

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathy Matthews, (847) 841-7700
Executive Director, EYSO

**MIDORI! Violinist Phenomenon Plays with Three EYSO Orchestras
Once-in-a-Lifetime Midori Residency Finishes with Rare Performance**

Elgin, IL September 2008 – On October 5th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., Midori will perform with three of the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra's (EYSO) four orchestras. The performance will take place at the Hemmens Cultural Center, 45 Symphony Way, Elgin, IL 60120. The EYSO usually performs at the Blizzard Theatre in the Elgin Community Arts Center. This performance follows Midori's 3:30 p.m. performance with the Elgin Symphony Orchestra; also at the Hemmens Cultural Center.

Midori will perform with the EYSO Youth Symphony (an advanced orchestra for high school and college-age students); the Philharmonia (an intermediate-level full orchestra for middle school and high school musicians); and The Prelude Orchestra (dedicated to string players in grades 4-9).

These three orchestras will have the rare opportunity to rehearse and play with one of the world's top violinist's in a professional concert hall used to showcase national acts throughout the year. The performances are the culmination of Midori's week-long Orchestra Residencies Program awarded to the EYSO and the Elgin Symphony Orchestra (ESO). Only two such residencies are awarded in the United States each year.

“This residency with Midori is an incredible opportunity for every member of our organization – our 300 students, our artistic and administrative staff, our Board of Directors, as well as all of the communities represented by our membership,” stated Kathy Matthews, EYSO Executive Director.

Midori will perform the 1st movement of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the Youth Symphony. This concerto was premiered by Maud Powell, an early pioneer of women in music from Aurora, IL. They also will perform *Huapango* by José Pablo Moncayo; this Mexican dance is one of the most popular Latin American orchestra pieces ever written.

Midori and the Prelude Orchestra will will perform *Autumn* from *The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi and they will also play Puccini's *O Mio Babbino Caro* arranged by McLeod.

“The Philharmonia is privileged to have Midori as the featured artist for the 3rd movement of Bruch's G Minor Violin Concerto. In addition, the orchestra will play the first three movements from Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio espagnol*. This piece is a dazzling display of orchestral brilliance highlighting Spanish themes,” stated David Anderson, Philharmonia Conductor.

Tickets for the concert are \$25 for adults, \$20 for senior citizens, and \$15 for students. Although the concert will be held at the Hemmens Cultural Center, tickets can be purchased at the Elgin Community College Box Office located in the ECC Arts Center, by phone (847) 622-0300, or online at www.elgin.edu/arts. Box office hours are noon to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday; and noon to 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express and cash are accepted for payment.

Midori's Orchestra Residencies Program

Designed by Midori as a means of supporting American youth orchestras, the Orchestra Residencies Program is a collaborative project which provides meaningful musical experiences for the next generation of classical musicians. The program aspires to help establish the youth orchestra as a presence in the community, as well as to build upon relationships with the local professional symphony, visiting artists and administrative staff.

Over a period of five days, Midori will participate in a wide range of activities tailored to optimize the involvement of the youth orchestra, including concerts with both the youth orchestra and its affiliated professional symphony. Midori will engage in many activities including a master class; coaching at Larkin High School, U-46 School district – Elgin, IL; a strings festival at St. Charles North High School for string players in CUSD 303, St. Charles, IL; an appearance at Judson University; and arts advocacy with the orchestras and local legislators. Midori has a busy schedule encompassing every hour of her five day visit; she's not letting a single minute slip by.

Midori will be in-residence from Wednesday, October 1, 2008 until Sunday, October 5, 2008.

Midori

Midori is best known as one of the world's leading violinists, performing over 90 concerts worldwide each season, but she also touches people's lives in many other ways.

As Midori embarks on her 26th season before the public, in addition to maintaining her ambitious concert schedule, the focus of her energies is increasingly the community engagement activities she has initiated in the U.S. and Japan and her teaching responsibilities at the University of Southern California.

EYSO is more than great concerts. It's a life-changing opportunity.

About Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra

The Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (EYSO), an In-Residence Ensemble in the Arts Center at Elgin Community College, is home to four orchestras and a brass choir with nearly 300 students from over 60 communities. Founded in 1976, the mission of the EYSO is to create a community of young musicians, enriching their lives and the lives of their families, schools, communities and beyond, through the study and performance of excellent music. This program is partially supported by grants from the Palmer Foundation, the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, the Illinois Arts Council, and the JP Morgan Chase Foundation.

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**amy leigh, copywriter
marketing & communications consultant**

630-779-2063
www.amy-leigh.com