

# PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Music from a Master  
Princeton students learn from world-renowned violinist  
Midori  
before a capacity crowd in Princeton University's  
Taplin Auditorium**

**Three young musicians participate in Master Class  
sponsored by Princeton Symphony  
Orchestra's *BRAVO!***

**in a joint venture with the**

**Institute for Advanced Study and the  
Princeton University Music Department**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Linda Fowler (609) 497-0020 [lindafowler.ink@gmail.com](mailto:lindafowler.ink@gmail.com)**

**PRINCETON, N.J.** -- On Saturday, January 16, 2010, world-class violinist **Midori** taught a master class for three talented local students before a packed audience in Taplin Auditorium on the Princeton University campus. The program was presented by the Princeton Symphony Orchestra's **BRAVO!** series in partnership with the Institute for Advanced Study and the Princeton University Music Department.

Princeton Symphony Orchestra Executive Director **Melanie Clarke** called the occasion "unprecedented for the thoughtfulness and genius of Midori's pedagogy and the keen interest from a large audience in how music is taught."

"We were privileged to witness these fine young violinists transform and improve before our eyes as they exchanged ideas with Midori and found ways to negotiate difficult passages from her inspiring instruction," she said. "It was also a pure pleasure to hear Midori play the repertoire, followed by the students, who did so well in matching the rich colors of her sound."

The participants included **Cheryl Peng**, a junior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South; and **Ian Wong** and **Alyse Wheelock**, both Princeton University students.

During the master class, Midori worked individually with the students, following their performance of a work from the advanced classical repertoire. Her guidance encompassed understanding and expressing the character of their chosen piece; building and slowing momentum, and maintaining the overall architecture of a work by forging connections between phrases. She coached the young performers to feel the atmosphere of the piece and be part of the music all the time and gave them advice about their posture, hand and arm positions, bowing, interpretation and the importance of “listening between the notes,” especially when performing Bach.

Sixteen-year-old **Cheryl Peng** performed the third movement of Saint-Saens' Violin Concerto No. 3, accompanied by pianist Grace Kim. Cheryl is a two-time grand prize recipient at the Taipei City Violin Competition and received High Honors at the National Taiwan Violin Competition. She began studying the violin at the age of six in Taiwan under the tutelage of Jhong Cheng Chen and Jia Hong Liao. In 2005, she was accepted by the Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan University to continue her music studies. After emigrating from Taiwan to the United States, she studied with Naoko Tanaka at the Pre-College Division of the Juilliard School. Last year, Cheryl was selected to perform in a master class for Arnold Steinhardt, first violinist of the Guarneri String Quartet. She is currently studying privately with Lisa Shihoten.

**Ian Wong**, who performed Bach's *Allemande* and *Courante* from Partita No. 2, is a sophomore in the Physics Department at Princeton University. He is a member of the Princeton University Orchestra, playing in the violin and viola sections. In addition to taking private lessons with Nancy Wilson, Ian is an active participant in such chamber ensembles as the newly formed, student-run Princeton University Chamber Ensemble. He also enjoys Russian language studies and linguistics. Ian has performed with the New Atlanta Philharmonic, the Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Downey Symphony, the South Coast Symphony and the Northwood High School Philharmonic. He has participated in many music festivals, including Aspen and Summit (New York), and performed in master classes for many violinists, among them Anne Akiko Meyers, David Kim, Grigory Kalinovsky, Victor Danchenko, Connie Heard, Peter Marsh and Mark Kaplan.

**Alyse Wheelock** performed the first movement of Brahms' Violin Concerto, accompanied by pianist Jeff Li. Alyse is a junior in the Anthropology Department at Princeton University, pursuing a certificate in Global Health and Health Policy. She is a violinist in the Princeton University Orchestra and an active member of a campus string quartet that is coached by the Brentano Quartet. She studies violin with Anna Lim at Princeton. In high school, she studied music at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School, where she played in the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and studied with Magdalena Richter. Alyse has enjoyed several opportunities to travel to different continents for orchestra tours and international music festivals in France and China.

## About Midori

Born in Osaka, Japan in 1971, Midori began studying the violin with her mother, Setsu Goto, at a very early age. In 1982, when Zubin Mehta first heard her play, he was so impressed that he invited her to be a surprise guest soloist for the New York Philharmonic's traditional New Year's Eve concert, during which she received a standing ovation and the impetus to begin a major career.

In the 2009-2010 season, Midori blends an ambitious international performance schedule with innovative community engagement initiatives, at home and abroad. Her itinerary will include seven recital tours, including dates in Dublin, Budapest, San Francisco, Toronto, Baltimore and Tokyo; numerous concerto appearances with such partners as Sir Colin Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra, Leonard Slatkin with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the Bayerischer Rundfunk with Mariss Jansons; her third all-new music tour; and an International Community Engagement Program in Mongolia.

Midori's devotion to music education involves not only her extensive community engagement efforts but a deep commitment to her work at the University of Southern California. At USC's Thornton School of Music, Midori holds the prestigious Jascha Heifetz Chair, and also serves as Chair of the Strings Department. Her violin is the 1734 Guarnerius del Gesu "ex-Huberman," which is on lifetime loan to her from the Hayashibara Foundation. She uses three bows, two by Dominique Peccatte and the third by François Peccatte.

Midori lives in Los Angeles. In 2000, she received her bachelor's degree in psychology and gender studies at the Gallatin School of New York University, graduating magna cum laude, and in 2005 received her master's degree in psychology. Away from school and the concert hall, Midori enjoys reading, writing and attending the theater. Learn more about Midori at [www.gotomidori.com](http://www.gotomidori.com).

## About the **BRAVO!** Master Class Series

This was fifth time the PSO has offered a Master Class, which was presented free of charge as part of **BRAVO!**, Princeton Symphony Orchestra's extensive education program.

The **BRAVO!** Master Class Series seeks to pair emerging talents from the region to learn, share and collaborate with a major performance artist. While this class is especially relevant to violinists, all music students and music teachers can benefit from Midori's insights and coaching. The general public and those who love classical music are welcome to observe the class.

## ADDITIONAL CONTACT:

Melanie Clarke, Executive Director, Princeton Symphony Orchestra  
(609) 497-0020, [melcog@hotmail.com](mailto:melcog@hotmail.com)