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PRESS RELEASE

BGL BNP Paribas allows the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg the use of its Matteo Goffriller cello

Signature of a partnership agreement between the bank and the Grande-Duchesse Joséphine-Charlotte Concert Hall

11 December 2012 saw the official signature of a partnership agreement between BGL BNP Paribas and the Grande-Duchesse Joséphine-Charlotte Concert Hall to allow the *Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg* to use the prized cello, known as “*Le Luxembourgeois*”.

“*Le Luxembourgeois*” has been owned by the bank since 1993. The instrument was crafted between 1690 and 1700 by Matteo Goffriller, one of the most gifted luthiers in Venice at the time. Under this partnership agreement, the instrument will be played by Ilia Laporev and Aleksandr Kramouchin, first solo cellists with the *Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg*.

Matthias Naske, Director General of the Luxembourg Philharmonic: “The trust that BGL BNP Paribas has placed in the *Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg* by allowing the use of Matteo Goffriller’s cello “*Le Luxembourgeois*” is both a great tribute and a challenge. The exceptionally beautiful tones of this instrument will not only further enhance the supporting musical role played by solo cellists in the orchestra, but will also make an important contribution to the sound quality of this orchestra led by principal conductor Emmanuel Krivine. We are all truly delighted by this trust and the opportunity it affords to develop the sound quality of the orchestra!”

Eric Martin, Country Manager and Chairman of the Executive Committee of BGL BNP Paribas: “We are truly delighted to make this extraordinary cello available to the soloists of the *Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg* and in turn to introduce it to a wider audience. Our bank is deeply embedded in the community, and this agreement embodies one of the bank’s primary objectives as a sponsor of the arts, namely to enhance access to the arts in these communities.”

By offering the orchestra the opportunity to use this magnificent cello, “*Le Luxembourgeois*”, BGL BNP Paribas renews its engagement as a patron of the arts and reaffirms its commitment to corporate citizenship.

About BGL BNP Paribas

BGL BNP Paribas (www.bgl.lu) is one of the largest banks in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. It offers an especially wide range of financial products to individuals, professionals, private banking clients and businesses. BGL BNP Paribas is Luxembourg's number-one provider of banking services to professionals and small- and medium-size companies, and number two in services for individuals. It is also the leader for bancassurance. In 2012 the international magazine The Banker named BGL BNP Paribas "Bank of the Year" in Luxembourg for the second year in a row.

About BNP Paribas

BNP Paribas (www.bnpparibas.com) has a presence in 80 countries with nearly 200,000 employees, including more than 150,000 in Europe. It ranks highly in its three core activities: Retail Banking, Investment Solutions and Corporate & Investment Banking. In Europe, the Group has four domestic markets (Belgium, France, Italy and Luxembourg) and BNP Paribas Personal Finance is the leader in consumer lending. BNP Paribas is rolling out its integrated retail banking model across Mediterranean basin countries, in Turkey, in Eastern Europe and a large network in the western part of the United States. In its Corporate & Investment Banking and Investment Solutions activities, BNP Paribas also enjoys top positions in Europe, a strong presence in the Americas and solid and fast-growing businesses in Asia.

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