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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Mariah Forde | [mariah.forde@lpomusic.com](mailto:mariah.forde@lpomusic.com) | 240.506.7789

## **THE LOUISIANA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES ELEVEN NEWLY APPOINTED MUSICIANS FOR THE 23-24 SEASON**

**First-Ever Black Principal Clarinet Appointed in LPO History**

**Orchestra Welcomes First Second-Generation LPO Musician**

NEW ORLEANS – The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO), the region’s premiere orchestra based in New Orleans, and its Music Director Matthew Kraemer announce the appointment of eleven musicians to the LPO roster, \*seven of whom will make their LPO debut.

The musicians joining the region’s premiere orchestra for the 33<sup>rd</sup> season are:

One-Year Appointments:

- \*Hayoung Cho, Assistant Principal 2<sup>nd</sup> Violin
- \*Shaquille Southwell, Principal Clarinet

Tenure-Track Appointments:

- Kyle Anderson, Section Cello
- \*Catherine Chen, Section Viola
- \*Rebecca Edge, Section Violin
- Jon Gannon, 4<sup>th</sup> Horn
- Casey Kearney, English Horn/Section Oboe
- Roy Park, Assistant Principal/Second Clarinet
- Max Paulus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Horn
- \*Milena Rusanova, Section Violin
- \*Patrick Smithers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet

“The LPO attracts musicians of the highest caliber from around the world, and these eleven musicians exhibit the artistic excellence that we continue to expand upon within the orchestra,” says LPO Music Director Matthew Kraemer. “We are thrilled to welcome them to New Orleans and work with them to share musical experiences that uplift and represent our community.”

Among this season's newly appointed musicians are the LPO's first-ever Black Principal Clarinet and first-ever second-generation LPO musician. Atlanta native, Shaquille Southwell, makes LPO history as its first Black Principal Clarinet. Southwell is the LPO's second Black musician to be awarded a Principal position, following Andrew Brady who was the LPO's Principal Bassoon from 2013-2015.

Newly appointed cellist Kyle Anderson is the LPO's first-ever second-generation LPO musician. Anderson continues his musical family tradition as he joins the LPO ranks alongside his father David Anderson, the LPO's Principal Bass. Anderson fostered his talent in his hometown of New Orleans by receiving training from the New Orleans Youth Orchestra and the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and playing local ensembles such as the LPO, the New Orleans Chamber Orchestra, and the Viennese Operetta Ensemble.

## **ABOUT THE MUSICIANS**

### **Hayoung Cho, Assistant Principal 2<sup>nd</sup> Violin**

Hayoung Cho is a highly talented violinist and musician, currently serving as the Assistant Principal Second Violin for the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra since 2023. With an unwavering passion for classical music and a relentless pursuit of excellence, she has firmly established herself as a remarkable performer. Not limited to her orchestral role, she has actively participated in the vibrant chamber music scene. Her profound musicianship and collaborative spirit have allowed her to engage in enriching musical experiences, captivating audiences with their artistry.

Her accolades include winning the Sidney Blitzer Violinist Prize and achieving success in renowned competitions like the NOLA Chamber Festival and the LSU Concerto Competition.

Recognizing their exceptional talent, she was selected as a Fellowship member at the renowned Aspen Music Festival and School. Additionally, they had the honor of serving as the Concertmasters at the esteemed National Orchestra Institution festival. One of the highlights of her career was their performance with the esteemed Constantinides New Music Ensemble (CNME) at the iconic Carnegie Hall in 2022. This performance showcased their versatility and ability to bring new music to life on a grand stage.

With a diverse repertoire spanning various genres and a deep desire to create captivating musical experiences, Dr. Cho continues to leave audiences in awe with her profound artistry.

### **Rebecca Edge, Section Violin**

Rebecca Edge has been performing with the Orlando Philharmonic since 2014. In 2023 she joins the Des Moines Metro Opera and Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. She has also performed with Kalamazoo Symphony, Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, Illinois Symphony, Brevard Symphony, Hollywood Concert Orchestra as Asst. Principal 2nd Violin touring Japan in 2023 and was previously an associate member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. During her studies, she served as Principal 2nd of the Indiana University Orchestra, Round Top Texas Festival Orchestra 2018, Tanglewood Institute (2013-2015) and Concertmaster of FMEA All State and OCPS All County Orchestras. She has performed as soloist with various orchestras in central Florida.

Rebecca has also played in various chamber ensembles in Miami Music Festival, Domaine Forget in Québec, Castleman Quartet Program, BRAVO International Chamber Workshop, and at Tanglewood coached by the Muir String Quartet. She earned her BM at Indiana University attending with the Jacobs Premier Young Artist Award. Her primary teachers include Lev Gurevich, Rimma Bergeron-Langlois, Jorja Fleezanis and Kevork Mardirossian.

