

PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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Princeton Symphony Orchestra Presents

Rossen Milanov

in his debut as

PSO Music Director

**Sunday, January 24, 2010
4 p.m. concert at Richardson Auditorium**

**Program of Ravel, Haydn, Prokofiev and Ginastera
Free Pre-Concert Lecture at 3 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$64, 50, 38, 20
Information: (609) 497-0020**

Princeton, NJ, January 7, 2010... At 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 24, 2010, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra enters a new era with the highly anticipated debut of its new Music Director, **Rossen Milanov**. Hailed by critics as one of the most promising figures in the upcoming generation of conductors -- one who “bears watching by anyone who cares about the future of music” (*Chicago Tribune*) -- Mr. Milanov was chosen as PSO Music Director after an intensive, two-year search. For his first concert with the PSO, “**Gems from Our Music Director**,” Mr. Milanov has chosen a stylistically diverse program of personal favorites from **Ravel, Haydn, Prokofiev and Ginastera**. The performance takes place at Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall, on the Princeton University campus.

Seats priced at \$64 are sold out. Remaining tickets are \$50, \$38 and \$20.

This special concert will open with the long flowing melodies of Maurice Ravel’s *Ma Mère l’Oye* (Mother Goose). Based on the enchanted world of fairy tales created by Charles

Perrault, this piece illuminates Ravel's thoughtful nature and invokes the bygone innocence of childhood. The program will follow with Franz Joseph Haydn's energetic **Symphony No. 88 in G Major**, perhaps the brightest jewel in Haydn's unparalleled collection and one of the masterworks of 18th century music. Also performed will be Sergey Prokofiev's lighthearted and popular **Symphony No. 1 ("Classical")**. Considered one of the first neo-classical compositions, elegant and modern in style, it was written in 1917 at the onset of the Russian revolution. The program will close with Alberto Ginastera's *Variaciones concertantes*. Also written during politically difficult times, this lyrically expressive work draws on the composer's Argentinean roots for its theme and 11 variations, each of which spotlights a different soloist in the orchestra.

Pre-Concert Lecture by PSO Music Director Rossen Milanov

PSO Music Director Rossen Milanov will give a free pre-concert lecture to ticket holders at 3 p.m., prior to the concert in Richardson Auditorium.

About Rossen Milanov, conductor

Rossen Milanov's place as "one of the most promising figures in the upcoming generation of conductors" (*The Seattle Times*, February 2009) has recently been recognized with his appointment as Music Director of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra. This season, he makes a series of international debuts, including performances conducting the National Symphony Orchestra (Washington), the Rochester Philharmonic, the Hyogo Symphony (Japan), the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, and the China Philharmonic. He continues to serve as Artistic Director of the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts and is Associate Conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

A committed supporter of youth and music, Mr. Milanov is Music Director of the New Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria) and Symphony in C, one of the USA's leading professional training orchestras. He conducts one opera production per season at the Curtis Institute of Music, and this season he returns to Carnegie Hall for LinkUP!, a program supported and promoted by the Weill Music Institute. He has led a tour with the Australian Youth

Orchestra, concerts with the Aspen Chamber Symphony, and was Music Director of the Chicago Youth Symphony from 1997 to 2001.

A well-known figure in North America, Mr. Milanov returns to the San Antonio Symphony as well as the Milwaukee Symphony this season. His ongoing relationship with the Philadelphia Orchestra has included critically acclaimed performances at the Mann Center, at the Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival, and at the Kimmel Center, where highlights have included performances with Leila Josefowicz and Yo-Yo Ma. Other appearances during the 2009-10 season include concerts with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra, and Orchestra of Royal Swedish Opera. Mr. Milanov has also worked with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest, the Orchestra of Komische Oper (Berlin), the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra.

As an opera conductor, Mr. Milanov's recent performances of "La Bohème" with the Philadelphia Orchestra, both at the Mann Center and at Bravo!, were received with critical acclaim. He has worked with the legendary Bulgarian bass Nikolai Ghiaurov; in 2008 as Chief Conductor of the Bulgarian National Radio Orchestra, he led the orchestra in a European tour featuring the international mezzo-soprano star, Vesselina Kasarova.

