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FRANK HUANG APPOINTED CONCERTMASTER OF THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC BEGINNING IN 2015-16 SEASON

Music Director Alan Gilbert and the New York Philharmonic announced today that Frank Huang has been appointed Concertmaster, The Charles E. Culpeper Chair, of the New York Philharmonic, beginning with the Opening Gala Concert of the 2015–16 season, September 24, 2015. Mr. Huang follows Glenn Dicterow, who stepped down from his position at the end of the 2013–14 season after 34 seasons of service.

Currently concertmaster of the Houston Symphony, Mr. Huang recently played with the New York Philharmonic as guest concertmaster in three programs conducted by Alan Gilbert: in October 2014, including works by Bartók, Bruckner, and Mozart; and in the Verdi Requiem in January 2015. In addition to his orchestral career, Mr. Huang is also an accomplished chamber musician, and serves on the faculty at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and the University of Houston.

“More than any other musician, the concertmaster shapes the persona of an orchestra, and in Frank Huang we have found just the right mix of virtuosity, flair, musicality, and collegiality,” said Music Director Alan Gilbert. “After our very comprehensive search, during which we heard many strong candidates, the musicians of the search committee and I unanimously agreed that Frank would both fit right in to the New York Philharmonic and push it to even greater heights. I am thrilled and proud to be announcing this most important appointment.”

“I am truly honored to be given the opportunity to hold this position once occupied by such giants of the orchestral world as Glenn Dicterow and John Corigliano, Sr.” said Frank Huang. “It is a privilege to join this ensemble of incredibly talented musicians, and my deepest appreciation goes out to Alan Gilbert and the members of the Philharmonic for their belief in me. I look forward to returning to New York City and to making music with the great New York Philharmonic.”

“I congratulate Frank Huang on stepping into the legendary position of the New York Philharmonic’s Concertmaster, and I congratulate the Orchestra for being able to engage such a superb violinist for the position,” said New York Philharmonic President Matthew VanBesien. “I commend Alan Gilbert and the Philharmonic musicians with whom he worked on conducting an extensive and thorough search. We’re incredibly pleased to begin the 2015–16 season in David Geffen Hall with the next New York Philharmonic Concertmaster in place. I look forward to many seasons of inspired and inspiring performances with him at the head of the strings.”

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Frank Huang, the First Prize Winner of the 2003 Walter W. Naumburg Foundation's Violin Competition and the 2000 Hannover International Violin Competition, has established a major career as a violin virtuoso. Since performing with the Houston Symphony in a nationally broadcast concert at the age of 11 he has appeared with orchestras throughout the world including The Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony, NDR Radio Philharmonic Orchestra of Hannover, Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, and the Genoa Orchestra. He has also performed on NPR's *Performance Today*, ABC's *Good Morning America*, and CNN's *American Morning* with Paula Zahn. Recent engagements include his debuts at Wigmore Hall (in London), Salle Cortot (Paris), Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.), and the Herbst Theatre (San Francisco), as well as a second recital in Alice Tully Hall (New York), which featured the World Premiere of Donald Martino's Sonata for Solo Violin. Mr. Huang's first commercial recording — featuring fantasies by Schubert, Ernst, Schoenberg, and Waxman — was released on Naxos in the fall of 2003.

Mr. Huang has had great success in competitions since the age of 15 and received top prize awards in the Premio Paganini International Violin Competition and the Indianapolis International Violin Competition. Other honors include Gold Medal Awards in the Kingsville International Competition, Irving M. Klein International Competition, and D'Angelo International Competition.

In addition to his solo career, Mr. Huang is deeply committed to chamber music. He has attended the Marlboro Music Festival, Ravinia's Steans Institute, Seattle Chamber Music Festival, and Caramoor, and frequently participates in Musicians from Marlboro's tours. He was also selected by The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center to be a member of the prestigious CMS Two program. Before joining the Houston Symphony, Mr. Huang held the position of first violinist of the Grammy Award-winning Ying Quartet and was a faculty member at the Eastman School of Music.

Frank Huang was born in Beijing, China. At the age of seven he moved to Houston, Texas, where he began violin lessons with his mother. He commenced study with Fredell Lack at the University of Houston and at 16 he enrolled in the pre-college program at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) where he studied with Donald Weilerstein. He continued studies with Weilerstein in college and earned his bachelor of music degree from CIM in 2002. He subsequently attended The Juilliard School in New York City, studying violin with Robert Mann, and is an alumnus of the Music Academy of the West, now a partner in the New York Philharmonic Global Academy. Mr. Huang, who began his tenure as concertmaster of the Houston Symphony in 2010, also serves on the faculties of the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and the University of Houston.

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