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**PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
SEASON FINALE BRINGS STANDING OVATION**

SEARCH FOR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR CONTINUES

**TALENTED GROUP OF GUEST CONDUCTORS
TO LEAD THE 2008-2009 SEASON**

**Andrew Grams, Tito Muñoz, Mei-Ann Chen,
Julian Kuerti, and Scott Yoo**

Princeton, NJ, May 5, 2008... Those fortunate enough to have tickets for the sold-out final concert of Princeton Symphony Orchestra's 2007-2008 season were treated to an extraordinary musical experience. Led by guest conductor Rossen Milanov and featuring pianist David Greilsammer, the PSO charmed the audience with Prokofiev's enchanting *Pushkin Waltzes* and two works by Mozart: *Idomeneo: Ballet Music* and the Piano Concerto, K 175 in D Major. Thrilled by the orchestra's powerful and stirring performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, Op. 67 in C minor, concertgoers returned the favor by giving the orchestra a sustained and enthusiastic standing ovation. It was a spectacular finale for an incredible season.

The 2008-2009 season promises to be magnificent. Along with an exceptional roster of internationally renowned soloists, the PSO will again welcome five talented guest conductors to lead its Classical Series as it enters the second phase of its search for a new Music Director. The programs the guest conductors have chosen will encompass familiar as well as unusual works, many performed for the first time by the PSO. Major symphonic works by Brahms, Shostakovich, Mendelssohn, Bartok, Smetana, and Tchaikovsky will be performed. Other season highlights include November's concert, which will resound with themes of revolution as it joins with our town's 225th

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anniversary celebration of the year 1783, when Princeton was the Nation's capital. The concert will be followed by a tour of the historic mansion and gardens of Morven. The PSO has commissioned a new clarinet concerto from composer Paul Moravec, Artist in Residence at the Institute for Advanced Study for the Edward T. Cone Series held in January 2009.

The guest conductors for the 2008-2009 season are **Andrew Grams, Tito Muñoz, Mei-Ann Chen, Julian Kuerti and Scott Yoo.**

About Andrew Grams

Andrew Grams will make his Chicago Symphony and Baltimore Symphony debuts this season. Currently Resident Conductor of the Florida Orchestra, Grams has just completed a three-year term as Assistant Conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra, having been appointed to that post by Franz Welser-Möst in June, 2004. As Assistant Conductor in Cleveland, Grams assisted maestro Welser-Möst, and conducted subscription concerts, tour concerts, educational concerts, and summer events with the Cleveland Orchestra.

Grams has appeared with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, and has also worked with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Delaware Symphony Orchestra, the Jacksonville (FL) Symphony, the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, and the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra.

A Maryland native, Grams began conducting at 17, when he led the World Youth Symphony Orchestra at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan. In 1999 he received a bachelor of music degree in violin performance from The Juilliard School of Music, where he was a student of Stephen Clapp, and in 2003 he received a conducting degree from The Curtis Institute of Music, where he worked with Otto-Werner Mueller. Grams spent the summers of 2003 and 2004 studying with David Zinman, Murry Sidlin, and Michael Stern at the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival.

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About Tito Muñoz

Tito Muñoz is currently Assistant Conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra and a conducting fellow of the League of American Orchestras. He previously served as assistant conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. An alumnus of the National Conducting Institute, Muñoz made his professional conducting debut in 2006 with the National Symphony Orchestra. He has appeared with the Cincinnati Pops, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, and the orchestras of the Aspen Music Festival, Cleveland Institute of Music, Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, and Colburn School in Los Angeles. Muñoz also appeared with the Sphinx Symphony Orchestra for the 11th Annual Sphinx Competition in Detroit. He made his European debut with the Orchestre Lyrique de Région Avignon-Provence and will make his operatic debut in 2009 with the Opéra National de Lorraine.

A native of New York City, Muñoz began his musical training on the violin at age thirteen in the Juilliard School's Music Advancement Program. He continued his training in music and composition at the Manhattan School of Music and at the Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens College where he was a violin student of Daniel Phillips.

