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SYMPHONY AND OPERA MUSICIANS

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International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians Announces New Host for DEI Video Series

Salt Lake City, UT, June 12, 2024

The International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians (ICSOM) is pleased to announce that Douglas Rosenthal will be the host of its monthly video series “Musician Profiles: Celebrating Racial Diversity” for the 2024–25 season.

Appointed associate principal trombonist of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 2023, Douglas Rosenthal served as the ICSOM delegate of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra in Washington, DC while he was assistant principal trombonist. During his time in DC, Douglas participated in union and community activism, serving on the Executive Board for AFM Local 161-710 (DC Federation of Musicians) and as a delegate to the Metropolitan Washington AFL-CIO and DC Jobs with Justice.

Launched in June 2022 and originally hosted by ICSOM President Paul Austin, ICSOM’s “Musician Profiles: Celebrating Racial Diversity” series focuses upon ICSOM Musicians of Color, their experiences, and how they view the need for racial diversity within our orchestras. The first two seasons of one-on-one interviews in this series are available at ICSOM’s website (<https://www.icsom.org/media/profiles.php>).

“For the past two years, our monthly series has provided a platform for viewers to become acquainted with dozens of ICSOM musicians who come from different backgrounds yet have the common thread of being passionate about their career as orchestra musicians,” said Paul Austin, ICSOM president. “With an annual change in host, the series continues to be fresh and interesting. We thank Stephen Laifer of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra who hosted the 2023–24 season, and we extend a warm welcome

to Douglas Rosenthal, whose bright personality lends itself so very well for this position.”

“I love hearing people talk about their experiences, interests, and pursuits,” relays Douglas Rosenthal. “And I always seem to have a dozen questions about anything. I'm excited to have discussions celebrating the lives and careers of our BIPOC colleagues and look forward to listening to their perspectives and learning from them. Bravo to Paul Austin and Stephen Laifer on their interviews these past couple of years! I look forward to continuing this work and invite anyone reading this to catch up on any previous profiles that you might have missed.”

“It is heartening to me, both as a member of ICSOM’s governing board and as musician of color in an ICSOM orchestra, to see the ICSOM Musician Profiles: Celebrating Racial Diversity series entering a third season,” added Nicole Jordan, principal librarian of The Philadelphia Orchestra and an ICSOM member-at-large. “Being diverse and having diversity is a great thing, however it is even better when it is seen and celebrated. I applaud hosts Paul Austin and Stephen Laifer for fostering a space that allows for exceptional women and men of color across ICSOM orchestras to share their stories and perspectives. Moving on to season three, I’m excited for Doug Rosenthal taking over the hosting duties and am looking forward to seeing how he uses his energy and curiosity to continue this series with a new crop of colleagues sharing stories of their lives and careers.”

The International Conference of Symphony and Opera Musicians represents nearly 4000 symphonic musicians in the top 52 orchestras in the United States and Puerto Rico. ICSOM's mission is to promote a better and more rewarding livelihood for the skilled orchestral performer and to enrich the cultural life of our society.

Please contact ICSOM Chairperson Keith Carrick at (301) 639-5411 or by writing keith.carrick@gmail.com.

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