjorie@Harronandassociates.com

**SARAJEVO HONORS BOSTON LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA FOUNDER AND
CONDUCTOR CHARLES ANSBACHER FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
“CULTURAL LIFE OF THE CITY”**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – February 22, 2010 – The Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra in Bosnia-Herzegovina honored Charles Ansbacher, founder of the Boston Landmarks Orchestra, on February 19, 2010 with a permanent plaque in the lobby of Bosnia’s National Theatre after he conducted his 25th concert with the orchestra. Ansbacher has been conducting the Sarajevo Philharmonic for the past 15 years, and was its first conductor following the Dayton Peace Accords and the Treaty of Paris in 1995 that ended the Bosnian war. For the last twelve years, he has been their principal guest conductor.

“I was overwhelmed,” Ansbacher said of this honor. “In my entire history with the Sarajevo Philharmonic I have never seen musicians who have had such a difficult life and have had to overcome so much adversity. I shall never forget one concert when signs backstage read ‘no weapons on stage,’” Ansbacher continued. “I was also struck by the transformation of the city since then. The attendance at this February 19th concert was stunning: the Mayor of Sarajevo, President Dr. Haris Silajdzic, former President Ejup Ganic, the Minister of Culture for the city and Federation, the Director of the Winter Cultural Festival, and the US Ambassador all attended what for me was an incredibly meaningful event.”

The Sarajevo Philharmonic placed the framed plaque with a silver and gold platter describing Ansbacher’s contribution to the orchestra’s artistic survival in the lobby of the National Theatre. This award reads, “Presented to Maestro Charles Ansbacher, for his dedication and exceptional contribution to the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra, 1995-2010.” The mayor of Sarajevo, Prof. Dr. Alija Behmen, also presented a letter of thanks to the maestro stating that Ansbacher is “an extraordinary man and artist who has left his mark on the musical scene of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina, earned respect from musicians and audience of Sarajevo with his numerous

successful performances with the Sarajevo Philharmonic orchestra and animated and affirmed generations of musicians from Sarajevo with his public work.”

Ansbacher conducted Beethoven’s Egmont Overture and Beethoven’s 6th while in Sarajevo, both of which he will perform during the Boston Landmarks Orchestra’s 2010 summer series, *Landmarks Festival at the Shell*. In addition, he conducted Mahler’s *Songs of a Wayfarer* with internationally renowned mezzo soprano Bernarda Fink. Fink is the wife of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union’s Special Representative, Valentin Inzko. Fink now sings annually with the Metropolitan Opera in New York, the Vienna State Opera, and with many of the great European conductors.

On this trip abroad, Ansbacher also conducted the Chisinau Symphony Orchestra in Moldova.

The Boston Landmarks Orchestra summer series begins Wednesday July 14, 2010 at the DCR Hatch Shell with a season featuring Beethoven. All concerts are at 7pm and are free to the public. The Boston Landmarks Orchestra, founded by Maestro Ansbacher in 2001, is celebrating its 10th season and is one of only three orchestras in the United States to perform all its concerts for free to the public.

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