

PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOUNDSATIONAL!

HUNDREDS OF KIDS STOP TO PLAY AT PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO

Princeton, NJ, April 30, 2010 ... The Princeton Symphony Orchestra set a menagerie of musical instruments free from their cases and into the wilds of downtown Princeton at its **Instrument Petting Zoo** at Communiversity on April 24. One of the most popular booths at the annual outdoor celebration, PSO's Petting Zoo gives everyone a chance to test-drive an instrument: fiddle with a violin, toot on the trombone, trill on a flute or shake a tambourine.

The beautiful spring weather drew record crowds to PSO's booth this year. While toddlers banged loudly on the snare drum, older children buzzed their lips into trumpets and trombones. A few visitors even displayed mastery and performed impromptu solos, while others were happy just to get reacquainted with their favorite instruments.

Lending their expertise throughout the day were PSO musicians Lars Wendt (trombone), Mary Schmidt (flute), Peg Banks and Hanfang Zhang (both violin). Lena Sun and Maddy Sverdlove, two members of Princeton High School's music mentoring program, also assisted with the busy young players. The **Instrument Petting Zoo** was organized by Janet Baxendale, Coordinator of the PSO's BRAVO! music education program.

Russo Music Center of Trenton generously loaned the instruments to the orchestra for this event.

Founded in 1980 by Portia Sonnenfeld, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra has been hailed by critics as New Jersey's "virtuoso orchestra." Whether performing classical masterworks, introducing music by the most celebrated contemporary composers or delighting area schoolchildren with their first orchestra experience, the PSO is regarded as a cultural centerpiece of the Princeton community and one of the state's finest musical organizations. The PSO was led for 22 years by Music Director Mark Laycock, who oversaw a period of artistic growth and achievement. In 2009, Rossen Milanov, a gifted and accomplished conductor, was appointed the PSO's third Music Director. The New Jersey State Council on the Arts recognizes the PSO as a Major Arts Organization and it is a multiple recipient of the council's Citation of Excellence. The PSO performs at beautiful Richardson Auditorium, a historic landmark on the campus of Princeton University.

Please visit our website at www.princetonsymphony.org or call the PSO at (609) 497-0020.

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