national symphony orchestra
christoph eschenbach, music director

THE KENNEDY CENTER

Press Release

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MUSIC DIRECTOR CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH APPOINTS THREE NEW MUSICIANS TO NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

(WASHINGTON)—National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) Music Director Christoph Eschenbach and Executive Director Rita Shapiro announce the appointment of three new musicians to the NSO roster, effective September 6, 2016: Peter Cain, bass clarinet/clarinet; Eugena Chang, section cello; and Robert Rearden, second horn.

Clarinetist Peter Cain joins the NSO from the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, where he has served as Acting Second Clarinet/E♭ Clarinet since 2015. He has previously held positions with the Dayton Philharmonic and Knoxville Symphony Orchestras. An avid soloist and chamber musician, Cain has performed at recitals, conventions, and festivals from Italy to China to Aspen. He also has been on faculty at Lee University and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and regularly gives master classes at universities throughout the country. Cain attended Vanderbilt University, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), where he received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree. He has studied clarinet with Richie Hawley, Burt Hara, and Cassie Lee, and bass clarinet with Ron Aufmann.

Cellist Eugena Chang has been a member of the Minnesota Orchestra cello section since 2007, when she graduated from the Curtis Institute of Music after studying with Orlando Cole, Peter Wiley, and William Stokking, and serving as principal cello of the Curtis Orchestra. Chang attended Itzhak Perlman's summer music program from 2002–2006, studying there with Ron Leonard and Paul Katz, and she has also studied with Eleonore Schoenfeld. She has performed as soloist with the Warminster Symphony Orchestra, Pottstown Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra, and Kenneth Symphony.

As the recipient of numerous awards, prizes, and scholarships, Chang has appeared across the nation as a recitalist and chamber musician, and several of her performances have been broadcast on radio and television. In 2009, she made her Paris recital debut at the Auditorium du Louvre.

Robert Rearden, second horn, served as principal horn of the Florida Orchestra from 2010–2016. He has performed regularly as an extra and substitute player with the Cleveland

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Orchestra, including multiple recordings and tours of Europe, Asia, and the U.S., and was a member of the New World Symphony from 2006 to 2010. He also appeared frequently as guest principal horn of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra from 2010 to 2015. Rearden has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, and at the Tanglewood, Aspen, Spoleto USA, Britt, Artosphere, Steamboat Springs, and Eastern music festivals. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of South Carolina as a student of Robert Pruzin and earned a Master of Music degree and artist diploma at the Cleveland Institute of Music as a student of Eli Epstein and Richard Solis. He also studied with Julie Landsman and with David Wakefield. While with the Florida Orchestra, Rearden appeared as a soloist on several occasions, and was also a featured soloist on the orchestra's most recent pops recording.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The 2016-2017 season is the NSO's 86th, and its seventh and final led by Music Director Christoph Eschenbach, also the Music Director of the Kennedy Center. Founded in 1931, the Orchestra has been committed to artistic excellence and music education throughout its history. In 1986, the National Symphony Orchestra became an artistic affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where it has performed subscriptions seasons every year since the Center opened in 1971. The National Symphony Orchestra regularly participates in events of national and international importance, including performances for state occasions, presidential inaugurations, and official holiday celebrations. Its regularly televised appearances for Capitol Concerts and radio broadcasts on WETA make the NSO one of the most-heard orchestras in the country.

The Orchestra itself numbers 96 musicians who perform approximately 150 concerts each year. These include classical subscription series, pops concerts, summer performances at Wolf Trap and on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol, chamber music performances in the Terrace Theater and on the Millennium Stage, and an extensive educational program, with performances designed for ages three years and up, and audience engagement activities, as well. Additionally, the NSO's community engagement projects are nationally recognized, including NSO In Your Neighborhood (which comprises a week of approximately 50 performances in schools, churches, community centers, and other neighborhood venues) and NSO Sound Health, which has taken the NSO to the National Institutes of Health, Children's Inn at NIH, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Children's National Medical Center, and Inova Health System. Career development opportunities include the NSO Youth Fellowship Program and its Summer Music Institute. nationalsymphony.org.

FUNDING CREDITS

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The NSO Music Director Chair is generously endowed by **Victoria and Roger Sant**.

For more information about the NSO, visit nationalsymphony.org
For more information about the Kennedy Center, visit kennedy-center.org.

Patrons 30 and under and active-duty members of the military are invited to join the Kennedy Center's *MyTix* program for special discount offers and chances to win free tickets. **For more information, visit** kennedy-center.org/mytix

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