

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Melanie Clarke (609) 497-0020 melcog@hotmail.com

### OMG! Local Middle School Students Stop Texting to Attend PSO Concert!

#### Cell Phones Cast Aside for the Sake of Art

**Princeton NJ, February 2, 2009...** Eighteen middle school students from Princeton's **Hun School, Stuart School of the Sacred Heart, John Witherspoon Middle School,** and **Montgomery Middle School** attended Princeton Symphony Orchestra's January 18, 2009 classical series concert as part of *ListenUp!*, an initiative that is part of PSO's acclaimed education program *BRAVO!*. *ListenUp!* sponsors middle school students at PSO concerts, engages them to listen and respond to classical music, and provides a fun social outing for teens to enjoy with their peers.

This year's *ListenUp!* participants will create original artwork based on Mendelssohn's spirited "Italian" Symphony which they heard performed at PSO's concert. They were also given a recording of the piece for further inspiration. The students will work in the medium of their choice – painting, drawing or sculpture – and will be guided by art faculty from their schools. Their artwork will be displayed during the PSO concert on April 25, 2009 at Richardson Auditorium.

**Shown in photo:** Left to right, back row: Charles Myers, Taylor Havard, Keri Grant, Stacy Chen, Lily Watnik, Veronika Bychkova, Margaret Wright, Faiza Alaoui. Left to right, front row: Camille Schrier, Sarah Weck, Alexandra Yang, Stephanie Zhou, Zoe D'Costa, PSO guest conductor Mei-Ann Chen, Robert Stanley, Samielle Taylor, Hanna Hauschild. Not shown: Catherine Dai and Amy Zhang.

### **About *BRAVO!***

At the core of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra's offerings is its highly acclaimed education program ***BRAVO!***, which brings the excitement, magic, and brilliance of live orchestral performances to thousands of local children. ***BRAVO!*** establishes PSO musicians in permanent teaching partnerships at more than thirty public, private and special-need elementary schools throughout central New Jersey. Offered free of charge, ***BRAVO!*** is a community resource for children, teachers, and parents. Last season, students enjoyed a classic tale -- Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* -- in a program called The Nature of Music. PSO continues to expand the reach of ***BRAVO!*** through master classes offered to talented high school instrumentalists, through regional youth orchestra conducting workshops, and through the new ***ListenUp!*** series for middle school students. ***ListenUp!*** invites students to create art in response to what they hear at PSO concerts.

### **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.

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