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BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA APPOINTS NEW ORCHESTRA MEMBERS TO START AT OPENING OF 2012-13 SEASON IN FALL 2012

ORCHESTRA WELCOMES VIOLISTS JONATHAN CHU AND WESLEY COLLINS AND PERCUSSIONISTS KYLE BRIGHTWELL AND MATTHEW MCKAY AS NEW MEMBERS

Four new orchestra members, two percussionists and two violists, have been appointed to positions with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In fall 2012 Wesley Collins, viola; Kyle Brightwell, percussion; and Matthew McKay, percussion, will each make their debuts as members of the BSO. Violist Jonathan Chu has also been appointed to the BSO and will begin at start at the beginning of the 2013-14 season.

WESLEY COLLINS, VIOLA
Wes Collins joined the viola section of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in May 2008, having completed his bachelor of music degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music in May 2007, where he was a student of Robert Vernon. In Cleveland, Wes played as a substitute with the Cleveland Orchestra and also played in the Canton Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Chamber Symphony, and City Music Cleveland, and was assistant principal violist with the Akron Symphony. He has always been active in chamber music and was a founding member of the Vesuvius String Quartet from 2004 to 2006. His summer activities have included the Tanglewood Music Center, Sarasota Music Festival, ENCORE School for Strings, and the Pacific Music Festival. Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, Wes began studying violin with his mother, Sandy, at the age of four. He also played trumpet under the instruction of his father, Philip Collins, former principal trumpet of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Wes later switched to viola at the guidance and inspiration of Michael Klotz, violist of the Amernet String Quartet.

KYLE BRIGHTWELL, PERCUSSION
Kyle Brightwell joins the Boston Symphony Orchestra at the start of the 2012-2013 season. He began his musical studies on piano and guitar at age four, and began focusing on percussion studies at age eleven. An avid performer/percussionist living in Boston, Mr. Brightwell has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, U.S. Navy Band, U.S. Army Orchestra, Orquestra Sinfonica da Bahia (Brazil), Boston Philharmonic, and the New World Symphony, among others. Future and recent performances include those with Kansas City Symphony and at the Hyogo Performing Arts Center Symphony Orchestra (Japan), as well as
his solo debut with the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra performing James MacMillan’s *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel* in March 2012. Mr. Brightwell’s summer engagements have included fellowships at the Tanglewood Music Center, Pacific Music Festival, and National Orchestral Institute. In summer 2012 he will teach at Boston University’s Tanglewood Institute (BUTI), where he spent three years as a student while in high school. In addition to his performance career, Kyle Brightwell is very dedicated to community outreach through music. While living in New York City, he was a faculty member at The Juilliard School’s Music Advancement Program (MAP) for underprivileged inner-city youth, and was also appointed a Fellow of the Gluck Community Service Fellowship (GCSF), for which he performed concerts throughout New York in homeless shelters, psychiatric wards, AIDS centers, and many more venues in need of music. Kyle Brightwell is a graduate of The Juilliard School, where he studied with New York Philharmonic percussionist Daniel Druckman. He receives his master’s degree in spring 2012 from Boston University, where he studies with BSO timpanist Timothy Genis.

**MATTHEW MCKAY, PERCUSSION**

*Boston Symphony Orchestra Barbara Lee chair*

Percussionist Matthew McKay joins the Boston Symphony Orchestra at the beginning of the 2012-2013 season. Prior to joining the BSO, Mr. McKay was a percussionist with the Oregon Symphony for two seasons. A native of Fairfax, Virginia, he began playing percussion at the age of ten, though his musical training began with the violin at the age of four and he began piano at age seven. In his high school years he studied privately with former National Symphony Orchestra timpanist John Tafoya through the National Symphony Youth Fellowship program, and with Bill Richards, a retired member of the U.S. Army Band. Mr. McKay earned his bachelor’s degree from the New England Conservatory, where he studied with BSO percussionist J. William Hudgins. As an undergraduate, he won the annual percussion mock audition in both 2008 and 2009. He then continued his studies with BSO timpanist Timothy Genis at Boston University, where he completed his master’s degree in 2011. In addition to the Oregon Symphony, Mr. McKay has performed with the BSO, Boston Pops, Boston Philharmonic, and the San Diego and Jacksonville symphony orchestras. His summer engagements have included two Tanglewood Music Center fellowships, as well as fellowships at the Spoleto Music Festival, Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, and National Orchestral Institute. Also an avid chamber musician, he has performed and recorded Bartók’s Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion in Jordan Hall and played in the American premiere of Elliott Carter’s *What Are Years* with the Tanglewood Music Center. Mr. McKay has also been a member of the Third Angle new music ensemble in Portland, Oregon.

**JONATHAN CHU, VIOLA**

Violist Jonathan Chu is distinguished both as a chamber and orchestral musician. As a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra’s viola section, he toured throughout Asia and Europe, appearing in some of the finest halls in the world. He also has performed with many other ensembles: ECCO, which he joined in 2010; the St. Louis Symphony and Santa Fe Opera orchestras as a violinist, and as concertmaster with the Juilliard Orchestra and guest principal with the St. Paul and Orpheus chamber orchestras. Aside from his orchestral work, Mr. Chu has performed with Musicians from Marlboro and in Caramoor’s “Rising Stars” series. With the Fader Piano Quartet, he was a prizewinner at the Coleman Competition in Pasadena, CA. He is also a founding member of the Io String Quartet. Mr. Chu has attended festivals including Marlboro, Yellow Barn, and Taos, and has recorded with the rock band Vampire Weekend as both violinist and violist. Mr. Chu attended Vanderbilt University, where he graduated *summa cum laude* with a bachelor of music degree along with a second major in economics, and received his master’s degree at The Juilliard School, where he studied with Robert Mann. He plays on a violin made in 1823 by Nicolas Lupot, a gift from his former teacher Marianne Pashler, and a viola made in 2004 by Hiroshi Iizuka.
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