



## For Immediate Release

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## Francisco Fullana appointed as Principal Violin of the SPCO

**SAINT PAUL, MN, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016** – The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO) announces today that violinist Francisco Fullana has been named the orchestra’s newest Principal Violin.

The Principal Violin position, unique to the SPCO, will have leadership, solo and chamber music opportunities, splitting the more traditional principal second violin responsibilities with another Principal Violin (Kyu-Young Kim). On weeks when Kim is fulfilling the Principal Violin role, Fullana will be assigned varying positions in the first and second violin sections.

SPCO Artistic Director and Principal Violin Kyu-Young Kim reflected on the appointment of this key position: “As the SPCO has moved to becoming a primarily uncondacted ensemble, the need for even more leadership from our musicians has led us to make the decision to add another Principal Violin. We feel very fortunate to have been able to recruit and appoint someone of Francisco’s incredible artistic caliber. He passed through the audition process with flying colors and joined the orchestra for a trial period last season, culminating in an impressive solo turn in a fiendishly difficult string ensemble piece [Ginastera’s Concerto for Strings] in our season finale last June. We are delighted to welcome him to the SPCO, and know that this community will embrace his talent and his boundless enthusiasm for our music.”

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Acclaimed for his performances in both Europe and the US, Spanish violinist **Francisco Fullana** is enjoying a diverse international career of concerto and recital appearances, as well as a wide array of collaborations as a chamber musician. He is currently in his second season as artist in residence for the Balearic Islands Symphony Orchestra, performing Bartók's Second Violin Concerto under Eivind Gullberg Jensen. He has appeared on some of the world's finest stages including the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Spanish National Hall and Seoul Arts Center. Fullana is also an active chamber musician, appearing in festivals such as Da Camera Society, Marlboro Music, Music@Menlo, Perlman Music Program, Yellow Barn, Concordia and Jupiter Chamber Players, alongside members of the Guarneri, Juilliard, Takacs and Cleveland Quartets. Since 2013, he is the concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra of San Antonio, where he is also the artistic director of COSA's Chamber Music Institute. Fullana has taken top prizes in the 2015 Pro Musicis International Awards, the 2014 International Johannes Brahms Violin Competition, the 2014 Henri Marteau International Violin Competition and the 2012 American Protégé International Competition, among others.

Regarding his appointment with the orchestra, Fullana said, "I am very much looking forward to becoming the new Principal Violin of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. From the very first time I came to play with the ensemble, back in April 2015, I was so inspired by the incredible level of commitment of every member of the SPCO. It left a deep impression and when given the chance to become one of the orchestra's leaders, I knew it was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. One of my long-term goals has always been to play chamber music at the highest level with people that inspire me."

Fullana continued: "There is nothing better than playing with this group of amazing musicians. Everyone comes to each rehearsal with the motivation of making great music together to put on the highest level of performances for the Twin Cities community. I am excited for the bright future that lies ahead; bringing younger audiences through affordable ticket prices and education programs, while continuing to push the musical excellence of the SPCO through new recordings, tours and collaborations with its fantastic Artistic Partners."

Fullana will be featured in a number of upcoming chamber music pieces and can be seen in rotating positions in the first and second violins throughout the coming season. Performances will include Buxtehude's Sonata in C for Two Violins, Viola da Gamba and Continuo (September 23–25), Stravinsky's Suite from *The Soldier's Tale* and Schoenfield's Trio for Violin, Clarinet and Piano (November 10–13), and Strauss's Sonata in E-flat for Violin and Piano (December 2–4).

## **PHOTOS**

[Link to photos of Francisco Fullana \(via dropbox\)](#)

## **VIDEOS**

[Brahms' Violin Concerto in D Major with Gustavo Dudamel and the "El Sistema" Orchestra](#)  
[Additional videos available at francisofullana.com](#)

## **ABOUT FRANCISCO FULLANA**

Acclaimed for his performances in both Europe and the US, Spanish violinist **Francisco Fullana** is enjoying a diverse international career of concerto and recital appearances as well as a wide array of collaborations as a chamber musician. Praised by Gustavo Dudamel as a “remarkable talent”, *The Boston Globe* called him “a very special violinist.” Performances in recent seasons included Brahms’ Concerto under Gustavo Dudamel as well as his debut with the Madrid State Orchestra under Victor Pablo in the Spanish National Hall. Francisco also made his debuts with Dana Point, Guanajuato, Irvine, Maryland and Pacific Symphony Orchestras and the State Chapella of Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Francisco is currently in his second season as artist in residence for the Balearic Islands Symphony Orchestra, performing Bartók’s Second Violin Concerto under Eivind Gullberg Jensen. Other engagements for the 2016-2017 season include debuts with the Alabama and Xalapa Symphony Orchestras, the Lyra Chamber Orchestra (Switzerland) and return concerto performances with the Guanajuato (Mexico), Central Aichi (Japan) and Atlantic Symphonies. Recital appearances include recitals at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall, Pickman Hall, Bellver Festival, the March Foundation in Madrid and Munetsugu Hall in Japan. Fullana will also appear in a “Musicians from Marlboro” tour, performing chamber music in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Library of Congress and the Kimmel Center, as well as performances in The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra’s Liquid Music Series, and engagements with the Concordia and Jupiter Chamber Players.

Next summer, *Orchid Classics* will release Fullana’s debut recording, which includes Max Richter’s “Four Seasons Recomposed” with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Carlos Izcaray. Looking ahead, his ongoing collaboration with Argentinian bandoneonist JP Jofre will culminate in 2018 with the premiere of Jofre’s Double Concerto for bandoneon and violin, a work commissioned by Alabama and Balearic Islands Symphonies as well as New York City’s Metropolis Ensemble to honor Leonard Bernstein’s centennial.