Rebecca is also a passionate teacher and maintains a private studio. Formerly she was on faculty at The People's Music School, an El Sistema nonprofit providing excellent and comprehensive music education to Chicago students, and a 2022 OCPS All County clinician for Middle and High School Orchestra.

### **Milena Rusanova, Section Violin**

A native of Bulgaria, Milena Rusanova joined the Mississippi Symphony in January 2010.

Rusanova began studying the violin at the age of five at the School of the Arts in Ruse, Bulgaria. She graduated from the Bulgarian National Conservatory with a bachelor's degree and from the Southeastern Louisiana University with a master's degree in Violin Performance. Ms. Rusanova's principal teachers include Dr. Yakov Voldman and Professor Espen Lillenslatten. While pursuing her master's degree, Milena was a finalist in the MTNA Young Artist Competition in Canada, Toronto. In 2008 she was one of the winners of the Monroe Young Concerto Competition and Southeastern Concerto Competition, performing with the orchestra as her prize.

Milena has participated at different music festivals and concert series, including the Klavier Chamber Music in Reichenay, Austria, Las Vegas and Aspen Music Festival and also performed with different orchestras: Baton Rouge Symphony, Acadiana Symphony, Mobile Symphony Orchestras.

Ms. Milena has a great passion for teaching and is part of the MSO string program, teaching at several elementary schools.

### **Catherine Chen, Section Viola**

Canadian violist Dr. Catherine Chen is an avid orchestra musician, with an extensive career highlighted with engagements as the principal violist of the Baton Rouge Symphony, Lubbock Symphony, and other orchestras across Louisiana and Texas. She will be joining the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra viola section in September 2023.

Catherine has given recitals across the United States, Canada, and Taiwan, and she has soloed with orchestras as the winner of concerto competitions at Louisiana State University and Texas Tech University. Beyond orchestral music, her passions lie in contemporary music performance, and she frequently programs music by composers identifying as women, persons of color, and LGBTQ+.

Equally enthusiastic about education, Catherine has taught viola at the University of Texas Permian Basin and maintained a private teaching studio throughout her career. Her teaching philosophy is to inspire excellence and nurture curiosity, and she aspires to be an influential teacher like her mentors: Kimberly Sparr, James Dunham, and André Roy.

When she is away from her viola, Catherine enjoys people watching, eating good food, and taking long walks. She also recently started kickboxing and is trying to not get too obsessed with maintaining a perfect streak on Wordle and Tonal Energy.

### **Kyle Anderson, Section Cello**

Kyle Anderson is a cellist from New Orleans, Louisiana. Kyle is proud to be a third-generation musician. His parents are Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) Principal Double-Bassist David Anderson, and New-Orleans-based harpist Catherine Anderson. His grandfather, Edwin Anderson, was Bass-Trombonist with the Cleveland Orchestra from 1963-88.

Beginning the cello at age five, Kyle's first private teachers were Karen Ray and Allen Nisbet, and in 2011 Kyle won the Greater New Orleans Youth Orchestra Young Artist Concerto Competition. He was also a featured finalist at the Philadelphia International Music Festival's Summer Concerto Competition that year playing the Schumann Cello Concerto. Kyle also has a passion for jazz and spent two years at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts studying jazz guitar. In 2017 he earned his bachelor's degree in Cello Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM), where he studied with the renowned chamber musician and soloist Sharon Robinson and spent three semesters in her Advanced Piano Trio Program. While at CIM, Kyle was also coached in chamber music by Anita Pontremolli, Jaime Laredo, Jinjoo Cho, and the Cavani String Quartet.

After his time at CIM, Kyle was awarded a place in the Orchestra Now (TON), a pre-professional graduate orchestra based at Bard College in New York state, where Kyle earned his master's degree in 2020. During his three seasons with TON, Kyle had the pleasure to work with esteemed conductors from around the world and perform at many of New York City's finest concert halls. In Summer 2021, Kyle was Principal Cellist of the National Repertory Orchestra in Breckenridge, Colorado, and returned the following year as assistant principal. Since graduating, Kyle has been an avid performer of chamber and orchestral works in the New Orleans area, with groups such as the LPO, the New Orleans Chamber Orchestra, and the Viennese Operetta Ensemble. In addition to his principal teachers, Kyle has worked with Stephen Geber, Peter Wiley, Raphael Wallfisch, Alban Gerhardt, and many more.

