



News Release

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Jennifer Rudolph Mire: (713) 238-1492

Holly Cassard: (713) 238-1490

2010-2011 SEASON ANNOUNCED WITH NEW CONCERTMASTER

*Frank Huang, Award-Winning Violinist with Local Ties, Joins Orchestra in New Season
2010-2011 Filled with Innovations, Great Works and Favorite Guest Artists*

HOUSTON (January 19, 2010) – The Houston Symphony released the long-awaited announcement of their new concertmaster in conjunction with the 2010-2011 season of concerts. Frank Huang, award-winning violinist originally from the Houston area, will join the orchestra in the new season. Huang leaves a prestigious post at the Eastman School of Music as an instructor as well as first violinist of the famed Ying Quartet to return to Houston. He grew up in Sugar Land and still has family throughout the city. He debuts with the Symphony on Opening Night Saturday, September 11, 2010, performing Mozart's *Sinfonia concertante* with Wayne Brooks, principal violist.

"Growing up in Houston, I loved going to symphony performances, and I feel so honored to be able to come back now and actually be a part of them!" said Mr. Huang. "It is so exciting to return to my hometown, and I am really looking forward to getting to know all the wonderful musicians and staff at the symphony."

"We are very glad to welcome Frank into our ensemble," said Hans Graf, music director. "Frank is a very gifted musician and shows a natural talent for leadership. His impeccable technique and beauty of sound will be a joy for the orchestra and for our audiences."

“This has been a long and focused search,” said Steve Brosvik, general manager. “Frank’s musicianship and leadership stood apart from the rest. We are very excited that he is ‘coming home’ to Houston.”

In addition to engaging a new concertmaster, the Symphony simultaneously announced its 2010-2011 season which features innovation through community partnerships, the Sound + Vision series which enhances the classical concert experience and a subscriber-friendly approach to Pops programming.

In November 2010, the Houston Symphony will perform Lawrence Siegel’s *Kaddish “I Am Here”* in partnership with Holocaust Museum Houston. The oratorio combines the orchestra, chorus and vocal soloists with lyrics derived from interviews with 15 Holocaust survivors – 4 of whom live in Houston. Originally composed for a chamber orchestra, *Kaddish* has been rescored by Siegel for full orchestra. The Houston Symphony gives the premiere of this version on November 23, 2010.

“The *Kaddish* project is an opportunity for the Houston Symphony to fulfill one of its major goals which is to collaborate with other organizations in the city. This partnership with Holocaust Museum Houston brings music to the stories of survivors. The project will help underscore the museum’s mission through a musical medium,” said David Rockoff, senior director of Development.

Classical programming will feature an innovative format for one of its concerts. *Symphony No. 10*, Gustav Mahler’s final symphony left unfinished at his death, was completed by British composer Deryck Cooke, and will be performed in May 2011. The evening concert will begin with a discussion, musical examples and images projected on screen and end 90 minutes later – sans intermission. Hans Graf will explore this work with special guest, Fred Child, host of American Public Media’s *Performance Today*.

Classical guest artists include returning friends of the Houston Symphony Joshua Bell, Gil Shaham and Yefim Bronfman, while debuting a new generation of musical talent in pianists Gabriela Montero and Markus Groh and conductors Juanjo Mena and Juraj Valčuha.

In the Pops realm, the Symphony listened to Pops subscribers and responded to their feedback. "We are very pleased with our Pops line-up for 2010-11," said Allen Gelwick, chairman of the Pops Committee of the Houston Symphony Society. "We incorporated market research and focus group feedback to help identify acts that would resonate in Houston. It's an exciting time for Pops. There is something for everyone next season!"

Among the Pops line-up, Kenny Loggins, Chris Botti, and Broadway's Mary Poppins, Ashley Brown, will visit Jones Hall in the new season. An homage to Frank Sinatra will occur in January 2011 with another Houston debut artist, Matt Dusk. Ellis Hall, an American artist also making his Houston Symphony debut, will perform a tribute concert to Ray Charles in May 2011.

About the Houston Symphony

The Houston Symphony has played a central role in Houston's cultural and civic life since 1913. Each year, the Houston Symphony performs more than 170 concerts for approximately 350,000 people, featuring an innovative and broad spectrum of classical, popular, education and community-based symphonic programming. For tickets and more information regarding the 2009-10 season, please visit www.houstonsymphony.org or call 713-224-7575.

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Frank Huang

Houston Symphony Concertmaster

First Prize Winner of the 2003 Walter W. Naumburg Foundation's Violin Competition and the 2000 Hannover International Violin Competition, Frank Huang has established a major career as a violin virtuoso. At the age of eleven, he performed with the Houston Symphony in a nationally broadcast concert and has since performed with orchestras throughout the world, including the Cleveland Orchestra, LA Philharmonic, Saint-Paul Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony, NDR-Radio Philharmonic Orchestra of Hannover, Amadeus Chamber Orchestra and the Genoa Orchestra. He has performed on NPR's Performance Today, Good Morning America and CNN's American Morning with Paula Zahn. Mr. Huang's first commercial recording, comprised of Fantasies by Schubert, Ernst, Schoenberg and Waxman, was released on Naxos in the fall of 2003.

