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Symphony in C Music Director Rossen Milanov Named Next Music Director of the Columbus Symphony

COLLINGSWOOD, NJ- Symphony in C today announced that Music Director Rossen Milanov has been named as the next Music Director of the Columbus Symphony. The 2014-2015 season will mark Mr. Milanov's 15th and final season as Music Director of Symphony in C. Mr. Milanov is also Music Director of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra and Principal Conductor of Orquesta Sinfónica del Principado de Asturias, Spain. For the 2014-2015 season Mr. Milanov will be recognized as Music Director Designee of the Columbus Symphony.

Rossen Milanov began his career with Symphony in C in 1993 as the Assistant Conductor under Music Director Alan Gilbert, currently Music Director of the New York Philharmonic. Based in Camden, New Jersey, Symphony in C is dedicated to developing the careers of emerging artists in the field of symphonic music, and is proud of the many successes of its alumni both on the podium and in the orchestra. Musicians such as Flora Baltacigil, principal bass of the New York Philharmonic; Caleb Hudson, trumpet with the Canadian Brass; Kazem Abdullah, Generalmusikdirektor, City of Aachen, Germany; and Sonora Slocum, principal flute, Milwaukee Symphony are just a few of the many former Symphony in C musicians who hold positions in some of the world's most prominent orchestras.

Mr. Milanov was appointed Music Director of Symphony in C in 2000 and has led the orchestra in performances throughout southern New Jersey and Philadelphia. During his tenure, the Symphony was awarded the national MetLife Award for Community Engagement presented by the American Symphony Orchestra League in recognition of its educational outreach programs serving people with special needs. In 2007, Mr. Milanov was a guiding force when the Symphony moved its concert series to the Gordon Theater at Rutgers – Camden Center for the Arts in Camden, New Jersey. The move generated a strong new awareness for the Symphony throughout the region and had the most significant artistic and organizational impact on the orchestra since its transformation from a community orchestra to a professional training orchestra in the early 1990's.

Robert R. Kugler, Chairman of the Board of Symphony in C says, “Over his tenure, Rossen Milanov has become for many, the face of Symphony in C. He is beloved by musicians and audiences alike. His prodigious talents have taken the quality of play to the next level and beyond while exhibiting his mastery of an expansive, imaginative and challenging repertoire. Our entire organization wishes him the greatest success in his new role.”

About Rossen Milanov: Mr. Milanov has collaborated with some of the world’s preeminent artists, including Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell, Midori, Christian Tetzlaff, and André Watts, as well as with such internationally esteemed vocalists as Nicolai Ghiaurov, Vesselina Kasarova, Angela Meade, Measha Brueggergosman, Anne Schwanewilms and Krassimira Stoyanova. During his eleven- year tenure with The Philadelphia Orchestra, Milanov conducted more than 200 performances, as Associate Conductor and as Artistic Director of the Orchestra’s summer home at The Mann Center for the Performing Arts.

A well-known figure in North America, Rossen Milanov has appeared with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the symphony orchestras of Baltimore, Indianapolis, Calgary, Alabama, Florida, New Jersey, North Carolina, Seattle, and Oregon, among others. His festival appearances include Aspen, Chautauqua, the Bravo! Vail Valley Festival, Grand Teton, and the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

Internationally, he has collaborated with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Komische Oper Berlin, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Residentie Orkest, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and the symphony orchestras of Lucerne, Mexico, Colombia, Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Auckland and New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. On his regular tours to the Far East, he has appeared with the NHK Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic, China Philharmonic, and Singapore Symphony.

Noted for his versatility, Milanov is also a welcome presence in the worlds of opera and ballet. He has worked with opera companies including the Komische Oper Berlin (Shostakovich’s *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*), the Philadelphia Orchestra (Puccini’s *La bohème*), and Curtis Opera Theatre (Dominick Argento’s *Postcard from Morocco*). In ballet, he has collaborated with leading choreographers Mats Ek (Zurich Opera), Sabrina Matthews and Nils Christie (Stockholm’s Royal Ballet), Benjamin Millepied and Andonis Foniadakis (Geneva Opera), and Jorma Elo (Pennsylvania Ballet).

Milanov’s passion for new music has resulted in numerous world premieres of works by composers including Richard Danielpour, Paul Moravec, Nicolas Maw, and Gabriel Prokofiev. He also collaborates with emerging composers through Symphony in C’s annual Young Composer’s Competition. A committed supporter of youth and music, he regularly conducts at the Curtis Institute of Music and appears each season at Carnegie Hall for “Link Up,” a program supported and promoted by the Weill Music Institute that offers more than 15,000 children in grades 3–5 the

opportunity to perform with a professional orchestra. He has led tours with the Australian and New Zealand Youth Orchestras, was Music Director of the Chicago Youth Symphony (1997–2001), and served as conductor of the Juilliard School's Pre-College Orchestra.

Rossen Milanov studied conducting at the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School, where he received the Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship. He studied oboe and orchestral conducting at the Bulgarian National Academy of Music, and holds a Masters degree in oboe performance from Duquesne University. As the former Chief Conductor of the Bulgarian National Radio Orchestra (2003-08) and Music Director of New Symphony Orchestra, Sofia (1997-2013), he received the Bulgarian Ministry's Award for Extraordinary Contribution to Bulgarian Culture. He was named Bulgaria's Musician of the Year in 2005 and won an ASCAP award in 2011 for his programming with Princeton Symphony Orchestra.

About Symphony in C: Now it's 63th season, Symphony in C is one of three professional training orchestras in the United States preparing musicians and conductors who are on the cusp of world-class careers through concert, educational outreach and professional development programs. Performing at the Gordon Theater at Rutgers Camden Center for the Arts in Camden, New Jersey, Symphony in C serves over 90,000 people annually through its critically-acclaimed concert series, educational outreach programs and radio broadcasts. Symphony in C has been designated a Major Arts Institution by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and strives to continue making artistic, educational, and economic impact on a regional, national and global scale.