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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

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## PEORIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OPENS 116<sup>TH</sup> SEASON AS STELLUTO RENEWS CONTRACT

The Peoria Symphony Orchestra has renewed its partnership with conductor George Stelluto for an additional three years as Music Director. Stelluto joined the Peoria Symphony Orchestra (PSO) as Music Director in 2010 and since that time the orchestra has garnered both national and regional awards for programming and artistic excellence. Additionally, the orchestra has increased outreach and educational initiatives as well as ticket sales.

Stelluto was reached for comment and said, "I am very pleased to have extended my time here in Peoria. These past three years have been challenging and rewarding and I think we are moving forward in a positive way both artistically and organizationally. Certainly, our recent national and regional recognition for our efforts seemed to indicate this, as do our growing enthusiastic audience and our exceptional outreach. I am very proud of our motto *Our community is our concert hall*. We mean it and live by it."

Symphony Board President Pamela Johnson reports, "We are thrilled George Stelluto has signed a new contract that will extend his tenure as music director of the Peoria Symphony Orchestra through May of 2016. George brings a wealth of artistic knowledge and has many connections throughout the music world which has allowed the PSO to bring stellar guest artists to our community."

The Peoria Symphony Orchestra will celebrate its 116th year with eight concerts including an appearance by 2001 Van Cliburn Gold Medalist pianist Olga Kern, Fifteen time Grammy Award winner Béla Fleck, and concerts featuring the works of Bach, Handel, Mozart and Ravel. The 2013-2014 concert line-up also features appearances by the dynamic violinist Charles Yang, violinist Paul Kantor, Mezzo Soprano Nina Yoshida- Nelsen, hornist Jeff Nelsen, and a concert spotlighting PSO principal violist Katherine Lewis and principal harpist Nicole Luchs.

Of the new season, Music Director George Stelluto said, "The 2013-2014 Season continues the tradition of artistic excellence and excitement the community has come to expect from the PSO. Both our programming and guest artists are without peer. The orchestra, coming off of its excellent Mahler performance last season, is at its best. So, whether you are a veteran or a newcomer, you won't want to miss these concerts. Plus, our outreach, broadcasts, and new initiatives will absolutely thrill you. Béla will even be performing on our Student Concerts!"

Executive Director of the Peoria Symphony Orchestra Susan Hoffman explains "This season we selected guest artists not only for their skill and outstanding talent as performers, but for their commitment to reaching out into the community. Our artists and musicians will be busy throughout the year with visits to schools, hospitals, and other venues. We continue our mission to be a resource to our community both on and off the stage."

The 2013-2014 Concert Season is:

- **Saturday, September 28, 2013 8 p.m.**  
**Passion and Power**  
Peoria Civic Center Theater  
Olga Kern, *piano*  
**Wagner** Flying Dutchman Overture  
**Rachmaninoff** Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini  
**Debussy** Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun  
**Strauss** Death and Transfiguration
- **Saturday, October 19, 2013 8 p.m.**  
**Yin and Yang**  
Peoria Civic Center Theater  
Charles Yang, *violin*  
**Tchaikovsky** Festival Overture  
**Tchaikovsky** Violin Concerto  
**Ranjbaran** Concerto for Popular Culture & Orchestra – World Premier  
**Tchaikovsky** Symphony No. 2 “Little Russian”  
*Featuring the Central Illinois Youth Symphony performing side-by-side on the Festival Overture*
- **Saturday, November 9 , 2013 8 p.m.**  
Grace Presbyterian Church, Peoria  
**Allure of Paris**  
Katherine Lewis, *viola*  
Nicole Luchs, *harp*  
**Fauré** Masques et bergamasques  
**Debussy** Dances Sacred and Profane  
**Mozart** Symphony No. 31 “Paris”  
**Nystroem** Viola Concerto – U.S. Premier  
**Ravel** Mother Goose Suite
- **Sunday, January 19, 2014 3 p.m.**  
*Matinee at the Movies*  
Peoria Civic Center Theater  
Your favorite movie music from super heroes to great romances and epic stores to the final frontier, including, music from *Superman, Spiderman, Batman, Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, Les Misérables, Casablanca, Dr. Zhivago, Gone with the Wind, Mission Impossible, Star Wars, Star Trek, E.T., and much more.*
- **Friday, February 14, 2014 8 p.m.**  
**Romance**  
*The PSO’s annual Valentine’s Concert*  
Peoria Civic Center Theater  
Linden Christ, *soprano* and Ryan Lanning, *tenor*  
The PSO ignites the flame of Romance once again with everything from torch songs to love ballads, and even a tango or two! Linden Christ, Ryan Lanning, and the PSO play cupid for you.

- **Saturday, March 15, 2014 8 p.m.**  
**Vivaldi's Four Seasons**  
 Grace Presbyterian Church, Peoria  
 Paul Kantor, *violin*  
**Vivaldi**            Four Seasons  
**Handel**            Alexander's Feast  
**Dello Joio**        Meditations on Ecclesiastes
  
- **Saturday, April 12, 2014 8 p.m.**  
**American Classics with Béla Fleck**  
 Peoria Civic Center Theater  
 Béla Fleck, *banjo*  
**Bernstein**        On the Town, Dances  
**Copland**         Old American Songs  
**Copland**         Music for the Movies  
**Fleck**             Concerto for Banjo & Orchestra
  
- **Sunday, May 11, 2014 8 p.m.**  
**Daydreams**  
 Peoria Civic Center Theater  
 Nina Yoshida-Nelsen, *mezzo soprano* and Jeff Nelsen, *horn*  
**Mozart**            Magic Flute Overture  
**Mozart**            Horn Concerto No. 2  
**Bizet**              Arias from Carmen  
**Saint Saëns**      Arias from Samson and Delilah  
**Dvorak**            Symphony No. 8

Season tickets are available in eight- and four-concert packages and are on sale now by calling the PSO Box Office, 309-671-1096 or visiting the Box Office at 101 State Street in the WTVP building. Season tickets start at \$174 for eight concerts. If you are a new subscriber or have not purchased a season ticket since 2008, you can buy the eight-concert series for 50% off! All full-time students can attend concerts at a discounted price of as little as \$11.00 with valid I.D. (*Based on availability. Student tickets for Béla Fleck American Classics, April 12, 2014 are \$21.00*). Concert details are available at [www.peoriasymphony.org](http://www.peoriasymphony.org).

Established in 1897 and recognized as the 14<sup>th</sup> oldest symphony orchestra in the U.S., the PSO launched a new era with a move to Peoria's riverfront warehouse district, bridging its status as central Illinois' venerable orchestra with a future in the region's most innovative business and cultural district.

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