



Esa-Pekka Salonen, Music Director

Contact:

Public Relations

San Francisco Symphony

415-503-5474

publicrelations@sfsymphony.org

www.sfsymphony.org/press

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / JULY 13, 2022

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES FOUR NEW MUSICIANS JOINING THE ORCHESTRA IN THE 2022-23 SEASON

New musicians include Principal Cellist Rainer Eudeikis, violists Katarzyna Bryla-Weiss and Leonid Plashinov-Johnson, and Associate Principal & E-flat Clarinet Matthew Griffith

San Francisco, CA—Music Director Esa-Pekka Salonen and the San Francisco Symphony welcome four new musicians to the Orchestra's roster beginning with the 2022-23 season. Principal Cellist Rainer Eudeikis, violists Katarzyna Bryla-Weiss and Leonid Plashinov-Johnson, and Associate Principal & E-flat Clarinet Matthew Griffith will all make their debut as members of the San Francisco Symphony in September 2022.

Rainer Eudeikis, Principal Cello

Philip S. Boone Chair



Rainer Eudeikis joins the San Francisco Symphony as Principal Cello with the 2022-23 season. He was previously principal cello of the Atlanta Symphony and Utah Symphony, as well as for the Mainly Mozart Festival and Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music.

Recent performances include Dmitri Shostakovich's and Franz Joseph Haydn's concertos with the Atlanta Symphony, Robert Schumann's Cello Concerto and Richard Strauss's *Don Quixote* with the Utah Symphony, and numerous solo, recital, and chamber music performances across the US and abroad.

Born in Texas, Mr. Eudeikis began cello studies at the age of six. Following studies in Colorado with Jurgen de Lemos, he attended the University of Michigan as a student of Richard Aaron, completing his Bachelor of Music in three years with highest honors. He received his Master of Music from Indiana University, where he studied with Eric Kim, and subsequently completed his Artist Diploma at the Curtis Institute of Music, studying with Carter Brey and Peter Wiley. He has been invited to serve as artist-faculty at the Aspen Music Festival and Brevard Music Center, and is a dedicated teacher and coach.

Katarzyna Bryla-Weiss, viola

Joanne E. Harrington & Lorry I. Lokey Second Century Chair



Katarzyna Bryla-Weiss joins the San Francisco Symphony viola section beginning with the 2022–23 season. She was born into a family of musicians and has earned more than two dozen prizes and awards in the US, France, and her native Poland. In 2019 she became a co-principal violist of Orchestra of St. Luke's and a member of St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble. She has also been a member of the New York City Ballet Orchestra and the New York Pops.

Ms. Bryla-Weiss was a soloist on a tour of China with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra in 2010 and was a soloist for the Maazel/Vilar Conducting Competition in Kraków in 2001. She has performed in numerous festivals including Classical Tahoe, Napa Valley Music Festival, Central Vermont Music Festival, Music@Menlo, Cactus Pear Music Festival, Bach Dancing and Dynamite, Singapore Sun Music Festival, and Las Palmas Music Festival. Her teachers include Christian Tetzlaff, David Cerutti, Herbert Greenberg, Honggang Li, Jadwiga Kaliszewska, and her father, Bartosz Bryla.

Leonid Plashinov-Johnson, viola



Leonid Plashinov-Johnson joins the San Francisco Symphony viola section in the 2022–23 season. Previously a member of the Saint Louis Symphony, he is a laureate of multiple competitions, most recently the Primrose International Viola Competition and the New England Conservatory Concerto Competition. He has performed as soloist with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the NEC Philharmonic, the Sofia Chamber Orchestra, and the AIMS Festival Orchestra. Previous engagements have included tours across Europe and Asia, as well as concerts with Jacob Collier, the Parker and Verona quartets, and the Covent Garden Soloists Ensemble.

As a chamber musician, Mr. Plashinov-Johnson has participated in the Yellow Barn, Ravinia, and AIMS festivals. He graduated from New England Conservatory in 2019, studying with Kim Kashkashian and serving as her teaching assistant. Born in Russia, he began playing the violin at the age of three. After moving to the UK, he was awarded a place at the Yehudi Menuhin School, where he studied the violin under Lutsia Ibragimova. After switching full time to viola, he studied with Andriy Viytovych (principal viola of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden) until moving to the US.

Matthew Griffith, Associate Principal & E-flat Clarinet



Matthew Griffith joins the San Francisco Symphony as Associate Principal & E-flat Clarinet with the 2022–23 season. He previously served as acting assistant principal clarinet with the North Carolina Symphony and the Nashville Symphony and was a member of TÖN (The Orchestra Now), a graduate-level training orchestra based at Bard College.

Mr. Griffith has performed as guest soloist with the Boston Pops, Milwaukee Symphony, Ocean City Pops, Eastern Connecticut Symphony, United States Army Field

Band, and “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band. In 2014 Yale University published The Algorithm of Jazz, a video following his experience performing Artie Shaw’s concerto with the Yale Symphony Orchestra.

After graduating from Yale University with distinction in both majors of music and computer science, Mr. Griffith earned graduate degrees in clarinet performance at the New England Conservatory. He was a Tanglewood Music Center fellow, where he was awarded the Gino B. Cioffi Memorial Prize and returned as a New Fromm Player. His teachers included Michael Wayne, David Shifrin, Todd Levy, and Jill Hanes. He grew up in Sheboygan, WI, and enjoys writing computer code and designing videogames.

Connect with the San Francisco Symphony on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), and [Soundcloud](#):



The San Francisco Symphony receives support from more than 8,500 individual donors and 250 partner institutions.

San Francisco Arts Commission is Lead Municipal Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

Chevron is the inaugural Second Century Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

Emirates is the Official Airline of the San Francisco Symphony.

Franklin Templeton and Fiduciary Trust International are Season Partners of the San Francisco Symphony.

Grants for the Arts is a Season Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

The San Francisco Symphony’s Official Radio Partner is KDFC, The Bay Area’s Radio Home for Classical Music and the Arts.

San Francisco Chronicle is the Official Media Partner of the San Francisco Symphony.

- San Francisco Symphony -