About Mei-Ann Chen

Mei-Ann Chen is Assistant Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Her career attracted much attention in 2005, after she won the prestigious international Nicolai Malko Competition for Conductors, the first woman in its 40-year history. Her international career was launched through impressive debuts with orchestras throughout Scandinavia, Taiwan and the U.S. She maintains a guest conducting schedule with the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center, Taiwan National Symphony, Norwegian Radio Orchestra, and Norrlands Opera in Sweden. Most recently, she was named winner of the Taki Concordia Fellowship and was immediately invited by Marin Alsop and Stefan Sanderling to appear in subscription series with the Baltimore and Colorado Symphonies and the Florida Orchestra.

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Before coming to Atlanta, Chen directed five memorable seasons as Conductor and Music Director of the Portland Youth Philharmonic (2002-7) and also served as Assistant Conductor of the Oregon Symphony (2003-5). A native of Taiwan, she studied violin performance at the New England Conservatory with Eric Rosenblith and James Buswell.

About Julian Kuerti

Currently in his first season as an Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Kuerti served for two years as assistant conductor to Iván Fischer and the Budapest Festival Orchestra. He has conducted extensively in Europe and in North and South America, including concerts with the Toronto Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra, Berliner Symphoniker, and Budapest Festival Orchestra. Born in Toronto in 1976 into a musical family, Kuerti began his instrumental training on the violin. After earning an honors degree in engineering and physics, he began his conducting studies in 2000 at the University of Toronto. After a year as assistant conductor with Canada's foremost training orchestra, Kuerti moved to Germany to complete to his education, finishing his studies there in 2005 with Lutz Köhler at the University of the Arts Berlin. He pursued additional training in conducting with the acclaimed Finnish Maestro Jorma Panula and also with Maestro David Zinman at the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen in 2004. He was one of two Tanglewood Music Center Conducting Fellows in 2005. Kuerti is the Founder and Artistic Director of Solistenensemble Kaleidoskop in Berlin, with which he has recorded a debut CD for Sony/BMG with Italian cellist/composer Giovanni Sollima. Upcoming engagements include debuts with the Calgary Philharmonic, Victoria and Edmonton Symphonies.

About Scott Yoo

Scott Yoo is the Music Director of the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival in California. He has also served as Music Director of the Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra, an ensemble he founded in 1993. Yoo continues his role as the Resident Conductor for the Colorado College Summer Music Festival which he has led for the past 4 seasons.

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Last season (2006-07), Yoo made conducting appearances with the Utah Symphony, the Florida Orchestra, the Omaha Symphony, the Seoul Philharmonic and others. Yoo returned to conduct several weeks of concerts with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra during the 2007-08 season and will also lead the orchestras of Columbus Ohio (A Golijov Festival with Dawn Upshaw as soloist), Louisville, Virginia, Alabama, Ft. Wayne, Colorado, and Grand Rapids. An accomplished violinist in his own right, Yoo has also played/conducted with the San Francisco Symphony, the Phoenix Symphony, the Indianapolis Symphony, and the Kansas City Symphony.

The 2008 ~ 2009 PSO Classical Series Season

September 28, 2008, 4:00 pm

Andrew Grams, *conductor*

Karen Gomyo, *violin*

Hector Berlioz

Roman Carnival Overture

Samuel Barber

Violin Concerto, Op.14

Johannes Brahms

Symphony No.2, Op.73 in D Major

November 9, 2008, 4:00 pm

Tito Muñoz, *conductor*

Steven Isserlis, *cello*

Giuseppe Verdi

Overture to *La forza del destino*

Franz Joseph Haydn

Cello Concerto in D Major

Dmitri Shostakovich

Symphony No.10, Op.93 in E minor

January 18, 2009, 4:00 pm

The Edward T. Cone Series

Mei-Ann Chen, *conductor*

David Krakauer, *clarinet*

Antonín Dvořák

Wind Serenade, Op.44 in D minor

Paul Moravec

Clarinet Concerto

Gioacchino Rossini

Overture to *La scala di seta*

Felix Mendelssohn

Symphony No.4, Op.90 in A Major "Italian"

