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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Briton Smith, cello

PEORIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WELCOMES CELLIST BRINTON SMITH

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

The award winning Peoria Symphony Orchestra’s (PSO) 118th season of exceptional concerts and programming continues on Saturday, November 21, 2015, 8:00 pm at the Peoria Civic Center Theater with BRAVURA! featuring the dazzling cellist, Brinton Smith.

The concert, designed around passion and virtuosity is a program of music so energetic and compelling that it will be hard to remain seated. It opens with Giuseppe Verdi’s fiery overture *La Forza del Destino*. Full of all the high drama of an Italian opera, the orchestra itself becomes *La Forza del Destino* - the Force of Destiny. Music from Igor Stravinsky’s awe-inspiring ballet *Firebird* is also performed. The *Firebird* suite is a vibrant musical depiction of a story based on a Russian folk-tale about a magic glowing bird. PSO Music Director, George Stelluto says;

“Stravinsky’s Firebird runs the gamut from beautiful to terrifying to sublime. There’s no other way to describe it except AWESOME!”

The concert ends with Antonin Dvorak’s *Cello Concerto*, an epic work full of Dvorak’s soaring romanticism and virtuoso display by both the cellist and the orchestra.

Making his debut with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra the accomplished cellist Brinton Smith (brintonaverilsmith.com) has collaborated and recorded with major artists such as Gil Shaham as well as being a featured soloist with major orchestras. Smith is currently Principal Cellist of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, <http://www.houstonsymphony.org> is a member of the Shepherd School of Music faculty at Rice University <http://music.rice.edu>, and a regular participant at the Aspen Musical Festival. His performances have been broadcast on CBS’s *Sunday Morning* and on the radio throughout the U.S., including NPR’s *Performance Today* and *SymphonyCast*. Mr. Smith’s recordings and live performances regularly elicit international acclaim. The annual *Gramophone Awards Issue* praised Smith as a

“eloquent, impassioned soloist,” and continued, “The sheer bravura of Smith’s reading is infectious.”

After receiving both a Bachelor and Master’s degree in mathematics by the age of 19, Smith studied with the renowned cellist Zara Nelsova at The Juilliard School, where he received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

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A master teacher, Smith will participate in the PSO's new week-long Resident Artist Week (RAW) initiative. The intent of the RAW outreach is to engage people with the universal language of music, bring music to those who may benefit from music but unable to attend the concert and enrich schools curricula and expose local students to the stories, experiences, career tracks, and talents of professional musicians in the days leading up to their concert performance with the PSO.

BRAVURA! is sponsored by Trudy and Michael Landwirth and support for the 118th season of the PSO is also provided by PNC.

Tickets for the Peoria Symphony Orchestra concert BRAVURA! start at \$30 and student tickets are \$11 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 online to www.peoriasymphony.org.

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