



**For Immediate Release**

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**EVANSVILLE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA APPOINTS NEW CONCERTMASTER AND EYKAMP STRING QUARTET**

**Evansville, Indiana** – The Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and Music Director Alfred Savia announce the recent appointment of a new concertmaster and three principal musicians who will make up the Eykamp String Quartet beginning with the 2018-2019 Concert Season. The Orchestra and University of Evansville collaborate fully in the selection and employment of Eykamp Quartet personnel, having them participate in orchestra performances as principal string players and as artists-in-residence at the University of Evansville.

Chicago native, Alan Snow has been appointed as concertmaster having been the concertmaster of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra, Music Academy of the West, the Festival Napa Valley Orchestra, and Indiana University's top orchestras. He has collaborated with musicians such as Stephane Deneve, James Gaffigan, and Joshua Bell, and served on the faculty at the Anchorage Chamber Music Festival.

Snow studied with Gerardo Ribeiro at Northwestern University before receiving his Bachelor of Music degree from Indiana University under Sibbi Bernhardsson of the Pacifica Quartet and Alexander Kerr, concertmaster of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Jia-Rong Gan was appointed Principal Second Violin, Mark Hatlestad was appointed Principal Viola and Graham Cullen was named Principal Cello.

A native of Malaysia, Dr. Gan began her violin studies at the age of five and has since captivated audiences across the United States, Europe, and Asia. She currently performs regularly with Owensboro Symphony Orchestra and Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra. Previously, she was a member of the Mobile Symphony Orchestra, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra; and has served as concertmaster for Florida State University Symphony Orchestra, Brevard Music Festival Sinfonia, and Western Illinois University Symphony and Chamber Orchestra.

Dr. Gan earned a Doctor of Music at Florida State University, a Master of Music at Florida State University and a Bachelor of Music from Western Illinois University. Her principal teachers have included Corinne Stillwell, Dr. Julieta Mihai, and Malgorzata Potocka.

Mark Hatlestad, violist, is a Minnesota native and an avid performer, music educator, and advocate for contemporary music. He has appeared in festivals across the globe, including the Sommerakademie Leutkirch in Germany, the Keshet Eilon Summer Master Course in Israel, as well as the Chautauqua Summer Music Festival in New York.

Mark completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington, where he studied viola performance with Atar Arad and Edward Gazouleas. During his time in Bloomington, Mark worked closely with Steve Wyczynski, Peter Stumpf, Kevork Mardirossian, Mark Kaplan, Stanley Ritchie and members of the Pacifica Quartet.

Graham Cullen, cellist, has had the opportunity to hold the principal chair of the Indiana University Symphony Orchestra for multiple years while studying there. He also holds the Assistant Principal chair of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, as well as being a member of the Richmond Symphony and Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra.

After winning the Beethoven Haus residency competition held at the Jacobs School, Graham and his quartet were awarded the opportunity to perform a full recital at Beethoven's house in Bonn, Germany.

Cullen is currently pursuing a Master's degree at the Jacobs School of Music, studying with Peter Stumpf.

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