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THOMAS WILKINS EXTENDS CONTRACT AS THE PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR OF THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL ORCHESTRA THROUGH THE 2013 SEASON

Los Angeles Philharmonic Association President **Deborah Borda** announced today the extension of **Thomas Wilkins** contract as Principal Guest Conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra (HBO) through the summer of 2013. Wilkins' tenure was originally announced in March 2008 and began the summer of that same year. Since his appointment, Wilkins has led the HBO in programs featuring such varied artists as Patti Austin, Earth, Wind & Fire, Michael Feinstein, Sir James Galway, Bebel Gilberto, Josh Groban, Chris Isaak, Jewel, Seu Jorge, Bettye LaVette, the Peking Acrobats, Pink Martini, Todd Rundgren, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Donna Summer, Kiri Te Kanawa and Jean-Yves Thibaudet.

Wilkins is the ensemble's first titled leader since Founding Director John Mauceri retired in 2006. An audience favorite wherever he conducts, Wilkins made his Bowl debut in the summer of 2007. He leads the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra in nine performances during the 2011 summer season, including Opening Night on Friday, June 17, 2011. Wilkins is also currently the Music Director of the Omaha Symphony Orchestra, a position he has held since 2005.

"The Hollywood Bowl continues to hold a deeply special place in my heart," said Wilkins. "The incredible versatility of the musicians combined with a uniquely energetic and creative staff makes my time here a pure joy. I am profoundly honored and deeply grateful to be a part of this family."

President and CEO Deborah Borda added, "From the beginning there has been a wonderful connection between Thomas and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. It's a joy to observe these great talents in collaboration and he is clearly an audience favorite. We are so pleased that he will continue on with us, particularly as this summer we celebrate an incredible milestone, our 90th season of making music under the stars!"

The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra is comprised of 80 players – an international mix of classically-trained musicians who are among the best studio musicians in Los Angeles. The current incarnation of the HBO

was established under the direction of former Principal Conductor John Mauceri and gave its first public performance in July of 1991.

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05.03.11