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Symphony in C Names Stilian Kirov as Music Director

COLLINGSWOOD, NJ- Symphony in C is pleased to announce that Stilian Kirov has been named as the next Music Director. The 31-year-old Bulgarian born conductor will begin his position July 1, for the 2015-2016 season. Stilian Kirov is currently the Associate Conductor of the Seattle Symphony, and has been described as “A rising star in the conducting world,” –Tom Keogh, Seattle Times. Mr. Kirov has also served as Associate Conductor of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Memphis Youth Symphony Program.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Symphony in C's family and leading this outstanding organization to new heights. This is a truly spectacular orchestra and I am very much looking forward to making music together and bringing enormous joy and inspiration to our community." Kirov said.

Robert R. Kugler, Chairman of the Board of Symphony in C says, “The process of finding a successor for Maestro Rossen Milanov has reached a most successful conclusion - in the form of Stilian Kirov, a conductor of inestimable talent, wonderfully approachable and someone dedicated to the continuing success of Symphony in C. The search process brought candidates from across the country who were all eminently qualified, consisting of some of the finest conductors in the world. Although the decision-making was difficult, we could not have erred with any of the choices. The characteristic which distinguished Stilian Kirov was and is his enthusiasm for advancing the mission of the organization. We are confident that our audience will find him to be an amazing talent with a most engaging personality.”

About Stilian Kirov: Stilian Kirov is currently the Associate Conductor of the Seattle Symphony and has also previously served as Associate Conductor of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Memphis Youth Symphony Program. In the 2013-14 Season, he was engaged to replace Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos with the Seattle Symphony, conducting “spectacular” performances of Orff’s ‘Carmina Burana’.

Mr. Kirov has also served as an Assistant Conductor to Bernard Haitink with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as well as a Cover Conductor for Stéphane Denève, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Christoph von Dohnányi and Andrew Davis, all with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Kirov has conducted orchestras around the world, including the Orchestre Colonne (France), Zagreb Philharmonic (Croatia), Tucson Symphony, Lansing Symphony, Orchestra of Colours (Greece), State Hermitage Orchestra (Russia), New World Symphony, Thüringen Philharmonic Orchestra (Germany), National Repertory Orchestra (Colorado), Sofia Festival Orchestra, Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra “Leopolis” (Ukraine), Amarillo Symphony and the Juilliard Orchestra, among others. After his very successful debut in 2012, Mr. Kirov is also a regular guest conductor for the Pacific Northwest Ballet.

The wide range of Seattle Symphony concerts that Mr. Kirov conducted during the 2014/2015 and 2013/2014 seasons include concerts from the Masterworks series, Mostly Mozart series, Beyond the Score® series, the [untitled] series, Discover Music series, Community Concerts and more. In 2011, Mr. Kirov made his debut at the Musical Olympus International Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia and following that very successful performance, he was immediately invited to conduct the Festival’s concert at Carnegie Hall in 2012. The members of the Festival's honorary committee included some of the world's most distinguished artists such as Claudio Abbado, Daniel Barenboim, Plácido Domingo, Montserrat Caballe, Zubin Mehta, Yuri Temirkanov, Mariss Jansons and Yo-Yo Ma.

Among Stilian Kirov’s numerous awards and prizes are an Emmy Award for the "Soundtrack Project" with the Memphis Symphony; the Orchestra Preference Award at the 2010 Mitropoulos Conducting Competition; the Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship and Charles Schiff Conducting Award for outstanding achievement at The Juilliard School; and France’s 2010 ADAMI Conducting Prize, which culminated in a showcase concert at the Salle Gaveau with Orchestre Colonne in 2010. Following the successful

performance, Mr. Kirov was re-invited to conduct the orchestra's 2011/2012 Season Opening Concert in Paris.

Mr. Kirov has been a Conducting Fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, at the Aspen Music Festival, the National Repertory Orchestra as well as the Chautauqua Music Festival, where he has also returned in 2012 as a guest conductor. Mr. Kirov is a graduate in orchestral conducting of The Juilliard School, where he was a student of James DePreist. He also holds a master's degree in conducting from the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, where he studied with Dominique Rouits. Mr. Kirov has worked with distinguished conductors such as Bernard Haitink, Kurt Masur, Robert Spano, Michael Tilson Thomas, Stéphane Denève, Gianluigi Gelmetti, George Manahan and Asher Fisch, among others.

A gifted pianist, Stilian Kirov is the 2001 gold medalist of the Claude Kahn International Piano Competition in Paris.

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.

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