

PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CONTACT: Linda Fowler (609) 497-0020 lindaowler.ink@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**In Collaboration With
THE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM**

CELEBRATES

“Romance, Majesty and an Orchestral Icon”

**Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 4 PM
Concert at Richardson Auditorium**

**Featuring Works By
SCHOENBERG, BARBER AND TAVENER**

**With Guest Conductor
ANDREW GRAMS**

**And Guest Artist
QIANG TU, Cellist**

**Tickets: \$64, 50, 38, 20
Information: (609) 497-0020**

PLUS

PRE-CONCERT TALK, STUDENT ART DISPLAY AND MUSEUM VISIT

Princeton, NJ, February 23, 2010 ... In a unique collaboration that pairs great art with great music, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra and the Princeton University Art Museum will present **“Romance, Majesty and an Orchestral Icon,”** an afternoon of related events featuring a pre-concert talk, concert and museum tour, on Sunday, March 21. Inspired by the museum’s new exhibit, **“Architecture as Icon: Perception and Representations of Architecture in Byzantine Art,”** the program opens with a talk at 3 p.m. in Richardson Auditorium, followed by

--MORE--

a concert by the PSO at 4 p.m., with orchestral works chosen to complement the museum-going experience. Members of the audience are then invited to tour the “Architecture as Icon” exhibit, which is co-organized by the museum with the European Center for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments in Thessaloniki, Greece. The exhibit opens on Saturday, March 6 and continues through June 6.

The March 21 concert is sponsored by Wilmington Trust FSB.

The PSO, led by guest conductor **Andrew Grams**, will perform three 20th century compositions for string orchestra: **Arnold Schoenberg’s “Verklärte Nacht” (Transfigured Night); Samuel Barber’s Adagio for Strings, and John Tavener’s “The Protecting Veil,”** featuring guest artist and former PSO principal cellist **Qiang Tu**. These luminous pieces have distinctly different styles, but share spiritual and meditative qualities mirroring themes in Byzantine art.

About the Concert Program

“**The Protecting Veil**” by Sir John Tavener (1944-), commissioned by cellist Steven Isserlis, is most closely aligned to the art exhibit. Tavener, a convert to the Eastern Orthodox religion, wrote the piece to commemorate the Feast of the Protecting Veil of the Mother of God, established by the Byzantine church to recall the Blessed Virgin’s appearance to the Greeks in Constantinople during the early 10th century. The cello serves as the voice of Mary. According to Tavener’s notes: “ ... It is an attempt to make a lyrical icon in sound, rather than in wood, and using the music of the cellist to paint rather than a brush. The music is highly stylized, geometrically formed and meditative in character.”

“**Verklärte Nacht**” (**Transfigured Night**) by Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951) is a musical rendering of a lyrical poem by Richard Dehmel. An early work, influenced by German late Romanticism, “Verklärte Nacht” interprets a moonlit scene between a pregnant woman and her new lover. When she laments that the child was conceived by another, he readily accepts her

--MORE--

offspring as his own, vowing that the power of the radiant night will “transform” the child.

“**Adagio for Strings**” by Samuel Barber (1910-1981) is renowned as an unofficial anthem of solemnity and reflection, having been played in the aftermath of tragedies, at the funerals of world leaders, and in Princeton during the private memorial service for Albert Einstein in 1955. Originally written by Barber as the second movement of his String Quartet (No. 1, Op. 11), and inspired by a passage from Virgil’s “Georgics,” the Adagio in recent years has entered pop culture and is heard in films, video games and TV shows.

About “Architecture as Icon”

“**Architecture as Icon**” is the first exhibition of its kind devoted to the subject of perception and representation of architecture in Byzantine art. It challenges long-held assumptions in Western art history and charts a new way of understanding Byzantine art and architecture from 300 A.D. to 1900. Among the nearly 70 works of art on view will be seldom-seen objects and icons from 22 public and private collections in seven countries. In addition to painted icons on wooden panels, there are mosaics and two- and three-dimensional objects made from stone, terracotta, ivory and precious metals. An illustrated book, with essays by American and Greek scholars and individual object entries, accompanies the exhibition.

The exhibit introduces an ignored aspect of religious icons: Images of architecture are important subjects of icons, as well as scenes depicting saints and related narrative subjects.

Additional information may be obtained at www.artmuseum.princeton.edu.

About Andrew Grams, Guest Conductor

As one of America’s most promising and talented young conductors, **Andrew Grams** has appeared with many of the great orchestras of the world, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, the St. Louis Symphony, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra of Santa Cecilia Rome, the Residentie Orchestra of the Hague, the Hamburg

--MORE--

Symphony and the orchestras of Baltimore, Dallas, Houston and others.

Mr. Grams was a protégé of Franz Welser-Moest and served as Assistant Conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra from 2004 to 2007. He made his first subscription series appearance with the Cleveland Orchestra in May, 2006 and conducted his first series of full-length subscription concerts with the orchestra in November, 2006.

This season (2009-10) sees Mr. Grams at the helm of the Residentie Orchestra of the Hague, L'Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre National de Lille, the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland (RTE), the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony, the Seoul Philharmonic, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Ottawa, among others.

A Maryland native raised in Severn, Mr. Grams began conducting at the age of 17, when he directed the World Youth Symphony Orchestra at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan. In 1999 he received a bachelor of music degree in violin performance from the Juilliard School, and in 2003 he received a conducting degree from the Curtis Institute of Music. Also an accomplished violinist, Mr. Grams was a member of the New York City Ballet Orchestra at Lincoln Center from 1998 to 2004. He has performed with such ensembles as the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of St. Luke's and the Brooklyn Philharmonic.

