FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 24, 2004

WHAT: Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich
WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
go online to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets

(THE TONHALLE ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES BRAHMS)

Having concluded recent tours of London, Berlin, Vienna, Paris and Japan, the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich comes to the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Friday, April 30, for a celebration of the music of one of its early conductors, Johannes Brahms. Under the baton of David Zinman, the orchestra performs Brahms' Piano Concerto No. 1 in d minor, Op. 15 and Symphony No. 2. The evening will also feature Norwegian pianist Leif Ove Andsnes.

Founded in 1868, Zurich's Tonhalle Orchestra is Switzerland's oldest symphony orchestra. Originally made up of 33 musicians, today, the 101 musicians of the Tonhalle Orchestra give over 90 concerts each season, presenting more than 50 different programs, and work with the world's leading conductors and soloists, consistently drawing large audiences. In recent times the orchestra has reached more and more ears, with its guest performances all over Switzerland and concert tours to the world's major music centers, in addition to numerous recording efforts.

David Zinman, a student of the great French conductor Pierre Monteux, is best known for leading the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in the '80s and '90s, elevating that ensemble's

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stature through radio broadcasts and recordings of a wide variety of music. In 1995 he assumed directorship of the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra, and commenced working similar wonders there. Monteux took notice of Zinman while his student was studying Conducting at Boston Symphony’s Tanglewood Music Center and offered him his first important conducting opportunities with the London Symphony Orchestra and at the Holland Festival. Since joining the Tonhalle Orchestra, Zinman has produced music to reward the careful listener, marked by alert, dynamic, exciting playing.

For this concert, audiences will be treated to a second luminary of modern classical music, as Leif Ove Andsnes, an accomplished young Norwegian pianist joins Tonhalle. Andsnes is taking the world by storm with his performances and recordings of solo piano works and concertos. The New York Times has called Leif Ove Andsnes “The most interesting pianist of his generation,” noting that “gorgeous tone, fleet-fingered technique, rhythmic integrity and textural clarity” are the hallmarks of his pianism.

Tickets are $40, $30, $15; 17 and under $10. Five College Students $15, $10, $7. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or go online to www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries. This concert is sponsored in part by MassMutual Financial Group and the Tillis Endowment for the Arts.

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