



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Philadelphia Orchestra Appoints Two New Musicians to Flute Section for 2018-19 Season

(Philadelphia, August 21, 2018)—[The Philadelphia Orchestra](#) is pleased to announce the addition of two new musicians to the roster beginning in the 2018-19 season: **Patrick Williams, associate principal flute**, and **Olivia Staton, flute**.

“The start of a new season is always thrilling and made even more so when we have new friends and colleagues joining us,” said Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin. “Patrick and Olivia are both extraordinary musicians. I am excited to work with them and hear all they will bring to our flute section.”

Hailed for his artistry in concert performances with the Curtis Symphony, Music at Angel Fire, and the Steamboat Orchestra, **Associate Principal Flute Patrick Williams** complements his passion for orchestral performance with concerto, chamber music, and recital performance. He was previously principal flute of the Louisiana Philharmonic and co-principal flute of the Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra in Nishinomiya, Japan. He has also performed in such ensembles as the Chicago Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Columbus Symphony, the Fort Worth Symphony, the Princeton Symphony, and the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra in Sapporo, Japan. During the 2010 and 2011 seasons, Williams was mentored by Mark Sparks as a Flute Fellowship recipient at the Aspen Music Festival. He has collaborated with Maestros Simon Rattle, Vladimir Jurowski, Fabio Luisi, Neville Marriner, Robert Spano, Michael Stern, Rossen Milanov, and Otto-Werner Mueller.

Williams served as adjunct professor of flute at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans and has been a clinician at the Interlochen Arts Academy, Loyola University of New Orleans, and Louisiana State University. He has regularly participated in youth concerts and outreach programs for the Louisiana Philharmonic, the Hyogo Performing Arts Center, the New York Pops, Music at Angel Fire, and the Curtis Institute of Music.

A proud Colorado native, Williams began studying the Suzuki flute method in Steamboat Springs. After just one year of study, he traveled to Nagano, Japan, to perform with thousands of Suzuki students in a multicultural

celebration during the 1998 Olympics. He attended the Interlochen Arts Academy High School, studying with Nancy Stagnitta, and graduated with a distinguished award for excellence in flute performance. At the Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music, he studied with Michel Debost while pursuing a double degree in flute performance and environmental studies. Williams received his performance degree at the Curtis Institute of Music under the tutelage of Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Flute Jeffrey Khaner.

Olivia Staton is a recent graduate of the Juilliard School, where she studied with Philadelphia Orchestra Principal Flute Jeffrey Khaner. Upon graduating, she was awarded the prestigious Peter Mennin Prize. This past summer she was a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, Massachusetts, and for three previous summers she attended the Aspen Music Festival and School, where she served as principal flute of the Aspen Conducting Academy for two summers.

Staton has substituted with the National Symphony and the New World Symphony in addition to participating in the New York Philharmonic Biennial as a member of the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble. During her time at Juilliard, she performed as a member of the Juilliard Orchestra, AXIOM, and the New Juilliard Ensemble. In 2017 she was selected as one of two flutes to represent Juilliard in a collaboration with the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki to celebrate the centenary of Finnish independence.

Born and raised overseas, Staton began studying the flute while living in Italy. After moving to Virginia, she was principal flute of the American Youth Philharmonic for three years and served as principal flute of the New York Youth Symphony for her first year in New York. She has also won first prizes in the Richmond Flute Competition and the Flute Society of Washington Competition. Before moving to New York, she was a National Symphony Youth Fellow and studied with Aaron Goldman of the National Symphony. Staton is a Yamaha Performing Artist.

About [The Philadelphia Orchestra](#)

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CONTACTS:

Ashley Berke
215.893.1939

aberke@philorch.org

Amanda Olszewski
215.893.3136

aolszewski@philorch.org

Alexa Vecchione
215.893.3142

avecchione@philorch.org