



# INDIANAPOLIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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Contact: Jessica Di Santo – (317) 229-7082

## **Percussionist Pedro Fernandez joins the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra**

INDIANAPOLIS – After a national audition, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra announces the appointment of Pedro Fernandez to the ISO’s percussion section beginning in 2016. Fernandez fills the vacancy left by Paul Berns, who retired in 2015 after 45 years of service.

Hailing from Panama City, Panama, Fernandez has appeared as a soloist, chamber musician and in orchestral settings across Latin American, the U.S., Spain, China and Japan. He recently served as second percussionist at the Houston Ballet Orchestra. Fernandez has performed with the Cincinnati, Houston, Hawaii, Columbus and Costa Rica symphonies, as well as the Louisville Orchestra and the Florida Grand Opera.

Fernandez has performed with the Grammy-nominated choir, Seraphic Fire, and recorded the percussion tracks on their self-titled album. As a member of the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra, he has played alongside artists such as Chick Corea, the Beach Boys, Gloria Gaynor, Michael Feinstein, Terence Blanchard and Dave Grusin, as well as participated in a PBS special at the Arsht Center in Miami as part of their Jazz Roots series “Jazz at the Philharmonic.”

“I was inspired to play percussion from the Parade Bands of Panama as well as drum parts for songs in a variety of genres,” said Fernandez. “I also remember the first time I really paid attention to classical music, when I heard a recording of *The Rite of Spring*. Incidentally, that’s one of the first programs I’m playing with the ISO, and I’m really looking forward to it.”

Fernandez holds a master’s degree from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami, where he studied with Matthew Strauss and Svet Stoyanov. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Sam Houston State University where he studied with John Lane.

[Click here](#) for Pedro Fernandez’s full bio.

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