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**Princeton Symphony Orchestra  
Announces 2009-2010 Season**

**Symphony Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Welcomes New Music Director Rossen Milanov**

**PSO Continues to Welcome World Renowned Guest Conductors**

**Opening Concert Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 4:00 pm**

**Richardson Auditorium, Princeton**

**Works by Saint-Saëns and Mahler**

**Free Pre-concert Lecture at 3:00 pm**

**Tickets: \$64, 50, 38, 20**

**Information: (609) 497-0020**

**Princeton, NJ, September 4, 2009...** Richardson Auditorium will be alive with anticipation on **October 4, 2009**, when the Princeton Symphony Orchestra begins what promises to be one of the most exciting seasons in its 30-year history. Along with the official debut of new Music Director **Rossen Milanov**, the PSO will present a roster of outstanding guest conductors and acclaimed soloists. Throughout the season, bona fide stars and promising young artists will collaborate with PSO musicians to make unforgettable music, showcasing both orchestral masterworks as well as works by living composers. The PSO is proud to begin this season with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts' highest commendations; the PSO has received the Council's **Citation of Excellence** for the second season in a row, and for the first time has been designated a **Major Arts Organization in New Jersey**.

The PSO will kick off its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with an entire weekend of events featuring the remarkable conductor, teacher, author and inspirational speaker **Benjamin Zander**. On **Saturday October 3 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** at Westminster Choir College's Bristol Chapel, Zander will give his widely admired lecture on inspirational

leadership based on his best-selling book, *The Art of Possibility*. Using the metaphor of the orchestra, Zander's exuberant, bold and unconventional presentation teaches how to unlock the potential for greatness in human relationships and in organizations. On **Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 p.m.**, Zander, who is renowned for his interpretations of **Mahler**, will conduct the PSO in the serene and magnificent Mahler *Symphony No. 4 in G Major*. Princeton soprano **Sarah Pelletier** will sing the finale's beautiful *Das Himmlische Leben (The Heavenly Life)*, which takes its lyrics from the collection of German folk poetry called Des Knaben Wunderhorn. Thirteen-year old piano prodigy **George Li** will thrill concertgoers when he joins the PSO for **Saint-Saëns'** brilliant and melodic *Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor*. Saint-Saëns' most popular concerto, this piece is a favorite of soloists and audiences alike for its flair and musical showmanship. There will be a special free preconcert lecture at 2:45 p.m. at Richardson when Maestro Zander will share his insights about Mahler's 4<sup>th</sup>. The weekend's events are underwritten by a generous gift from Glenmede.

The PSO will present its annual **Edward T. Cone Series** concert on **November 1, 2009** under the direction of guest conductor **David Alan Miller**. Music Director of the Albany Symphony Orchestra and a champion of American music, Miller will lead the PSO in a performance of works by **John Harbison**, a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer who grew up in Princeton. Harbison's lively *Canonical American Songbook*, stirs images of medieval, Renaissance and Latin American dances, while his *Concerto for Flute*, featuring PSO's founding principal flutist **Jayn Rosenfeld**, is filled with sounds of birdsongs and images of shimmering colors and changing textures. Balancing Harbison's genius will be the beauty of **Brahms' Symphony No.1**. Considered by some to be a tribute to Beethoven, this intensely heroic progression from tragic struggle to triumph and victory took Brahms 15 years to complete. Harbison, Rosenfeld and Miller will also participate in a panel discussion, part of a new PSO series *Behind the Music*, to give the public the opportunity to learn more about Harbison as a composer and the challenges and pleasures the conductor and flutist experience when performing the new music. Look for future announcements about this panel discussion.

On **January 24, 2010**, **Rossen Milanov** will make his **official debut as Music Director** of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra, with a stylistically diverse program of orchestra gems by **Ravel, Haydn, Prokofiev and Ginastera**. The concert will open with the long flowing melodies of **Ravel's** charming *Ma Mère l'Oye*. Based on favorite fairy tales, this piece illuminates Ravel's thoughtful nature and invokes the bygone innocence of childhood. The PSO will follow with **Haydn's *Symphony No. 88 in G Major***, perhaps the brightest jewel in Haydn's unparalleled collection and one of the masterworks of 18<sup>th</sup> century music. Also performed will be **Prokofiev's** popular and accessible *Symphony No.1, "Classical."* Although written in 1917 at the onset of the Russian revolution, this elegant and modern composition is free of any reference to the tumultuous times. The program will close with **Ginastera's *Variaciones concertantes***. Also written during politically difficult times, this powerful, lyrically expressive work draws on the composer's Argentinean roots for its theme and 11 variations, each of which spotlights a different soloist in the orchestra.

The PSO Classical Season will continue on **March 21, 2010** with returning guest conductor **Andrew Grams**. One of America's most promising and talented young conductors, Grams has chosen three distinctly different 20<sup>th</sup> century compositions as a prelude to a private viewing of **Princeton University Art Museum's Exhibition "Architecture as Icon: Perception and Representations of Architecture in Byzantine Art."** Conceived in collaboration with the Princeton University Art Museum, this concert will feature works by **Schoenberg, Barber and Tavener** chosen for their direct connections to Byzantine traditions to enhance the audience's appreciation for both the music and the art they will experience in this joint presentation. **Shoenberg's** passionately romantic *Verklärte Nacht*, a tender and dramatic love story is followed by **Barber's** well-known *Adagio for Strings*, a meditation of simplicity, poignancy and dignity. The spiritual majesty of the *Adagio* sets the stage for central work of this concert, **Sir John Tavener's *The Protecting Veil***, which takes its inspiration from the art of the Byzantine era. Considered a masterpiece, Byzantine influences are prevalent in this composition, which features a solo for cello that will be performed by PSO's talented former principal cellist, **Qiang Tu**. The mystical intensity, spell-binding color and sonic

opulence of Tavener's music bring to mind the luminous presence of Byzantine icons. The audience is invited to a reception at the Princeton University Art Museum for a private showing of Byzantine treasures and icons. This concert is made possible by a generous gift from Wilmington Trust.

