

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Melanie Clarke (609) 497-0020 melcog@hotmail.com

Princeton Symphony Orchestra Presents

“Princeton, It’s Revolutionary!”

With Guest Conductor Tito Muñoz

Featuring World-Renowned Cellist Steven Isserlis

**Sunday, November 9, 2008
4:00 pm concert at Richardson Auditorium**

Program of Verdi, Haydn, and Shostakovich

Free Pre-concert Lecture at 3:00 pm

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

Princeton, NJ, October 20, 2008... The Princeton Symphony Orchestra continues its season on **Sunday, November 9, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.**, with *“Princeton, It’s Revolutionary!”* a concert presented to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the year 1783, when Princeton was the nation’s capital. Cellist Steven Isserlis joins the PSO to perform one of that year’s greatest hits, Haydn’s 1783 masterpiece, Cello Concerto in D Major. Other works in the program, by Verdi and Shostakovich, express the revolutionary themes of our nation’s founding. After the performance, the audience is invited to a reception at Morven Museum to view the exhibit, *Picturing Princeton 1783, The Nation’s Capital*.

Guest conductor **Tito Muñoz**, Assistant Conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra and Conducting Fellow of the League of American Orchestras, will lead the PSO through a dramatic program steeped in themes of revolution and triumph. The concert will open with the beloved overture to **Verdi’s opera *La forza del destino***. Composed in 1869 to

replace the opera's original prelude, this rousing, full-scale overture is charged with notions of honor, vengeance and military quests. From the stirring "destiny" motive announced by trumpet blasts to the soaring, prayerful aria of the tragic Leonora, this overture powerfully evokes the themes of the opera, but stands magnificently on its own.

The orchestra will follow with **Joseph Haydn's** elegant **Cello Concerto in D Major** featuring a performance by internationally-renowned British cellist **Steven Isserlis**. Written originally for Czech cellist Anton Kraft in 1783 during Haydn's 30-year tenure as composer and Kapellmeister to the Hungarian Esterházy family, this remarkably beautiful work was created as a stunning showcase for the virtuosity of one of the most talented cellists of the time.

The program will close with **Shostakovich's** monumental **Tenth Symphony**. Composed in the summer and fall of 1953, the year of Stalin's death, this was Shostakovich's first symphonic work since his denunciation by the brutal Soviet leader in 1948. A statement of the composer's long desired liberation from political tyranny, this powerful work heralds a new beginning, a release from oppression, and an era of enlightenment. It is perhaps the greatest and most deeply personal of Shostakovich's fifteen symphonies.

Afterwards, to complete the concert's focus on the year 1783, the audience is invited to tour the historic mansion and gardens of Morven and view the museum's fascinating exhibit ***Picturing Princeton, 1783***. The largest exhibition ever assembled at Morven, more than 70 portraits, accompanied by archival documents, decorative arts, and historic artifacts are gathered to tell the story of Congress' five-month stay in the small town of Princeton, when the leading citizens of the new country worked to resolve the aftermath of the Revolution and establish a national government.

This concert is generously sponsored by the Glenmede Trust Company.

Tito Muñoz, *guest conductor*

Twenty-five-year-old conductor **Tito Muñoz** is currently assistant conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra and 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. That same year, he debuted with the Cleveland Orchestra at the Blossom Music Festival at the invitation of David Zinman. He made his critically-acclaimed Cincinnati Symphony subscription debut the following year replacing an ailing Krzysztof Penderecki. Since then 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. He 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 2008 with the Opéra National de Lorraine.

A native of New York City, Mr. Muñoz began his musical training on the violin at age thirteen in the Juilliard School's Music Advancement Program. He studied violin and composition at the Manhattan School of Music Preparatory Division where he received the Richard Kimball Composition Award. He attended the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts and was a member of the InterSchool Orchestras of New York and the New York Youth Symphony. He continued his training at the Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens College, as a violin student of Daniel Phillips.

About Steven Isserlis, *cello*

Steven Isserlis is a cellist whose passion for music transcends conventional divisions. Acclaimed worldwide for his musicality and technique alike, he is equally at home drawing the audience into his circle of friends for chamber music or in recital; delving

into the historical archives to emerge with a forgotten gem; or on the concert platform with some of the world's most prestigious orchestras and conductors.

British-born Isserlis takes a strong interest in authentic performance, playing with many of the foremost period instrument orchestras. Recent seasons have seen Isserlis perform all Beethoven's works for cello with forte pianist Robert Levin both in Boston and at London's Wigmore Hall. Last season he performed the Dvorák Cello Concerto with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under Sir Simon Rattle.

This season's highlights include a residency at Frankfurt's Alte Oper, where Isserlis is prominently featured as their 'Auftakt' artist, incorporating a concert with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe; and performances with the Orchestra de Paris under Christoph Eschenback at the Enescu Festival in Bucharest. Isserlis appears with the Philharmonia under Paavo Järvi, the Philadelphia Orchestra under Charles Dutoit and tours with both the City of Birmingham Symphony and the Australian Chamber orchestras. He also participates in a Gala Concert with the Israel Philharmonic to mark the 50th anniversary of the Mann Auditorium, performing Bloch's Schelomo under Zubin Mehta's baton; and later in the season re-joins the orchestra for a period of concerts under the direction of Kurt Masur.

Isserlis, who is deeply interested in musical education, will conduct a master class for cello students at the Princeton High School Performing Arts Center on **Saturday, November 8, 2008 at 3:00**. Presented by PSO's **BRAVO!** program, four gifted cello students will perform advanced classical repertoire, while Ms. Isserlis coaches and provides interpretive guidance. A reception with refreshments for the artists and audience will immediately follow the class.

PSO Pops! The Holiday Concert

"PSO Pops" will present its annual family **Holiday Concert** on **December 20, 2008**, conducted by **Ryan McAdams**, Music Director of the New York Youth Symphony. Holiday favorites, great symphonic classics, the Princeton High School Concert Choir, and the annual sing-along make this the perfect afternoon for the entire family.

PSO's Classical Series will continue on **January 18, 2009**, with the annual **Edward T. Cone Series** led by guest conductor **Mei-Ann Chen**, Assistant Conductor of the Atlanta Symphony, and featuring soloist **David Krakauer** performing **Paul Moravec's Clarinet Concerto**. On **March 15, 2009**, PSO will be joined by guest conductor **Julian Kuerti**, Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and soloist **David Kim**, concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra. In its final concert of the season on **April 26, 2009**, PSO will welcome guest conductor **Scott Yoo**, Music Director of the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival in California, in a concert featuring **Soyeon Lee**, a gifted young pianist who resides in Princeton. For more information please visit the PSO website at www.princetonsymphony.org or contact the PSO office at 609-497-0020.

PSO Pops! The Broadway Concert

On **February 7, 2009**, in celebration of the Fifth Anniversary of *The Broadway Concert*, the PSO proudly presents the magnificent **Barbara Cook** in a rare Princeton engagement accompanied by full orchestra. Her appearance with the PSO follows last season's triumphant and sold out performances by Miss Cook with the New York Philharmonic.

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.

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

##