Most recently, Mr. Huang held the position of first violinist of the Grammy® Award winning Ying quartet and was a member of the faculty at the Eastman School of Music. Mr. Huang is the concertmaster and leader of the Sejong Soloists, a conductor-less chamber orchestra based in New York. Recent performances with Sejong include a tour of Taiwan, China, and South Korea with Cho-Liang Lin and a tour in the US and Asia with Gil Shaham.

He has had great success in competitions since the age of fifteen with top prize awards in the Premio Paganini International Violin Competition and the Indianapolis International Violin Competition. He received Gold Medal Awards in the Kingsville International Competition, the Irving M. Klein International Competition and the D'Angelo International Competition.

Recent concerts include debuts in Wigmore Hall, (London) Salle Cortot, (Paris) Kennedy Center, (Washington) Herbst Theatre, (San Francisco) and also his second recital in Alice Tully Hall (New York), which featured the world premiere of Donald Martino's Sonata for Solo Violin.

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, The Seattle Chamber Music festival, and the Caramoor Festival, and frequently participates in Musicians from Marlboro tours. He was also selected by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center to be a member of the prestigious Chamber Music II program. Frank is also part of a trio with Thomas Kaines and Reiko Uchida.

Mr. Huang studied with Robert Mann at The Juilliard School, Donald Weilerstein at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and with Fredell Lack in Houston.

Extras!

More Collaboration:

- In November 2010, the Houston Symphony teams up with the esteemed **University of North Texas' One O'Clock Lab Band** to form the biggest band in Texas. This big band extravaganza will feature songs from jazz greats like Duke Ellington with "Take the A Train," Count Basie with "Moten Swing" and John Coltrane. Plus, hear standards from the Great American Songbook with songs from Cole Porter and more!
- The Symphony will showcase performers from the **Shepherd School of Music at Rice University** in February 2011 with a presentation of Ravel's comedic one act opera, *L'Heure espagnole (The Spanish Hour)*.

Returning Classical Guest Artists:

- Yefim Bronfman, piano
- Stephen Hough, piano
- Jonathan Biss, piano
- Joshua Bell, violin
- Gil Shaham, violin
- Leila Josefowicz, violin
- Alisa Weilerstein, cello
- Erin Wall, soprano
- Susanne Mentzer, mezzo-soprano
- Hannu Lintu, conductor
- Thomas Dausgaard, conductor
- James Gaffigan, conductor
- Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, conductor
- Kirill Karabits, conductor

Classical Artists Making a Debut:

- Markus Groh, piano
- Inon Barnatan, piano
- Gabriela Montero, piano
- Augustin Hadelich, violin
- Sascha Cooke, mezzo-soprano
- Fred Child, host American Public Media's *Performance Today*
- Matthew Halls, conductor
- Juraj Valcuha, conductor
- Juanjo Mena, conductor
- Mark Wigglesworth, conductor

Concerts Featuring Houston Symphony Musicians

The Houston Symphony is proud to showcase its own players in the solo spotlight:

- Frank Huang, newly-appointed concertmaster
- Brinton Averil Smith, principal cellist
- Wayne Brooks, principal violist
- Aralee Dorough, principal flute

Continued Sound + Vision Concerts:

In addition to *Kaddish "I am Here"* and Mahler/Cooke's *Symphony No. 10*, the Houston Symphony will also feature these concerts in its Sound + Vision series:

- **Wagner's "Ring" Without Words
An Orchestral Adventure
September 24, 25, 26, 2010**
Sound + Vision
Hans Graf, conductor
John Adams: Doctor Atomic Symphony
Wagner/Maazel: The "Ring" Without Words
- **Verdi's Requiem
January 20, 22, 23, 2011**
Sound + Vision
Thomas Dausgaard, conductor
Houston Symphony Chorus
Charles Hausmann, director
Verdi: Requiem
- **Ravel's Spain with Bolero
February 11, 12, 13, 2011**
Sound + Vision
Hans Graf, conductor
Susanne Mentzer, mezzo-soprano
Ravel: L'Heure espagnole (The Spanish Hour) – A Musical Comedy
Ravel: Rapsodie espagnole
Ravel: Don Quixote à Dulcinée
Ravel: Chanson espagnole
Ravel: Bolero
- **Richard Strauss' Don Quixote
March 24, 26, 27, 2011**
Sound + Vision
Hans Graf, conductor
Erin Wall, soprano
Brinton Averil Smith, cello
Wayne Brooks, viola
R. Strauss: Don Juan
R. Strauss: Four Last Songs
R. Strauss: Don Quixote