### **Casey Kearney, English Horn/Section Oboe**

Hailed as "exquisite" by Cleveland Classical, New York native Casey Kearney began her time with the LPO for the 2022-23 season as a one-year member before officially joining the roster in 2023. She has performed with Bard Opera Summerscape, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, and has a number of appearances on Oberlin Music Label recordings. Prior summer festivals include Music Academy of the West and the National Repertory Orchestra. Her primary mentors have been Robert Sheena, Eugene Izotov, Robert Walters, and Rich Dallessio, though all of her musical influences are far too numerous to list. Outside of practicing and reedmaking, she enjoys reading, gaming, gardening, and spending time with her fiancé, Spencer, and their bunnies, Milo and Penelope.

### **Shaquille Southwell, Principal Clarinet**

Shaquille Southwell, clarinetist, joins the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra coming from Atlanta, GA. He began playing clarinet at the age of fourteen after some foundational music education on the saxophone in middle school. While in high school, he was a student of Alcides Rodriguez through the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's Talent Development Program.

Shaquille graduated from The Juilliard School with a Bachelor of Music degree, as a student of Anthony McGill. Additional studies were with Jon Manasse, Charles Neidich, Marci Gurnow, and Katherine White. He spent two summers in Sapporo, Japan as a member of the Pacific Music Festival Academy and has performed with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Ballet, and the New World Symphony.

In addition to performing, Shaquille is passionate about teaching. His students have ventured into reputable music programs across the United States. When not playing or teaching, he enjoys baking, hot yoga, and the company of family and friends.

### **Roy Park, Assistant Principal/Second Clarinet**

Raised in Coppell, Texas, Roy began his musical studies at the age of seven and has since earned degrees in clarinet performance from Indiana University, the University of Texas at Austin, and Rice University. As an orchestral musician, he has performed with the Louisiana Philharmonic, The Florida Orchestra, San Antonio Symphony, and the Houston Ballet Orchestra among others.

In past summers, Roy has been as a fellow of the Taipei Music Academy and Festival, the Music Academy of the West where he was a prize winner in their inaugural Duo Competition, the Orchestra of the Americas, and the Brevard Music Center. In 2014, he was a prize winner in the Vandoren Emerging Artists Competition. In chamber music settings, he has recently been heard with Houston-based groups WindSync and the Monarch Chamber Players. Aside from playing, his other interests include photography, building computers, and following sports.

### **Maxwell Paulus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Horn**

Maxwell Paulus serves as the Second Horn of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. He joined the LPO as acting third horn in 2022 and was appointed Second Horn in 2023. Maxwell has performed in orchestras around the United States including the New World Symphony, American Youth Symphony, and Marrowstone Music Festival. Maxwell is a passionate educator and currently an adjunct professor of Horn at Lamar University.

### **Jon Gannon, 4<sup>th</sup> Horn**

Dr. Jonathan Gannon serves as Fourth Horn of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. He joined the LPO as acting Second horn in 2022 and was appointed Fourth Horn in 2023, Jon teaches applied horn at Florida A&M University, serves as Third Horn of the Tallahassee Symphony, and Associate Principal horn of the Mobile Symphony. He also performs regularly with numerous orchestras in the Florida Panhandle and has performed in Italy and the Dominican Republic. As a soloist, He has appeared with the Florida State University Wind Orchestra and the Florida State University Chamber Winds. Jon has been a semi-

finalist at the International Horn Competition of America, as well as the winner of the Midsouth Horn Workshop's graduate solo competition and the Southeast Horn Workshop's solo and high-horn excerpt competition. He holds degrees from Florida State University and University of Missouri-Columbia.

### **Patrick Smithers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet**

Canadian trumpet player, Patrick Smithers, is the newly appointed second trumpet of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. Smithers received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Royal Conservatory of Music's Glenn Gould School in Toronto and received his master's degree from the Juilliard School in New York City. His principal teachers include Andrew McCandless, Christopher Martin, and Raymond Mase.

While at Juilliard, Patrick regularly performed as principal trumpet with the Juilliard Orchestra, as well as playing with Axiom, and the New Juilliard Ensemble. He has also performed with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, as well as performing under notable conductors such as David Robertson, Gustavo Gimeno, Michael Stern, Carlos Miguel-Prieto and Bramwell Tovey.

Born in London, Ontario, Patrick began playing the trumpet at age 8. Aside from the trumpet, Patrick greatly enjoys cooking and baking, as well as excellent coffee and beer.

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### **About Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra**

Steeped in history yet focused on innovation, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) is the only full-time collaboratively governed and operated orchestra in the United States. Under the leadership of Music Director, Matthew Kraemer, the LPO is rooted in a culturally diverse community with a two-hundred-year orchestral music tradition, the LPO sets the standard for orchestral programming and performance in Louisiana. For our sixty-seven musicians, achieving the highest level of artistry is integrally linked with a personal investment in our organization and our community.

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