

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Melanie Clarke (609) 497-0020 info@princetonsymphony.org

Princeton Symphony Orchestra's PSO POPS! The Holiday Concert

Featuring baritone Jason Plourde,
Violinist Basia Danilow,
The Princeton High School Choir
and the Annual Sing-Along

Saturday, December 20th, 2008 at 3:00 pm
Richardson Auditorium, Princeton, NJ

Ryan McAdams, Guest Conductor

Tickets: \$35, Adults. \$20 Students

Princeton, NJ, December 1, 2008... On **Saturday, December 20 at 3:00 pm**, Princeton's historic Richardson Hall will be filled to the rafters with music lovers of all ages eagerly awaiting Princeton Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Concert. A cherished tradition in Princeton, the Holiday Concert brings families together to celebrate the season with some of the most beloved holiday songs. **Ryan McAdams**, Music Director of the New York Youth Symphony will conduct this year's concert in his debut with the Princeton Symphony Orchestra, joining baritone **Jason Plourde**, and the award-winning **Princeton High School Choir**, led by **Vincent Metallo**.

This musical feast for the ears will stir your warmest memories with treasured favorites from holidays past, including selections from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* and Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*. Vivaldi's "Winter" from *Four Seasons*, performed by PSO concertmaster Basia Danilow, will evoke the sparkling glow of a snow covered day, and "The Trumpet Shall Sound" from Handel's glorious holiday masterpiece *Messiah*, sung by baritone Jason Plourde, will inspire and thrill. The PSO will also play Mikhail Glinka's inventive, energetic and joyous *Ruslan and Ludmilla Overture*, and Engelbert Humperdinck's haunting "Dream-Pantomime" from the opera *Hansel and Gretel*. Francis Poulenc's *Exultate Deo* will be sung by the Princeton High School Choir, and the entire audience will join in for PSO's **Annual Sing-Along** of favorite holiday songs. This special and memorable event will delight the entire family. Sign up before tickets are gone! **For tickets and information call (609) 497-0020.**

PSO proudly salutes Fidelity Investments for five years of continuous Holiday Pops sponsorship! As part of their sponsorship, Fidelity is underwriting tickets for children from the Trenton Afterschool Program, Homefront and scholarship students from Westminster's Youth Singers program and others associated with PSO's **BRAVO!**.

Ticket Information

All seating is non-assigned. Adults: \$35, Students, \$20: Purchase tickets by calling the PSO at (609) 497-0020, or the Richardson box office (609) 258-5000. Special pricing for group sales is now available through the PSO. Secure online ordering is available at www.princeton.edu/richaud. Visit www.princetonsymphony.org for complete season details. Richardson Auditorium is wheelchair accessible. Large print programs are available.

About Ryan McAdams, conductor

Currently the 15th Music Director of the New York Youth Symphony, twenty-six year old conductor **Ryan McAdams** is quickly establishing himself as one of the most exciting and versatile conductors of his generation. A Fulbright scholar and Juilliard honors graduate, he previously served as Apprentice Conductor of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic under the tutelage of Chief Conductor, and Music Director-Designate of the New York Philharmonic, Alan Gilbert. During the 2008-09 season, McAdams will appear with the LA Philharmonic, Princeton Symphony, Aspen Music Festival, the Wordless Music Series, and at Carnegie Hall with the New York Youth Symphony.

About Jason Plourde, baritone

Baritone Jason Plourde, a native of Caribou, Maine, is a graduate of the University of Southern Maine as well as Indiana University where he studied with renowned baritone Timothy Noble. His major operatic credits include Figaro (*The Barber of Seville*), Count Almaviva (*The Marriage of Figaro*), Sir Joseph Porter (*HMS Pinafore*), Marquis de la Force (*Dialogues of the Carmelites*), Don Magnifico (*La Cenerentola*), Baron Zeta (*The Merry Widow*), Dulcamara (*The Elixir of Love*), Horace Tabor (*The Ballad of Baby Doe*) and many others with companies including Indianapolis Opera, Central City Opera and Princeton's own Opera New Jersey. Most recently Plourde made his Sarasota Opera debut as Fiorello (*The Barber of Seville*) in addition to being a member of the companies' Studio Artist Program.

About Vincent Metallo

Vincent Metallo has distinguished himself in recent years as an eagerly sought after conductor, singer and music educator. In his first year as Director of the Princeton High School Choral Department, Metallo has held the positions of Chair of the Performing Arts at the Princeton Day School, Artistic Director of the American Boychoir and Assistant Professor of Music at Westminster Choir College, DePauw University, Wellesley College and Lehigh University.

Metallo has collaborated on numerous performances with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and New York Collegium. Mr. Metallo has toured throughout the United States, US Virgin Islands, Japan, Latvia, Sweden and Denmark for over 700 performances.

The Princeton High School Choir

The Princeton High School Choir has an unusually rich tradition of choral excellence that is unique among American high schools. The choir has performed extensively in North America and Europe, touring as representatives of Princeton, New Jersey. One of six performing ensembles, the 83 members of the choir are selected after careful audition of nearly two hundred voices in the high school's choral program.

The choir has received numerous awards and honors, including first prize at the 1994 Festival of Gold in Washington, D.C., second prize at the 1984 International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna, and the "Best in Class" designation at the 1981 convention of the American Choral Directors' Association in New Orleans.

The PSO Pops! series will continue on **February 7, 2009**, when in celebration of the Fifth Anniversary of *The Broadway Concert*, the PSO will 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. Get your tickets before this concert sells out.