His recording of works by the Russian composer Alla Pavlova with the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra is available on the Naxos label, and a live performance of Shostakovich's Symphony No.15 is available through Philadelphia Online.

Mr. Milanov studied conducting at the Juilliard School, where he received the Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship; the Curtis Institute of Music; Duquesne University, and the Bulgarian National Academy of Music. He has received the Award for Extraordinary Contribution to Bulgarian Culture, awarded by the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture. In 2005, he was chosen as Bulgaria's Musician of the Year.

The **PSO Classical Season** will continue on **March 21, 2010** with returning guest conductor **Andrew Grams**. Mr. Grams has chosen three distinctly different 20th century compositions as a prelude to a private viewing of the **Princeton University Art Museum's exhibition "Architecture as Icon: Perception and Representations of Architecture in Byzantine Art."** Conceived in collaboration with the Princeton University Art Museum, this concert will feature works by **Arnold Schoenberg, Samuel Barber and Sir John Tavener**, chosen for their direct connections to Byzantine traditions to enhance the audience's appreciation for the music and the art they will experience. Schoenberg's passionately romantic "**Verklärte Nacht**" (**Transfigured Night**) is followed by Barber's "**Adagio for Strings**." The spiritual majesty of the *Adagio* sets the stage for the central work, Tavener's "**The Protecting Veil**," which takes its inspiration from the art of the Byzantine era. This composition features a solo for cello that will be performed by PSO's former principal cellist, **Qiang Tu**. The audience is invited to a reception at the Princeton University Art Museum for a private showing of the exhibit. This concert is made possible by a generous gift from Wilmington Trust.

On **May 16, 2010**, the PSO will perform its final concert of the season under the baton of Music Director **Rossen Milanov**. This concert will feature works by **Felix Mendelssohn, Sebastian Currier and Edward Elgar**, each a personal expression of its composer. Mendelssohn's "**Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage**" is an overture inspired by two short poems by Goethe, while Currier's "**Broken Minuets**," for harp and string orchestra, bridges contemporary musical practices with music of the past. Harpist **Bridget Kibbey** is guest soloist. Elgar's wistful, optimistic and mysterious "**Enigma Variations**" propelled the composer to fame when it premiered in 1899. Its 14 variations are a series of musical portraits of his friends and family.

Concert, Lecture and Ticket Information

PSO presents its five-concert classical subscription series and its Holiday and Broadway Concerts at the 850-seat Richardson Auditorium (in Alexander Hall 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 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, 38, and 20. 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.**

About the Princeton Symphony Orchestra

The Princeton Symphony Orchestra is a cultural centerpiece of the Princeton community and one of the state's finest musical organizations. The orchestra has been guided by an extraordinary Board of Trustees and is grateful for the vision of its early Trustees, including Frank E. Taplin, Jr., Edward T. Cone, William F. Scheide, Reid White, Nathaniel Burt and Judy Thomson. Over the course of its 30-year history, the PSO's leadership has invested in the artistic excellence of its orchestral, chamber, and pops concert offerings. Under the auspices of *BRAVO!*, the PSO also produces wide-reaching and innovative education programs carried out in partnerships with local schools, arts organizations and other community agencies.

The PSO is proud to have been awarded the New Jersey State Council on the Arts' highest honors: *Citation of Excellence* and designation as a *Major Arts Institution*. The only professional orchestra to make its home in Princeton, the PSO performs at beautiful Richardson Auditorium on the campus of Princeton University. Founded in 1980 by Portia Sonnenfeld, the PSO was led for 22 years by Music Director Mark Laycock, who oversaw a period of artistic growth and achievement marked by innovative programming. In June 2009, the PSO board appointed Rossen Milanov as its third Music Director. Mr. Milanov is a gifted and accomplished conductor with outstanding musical credentials, energy and creativity.

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

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