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From left: Jacob Ogbu and Christian Harvey

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Announces Two New Paul J. Ross Fellows

PITTSBURGH, PA — Today, the **Pitts**burgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) announced trombonist **Jacob Ogbu** and bassist **Christian Harvey** as its newest Paul J. Ross Fellows for the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 seasons beginning in September 2025. They join current fellows Landon Young (French horn) and Carlos Clark (bassoon), who will complete their fellowships in August 2026.

"I'm pleased to welcome Jacob Ogbu and Christian Harvey to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra as our newest and 18th class of Paul J. Ross Fellows," said **Melia Tourangeau, President & CEO of the PSO**. "Since its beginning in 2007, the Fellowship is not only a tribute to Paul Ross's groundbreaking legacy as the PSO's first full-time African American musician, it reflects our deep commitment to fostering exceptional talent through transformative professional

training. Christian and Jacob bring outstanding artistry and passion to the Pittsburgh community, and we are proud to support their musicianship and career."

Paul J. Ross fellows rehearse and perform alongside Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra musicians, receive regular mentorship, and participate in mock auditions and workshops designed to prepare them for careers in top-tier orchestras. They also engage with the greater Pittsburgh community through education and outreach initiatives, expanding their skills as artists and leaders.

About Christian Harvey

Christian Harvey, a double bassist from Riverdale, GA, is part of a rising generation of double bassists. His musical journey began at Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts, where he performed at venues including New York City's Carnegie Hall. While in graduate school in Houston, TX, he was a Community Embedded Fellow with the Houston Symphony, helping organize and perform concerts throughout the city. He also joined the Young Artist Program with DACAMERA of Houston, developing as a passionate, forward-thinking "citizen artist." Christian is a 2025–2027 Paul J. Ross Fellow with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. He has participated in the Tanglewood Music Center, Spoleto Festival USA Orchestra, Texas Music Festival, Domaine Forgét, and Sewanee Music Center. In 2023, he placed third in the National Association for Negro Musicians Strings Competition and was a 2024 finalist in the Ima Hogg Concerto Competition. He earned his bachelor's degree at Georgia's Columbus State University studying with Jackie Pickett and Patricia Weitzel, and his master's at Rice University with Paul Ellison and Timothy Pitts.

About Jacob Ogbu

Jacob Ogbu is a trombonist based in New York City and is originally from Frisco, Texas. A passionate performer and collaborator, Jacob completed his studies at the Manhattan School of Music, where he trained with Colin Williams (New York Philharmonic) and Demian Austin (Metropolitan Opera). During his time in New York, Jacob has had the pleasure of performing with ensembles including the New Jersey Symphony and the Color of Noize orchestra, sharing the stage with Grammy award-winning artists Derrick Hodge and Angélique Kidjo. In 2022, he was honored to premiere Jason Nitsch's Dance Party at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, performing with the Lone Star High School Band. Jacob discovered his love for music at age 11 through the euphonium, a journey that soon led him to the trombone and further into the world of music. In the summer of 2024, he was selected as a fellow at the Aspen Music Festival, studying with Dr. Per Brevig, Peter Sullivan, Tim Higgins, and James Miller. While in Colorado, he won the festival's Brass Concerto Competition and performed Lars-Erik Larsson's Concertino for Trombone and String Orchestra. He returns to Aspen in summer 2025 as a Chamber Symphony Fellow.

About The Paul J. Ross Fellowship Program

The Paul J. Ross Fellowship Program is a two-year program named in honor of the late Paul J. Ross, the violinist who, in 1965, was the first African American musician to receive a full-time

contract from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. The legacy of Paul J. Ross is notable for nurturing, mentoring, and supporting young musicians, and his devotion to sharing his joy of music. The fellowship program was begun in the 2007-2008 season as the Orchestral Training Program for African American Musicians (OTPAAM) to promote professional training for musicians enabling the field to better reflect the communities and audiences that orchestras serve. In the 2021/2022 season, the fellowship was named in honor of Paul J. Ross and expanded to include two new fellows each year for a two-year term. Fellows work closely alongside members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra to train and prepare for professional auditions and opportunities, with substantial financial and professional development support, and robust mentorship in a universally welcoming environment. Since 2007, 13 fellows have participated in the program. To learn more, visit https://pittsburghsymphony.org/pso_home/web/about-landing/paul-j-ross-fellowship.

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Fellowship Program History

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra is a partner orchestra of the National Alliance for Audition Support—an unprecedented national initiative of The Sphinx Organization, New World Symphony, and the League of American Orchestras, to increase diversity in American orchestras. Prior Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Fellows have experienced substantial career advancement because of the fellowship:

2019-2022 Fellow Shantanique Moore, flute, won a position as the African American Orchestra Fellow with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for their 2022-23 season and is now Acting Principal Flute for the Memphis Symphony. Ms. Moore was named the eighth OTPAAM Fellow for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 seasons and was the first Paul J. Ross Fellow during the 2021-2022 season.

2017-2019 Fellow Joshua Jones, percussion, won a position with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra as Principal Percussion during the first year of the fellowship. He previously served as Principal Percussion of the Kansas City Symphony and now serves as Principal Percussion of the Grant Park Orchestra.

2015-2017 Fellow Torrell Moss, percussion, was accepted as an Artist Diploma candidate at Frost School of Music at the University of Miami, as a result of his fellowship. Moss has recently held positions with the Rainey Institute and Ashland Symphony Orchestra in Ohio, and performed in M.U.S.i.C.'s Stars in the Classics garden concert in 2020.

2013-2015 Fellow Adedeji Ogunfolu, horn, won a position with the San Antonio Symphony during the first year of the fellowship. He joined the Pacific Symphony as second horn in 2018, and has been appointed as Professor of Horn at the University of California, Irvine.

2011-2013 Fellow Ryan Murphy, cello, won a position with the San Antonio Symphony in 2012 and later became Operations Manager for Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras.

2009-2011 Fellow Chris Davis, trombone, is a lecturer at Northwestern University and Wheaton College, and a substitute musician with the Chicago, Cleveland and Minnesota Orchestras.

2008-2009 Fellow James Stroup, bass, is a substitute musician with Chattanooga, Florida, Naples, Charleston and Atlanta Symphonies.

2007-2008 Fellow Geoffrey Johnson, oboe, was the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's first OTPAAM Fellow. He won acting second oboe of the Detroit Symphony from 2014-2017, and he is currently a private lessons teacher and guest oboist in major orchestras across the country.

With Gratitude

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