



KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES NEW CONCERTMASTER

KANSAS CITY | March 5, 2012 – The Kansas City Symphony announced today that Noah Geller has been selected as Concertmaster beginning with the 2012-13 season. As the leader of the string section, the concertmaster plays a crucial role as facilitator between conductor and musicians in guiding the orchestra toward its ideal sound.



"I am incredibly honored to join the Kansas City Symphony as their next concertmaster. It will be fun to make music with the wonderful musicians of the orchestra and music director Michael Stern. I was charmed during my audition week by the orchestra's positive atmosphere, as well as their excellence in performance. Further, it is such a privilege to perform in the spectacle that is Helzberg Hall. Kansas City is truly blessed to have such a magnificent performance space, and I am very much looking forward to playing there for you many times in the coming months," said Geller.

The process to identify a new concertmaster began in the fall of 2010 following Kanako Ito's departure after ten seasons. Since that time, the Symphony has welcomed 13 guest concertmasters who performed all duties of concertmaster for one week with Michael Stern on the podium, and also played solo repertoire, chamber music, and concertmaster excerpts in a demanding audition for the Symphony's Concertmaster audition committee.

"We invested great effort and time in our search for a new concertmaster. With Noah Geller's appointment, it is clear that a great concertmaster was worth the wait. I am absolutely thrilled that Noah is coming to the Kansas City Symphony. He is a superlative player, a thoughtful and commanding musician, and a natural leader. He will bring an inspiring level of commitment, excellence, and expectation, and he is going to make a formidable contribution to our performances. And equally important is that he is a wonderful colleague who demonstrates easily his love for music, his devotion to his instrument, and his real desire to be an advocate for both music and our Symphony," said Music Director Michael Stern.

Mr. Geller has been a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra for the last four seasons, two of which were in the position of Acting Assistant Concertmaster, as well as concertmaster for the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, principal second violin at the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and concertmaster

with The Juilliard Orchestra. He received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music from the Juilliard School.

“Noah Geller will be a wonderful addition to the Kansas City Symphony and to our community. He is a brilliant musician with a very warm and engaging personality who will bring great leadership to our orchestra. Noah will connect with great integrity with our audience and donors and will be a marvelous ambassador for the joy of great music,” said Board President Shirley Bush Helzberg.

Symphony Executive Director Frank Byrne commented, “Noah Geller is an exceptional violinist and an equally exceptional person. He is remarkably talented and his commitment to making music on the highest level is evident in all that he does. We are delighted to have him join the Kansas City Symphony and look forward to the great work we will do together.”

ABOUT NOAH GELLER

Violinist Noah Geller, winner of numerous competitions and prizes, has performed throughout the United States and abroad. He joined the first violin section of the Philadelphia Orchestra in January 2008 and was appointed Acting Assistant Concertmaster for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 seasons. A laureate of the 2007 Michael Hill International Violin Competition, Mr. Geller performed recitals in Queenstown, New Zealand and chamber music with the New Zealand Trio in Auckland’s Town Hall. Previously he received top prizes in the Corpus Christi International String Competition, the Skokie Valley Symphony Young Artists’ Competition and Wisconsin Public Radio’s Neale-Silva Young Artists’ Competition in Madison, Wisconsin. Mr. Geller has also won competitions at the Music Academy of the West (Santa Barbara) and the Chicago Youth Symphony, resulting in solo performances with those orchestras. Following performances at the Tanglewood Music Center, he was awarded the Jules C. Reiner Violin Prize.

In addition to his activities with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Mr. Geller is enthusiastically involved in chamber music. He has performed at the Marlboro, Kingston, Saratoga, and Taos festivals, and has appeared on the Lyon and Healy, Dolce Suono, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Lyric Chamber Music Society Series, among others. In addition, he is an original member of Shir Ami, an ensemble dedicated to the music of composers whose lives were adversely affected by the Holocaust.

Mr. Geller has performed with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and has served in concertmaster and principal positions for the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Juilliard Orchestra, and the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra.

A previous student of Jennifer Cappelli, Mr. Geller received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from the Juilliard School where he studied with Hyo Kang, Cho-liang Lin, and Donald Weilerstein.

About The Kansas City Symphony

The Kansas City Symphony is the region's only full-time professional symphony orchestra, setting the standard for musical excellence. Led by Music Director Michael Stern since 2005, the Symphony has experienced impressive artistic growth, garnering national and international acclaim. The orchestra's 80 full-time musicians are area residents, and each season touch the hearts of more than a million people through our Classical, Pops and Family concerts; special holiday events; chamber concerts; major civic gatherings such as Bank of America Celebration at the Station, which draws over 55,000 people, and the Symphony In the Flint Hills annual concert. During its 42-week season, the orchestra also presents educational programs, community outreach performances, and serves as the orchestra for the Lyric Opera and the Kansas City Ballet. Classical performances are broadcast weekly on KCUR 89.3 FM during the Kansas City Symphony Hour, Thursdays at 9 pm. Visit the Kansas City Symphony online at kcsymphony.org.

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