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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Composer Christopher Rouse Joins the Peabody Institute as Distinguished Composer-in-Residence

May 8, 2008, Baltimore, MD: The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University is pleased to announce that internationally acclaimed composer and Baltimore native Christopher Rouse has been appointed Distinguished Composer-in-Residence at the Peabody Conservatory. Rouse is one of America's most prominent composers of orchestral music. Commencing in the 2008-09 academic year, Rouse will give a number of master classes to Peabody composition students. He will also give an annual presentation on his work, which will be open to the public.

Christopher Rouse is one of today's most celebrated composers. His works have been heard around the world and have received many of music's most prestigious honors, including a Pulitzer Prize and a Grammy Award. *The Baltimore Sun* has written: "When the music history of the late 20th century is written, I suspect the explosive and passionate music of Rouse will loom large."

Born in Baltimore in 1949, Rouse graduated from Oberlin Conservatory and Cornell University, numbering among his principal teachers George Crumb and Karel Husa. His music has been played by every major orchestra in the U.S. and numerous ensembles overseas including the Berlin Philharmonic, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Sydney and Melbourne Symphonies, the London Symphony, and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. He has written for soloists including Yo-Yo Ma, Carol Wincenc, Evelyn Glennie, Dawn Upshaw, and Emanuel Ax. Christopher Rouse's accomplishments as a composer were honored in 2002 with his election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

"I am excited that Dr. Rouse is able to spend some time with our composition students," said Peabody Director Jeffrey Sharkey. "He is a world renowned composer and teacher, living in our midst in Baltimore, and we are all delighted that he is able to work with us at Peabody."

Rouse lives in Baltimore and has a long history with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO). In 1986, he was appointed the BSO's first composer-in-residence and continued to serve as the symphony's new music advisor from 1989 through 2000. Rouse's *Symphony No. 1* (1986), commissioned by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and winner of the prestigious Kennedy Center Friedheim Award, was rated by the *Boston Globe* as "probably the most completely successful symphonic composition yet written by an American composer of his rising generation." A CD devoted to Rouse's music features BSO Music Director and Peabody Distinguished Faculty Artist Marin Alsop leading the Colorado Symphony Orchestra in *Gorgon, Iscariot*, and his Pulitzer Prize-winning *Trombone Concerto*. Alsop also conducts on *Passion Wheels*, a new recording containing Rouse's *Concerto per Corde, Rotae Passionis, Ku-Ka-Ilimoku*, and *Ogoun Badagris*. The CD has won "Best of the Year" designation for 2000 from both *Gramophone* magazine and *Fanfare* magazine.

About the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University

Located in the heart of Baltimore's Mount Vernon Cultural District, the Peabody Institute was founded in 1857 as America's first academy of music by philanthropist George Peabody. Today, Peabody boasts a preeminent faculty, a nurturing, collaborative learning environment, and the academic resources of one of the nation's leading universities, Johns Hopkins. Through its degree granting Conservatory and its community-based Preparatory music and dance school, Peabody trains musicians and dancers of every age and at every level, from small children to seasoned professionals, from dedicated amateurs to winners of international competitions. Each year, Peabody stages more than 150 major concerts and performances, ranging from classical to contemporary to jazz, many of them free — a testament to the vision of George Peabody. This season, Peabody celebrates its 150th Anniversary, solidifying its role as one of the nation's leading sources of professionally trained musicians.