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**Princeton Symphony Orchestra
and the Arts Council of Princeton**

Present

“Behind the Music”

A Public Forum on the Creation of New Music

January 17, 2009

3:30pm – 5:30pm

Paul Robeson Center at the Arts Council of Princeton

**Featuring a new work by Pulitzer Prize-Winning Composer
Paul Moravec**

Princeton, NJ, December 29... **On Saturday, January 17, 2009 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm,** at the **Paul Robeson Center at the Arts Council of Princeton**, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra will present **“Behind the Music,”** a panel discussion to explore how new music is created. Hosted jointly by the Arts Council of Princeton, this event will feature a preview of a new Clarinet Concerto by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and Princeton resident Paul Moravec. “Behind the Music” panelists, including Moravec, PSO guest conductor Mei-Ann Chen and clarinet soloist David Krakauer, will discuss the process of commissioning new music, the inspirations for the concerto, the music’s themes and structure, performance challenges, and early reactions and response to this new composition. Excerpts will be performed. The panel discussion will be followed by a wine and cheese reception for the artists and audience.

Commissioned by the Princeton Symphony Orchestra, Moravec’s concerto will have its first full performance the following day at 4:00 pm during PSO’s January 18th classical series concert at Richardson Auditorium. Soloist David Krakauer will take the clarinet center stage and perform the concerto with the PSO under the direction of guest conductor Mei-Ann Chen. In May 2009, more PSO performances of the Moravec

concerto will be featured in five **BRAVO!** orchestra concerts performed for 5000 local school children from central New Jersey.

The commission and its performances are funded by a Project Serving Artists grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts which also awarded the Princeton Symphony Orchestra its **Citation of Excellence** for this project.

According to Steven Runk, Executive Director of the Council, the Citation was given to the PSO because "... in the estimation of all persons serving on the panel that reviewed your application, the [] project [] exhibits the highest standards of excellence in its artistry, operations, governance, public benefit and fulfillment of areas of Council priority." Noted further in the Citation is the benefit of introducing Moravec's composition through multiple performances at different venues with specific outreach to youth, as well as the high artistic quality of all artists involved, including the composer Paul Moravec, the soloist David Krakauer and the Princeton Symphony Orchestra.

Admission to "Behind the Music" is free, by reservation. To reserve a place at this event, e-mail the PSO at info@princetonsymphony.org or call 609-497-0020.

Paul Moravec, winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in Music, has composed over ninety orchestral, chamber, choral, lyric, film, and electro-acoustic compositions. His music has been described as "tuneful, ebullient and wonderfully energetic" (San Francisco Chronicle), "riveting and fascinating" (NPR), and "assured, virtuosic" (Wall Street Journal). The New York Times recently praised his quartet, *Vince & Jan: 1945*, with, "This masterly miniature conveyed warm nostalgia, buoyant swing and wartime unease."

For the 2007-2008 season, he was the Artist-in-Residence with the Institute for Advanced Study, while continuing his tenure as University Professor at Adelphi University. Both positions are unique to their respective institutions. Among Moravec's numerous awards are the Rome Prize Fellowship from the American Academy in Rome, a Fellowship in Music Composition from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Rockefeller Foundation

Fellowship, a Camargo Foundation Residency Fellowship, two fellowships from the American Academy of Arts & Letters, as well as many commissions. A graduate of Harvard University and Columbia University, he has taught at Harvard, Columbia, Dartmouth, and Hunter College, as well as Adelphi University.

Mei-Ann Chen, *guest conductor*

Mei-Ann Chen has attracted much attention as a young conductor on a rapid rise since 2005 after she became the first woman to win the prestigious international Nicolai Malko Competition for Conductors in its 40-year history. An international career was launched through impressive debuts with orchestras throughout Scandinavia, Taiwan and the U.S. After only few months on her new position as the Assistant Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Mei-Ann received invitations to appear with the Lexington Philharmonic, Honolulu and Princeton Symphonies in 2008-09 season, as well as maintaining a guest conducting schedule with the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Taiwan National Symphony, Norwegian Radio Orchestra, and Norrlands Opera in Sweden. Most recently, she was named Winner of the Taki Concordia Fellowship and was immediately invited by Marin Alsop and Stefan Sandering to appear in subscription series with Symphonies of Baltimore, Colorado, and Florida Orchestra.

Before coming to Atlanta, Mei-Ann directed five memorable seasons as Conductor and Music Director of the Portland Youth Philharmonic (2002-7) and also served as the Assistant Conductor of the Oregon Symphony (2003-5). During her tenure with the PYP, Mei-Ann led its sold-out debut in Carnegie Hall that met with long standing ovation, was awarded an ASCAP for her innovative programming, received regular press coverage through TV, radio, and newspaper, established new partnerships within the community, and developed unique musicianship programs. Mei-Ann was honored with a Sunburst Award from Young Audiences for her dedication in music education.

About David Krakauer, *clarinet*

Internationally acclaimed clarinetist David Krakauer redefines the notion of a concert artist. Known for his mastery of myriad styles including classical chamber music, Eastern European

Jewish klezmer music and avant-garde improvisation, Krakauer lies way beyond “cross-over.” His best-selling classical and klezmer recordings further define his brilliant tone, virtuosity and imagination. Krakauer is in demand worldwide as a guest soloist with the finest ensembles. Recent collaborations have included appearances with the Tokyo String Quartet, the Kronos quartet, the Lark Quartet, the Orquesta Sinfonica de Barcelona and the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra. He had an eight year tenure with the Naumbrug Award-winning Aspen Wind quintet, and has also enjoyed enduring relationships with Summer festivals including the Marlboro Music Festival, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival and the Aspen Music Festival.

In the Spring of 2003 Krakauer performed at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall as soloist with the Kronos Quartet in a performance of their renowned collaboration on Osvaldo Golijov’s *The Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind*. Mr. Krakauer was invited to perform with his band in the spring of 2004 for the inaugural season of Carnegie’s new theater, Zankel Hall, in collaboration with renowned jazz pianist Uri Caine. Krakauer performed music written for him by Osvaldo Golijov for the BBC documentary Holocaust, A Music Memorial from Auschwitz, which won the International Emmy in the performance category (2005). He was guest artist on tour in 2006 with the Emerson String Quartet and in 2007/08 with the Orion String Quartet, and will continue to tour with these ensembles in upcoming seasons.

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. Complete season information can be found on the PSO’s website, www.princetonsymphony.org. Tickets can be purchased by calling the PSO at 609-497-0020, or contacting the Richardson Auditorium box office at 609- 258-5000, or www.princeton.edu/utickets. Single tickets cost \$64, 50, 36, and 16. Richardson Auditorium is wheelchair accessible. Large print programs are available.

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

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