



September 10, 2020

Please review the following additions to the San Francisco Symphony's roster for the upcoming 2020–21 season.

This season, **Mark Almond** joins the San Francisco Symphony as Associate Principal Horn. He joined the San Francisco Opera Orchestra as Co-Principal Horn in 2016 and before that held the position of 3rd Horn with the Philharmonia Orchestra of London. Growing up in Bolton, England, Almond was taught to play horn primarily by Christopher Wormald, his local high school music teacher, and subsequently won principal horn positions with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and the European Union Youth Orchestra. He made his professional debut playing with the London Symphony Orchestra, at age 19, and has since performed as guest principal with numerous ensembles including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. In addition to playing the horn, Almond is an experienced hospital physician and has a PhD in immunology and virology from Imperial College, London. He is currently researching COVID-19 as a Post-Doctoral Research Scholar at UCSF.

**Bryce Leafman** joins the San Francisco Symphony as Assistant Principal Timpani/Section Percussion. Previously, he was Principal Percussion of the Billings Symphony Orchestra during the 2019–20 season, and he has performed with the Omaha, Berkeley, Marin, and New World symphonies; the Boston Philharmonic; and Symphony New Hampshire. In 2017 he was the first percussionist to win a solo concerto competition at the Aspen Music Festival, and he returned to the Aspen Music Festival in 2019 as the Charles Owen Memorial Percussion Fellow. Passionate about new music, Leafman has performed with the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, the International Contemporary Ensemble, the Empyrean Ensemble, and in recital with Orli Shaham, Béla Fleck, Susan Grace, and John Novacek, among others. A proponent of community engagement and an avid educator, Leafman was a recipient of New England Conservatory's Community Performances and Partnerships Program's Individual Fellowship from 2012 through 2016, served as the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra's Percussion Manager from 2016 to 2018, and he received the San Francisco Conservatory's Conservatory in the Schools Fellowship from 2018–19. He holds a Bachelor of Music with Honors from New England Conservatory, Master of Music from Boston University, and a Professional Studies Diploma from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

**Stan Muncy** fills the position of Section Percussion as a one-year sub.

This season, we also celebrate violist [Christina King's](#) 25-year anniversary as a member of the San Francisco Symphony.

Please don't hesitate to let one of us know if you have any questions.

With best wishes,  
Robin Freeman and Tatyana Filatova