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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY AND ANIMAL ALLIANCE OF NJ PRESENT:

“APPAWS”

**AN EVENING WITH PIANIST MERAL GUNEYMAN
AT RICHARDSON AUDITORIUM TO BENEFIT ANIMAL ALLIANCE OF NEW JERSEY**

Princeton, NJ -- On Friday, May 16, 2014 renowned pianist and Steinway Artist Meral Guneyman will delight the audience at “Appaws,” a special benefit evening and concert for Animal Alliance of New Jersey at Princeton University’s Richardson Auditorium. The solo performance begins at 8:00 pm, includes a brief intermission and post concert meet and greet with the artist and cd signing. This one of a kind event celebrates classical music and proclaims Animal Alliance’s continued dedication to animal welfare and the community at large.

Ms. Guneyman’s performance will embrace classical, jazz and more, and include selections from Chopin, Scarlatti, Ellington, Gershwin and Radiohead. “It is an honor to play at the historic Richardson Auditorium and I am thrilled to be working hand and hand with Animal Alliance of NJ, the charity where I met my beloved dog Larry while volunteering last year,” said Guneyman. “I am so grateful for the opportunity to make this contribution straight from my heart, to the entire community and to every heart that beats at Animal Alliance.”

Throughout her career, Guneyman has mesmerized her audience and earned international praise, while also dedicating her time and talent to numerous charities. A graduate of the Juilliard School, she studied with legendary Josef Raiff as a scholarship student and is a two-time winner of the Judelson Award. While a student, she won the first prize at the University of Buffalo Piano Competition, thus making her Northern American orchestral debut as Soloist with the Buffalo Philharmonic, under the baton of multi Grammy winner, Michael Tilson Thomas. Since then, her appearances have taken her from Carnegie Hall to Melbourne University, Australia- from the Cervantes Festival in Mexico to the Istanbul International Festival in Turkey, and from Salle Pleyel in Paris to performing with the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra in Bosnia.

"We are extremely thankful and excited that a musician of Meral Guneyman's caliber is willing to donate her time on behalf of Animal Alliance," said Anne Trinkle, Executive Director of Animal Alliance. "The lives of thousands of animals will be impacted because of the generosity of Meral, the concert sponsors and each and every guest attending this momentous evening."

"Appaws" has also gained the support of several notable sponsors. Presenting Sponsors include lifelong Guneyman friend, Ali Salur and Corporate Sponsors include The Bank of Princeton, Peter Mittnacht with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Statewide Aquastore Inc., Unionville Vineyards, River Signs LLC of Lambertville and The Turkish Friends in Loving Memory of Melek Guneyman, Meral's mother.

Tickets can be purchased beginning April 1 through Princeton University at www.princeton.edu/utickets, by phone M-F from 12 – 6 pm at 609-258-9220, or by visiting the University Ticketing Office in person at the First Campus Center. General admission is \$35 and students can call or visit the Ticketing Office to receive the \$15 student rate. Richardson Auditorium is located in Alexander Hall directly behind the Nassau Presbyterian Church on the left (south) side of Nassau Street. Seating begins at 7:45 pm.

Richardson Auditorium is Princeton University's premiere performance venue for a wide variety of events presented by the Department of Music, as well as student and community organizations. Richardson is also home to the annual Princeton University Concerts series, featuring world-class professional musical artists, and the hall is often used for the recording of chamber, orchestral, and solo instrumental and vocal music. Richardson Auditorium occasionally houses dance and dramatic performances and is the site of many official University ceremonies, lectures, and assemblies, from Freshman Orientation to Reunions activities. As one of the most historic and recognizable structures on the Princeton campus, Alexander Hall was chosen by the U.S. Postal Service to appear on a postcard commemorating Princeton's 250th anniversary in 1996.

Animal Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization which finds euthanasia to be an unacceptable fate for adoptable dogs and cats in animal shelters, who will lose their life due to pet overpopulation. Animal Alliance places animals removed from shelters into temporary foster care where they are rehabilitated, spayed/neutered, restored to health, and readied for a speedy adoption. Animal Alliance focuses its efforts on injured animals, and victims of cruelty and neglect. Through its Planned Parenthood Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic, Animal Alliance offers spay/neuter community outreach services to substantially reduce pet overpopulation. Its Roberts Curtis Memorial Pet Adoption Center, offers pets for adoption in a retail-like setting to encourage pet adoption among those who might not ordinarily visit a traditional animal shelter, and to increase the visibility and accessibility of rescued animals for adoption. www.animalalliancenj.org