

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Princeton Symphony Orchestra Presents

“Composers’ Final Bows”

**With Guest Conductor Scott Yoo
And Pianist Soyeon Lee**

**Sunday, April 26, 2009
4:00 pm concert at Richardson Auditorium**

**Program of Mozart, Bartók, Tchaikovsky
Free Pre-concert Lecture at 3:00 pm**

**Tickets: \$64, 50, 36, 16
Information: (609) 497-0020**

Princeton, NJ, April 6, 2009... The Princeton Symphony Orchestra gives its final concert of the season on **Sunday, April 26, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** at Princeton’s Richardson Auditorium. Led by guest conductor **Scott Yoo**, Music Director of the San Luis Obispo Mozaic Festival in California, and featuring pianist **Soyeon Lee**, the PSO will present *“Composers’ Final Bows”* a performance of three of the last and arguably finest works of **Mozart, Bartók and Tchaikovsky**. Tickets are still available by calling the PSO at 609-497-0020.

Mozart’s final opera, *The Magic Flute* was completed on September 28, 1791, just two days before its premiere, and only months before Mozart’s death. A masterpiece filled with enigmatic references to the Freemasons, an organization of which Mozart was a member, the Overture to *The Magic Flute* remains to this day one of the most beloved works in the operatic repertoire. Majestic and ennobling, elegant and delicate, this piece represents Mozart at his finest.

Bartók's Piano Concerto No. 3 – a surprise birthday gift to his wife – was composed in his Manhattan apartment during his long battle with leukemia. With all but 17 measures complete, Bartók succumbed on September 26, 1945, leaving the concerto to be finished by his friend and pupil Tibor Serly. One of just a few pieces composed by Bartók after he left war-torn Europe for America in 1940, the concerto is a warm, melodic work that combines elements of both folk and mainstream classical traditions. Immediately acclaimed after its 1946 premiere in Philadelphia, Bartók's concerto has become a staple of the concert pianist's repertoire throughout the world. For this performance, pianist **Soyeon Lee** will make her concerto debut in Princeton, her new hometown.

Tchaikovsky's final symphony and last major work, Symphony No. 6, Op. 74 in B minor "Pathétique," debuted just nine days before he died, supposedly, of cholera. With mysteriously conflicting reports about the cause of his death, many have been led to speculate that "Pathétique" was written as a suicide note of sorts. Described by Tchaikovsky himself as "the best, and certainly the most open-hearted, of all my works," the symphony is a deep and turbulent piece which opens ominously, becoming gentler in the second movement, building to a rousing finish in the third, and finally returning to the brooding mood established at the introduction.

Scott Yoo, *guest conductor*

Scott Yoo is Music Director of the Festival Mozaic in San Luis Obispo, as well as the Resident Conductor for the Colorado College Summer Music Festival which he has headed for the past 4 seasons. Yoo has also served as Music Director of the Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra, an ensemble he co-founded in 1993. An exponent of new music, Yoo has introduced a newly-commissioned work on each of Metamorphosen's subscription concerts, and in the last eight seasons, has premiered 42 works by 20 composers.

This season Maestro Yoo makes debut appearances with the Yomiuri-Nippon Symphony Orchestra Tokyo, the City of London Sinfonia, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the San Antonio Symphony, and the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. He returns to lead the Seoul Philharmonic, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the New World Symphony Miami, the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, the Toledo Symphony, and the Mexico City Philharmonic.

An accomplished violinist in his own right, Yoo has played/conducted with the San Francisco Symphony, the Phoenix Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony, and the Kansas City Symphony. He has also conducted the orchestras of Charlotte, Oregon, Tulsa, Victoria (British Columbia), Toledo, Wheeling, Delaware, Honolulu, the Estonian National Philharmonic, and the Hong Kong Sinfonietta.

An active chamber musician, Yoo has made frequent appearances with chamber music festivals throughout the United States, including Bargemusic, Boston Chamber Music Society, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Kingston Chamber Music Festival, Las Vegas Music Festival, Laurel Music Festival, New Hampshire Music Festival, Seattle Chamber Music Festival and Strings in the Mountains.

Yoo began his musical studies with the violin at the age of three and performed the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with the Boston Symphony at the age of twelve. He studied the violin with Roman Totenberg, Albert Markov, Paul Kantor, and Dorothy DeLay, and conducting with Michael Gilbert and Michael Tilson-Thomas. After winning first prize in the 1988 Josef Gingold International Violin Competition, he won the 1989 Young Concert Artists International Auditions. In 1994, he was the recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant. A year later, Yoo was named Young Artist-in-Residence of National Public Radio's Performance Today. He graduated with honors and a B.A. in Physics from Harvard University in 1993.

Soyeon Lee, *piano*

Lauded by the Washington Post for her "stunning command of the keyboard," Korean pianist **Soyeon Lee**'s deeply communicative and passionate performances garner acclaim from audiences and critics alike around the world. Her many distinctions include awards at the Concert Artists Guild, Cleveland and Paloma O'Shea Santander International Competitions and profiles in both Musical America and Symphony Magazine.

Lee's 2007-08 season included a debut at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall on the CAG series, a collaboration with the Parker String Quartet at the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, Rockefeller University, and Minnesota's Music in the Park, as well as concerto engagements with the Louisiana Philharmonic, Scottsdale Symphony, and the Napa Valley Symphony.

As a recipient of The Juilliard School's prestigious William Petschek Piano Debut Award, Lee gave her recital debut at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. Last winter, Anthony Tomassini of the New York Times reviewed her Concert Artist Guild recital at Zankel Hall, saying she "played with clarity, honesty and a supple yet full-bodied sound."

Following her feature on the cover of SYMPHONY Magazine's annual Emerging Artists issue in 2006, Naxos released her debut CD featuring the sonatas of Scarlatti to critical acclaim in 2007. In 2008 Musical America's "Rising Young Artists" article, Harris Goldsmith praises the Scarlatti album as "an exquisitely patrician, vigorous, and supremely imaginative collection."

Lee has been heard live on WQXR New York's McGraw-Hill Young Artists Showcase and WNYC's Soundcheck with John Schaefer, as well as recorded performances on NPR and WGMS in Washington DC and WCLV in Cleveland. A classical music documentary featuring Lee, called "Classic Club," has been aired nationally in Japan on NHK.

Ms. Lee graduated from the Juilliard School, earning her Bachelor's and Master's degrees and the Artist Diploma, studying with Jerome Lowenthal and Robert McDonald.

Free Pre-concert Lecture with Gene DeLisa

Every classical concert is preceded by a free lecture given by PSO program annotator, composer, and musicologist Gene DeLisa. Free to all ticket holders, the lectures take place in the concert hall beginning at 3:00 pm the day of the concert. No reservations are required.

Concert and Ticket Information

PSO presents its five-concert classical subscription series and its Pops series at the 800-seat Richardson Auditorium (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 the 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, 36, and 16. Richardson Auditorium is wheelchair accessible. Large print programs are available.

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.

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

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