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Auburn Symphony announces new Concertmaster

Auburn Symphony Orchestra has named Emilie Choi as its new concertmaster after the retirement of former Concertmaster Brittany Boulding.

Choi is an avid chamber musician and orchestral violinist. She currently holds the Assistant Concertmaster position at the Pacific Northwest Ballet and is an active player with Lincoln Center Stage. She recently appeared as guest Concertmaster with Auburn Symphony in April.

"A considerable factor in hiring Emilie is on account of her outstanding musicianship which we all enjoyed at the season finale concert in April," Music Director Wesley Schulz said. "Emilie is a big asset to the orchestra and we all look forward to sharing in her musical gifts in the season to come."

In her new role, Choi is the lead musician of the orchestra and provides technical advice and expertise to the string section, along with being a community ambassador.

Choi, who was born and raised in Seattle and began her music studies at the age of 5, holds a Master's of Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with Stephen Rose. She also holds a Certificate of Historical Performance Practice from Case Western Reserve University, and Bachelor's degrees in Music Performance and Speech and Hearing Sciences from the University of Washington.

Aside from traditional classical music, Emilie seeks to explore as many different genres as possible. She is an active Baroque violinist, having performed with Pacific MusicWorks since 2018, and also enjoys playing blues, jazz, and contemporary music.

"I am both excited and honored to accept the Concertmaster position. Opportunities like this don't come by very often. When I played in April, everyone was so warm and receptive. I'm lucky to be part of such a great community." said Choi.

This announcement comes just after the launch of Auburn Symphony's 2019-20 Season, during which the Symphony is expanding its programs and performing at new venues - including Geaux Brewing and the Auburn International Farmers Market.

Auburn Symphony's next concert - the first of its 2019 Summer Series - will be on June 27 at 7 p.m. at Mary Olson Farm.

Choi's first official appearance as concertmaster will be at the Symphony Series concert on October 13: *Pictures at an Exhibition* with multimedia visuals by Seattle artist Adrian Wyard. Tickets and information can be found at auburnsymphony.org or by calling 253-887-7777.

"Playing in a symphony is all about collaboration and to have such fantastic colleagues makes me very excited for our upcoming concerts," Choi said.

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Auburn Symphony Orchestra changes lives and our South Puget Sound community through the shared experience of live orchestral music performances and by nurturing the relationship between our audience and our artists. Learn more at <u>auburnsymphony.org</u>.