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March 15, 2009, 4:00 pm

Julian Kuerti, *conductor*

David Kim, *violin*

Béla Bartók

Piotr I. Tchaikovsky

Bedrich Smetana

Hungarian Sketches

Violin Concerto, Op.35 in D Major

Selections from *Má vlast*

April 26, 2009, 4:00 pm

Scott Yoo, *conductor*

Soyeon Lee, *piano*

Wolfgang A. Mozart

Béla Bartók

Piotr I. Tchaikovsky

Overture to *The Magic Flute*

Piano Concerto No.3

Symphony No.6, Op.74 in B minor “Pathétique”

PSO CONCERT TICKET INFORMATION

PSO presents its five-concert classical subscription series at the 800-seat Richardson Auditorium (on the Princeton University campus) during a September-through-May season. Concerts are presented on Sundays at 4:00 pm. **For additional information on the concerts of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra’s 2008-2009 season, please call the symphony’s office at 609-497-0020 or consult the orchestra’s website at www.princetonsymphony.org.** Season tickets for the 2008-2009 season are priced from \$70 to \$270 for a subscription, and from \$16 to \$64 for individual tickets.

About the Princeton Symphony Orchestra

Founded in 1980 by Portia Sonnenfeld as the “Little Orchestra of Princeton,” today’s Princeton Symphony Orchestra has been hailed by critics as New Jersey’s “virtuoso orchestra.” PSO performs classical masterworks, introduces music by contemporary composers, offers star-studded pops concerts, and delights area schoolchildren with their first orchestra experience. PSO performs its classical subscription series, its pops concerts and its children’s concerts in historic Richardson Auditorium in downtown Princeton, as well as special performances throughout the region. PSO performs a chamber series at the Institute for Advanced Study, Stonebridge and Windrows.

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The PSO is deeply committed to music education through permanent partnerships it maintains at schools throughout central New Jersey. **BRAVO!** (“Bringing Renowned Artists for Valuable Outreach”) supplements music education in the region’s public and private schools. **BRAVO!** annually presents more than eighty small ensemble performances and instructional workshops in thirty schools from Trenton to the Brunswicks, reaching up to one hundred students at each performance. For some students, this is the only classroom music instruction they will receive. Full orchestra concerts at Richardson Auditorium, The State Theatre, the South Brunswick School District, and elsewhere are attended by more than 10,000 children. During the 2008-2009 season, PSO will continue to expand the influence of **BRAVO!** through master classes offered to talented high school instrumentalists under the tutelage of guests soloists and PSO musicians, conductor exchanges with area youth orchestras and *ListenUp!* a new program created specifically to engage middle school students. A cornerstone of **BRAVO!** is that it is provided at no charge, underwritten by grants and general donations to the PSO. For more information about **BRAVO!**, please call the PSO office at 609-497-0020.

A non-profit organization, PSO is supported and/or underwritten by its Board of Trustees and hundreds of other individual donors. Major corporate sponsors are Bloomberg, The Glenmede Trust Company, Fidelity Investments, Merck, PNC Wealth Management, U.S. Trust/Bank of America, Tyco, Verizon, Janssen Pharmaceutica, A.G. Edwards/Wachovia Securities, WithumSmith + Brown, Saul Ewing LLP, Wilmington Trust, Stevens and Lee, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Goldman Sachs & Co., Johnson & Johnson, Church & Dwight, and Princeton Orthopaedic Associates. Foundation and other support come from the Edward T. Cone Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson 1962 Charitable Trust, the Curtis McGraw Foundation, the J. Seward Johnson Sr. Charitable Trust, Integra Foundation, the David Mathey Foundation, the Bunbury Company, the National Starch and Chemical Foundation, and Princeton University. Public funding is provided by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. **For more information, please contact the PSO office at 609-497-0020 or info@princetonsymphony.org.**