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### **Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra announces Mike Chen as New Associate Principal Viola**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra announces the appointment of Mike Chen as the new Associate Principal Viola of the Orchestra. Chen was selected among 80 applicants from around the world in a competitive audition process and has officially begun his tenure this season.

Chen came to Indianapolis from the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra where he performed since 2003. Originally a violinist, he served as co-concertmaster in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago during the 1994-95 season and, as a member of its violin section from 1992-1995, he had the opportunity to work with prominent conductors such as Sir Georg Solti, Daniel Barenboim and Zubin Mehta. In recent years, Chen also has performed with the Chicago, Indianapolis and Detroit Symphony Orchestras.

He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern University where he studied violin with Blair Milton, a member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In 1998, he returned to Northwestern University and earned a master's degree in conducting, studying with Victor Yampolsky and Mariusz Smolij. In 1999, he began studying viola, first with Li-Kuo Chang and later with ISO Principal Viola Michael Isaac Strauss. Other teachers include Keith Conant and Baird Dodge. He taught chamber music in the Chicago Youth Symphony, Chicago Academy for the Arts and the Western Springs School of Talent Education and was an educator for many years in the Chicago area.

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