



For Immediate Release

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Zachary Cohen to become new Principal Bass of the SPCO

Announced as a 2014-15 season guest musician this past September, Cohen now appointed as a permanent member of the orchestra

SAINT PAUL, MN, January 22, 2015 – The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra announces today that 2014-15 guest musician Zachary Cohen has been named the orchestra's new Principal Bass.

A well-known and deeply respected bassist in the industry, Cohen brings to the SPCO particular talents as a chamber musician, and is involved with various cutting-edge chamber ensembles including 'The Knights'. A native of the Bronx, Cohen won the position of principal bass of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra in his senior year of Juilliard at the age of 22. He received his Bachelor of Music from Juilliard where he studied with legendary bassist Homer Mensch. During his summers Cohen has performed at the Mostly Mozart Festival, Marlboro Music Festival, Grand Teton Music Festival, and The Dresden Musikfestspiele. As an active chamber musician Cohen has collaborated with a wide range of artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Richard Goode, Mitsuko Uchida, Midori, Mark O'Connor and members of the Guarneri and Mendelssohn quartets. He has also worked closely with some of today's most respected composers such as Henri Dutilleux, Osvaldo Golijov, and Mario Davidovsky.

Cohen was chosen by a musician-comprised audition committee, and of the appointment, SPCO Principal Second Violinist and Senior Director of Artistic Planning Kyu-Young Kim said, "We are thrilled to have Zach as our new Principal Bass. Zach brings such joy and enthusiasm to his music making and the effect on the other players in the SPCO is palpable. He brings tremendous technical and musical skills, a wealth of experience and a depth of understanding of the chamber orchestra repertoire in all of its diversity. He will be an absolutely vital part of the future of the SPCO."

Regarding his appointment with the orchestra, Cohen said, “It is an exciting moment for me to accept the position of principal bass of the SPCO. I am joining an organization that is leading through its vision of taking big artistic risks and experimenting with innovative ways classical music is produced and shared with audiences. I am honored to be joining a group of such dynamic and talented musicians and a supportive administration. I look forward to contributing and being a part of this new era in the SPCO.”

PHOTOS

[Link to Hi-Res photos \(via dropbox\)](#)

ABOUT ZACHARY COHEN

A native of the Bronx, the American bassist Zachary Cohen won the position of principal bass of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra in his senior year of Juilliard at the age of 22. Cohen received his Bachelor of Music from Juilliard where he studied with legendary bassist Homer Mensch. During his summers Cohen has performed at the Mostly Mozart Festival, Marlboro Music Festival, Grand Teton Music Festival, and The Dresden Musikfestspiele. As an active chamber musician Cohen has collaborated with a wide range of artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Richard Goode, Mitsuko Uchida, Midori, Mark O'Connor and members of the Guarneri and Mendelssohn quartets. He has also worked closely with some of today's most respected composers such as Henri Dutilleux, Osvaldo Golijov, and Mario Davidovsky. While attending Juilliard, Cohen became a member of the chamber group 'The Knights'. He has recently recorded two albums with them on Sony Classical.

ABOUT THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, now in its 56th season, is widely regarded as one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. In collaboration with its group of artistic partners – Roberto Abbado, Jeremy Denk, Martin Fröst, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Christian Zacharias and Thomas Zehetmair – the virtuoso musicians present more than 130 concerts and educational programs each year, and are regularly heard on public radio's Performance Today which reaches 1.3 million listeners each week on 289 stations, and SymphonyCast reaching 250,000 listeners each week on 143 stations nationwide. The SPCO has released 67 recordings, commissioned 142 new works, and performed the world premiere of 49 additional compositions. The SPCO has earned the distinction of 17 ASCAP awards for adventurous programming. Renowned for its artistic excellence and remarkable versatility of musical styles, the SPCO tours nationally and internationally, including performances in premier venues in Europe, Asia and South America. Launched in 1994, the SPCO's award-winning CONNECT education program reaches over 5,000 students and teachers annually in 12 Minneapolis and St. Paul public schools. For more information, visit www.thespco.org.

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