

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

August 20, 2015

CulturalExchangeProgram@gmail.com
908 - 432-5188 Diane Wittry, Artistic Director

5 American musicians chosen for prestigious cultural exchange program with the Sarajevo Philharmonic, Bosnia

Five young American musicians have been selected from a national search to participate in the **International Cultural Exchange for Classical Musicians**. This program, sponsored by the Bosnian Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts and Sciences, is in its 5 year, and places talented young musicians in a 10 month residency performance program with the Sarajevo Philharmonic, Bosnia. Each participant will receive free housing accommodations while they are in Bosnia, sponsored by the Bosnian Minister of Culture, as well as a living stipend from the Sarajevo Philharmonic.

The musicians selected to participate for the 2015-2016 season are: **Jessica Goldbaum, Bassoon**, from Houston, Texas; **Carrie Rexroat, French Horn**, from Los Angeles, California; **Magdalene Rickard, French Horn**, from Denver, Colorado; **Cathy Schule, Trombone**, from Los Angeles, California; and **Erin Morse, Viola**, from Dallas, Texas. These musicians will perform in symphonic, opera, and ballet concerts from September 2015 through July 2016.

The mission of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian American Academy of Arts and Sciences is to provide connections between Bosnian-Herzegovinian and scientists, musicians, artists, and professionals in North America to build bridges of cooperation between our countries. The Academy promotes the spirit of intellectual diversity and free exchange of ideas in the belief that knowledge is shareable wealth.

The Sarajevo Philharmonic was founded in 1923 and has played an important role in shaping the musical life of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Sarajevo Philharmonic is a full-time orchestra that currently performs in the National Theatre in Sarajevo and tours throughout the region.

The Sarajevo Philharmonic operated without interruptions throughout the siege of Sarajevo from 1993-1995. Although Sarajevo was exposed to daily bombardment from the surrounding hills which killed over 10,000 of its citizens, the Philharmonic held nine concerts in the 1993-1994 season, 21 concerts in the 1994-1995 season, and 41 concerts in the 1995-1996 season. Out of those 41 concerts, 10 were held prior to November 1995, when the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed. The Philharmonic lost two musicians during the siege.

The International Cultural Exchange Program for Classical Musicians starts in September 2015 and the participants will return to the United States in July 2016. Selection of the musicians was done by Conductor and Artistic Director of the Cultural Exchange Program, Diane Wittry; Samra Gulamovic, Director and Conductor of the Sarajevo Philharmonic; and Eldin E. Karaikovic, BHAAAS Cultural Exchange Program Project Director. The applicants submitted copies of their performance resumes and unedited DVDs of their playing. The applicants also included a short video about why they wanted to participate in the program. Below are their biographies and photos.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM for Classical Musicians with the Sarajevo Philharmonic, Bosnia

2015-2016 PARTICIPANTS



Jessica Goldbaum, Bassoonist, completed her MM degree from Rice University's Shepherd School of music in 2015, where she studied the bassoon under Benjamin Kamins. She previously studied under Jeffrey Keesecker at the Florida State University (BM 2012). She has toured with the Orchestre de la Francophonie and Youth Orchestra of the Americas, played with the Franco-American Vocal Academy Orchestra in Perigueux, France, was a participant in the

Centre d'Arts Orford chamber music festival in Quebec, Canada, attended the Pierre Monteux School in Maine, and toured the U. S. with the American Wind Symphony.

Carrie Rexroat, French Horn, has held previous positions as the 4th Horn in the Dearborn Symphony Orchestra, 2nd Horn in the American Youth Symphony, and 4th Horn in the Debut Symphony Orchestra. Rexroat has also performed with the San Bernadino Symphony, the Santa Monica Symphony, the Golden State Pops Orchestra, and toured China in 2011 with the University of Michigan Symphony Band. In 2009, she received the Andrew J. Lum & David R. Juliet Young Artist Scholarship upon winning the Ann Arbor Concert Band Concerto Competition. In 2014, she and the other members of Gold Coast Brass Quintet won the Burke & Bagley Prize for best performance of Early Morning on the Waterfront. Most notably, she and the other members of The Cardinal Winds, a woodwind sextet, won Grand Prize at the 2015 Plowman Chamber Music Competition. Carrie Rexroat is a two time recipient of the Max H. Gluck Fellowship Program, performing community engagement concerts for the underserved communities of Los Angeles.



Magdalene Rickard is a **French Horn** player and music teacher from Denver, Colorado. She is pursuing Bachelor's degrees in horn performance and music education at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she studies with Michael Thornton, the principal horn of the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. Maggie began playing horn at the age of nine, but considered it little more than a fun pastime until she was seventeen, when she decided to pursue a career in music. Since then she has developed a profound love for playing in a horn section and the orchestral experience as a whole. Maggie intends to combine her talents for performing and teaching to create a diverse, lifelong career in music.



Cathy Schule, Trombone, lives in Los Angeles, where she recently began her doctoral studies at the University of Southern California. Previously, she attended the Oberlin Conservatory and Columbus State University, during which she was contracted with the LaGrange Symphony and actively involved with the 2013 International Trombone Festival. She can be heard on numerous recordings, including Jim Markey's CD *Psychedelia; A Beautiful Noise*, alongside Joseph Alessi and Charlie Vernon; and Kip Winger's "Conversations with Nijinsky".

Violist, Erin Morse, completed her Master's degree in performance under Dr. Susan Dubois at the University of North Texas and her Bachelor's in performance at the University of South Florida under John T. Posadas. With a penchant for chamber and early music, Ms. Morse has performed with ensembles and festivals in places like Texas, Florida, Vermont, California, and Austria. This June, she will play with the UNT Baroque Orchestra at the Boston Early Music Festival. Ms. Morse is also an eager traveler, and amateur scuba diver.