About Qiang Tu, Cellist

Since arriving in the United States in 1987, Chinese-born **Qiang Tu** has established himself as a multifaceted, in-demand artist. In 1994, he served as Principal Cellist of the Princeton Chamber Symphony, now the Princeton Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Tu joined the New York Philharmonic in November 1995.

After making his solo debut at age 13 in Beijing, Mr. Tu began a two-year engagement as soloist with one of China's major symphony orchestras. At age 17, he was awarded England's Menuhin Prize, and was later selected by the Chinese government to study at the Sydney Conservatory.

--MORE--

The culmination of his Australian tenure came when he won Sydney's Parlings Award for Music. Returning to Beijing, he was appointed, at age 20, Associate Professor of Cello at the Central Conservatory. Concurrently, he became Principal Cellist of the China Youth Symphony and concertized with the orchestra throughout Europe. His solo album, "Meditation," was distributed by the China Record Company.

Mr. Tu has appeared in Chicago, St. Louis, New York and other major cities. He has performed the Elgar and Walton cello concertos with the Princeton Chamber Symphony and joined pianist Helen Huang in a benefit recital for New Jersey's Chinese community.

His extensive chamber music appearances have included performances with the group Elysium at Weill Recital Hall, where he also appeared with Lukas Foss in chamber works. Mr. Tu appears frequently with the New York Philharmonic Ensembles chamber music series at Merkin Concert Hall.

Concert Ticket Information

Tickets, priced at \$64, \$50, \$38 and \$20, are available by calling the PSO at (609) 497-0020 or clicking to the PSO website at [www.princeton.edu/psosymphony.org](http://www.princeton.edu/psosymphony). Tickets may also be purchased at the Richardson Auditorium box office (609-258-5000) and at www.princeton.edu/utickets. Richardson Auditorium, on the campus of Princeton University off Nassau Street, is wheelchair accessible. Large-print programs are available.

PSO's 2009-10 classical season will end on Sunday, May 16 at 4 p.m. in a concert led by new Music Director Rossen Milanov and featuring harpist Bridget Kibbey. The program will include works by Mendelssohn, Currier and Elgar.

About Wilmington Trust

Wilmington Trust Corporation (NYSE: WL) is a financial services holding company that provides Regional Banking services throughout the mid-Atlantic region, Wealth Advisory

--MORE--

services to high-net-worth clients in 36 countries, and Corporate Client services to institutional clients in 89 countries. Its wholly owned bank subsidiary, Wilmington Trust Company, which was founded in 1903, is one of the largest personal trust providers in the United States and the leading retail and commercial bank in Delaware. Wilmington Trust Corporation and its affiliates have offices in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Vermont, the Cayman Islands, the Channel Islands, London, Dublin, Frankfurt, Luxembourg, and Amsterdam. For more information, visit www.wilmingtontrust.com.

About the Student Art Exhibit

The March 21 concert will feature an exhibition of art by 20 students from **Montgomery Upper and Lower Middle Schools, Stuart Country Day School, the Hun School of Princeton and Princeton Charter School**. The project is part of the PSO's ***BRAVO!*** initiative, designed to engage students in the appreciation of classical music. The participants were invited to attend the PSO's January 24 concert, free of charge, to listen to Alberto Ginastera's *Variaciones Concertantes*, then create a work of art inspired by the music, in any medium.

About the Princeton Symphony Orchestra

The Princeton Symphony Orchestra is a cultural centerpiece of the Princeton community and one of the state's finest musical organizations. The orchestra has been guided by an extraordinary Board of Trustees and is grateful for the vision of its early Trustees, including Frank E. Taplin, Jr., Edward T. Cone, William F. Scheide, Reid White, Nathaniel Burt and Judy Thomson. Over the course of its 30-year history, the PSO's leadership has invested in the artistic excellence of its orchestral, chamber, and pops concert offerings. Under the auspices of ***BRAVO!***, the PSO also produces wide-reaching and innovative education programs carried out in partnerships with local schools, arts organizations and other community agencies.

The PSO is proud to have been awarded the New Jersey State Council on the Arts' highest honors: *Citation of Excellence* and designation as a *Major Arts Institution*. The only professional orchestra to make its home in Princeton, the PSO performs at beautiful Richardson Auditorium on the campus of

--MORE--

Princeton University. Founded in 1980 by Portia Sonnenfeld, the PSO was led for 22 years by Music Director Mark Laycock, who oversaw a period of artistic growth and achievement marked by innovative programming. In June 2009, the PSO board appointed **Rossen Milanov** as its third Music Director. Mr. Milanov is a gifted and accomplished conductor with outstanding musical credentials, energy and creativity.

For more information, please visit our website at www.princetonsymphony.org or contact the PSO office at (609) 497-0020.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
CONTACT:**

Melanie Clarke
PSO Executive Director
(609) 497-0020
melcog@hotmail.com

CAPTION INFORMATION:

PHOTO COURTESY MUZEUL NATIONAL DE ARTA AL ROMANIEI

A replica of the Kivtos Cotroceni Monastery (Romania, 1685), one of the objects on view in “Architecture as Icon: Perception and Representations of Architecture in Byzantine Art” at the Princeton University Art Museum. Silver and polychrome enamel, 28 x 24 x 16 cm, National Museum of Art, Romania.

PHOTO BY CHRIS LEE

Cellist Qiang Tu is guest soloist with the Princeton Symphony Orchestra on March 21.

###