

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
29th Season Opens Sunday, September 28**

“Basking in the Splendor of Romance”

4:00 pm concert at Richardson Auditorium

WITH GUEST CONDUCTOR ANDREW GRAMS

Works of Berlioz, Barber, and Brahms

Featuring Acclaimed Violinist Karen Gomyo

Free Pre-concert Lecture at 3:00 pm

**Tickets: \$64, 50, 36, 16
Information: (609) 497-0020**

Princeton, NJ, September 8, 2008... The 29th season of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra will begin on Sunday, September 28, 2008 at 4:00 p.m., with “*Basking in the Splendor of Romance*,” an exhilarating opening concert of works by Berlioz, Barber, and Brahms. Led by critically acclaimed guest conductor **Andrew Grams**, who last season made his Chicago and Baltimore Symphony debuts, the orchestra will open the program with the spectacular *Roman Carnival Overture* by French composer **Hector Berlioz**. Composed in 1843 and first performed in Paris at the Salle Herz, it was an immediate and resounding success. Based on his opera *Benvenuto Cellini*, which reflected Berlioz’ own struggles as an artist, this popular piece brilliantly evokes the colorful, lively, bustling scenes of a carnival.

A performance of **Samuel Barber’s** deeply romantic **Violin Concerto, Op. 14** follows, featuring the PSO debut of talented young Canadian violinist **Karen Gomyo**. An

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expansive work composed in 1939, Barber's concerto envelopes the listener in wonderful melodies, sonorities, and harmonies. Initially slow to catch on with the public, a 1965 recording by Isaac Stern and Leonard Bernstein made it one of the most admired and frequently performed 20th century concertos.

The concert will close with **Symphony No. 2, Op. 73 in D Major** by **Johannes Brahms**. Set apart from Brahms' three other symphonies by its cheerfulness and pastoral simplicity, this endearing work traverses a dramatically broad range of feelings and expression. The melodious, radiant, and peaceful first movement contrasts with the stormy, melancholy, and mysterious themes of the second. The third movement is once again clear, bucolic, and light followed by an exultant, blazing finale.

About Andrew Grams, guest conductor

As one of America's most promising and talented young conductors, **Andrew Grams** has already made debut appearances with many of the great orchestras of the world including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Symphonies of Chicago, Baltimore, and St. Louis, the National Symphony Orchestra, and the Orchestra of Santa Cecilia Rome.

Grams has served as the Resident Conductor of the Florida Orchestra and recently completed his three-year term as Assistant Conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra in 2007, having been appointed to that post by Franz Welser-Möst.

A Maryland native, 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, where he worked with Otto-Werner Mueller.

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About Karen Gomyo, violinist

Recipient of a 2008 Avery Fisher Career Grant, Canadian violinist **Karen Gomyo** was first recognized just one week after her fifteenth birthday when she won the 1997 Young Concert Artists International Auditions. The following year she became the youngest artist ever to be presented in the Young Concert Artists Series in New York, in a critically acclaimed debut as recipient of the Summis Auspiciis Prize.

Ms. Gomyo will appear this coming season with the St. Louis Symphony, the Houston Symphony, the Toronto Symphony, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and the New Jersey Symphony, as well as the orchestras of Utah, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Phoenix and more.

The 2006-2007 season saw Ms. Gomyo's debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra (Hans Graf *conducting*), the San Francisco Symphony (James Gaffigan *conducting*), the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Ottawa (Andrew Litton, *conducting*) and the Residentie Orchestra of the Hague in that orchestra's first concerts with its new Music Director, Neeme Jarvi on the podium. Ms. Gomyo also returned to appear with the Dallas Symphony and Andrey Boryeko, the Calgary Philharmonic under its new Music Director Roberto Minczuk, the Buffalo Philharmonic with JoAnn Falletta, and the Edmonton Symphony among others that season as well. Summer 2007 marked her Los Angeles Philharmonic return to the Hollywood Bowl under the baton of Leonard Slatkin.

