

**Czech Pianist Ivan Moravec Returns to Princeton for University Orchestra's 20th
Anniversary Mindlin Concerts**

For immediate release

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The Princeton University Orchestra, under the direction of Michael Pratt, will present its final performances of the season in Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall on Friday April 24 and Saturday April 25 at 8:00 p.m. The concerts are this year's Stuart B. Mindlin Memorial, named after a Princeton resident who was a member of the Orchestra's percussion section for many years, and whose name is also on the Orchestra's endowment fund. These concerts mark the 20th Anniversary of the Mindlin Concerts.

Returning to perform with Pratt and the Orchestra will be Czech pianist Ivan Moravec, who performed Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto here in October 2007. On the upcoming concerts he and the Orchestra will perform Robert Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor.

"Ivan Moravec is, to state it plainly, one of the great pianists of our time, and all time. His artistry has thrilled multiple generations of listeners, and those who heard his masterful Beethoven will not want to miss his Schumann", said Mr. Pratt. "He has been performing recitals in Princeton for many years with Princeton University Concerts, and has appeared with the great orchestras of the world. We are deeply honored that he wishes to return to perform with Princeton students."

For these concerts, Mr. Moravec appears as the Paderewski Memorial Artist.

For the second half of the program, Pratt and the Orchestra will perform perhaps the greatest of the tone poems by Richard Strauss, “Ein Heldenleben” (“A Hero’s Life”). “*Ein Heldenleben* is the ultimate musical expression of self-celebration, for the Hero is Strauss himself. It is actually an encapsulation of two lives, for the other dominating character is Strauss’ beloved wife Pauline, represented by a dazzling violin solo. They converse, argue fiercely, fall into each other’s arms, and the Hero is sent forth by her to do battle with his enemies. His triumph is overwhelming (in the way only Strauss can do) and the music ends with them peacefully in old age, much the way they actually did in life. *Ein Heldenleben* is one of the most thrilling works in the repertory, and it’s hyper late Romanticism is beautifully balanced on the program by Schumann’s early Romantic innocence and idealism,” concluded Pratt.

Tickets for the concerts priced at \$18, seniors \$15, students \$5, can be reserved at the Richardson Auditorium Box Office, the Frist Center Box Office or online at <http://www.princeton.edu/richaud/>