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Princeton Symphony Orchestra Presents

“Princeton Commissions a Concerto!”

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

With Guest Conductor Mei-Ann Chen

And David Krakauer, Clarinet

Sunday, January 18, 2009

4:00 pm concert at Richardson Auditorium

Program of Dvořák, Moravec, Rossini, and Mendelssohn

Free Pre-concert Lecture at 3:00 pm

Tickets: \$64, 50, 36, 16

Information: (609) 497-0020

Princeton, NJ, December 29... The Princeton Symphony Orchestra continues its season on **Sunday, January 18, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.**, with *“Princeton Commissions a Concerto!”*, a concert of works chosen to explore the diverse sonorities of new music and the range of orchestral instruments. This marvelous program featuring works by Dvořák, Rossini, and Mendelssohn, three of classical music’s great composers, will set the stage for the world premiere of a new composition; a Clarinet Concerto by Pulitzer Prize-winner and Princeton resident Paul Moravec.

Guest conductor Mei-Ann Chen, Assistant Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra will lead the PSO through this third concert of the 2008-09 season, beginning with Dvořák’s delightful Wind Serenade. One of the gems of Dvořák’s compositional output, this piece showcases the wind section and provides a lovely opening with the intimacy of

chamber music. Soloist David Krakauer will take the clarinet center stage to present the world premiere of Paul Moravec's lyrical and rhythmic Clarinet Concerto.

Commissioned by the Princeton Symphony Orchestra, earning them a Citation of Excellence from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, this new composition uses the clarinet as a solo instrument with string accompaniment. The sonority continues to expand in Rossini's *La sala di seta*, a delightful overture full of drama and elegant melodies. The concert concludes with one of the masterpieces of the symphonic literature, an Italian symphony written by a German composer Felix Mendelssohn. Treading in new territory with his Fourth Symphony, Mendelssohn captured the spontaneity and passion of the Italian spirit, which so inspired him during his visit to Italy.

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 a few months in 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 a 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 to music education.

Mei-Ann's other national honors include National Conductor Preview (Jacksonville Symphony), National Conducting Institute (National Symphony), and American Academy of Conducting at Aspen Fellowship. Mei-Ann received a Doctor of Musical Arts from University of Michigan where she studied with Kenneth Kiesler, and was the first recipient in New England Conservatory's history to receive Double Master's degrees simultaneously in Conducting and Violin. A native of Taiwan, Mei-Ann's musical talent was discovered by conductor Benjamin Zander and Dean of Preparatory Mark Churchill while NEC's Youth Philharmonic toured in Asia. A scholarship was immediately offered to Mei-Ann to study violin performance at the Walnut Hill School with Marylou Speaker Churchill and later at NEC with Eric Rosenblith and James Buswell. Before pursuing a career in conducting, Mei-Ann was an accomplished violinist and performed under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, Seiji Ozawa, and appeared numerous times in Tanglewood and Carnegie Hall.

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 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, both of which will continue to tour in upcoming seasons.

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.

Moravec has been commissioned by the Santa Fe Opera to compose an opera entitled *The Letter*, with libretto by Terry Teachout, for premiere in July, 2009. He is also composing a commissioned work entitled *Brandenburg Gate* for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra to be premiered in fall 2008 at Carnegie Hall. In September, 2008, Moravec's evening-length oratorio, *The Blizzard Voices*, about the Great Plains blizzard of 1888, with text by Ted Koozer, will be premiered at Opera Omaha.

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.

Mr. Moravec is regularly sought out by leading performing artists and ensembles. Performance highlights this season include *Songs of Love and War* with the Oratorio Society of New York at Carnegie Hall, *The Time Gallery* at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and *Tempest Fantasy* with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Recent world premieres include *Anniversary Dances* with the Ying Quartet; *Atmosfera a Villa Aurelia* with the Lark Quartet; *Mark Twain Sez* with cellist Matt Haimovitz; *Cornoean Airs* with the American Brass Quintet; *The Time Gallery* with eighth blackbird at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; *Morph* with the String Orchestra of New York (SONYC); *Cool Fire* and *Chamber Symphony* for the Bridgehampton Chamber Music Festival; *Capital Unknowns* for the Albany Symphony; *Everyone Sang* for Troy Cook and the Marilyn Horne Foundation; *Parables* for the New York Festival of Song, *Vita Brevis*, a song cycle for tenor Paul Sperry; *Useful Knowledge*, a cantata commissioned by the American Philosophical Society for Ben Franklin's tercentenary; *No Words*, commissioned by Concert Artist Guild for pianist James Lent and the Gay Gotham Chorus; and two works for the Elements String Quartet.

Paul Moravec's discography includes *Tempest Fantasy*, performed by Trio Solisti with clarinetist David Krakauer, on Naxos American Classics; *The Time Gallery*, performed by eighth blackbird also on Naxos; *Songs of Love and War for Chorus and Orchestra* on a CD featuring The Dessoff Choirs & Orchestra; *Sonata for Violin and Piano* performed by the Bachmann/Klibonoff Duo for BMG/RCA Red Seal; *Double Action*, *Evermore*, and *Ariel Fantasy*, performed by the Bachmann/Klibonoff Duo on an Endeavour Classics CD entitled "*The Red Violin*."; *Atmosfera a Villa Aurelia and Vince & Jan*, performed by the Lark Quartet on an Endeavour Classics CD entitled "Klap Ur Handz"; *Morph*, performed by the String Orchestra of New York on an Albany disc, *Spiritdance*, an orchestral work on the Vienna Modern Masters label; an album of chamber compositions

titled *Circular Dreams* on CRI; and *Vita Brevis*, with Paul Sperry, tenor, and the composer at the piano, on Albany Records.

PSO's Classical Series will continue on **March 15, 2009**, when 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 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.

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.princetonsymphony.org. 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." Over the course of its 28-year history, the orchestra's leadership has invested in artistic excellence as well as 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. 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 the 2008-2009 season, the PSO received a **Citation of Excellence** from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for its work commissioning and presenting a new composition—Paul Moravec's Clarinet Concerto.

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