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Concertmaster departing to pursue new musical dream

Omaha, NE— After 10 years as Omaha Symphony concertmaster, Amy Sims has announced she will not be returning for the 2010/11 season. She will depart to pursue one of her passions: early music performance.

“After ten very productive and meaningful years as concertmaster, I’ve reached a decision I feel good about,” said Sims. “I wish my colleagues all the best as they welcome new leadership to the front of the section.”

Omaha Symphony music director Thomas Wilkins shared his respect for Amy’s tremendous contributions to the orchestra, as well as for her decision. “She’s going to follow her dream,” he said. “That takes a lot of courage, and we wish her nothing but the best.”

While in Omaha, Sims has served as concertmaster of the Omaha Symphony, the Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra, and Opera Omaha. She has also performed with symphony colleagues as a member of the Omaha Symphony String Quartet and other Omaha-area artists in popular community concert series, including the Organ Vespers series and the Omaha Chamber Music Society’s Music as Medicine and Summer Concert series.

Sims holds two degrees in violin performance from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music in Los Angeles, where she studied with Eudice Shapiro. Prior to coming to Omaha, Sims served for six years as principal second violin of Orange County’s Pacific Symphony Orchestra, and freelanced around southern California as a studio musician playing for movie soundtracks and television commercials. She was also a member of Southwest Chamber Music, a contemporary music ensemble that is active in commissioning and presenting new works from living composers. Her recordings with that ensemble include the works of Lou Harrison, Charles Wuorinen, Robert Linn, and William Kraft.

Wilkins has announced the orchestra will hold concertmaster auditions in the near future, from which three finalists will be selected. Those finalists will each perform in two concerts in the new season: a MasterWorks and a Pops program.

The Omaha Symphony is a non-profit organization that presents more than 200 live orchestral performances from September through June. In addition to MasterWorks, Symphony Pops, Symphony Rocks, Chamber, Sights and Sounds, and Family series concerts, the orchestra tours both Nebraska and Iowa providing education and community engagement concerts and special events. For tickets or information regarding the Omaha Symphony, call 402.342.3560 or visit www.omahasymphony.org

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