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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PEORIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WELCOMES
RETURNING VIOLINIST CHARLES YANG**

Peoria, IL – “A Season of Inspiring Programs” – George Stelluto, Music Director for the Peoria Symphony Orchestra

Continuing its exceptional programming, the Peoria Symphony Orchestra’s (PSO) 118th season begins on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the Peoria Civic Center Theater with **CARNIVAL!**; a concert inspired by the ancient spring festival celebrated around the world.

Edward Joseph Collins’ *Mardi Gras*, a romantic musical fantasy begins the program followed by Oscar winning music from *The Red Violin* featuring rock star violinist Charles Yang as guest artist. Composer John Corigliano wrote the music for the 1998 film *The Red Violin*, which won the Academy Award for Best Original Score and he later turned the music into a work for violin and orchestra. Igor Stravinsky’s *Petrushka*, a fantasy depiction of an enchanted Russian Shrove-tide-fair, finishes the program. Following on the PSO’s recent success with Mahler Symphony No. 7, Music Director George Stelluto said,

“It’s an exciting work of amazing orchestral colors and imagery that takes an accomplished orchestra like the PSO to perform.”

The concert marks the second PSO appearance of the dynamic, young, violinist Charles Yang. A Juilliard graduate Yang began his violin studies in Austin, Texas and has been a frequent guest on the Emmy Award winning PBS show *From The Top*, and has been heard on National Public Radio in Washington, DC and Boston. Now an international star, Yang is described by the Boston Globe as one who “plays classical violin with the charisma of a rock star.” (charlesyangmusic.com)

Mr. Yang’s last visit to Peoria was the inspiration for the Peoria Symphony Orchestra’s new Resident Artist Week (RAW), an intensely interactive week of inspiring community and educational events involving the PSO’s guest artists.

“The Resident Artist Week initiative is an exciting addition to our already impressive programs. These artists become members of our community for a week or so, rather than just distant performers on a concert stage.” George Stelluto, PSO Music Director

Yang’s RAW week schedule includes visits to Peoria District 150 schools, Metamora School, Bradley University, Children’s Hospital of Illinois, and Lutheran Hillside Village senior facility.

Charles Yang will be appearing at Kelleher’s Irish Pub on Thursday, September 17, 2015. The popular Latin band The Brazillionaires will take to Water Street with Mr. Yang for a block party kick-off celebration of the PSO’s 118th concert season in keeping with the spirit of the world’s greatest party and the opening night concert theme, Carnival! Sponsored by Soderstrom Skin Institute, the event is free and open to the public.

Tickets for CARNIVAL start at \$29 and student tickets are \$10 and are available by calling the PSO Box Office at 309.671.1096, 101 State Street, Peoria, IL. Box Office hours are 10:00 - 4:00 Monday through Friday, or go online to www.peoriasymphony.org. Season tickets, Pick Four and single tickets are available. New Season Ticket subscribers (have not purchased Season Tickets since 2010) are available at 50% off.

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