On **May 16, 2010**, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra will perform its final concert of the season under the baton of Music Director **Rossen Milanov**. This concert will feature three exceptional works by **Mendelssohn, Currier and Elgar**, each a uniquely personal expression of its composer. Mendelssohn's *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*, an overture inspired by two short poems by G ethe, depicts the haunting stillness of a becalmed ship to its triumphant homecoming. *Broken Minuet* for harp and string orchestra by award-winning American composer **Sebastian Currier** bridges contemporary musical practices with music of the past. With **Bridget Kibby**, a brilliant young harpist performing as the soloist, this piece offers the intimacy of a string quartet, but with a heightened sense of color. Elgar's wistful, optimistic and mysterious *Enigma Variations*, propelled the composer to fame when it premiered in 1899. Its fourteen beguiling variations are a series of musical portraits of his friends and family. The "enigma," however, is that Elgar's principal theme – a subtle, personal creation assumed to be the composer's self-portrait – is never directly stated.

### **PSO Pops! The Holiday Concert**

"PSO Pops" will present its annual family **Holiday Concert** on **December 19, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in Richardson Auditorium**, weaving together an entire community in holiday warmth and friendship. Holiday favorites, great symphonic classics, the Princeton High School Choir and the annual sing-along make this the perfect afternoon for the entire family.

### **PSO Pops! The Broadway Concert**

On Saturday, **January 30, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.**, **PSO Pops! The Broadway Concert** will present *The Great American Songbook*, an extraordinary collection of irresistible hits from some of the greatest composers for American theater, including Arlen, Mancini,

Rogers, Gershwin, Porter and Ellington. Returning after her successful engagement with PSO Pops! in 2008, the show-stopping soprano **Teri Dale Hansen** will perform with the sensational baritone **William Michals**, who thrilled guests at PSO's spring'09 benefit.

### **Free Pre-concert Lecture**

Every classical concert is preceded by a free lecture given by one of the key collaborators for each concert including guest conductors, composers, and Rossen Milanov, Music Director. Free to all ticket holders, the lectures take place in the concert hall beginning at 3:00 p.m. the day of the concert. No reservations are required.

### **Concert and Ticket Information**

PSO presents its five-concert classical subscription series and its Holiday Concert at the 850-seat Richardson Auditorium (on the Princeton University campus) during a September through May season. Five-concert classical series subscriptions, pops series options, and single tickets are available by calling the PSO at 609-497-0020. Complete season information can be found on PSO's website, [www.princetonsymphony.org](http://www.princetonsymphony.org). Single tickets can also be purchased at the Richardson Auditorium box office (609) 258-5000, and at [www.princeton.edu/utickets](http://www.princeton.edu/utickets). Single tickets cost \$64, 50, 38, and 20. Richardson Auditorium is wheelchair accessible. Large print programs are available.

### **PSO's Sunday Afternoon Chamber Series**

Now in its ninth season, the PSO's chamber series, featuring leading players of the PSO, offers a satisfying music-making and concert-going experience. The series, presented free of charge and by advance reservation only, is held four times a year at Wolfensohn Hall, Institute for Advanced Study, at Stonebridge of Montgomery, and at Princeton Windrows. For more information about chamber series dates and attending these concerts, please call the PSO office at 609-497-0020.

### **PSO's *BRAVO!* Education Programs**

***BRAVO!*** is helping to develop and nurture the next generation of music-makers. Funded entirely by the PSO, the program enriches music education in local schools. ***BRAVO!***

programs teach about music through small ensemble performances, full orchestra concerts, Master Classes for talented high school and college instrumentalists, youth orchestra conducting workshops, and the *ListenUp!* series for middle school students who are invited to create interpretive works of art in response to what they hear at PSO concerts. To encourage attendance at our performances, all **BRAVO!** participants and their families are offered special discounted tickets to PSO's Classical Series. In total, more than 10,000 young people are served each year by **BRAVO!** Our commitment to engaging young audiences and broadening their exposure to classical music is made possible through the generosity of foundations and many supporters of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra. For more information about **BRAVO!**, please call the PSO office at 609-497-0020.

### **About the Princeton Symphony Orchestra**

Founded in 1980 by Portia Sonnenfeld, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra has been hailed by critics as New Jersey's "virtuoso orchestra." Over the course of its 30-year history, the orchestra's leadership has invested in artistic excellence, and community and educational concerts and programs that contribute broadly to civic life and establish the PSO in partnerships with local educational, arts and social service organizations. Whether performing classical masterworks, introducing music by the most innovative contemporary composers or delighting area schoolchildren with their first orchestra experience, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra is regarded as a cultural centerpiece of the Princeton community and one of the State's finest musical organizations. The PSO is proud to have been awarded the **New Jersey State council on the Arts' Citation of Excellence** this year and for multiple years; for the 2008-2009 season, the Council recognized the orchestra for its work commissioning and presenting a new composition, Paul Moravec's Clarinet Concerto. Additionally the PSO in 2009 received the **State Council's designation as a major arts organization** in New Jersey. The Princeton Symphony Orchestra performs at beautiful Richardson Auditorium on the campus of Princeton University in downtown Princeton. Information about subscribing to the 2009-2010 season is available at [www.princetonsymphony.org](http://www.princetonsymphony.org) or by calling the PSO offices at 609-497-0020.

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

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