Highlights of past seasons have included a Mendelssohn Violin Concerto performance under the late Sir Colin Davis and Bayerische Philharmonie, as well as concerto appearances with the Bavarian Radio Orchestra, both presented by Lyra Foundation. Francisco has also appeared with the Vancouver Symphony and the Spanish Radio Television Orchestra. Other concerto engagements have included performances with “El Sistema” Symphony Orchestra, Hof Symphony, Extremadura Symphony and many others. His music has been heard in concert halls all over the world: Spain, USA, Germany, Switzerland, Venezuela, Israel, Argentina, Italy, Portugal, South Korea, Mexico and Japan; in front of distinguished audiences that have included the King and Queen of Spain.

He has appeared on some of the world’s finest stages, including the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Spanish National Hall and Seoul Arts Center. Francisco has been conducted by distinguished artists such as Gustavo Dudamel, Sir Colin Davis, Christoph Poppen, Adrian Leaper, Salvador Brotons, Pablo Mielgo, Carlos Izcaray, Luis de Pablo, Álvaro Albiach, Justin Brown, Alondra de la Parra, Lanfranco Marcellati, Philippe Bender, Jin Kim, and many others.

As the First Prize winner of the 2015 Munetsugu International Violin Competition in Japan, he was awarded the loan of the 1697 "Rainville" Stradivari violin. Francisco was also awarded all four special prizes at this competition, including the Audience and Orchestra awards.

The First Prize winner at the 2015 Pro Musicis International Awards and the 2014 International Johannes Brahms Violin Competition in Austria, Fullana was also the First Prize winner at the 2006 Pablo de Sarasate National Violin Competition and a multiple prizewinner at the 2014 Henri Marteau International Violin Competition. Other prizes include First Prize of the 2012 American Protégé International Competition, 2012 First Prize and Audience Award at the Atlantic Symphony Concerto Competition, First Prize at the 2010 TIM Torneo Internazionale di Musica and First Prize at the Julio Cardona International Violin Competition, as well as the Maria Paula Alonso Award.

Francisco is a very active chamber musician, appearing in festivals such as Da Camera Society, Marlboro Music, Music@Menlo, Perlman Music Program, Yellow Barn, Concordia and Jupiter Chamber Players, alongside members of the Guarneri, Juilliard, Takacs and Cleveland Quartets. He has also performed with renowned artists Viviane Hagner, Nobuko Imai, Charles Neidich and Mitsuko Uchida, among many others. Since 2013, he is the concertmaster of the Chamber Orchestra of San Antonio, where he is also the artistic director of COSA's Chamber Music Institute.

A graduate of The Juilliard School, where he obtained Bachelor and Master degrees with Don Weilerstein and Masao Kawasaki, he is currently pursuing an Artist Diploma at the University of Southern California under the renowned violinist Midori Goto. Francisco started violin with Bernat Pomar in his hometown of Palma de Mallorca, Spain, and is also a graduate of the Royal Conservatory of Madrid, where he studied with Manuel Guillén.

Since 2013, Francisco has been a recipient of the Stradivari Society of Chicago. He performs on the 1697 "Rainville" Stradivarius, kindly on loan from the Yellow Angel Foundation of Japan.

### **ABOUT THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Renowned for its artistic excellence, remarkable versatility of musical styles and adventurous programming, **The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra** is widely regarded as one of the finest chamber orchestras in the world. Now in its 58th season, the SPCO has recently undergone transformational change with the opening of its new home, the Ordway Concert Hall, the addition of a new generation of players, and significant changes in the scope of its artistic vision. Committed to championing new music, the SPCO is primarily an unconduted ensemble that works in close collaboration with a diverse series of artistic partners. The orchestra's current artistic partners are Jonathan Cohen, Jeremy Denk, Martin Fröst, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Pekka Kuusisto and Thomas Zehetmair. Past Artistic Partners include Roberto Abbado, Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Joshua Bell, Douglas Boyd, Nicholas McGegan, Stephen Prutsman, Dawn Upshaw and Christian Zacharias.

The virtuoso musicians of the SPCO present more than 130 concerts and educational programs each year, and are regularly heard on public radio programs which reach more than 2 million listeners each week on over 300 stations. Additionally, the SPCO reaches more than 200,000 listeners annually through its free online Listening Library. The SPCO has released 67 recordings, commissioned 148 new works, and tours nationally and internationally, including performances in premier venues in Europe, Asia

and South America. Recent engagements in Berkeley, CA, New York's Carnegie Hall, the Ojai Festival, and tours to Scandinavia and Central and Eastern Europe were met with great critical acclaim.

The SPCO is nationally recognized for its commitment to broad community accessibility, its innovative audience outreach efforts, and its educational and family programming. Regular subscription series are performed in a variety of different venues across the Twin Cities metropolitan area each season, a unique commitment to geographic accessibility for a major orchestra. The SPCO offers the most affordable tickets of any major orchestra in the United States, with over 50 percent of tickets available for \$12 or less, and has expanded accessibility even further by offering free tickets for children and students starting in the 2016.17 season as a part of the New Generation Initiative. The orchestra also offers an innovative ticket membership model in which members pay \$5 per month to attend unlimited concerts. The SPCO's award-winning CONNECT education program reaches over 5,000 students and teachers annually in 12 Minneapolis and Saint Paul public schools, and its Target® Free Family Music program provides engaging and educational experiences for thousands of Twin Cities children and families each year. The SPCO's Liquid Music Series (named "Best of Classical" by *The New York Times*) develops innovative new projects with iconoclastic artists in unique presentation formats and invites adventurous audiences to discover the new and the fascinating within the flourishing landscape of contemporary chamber music.

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