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MYSO SENIOR SYMPHONY FOUNDERS CONCERT TO FEATURE CELLO SOLOIST JOSEPH JOHNSON



October 15, 2009 (Milwaukee, WI) On **Sunday, January 17, 2010**, at 2:00 p.m., Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra presents **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Principal Cellist JOSEPH JOHNSON** as soloist at its Founders Concert, its annual gala performance featuring the organization's internationally acclaimed flagship ensemble, the Senior Symphony. Under Music Director Margery Deutsch and Associate Conductor Shelby Keith Dixon, the group will perform at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 West Capitol Drive, Brookfield. MYSO will also pay tribute to the visionaries who formed and shaped MYSO in its infancy upon which its 54 years of musical excellence is built.

With 135 of southeastern Wisconsin's finest young musicians, the Senior Symphony will feature Mr. Johnson performing the first movement of Antonin Dvořák's Cello Concerto, as well as Max Bruch's *Kol Nidre*. To commemorate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, the orchestra will also present the Wisconsin premiere of Stella Sung's *Lincoln's Battle* (2008) and *Lincoln Portrait* by Aaron Copland, narrated by MSO bassist Laura Snyder. Ms. Deutsch and the orchestra will complete this program with Repighi's blockbuster *Pines of Rome* in the second half.

One of the most exciting solo artists of his generation, **JOSEPH JOHNSON** is the principal cellist of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. He continues as guest principal cellist of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra and principal cellist of the Santa Fe Opera.

Highlights of Joseph Johnson's current season include six performances of Brahms' *Double Concerto* with violinist Frank Almond and Edo de Waart conducting the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, both locally and on tour. He performs as soloist in Dvořák's *Cello Concerto* with Andreas Delfs and the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, as well as conducting master classes and participating in chamber music collaborations throughout the country. Mr. Johnson also frequently appears on the "Frankly Music" series, with MSO Concertmaster, Frank Almond.

Prior to his Milwaukee appointment, Joseph Johnson was a member of The Minnesota Orchestra cello section for eleven years during which time he performed numerous chamber music works in the orchestra's Sommerfest, both as cellist and pianist. He was a founding member of both the Prospect Park Players and the Minneapolis Quartet, the latter of which was honored with The McKnight Foundation Award in 2005.

Joseph Johnson has been heard throughout the United States as a soloist, chamber musician and educator. His festival appearances include performances in all classical genres at the American festivals of the Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society, Bard, Cactus Pear, Caramoor, Grand Teton, Music in the Vineyards and--in Sapporo, Japan--the Pacific Music Festival. Mr. Johnson has a special relationship



with the culture and people of Russia, dating to his 1997 tour as soloist with the American Russian Youth Orchestra, during which he played Barber's *Cello Concerto* in New York City's Carnegie Hall, St. Petersburg's Marinsky Theatre and Moscow's Tchaikovsky Hall. He has returned to Russia frequently, leading master classes at the Tchaikovsky School of Music and performing in recital.

Joseph Johnson recently completed a special recording project with the G. Schirmer Instrumental Library: *The Cello Collection*. Published in three volumes by Hal Leonard and featuring companion recordings by Mr. Johnson, this project presents cello literature appropriate for recitals and concerts, and is available from major music retailers nationwide.

A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Joseph Johnson earned his master's degree from Northwestern University. Awards and honors include a performer's certificate from the Eastman School of Music and first prize from the American String Teachers Association National Solo Competition. Also a gifted and inspiring teacher, he has conducted master classes at The New World Symphony, The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, Eastman School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Northwestern University and MYSO.

Mr. Johnson performs on a Nicolo Gagliano cello crafted in Naples, Italy, in 1782.

Please see attached photo of Mr. Johnson.

Advance tickets to MYSO's concert are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors, and will be \$10 and \$7 at the door. For more information please email michellehoffman@myso.org or call 414-267-2947. For advance tickets, please call the MYSO office at 414-267-2950. Please visit our website at www.myso.org.

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