PSO's Classical Series will continue on **November 9, 2008**, when **Tito Muñoz**, Assistant Conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra and Conducting Fellow of the League of American Orchestras, will lead the PSO through a dramatic program steeped in themes of revolution and triumph. In collaboration with Morven Museum, the concert's themes parallel those of the Princeton-wide 225th anniversary celebration of 1783, the year when Princeton was the Nation's capital. The concert opens with the powerful overture to **Verdi's opera *La forza del destino*** and will feature internationally renowned British

cellist **Steven Isserlis**, performing the elegant **Haydn Cello Concerto in D Major**, which was composed in 1783. The program will close with **Shostakovich's** monumental **Tenth Symphony**, a personal statement of the composer's long desired liberation from political tyranny. Afterwards, to complete the concert's focus on the year 1783, the audience is invited to tour the historic mansion and gardens of Morven and view the museum's fascinating exhibit, "Picturing Princeton, 1783."

The season will continue on **January 18, 2009**, with the annual **Edward T. Cone Series** led by guest conductor **Mei-Ann Chen**, Assistant Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony, and featuring soloist **David Krakauer** performing **Paul Moravec's Clarinet Concerto**. On **March 15, 2009**, PSO will be joined by guest conductor **Julian Kuerti**, Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and soloist **David Kim**, concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra. In its final concert of the season on **April 26, 2009**, PSO will welcome guest conductor **Scott Yoo**, Music Director of the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival in California, in a concert featuring **Soyeon Lee**, a gifted young pianist who resides in Princeton. For more information please visit the PSO website at www.princetonsymphony.org or contact the PSO office at 609-497-0020.

PSO Pops! The Holiday Concert

"PSO Pops" will present its annual family **Holiday Concert** on **December 20, 2008**, conducted by **Ryan McAdams**, Music Director of the New York Youth Symphony. Holiday favorites, great symphonic classics, the Princeton High School Concert Choir, and the annual sing-along make this the perfect afternoon for the entire family.

PSO Pops! The Broadway Concert

On **February 7, 2009**, in celebration of the Fifth Anniversary of *The Broadway Concert*, the PSO proudly presents the magnificent **Barbara Cook** in a rare Princeton engagement accompanied by full orchestra. Her appearance with the PSO follows last season's triumphant and sold out performances by Miss Cook with the New York Philharmonic.

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Free Pre-concert Lecture with Gene DeLisa

Every classical concert is preceded by a free lecture given by PSO program annotator, composer, and musicologist Gene DeLisa. Free to all ticket holders, the lectures take place in the concert hall beginning at 3:00 pm the day of the concert. No reservations are required.

Concert and Ticket Information

PSO presents its five-concert classical subscription series and its Pops series at the 800-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 the PSO's website, www.princeton.edu/symphony. Single tickets can also be purchased at the Richardson Auditorium box office (609) 258-5000, and at www.princeton.edu/utickets. Single tickets cost \$64, 50, 36, and 16. Richardson Auditorium is wheelchair accessible. Large print programs are available.

About the Princeton Symphony Orchestra

Founded in 1980 by Portia Sonnenfeld, today's Princeton Symphony Orchestra has been hailed by critics as New Jersey's "virtuoso orchestra," and has, on multiple occasions, been honored to receive a Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. For the 2008-2009 season, the PSO received a **Citation of Excellence** for its work commissioning and presenting a new composition—Paul Moravec's Clarinet Concerto.

The Orchestra has a core of approximately 50 tenured players, all members of the American Federation of Musicians and the majority of whom are residents of New

Jersey, including PSO's concertmaster Basia Danilow. Over the course of its 28-year history, the orchestra's leadership has pursued a path which has led to measured, intentional growth; the PSO has invested in artistic excellence with particular attention to establishing meaningful ties with local educational, arts and social service organizations, so as to be a full-fledged community resource. Since its inception, the Princeton Symphony has been guided by an extraordinary Board of Trustees and is grateful for the vision of its early Trustees who included Frank E. Taplin, Jr., Edward Cone, William F. Scheide, Reid White, Nathaniel Burt, and Judy Thomson. Caren Sturges, Board Chair, currently leads an active and deeply committed Board.

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

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