

# PRINCETON YMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **“BRAVO! Tells Tales”**

More than 2,500 school children  
clap and cheer for PSO’s  
annual spring concert

**Conductor Rossen Milanov and company  
delight kids with original renditions  
of “Babar,” “Cat in the Hat”  
and classical music performance**

**Princeton, NJ, May 24, 2010 ...** On Tuesday, May 18, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra scored its own triple-play: a mini-marathon of three performances of **“BRAVO! Tells Tales.”** Despite steady rain, more than 2,500 young music aficionados from 20 elementary schools in the Princeton region turned out to hear the free concerts in Princeton University’s Richardson Auditorium. About 200 determined students from St. Paul Catholic School walked five blocks through the downpour to the concert hall.

The 60-minute performances were the culmination of BRAVO!’s year-long curriculum to teach about classical music and encourage children to incorporate music in their lives. BRAVO! sends small ensembles of PSO musicians representing each of the instrument families into the classroom, where they conduct workshops and give brief concerts.

In his first BRAVO! concert appearance since becoming the PSO's Music Director last year, Rossen Milanov, an advocate of music education, re-introduced the students to many of the musicians they met during the school year. The children accompanied the players by clapping in rhythm to Gioachino Rossini's Overture to "William Tell," a work that highlights the talents of each section of the orchestra.

The showpiece of the "musical storytelling" was an orchestral performance of "The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant," Francis Poulenc's score based on the children's book by Jean de Brunhoff. The music was interspersed with narration and enactments by new vaudevillians Michael Boudewyns and Sara Valentine of the theater ensemble Really Inventive Stuff. An array of whimsical props, pulled from an old steamer trunk, was employed by the actors in the rendering of the classic tale. As a bonus, Mr. Boudewyns gave an animated reading of Dr. Seuss' "The Cat in the Hat."

"Children are bombarded with high-tech gadgets, lots of information and loud music on a daily basis," said Princeton Charter School math teacher and administrator Norma Byers, who brought 48 fourth-graders to the concert. "It's important that they hear classical music to enrich their education. Attending a live concert is a wonderful way to do this." Princeton Charter School has participated in the BRAVO! program for the last 10 years.

### **About the Princeton Symphony Orchestra and BRAVO!**

Founded in 1980 by Portia Sonnenfeld, the Princeton Symphony Orchestra has been hailed by critics as New Jersey's "virtuoso orchestra." Over the course of its 30-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. The PSO has been designated as a Major Arts Organization by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and is a multiple recipient of the council's Citation of Excellence.

The BRAVO! program enriches music education in local schools by providing a comprehensive and sustained introduction to the symphony orchestra, integrated within a school's regular music

curriculum. BRAVO! establishes PSO musicians in permanent teaching partnerships at more than 30 public, private and special needs elementary schools throughout Central New Jersey. BRAVO! also sponsors master classes for talented high school instrumentalists, conducting workshops for regional youth orchestras, and the Listen Up! program for middle-school students. Listen Up! invites students to create art in response to what they hear at PSO concerts. All BRAVO! participants and their families may purchase discounted tickets to the PSO's Classical Series concerts.

The Robert Wood Johnson 1962 Charitable Trust is the lead funder of PSO's BRAVO! programs. The May 18 BRAVO! concerts at Richardson Auditorium were made possible, in part, by gifts from donors who attended the PSO's annual benefit gala, with corporate support from Verizon Wireless, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Goldman, Sachs & Co., Ortho-McNeil-Janssen, WithumSmith+Brown, Cardinal Partners, Tyco International, Integra Neuro Sciences and Wells Fargo Advisors. Princeton University has underwritten PSO's children's concerts for more than 10 years.

**PHOTO CAPTION:**

Princeton Symphony Orchestra Music Director Rossen Milanov is amused by Michael Boudewyns' reading of "The Cat in the Hat" for schoolchildren at Richardson Auditorium in Princeton.

Please visit our website at [www.princetonsymphony.org](http://www.princetonsymphony.org) or call the PSO at (609) 497-0020.

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