



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Seattle Symphony Percussionist Matthew Decker Joins 2016 Eastern Music Festival Artist/Faculty Roster

Eastern Music Festival announces that alumnus **Matthew Decker**, the *Seattle Symphony's* newly appointed Assistant Timpanist /Percussionist, has joined the EMF artist/faculty roster for 2016. Decker attended EMF as a student in 2008.

Mr. Decker is currently in his second season as the Assistant Principal Percussionist of the *North Carolina Symphony* and will begin his appointment in Seattle in 2016. Prior to winning his position at the North Carolina Symphony, Decker was a fellow of the *New World Symphony* during the 2013-2014 season. His resume also includes concert appearances with the *New York Philharmonic*, *Malaysian Philharmonic*, *Columbus Indiana Philharmonic* and the *Battle Creek Symphony* in Michigan. With Battle Creek, he made his solo debut in 2009, performing Russell Peck's triple percussion concerto "The Glory and the Grandeur." Mr. Decker was a 2011 fellow at the *Tanglewood Music Center* and also spent summers at the *Music Academy of the West* and *Round Top Festival*.

"We're very excited to announce Matt's appointment," EMF Music Director Gerard Schwarz says. "He's a talented young man with a great artistic mind. I know that his talents and teaching skills will serve our students and the orchestral program well. I couldn't be happier with his appointment."

A native of Seymour, Indiana, he began his musical training with Paul Berns of the Indianapolis Symphony. Mr. Decker studied at the Manhattan School of Music with Christopher Lamb, Duncan Patton and She-e Wu. He also attended Roosevelt University, where he studied with Vadim Karpinos. Mr. Decker has worked with conductors Michael Tilson Thomas, Kurt Masur, Christoph Eschenbach, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Ludovic Morlot and had the privilege of performing in a master class with Yo-Yo Ma.

A winner of the 2010 Keropé Zildjian Scholarship and a finalist in the 2009 Atlanta Snare Drum Competition, Mr. Decker is also an avid enthusiast of novelty and ragtime music of the early 1900s with a special interest in the xylophone repertoire of the time.

Decker will join EMF Timpanist **Eric Schweikert** (Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Indiana University—Purdue University Fort Wayne) and Principal Percussionist **John Shaw** (Florida Orchestra) on the EMF 2016 Artist/Faculty Roster.

Eastern Music Festival's 2016 summer season begins on June 25, and continues through July 30.

For more information about Eastern Music Festival
visit www.easternmusicfestival.org

For up to date information about upcoming performances,
visit easternmusicfestival.org/festival/calendar

To purchase tickets or for ticket information
visit our [website](#) or call Triad Stage: 336-272-0160

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