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ACOUSTICIAN SELECTED FOR BOETTCHER CONCERT HALL RENOVATION

DENVER (July 16, 2008) – **The City and County of Denver's Division of Theatres and Arenas** and the **Colorado Symphony Orchestra (CSO)** announced today that the Boettcher Concert Hall Acoustician Selection Committee has selected **Akustiks** to lead the acoustical design of the symphony hall renovation and expansion project. A 15-member panel chose Akustiks on July 10 following presentations given by the three firms selected as final candidates for the position.

Based in South Norwalk, Connecticut, **Akustiks** is experienced in the design of new performance halls, adaptive reuse of existing facilities, and the restoration and renovation of performance spaces. Among the firm's credits are the Schermerhorn Symphony Center (Nashville, TN), Severance Hall (Cleveland, OH), Copley Hall (San Diego, CA), the Concert Hall at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, D.C.), Boston Opera House (Boston, MA) and the Sala São Paulo (São Paulo, Brazil). Akustiks is led by principals Paul Scarbrough, Christopher Blair, Russell Todd and Anthony Nittoli.

Akustiks is the latest addition to the Boettcher Concert Hall design team, which includes officials from Theatres and Arenas, the CSO, Denver's Public Works, architects Diamond and Schmitt and Oz Architecture, and the Romani Group. Built in 1978 and suffering from severe acoustical and accessibility issues, as well as major deterioration and a lack support space, **Boettcher Concert Hall** will undergo a major renovation and expansion, thanks to Denver voters who approved a \$60 million bond initiative in November 2007. With an additional financial commitment of at least \$30 million from the **Colorado Symphony Orchestra**, Denver's new symphony center will provide the orchestra with an elegant and beautiful home that will include a state-of-the-art acoustical hall and dedicated spaces for public gatherings, educational offerings, artist dressing rooms, a music library, and rehearsal and office space.

The Boettcher Concert Hall renovation and expansion project is part of the **Better Denver Program** (www.denvergov.org/betterdenver). Mayor John Hickenlooper, with civic leaders, staff and citizens, challenged the Denver community to imagine a city with enhanced infrastructure and facilities to add to the quality of life. Through collaboration and stewardship, the Better Denver initiative was born. Better Denver – approved by Denver voters in 2007 – is a comprehensive effort by the City of Denver to invest in the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the many City amenities that touch our lives. Better Denver calls for the improvement, preservation, renovation and creation of new roads, libraries, parks, hospitals, public safety and cultural facilities. These improvements are being implemented over a five year period through 2012, and are funded by a \$550 million voter-approved bond.

Established in 1989 as the successor of the Denver Symphony, the **Colorado Symphony Orchestra** (www.ColoradoSymphony.org) is the state's only full-time professional orchestra. Each season, the CSO performs a 21-week Masterworks series of classical programs, as well as Pops, Family, Holiday and Summer Parks concerts, to approximately 220,000 patrons. Centrally located in downtown Denver, most performances are held in **Boettcher Concert Hall** at the **Denver Performing Arts Complex**. In 2005, the CSO appointed Jeffrey Kahane as the ninth music director in the 82-year history of the Denver and Colorado Symphony Orchestras.

Denver's Division of Theatres and Arenas (www.denvergov.org/theatres_and_arenas) owns and operates the Denver Performing Arts Complex, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, the Colorado Convention Center and the historic Denver Coliseum.

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