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St. John's, NL  
News Release

## **NSO Announces Nathan Cook as Principal Cellist and Cellist of the ASQ**

The Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra (NSO) is delighted to announce that following a year-long search, Nathan Cook will take up the positions of principal cellist of the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra and cellist with the Atlantic String Quartet. The NSO had been without permanent a principal cellist and the ASQ a permanent cellist since the departure of Theo Weber in 2020.

“This is such an exciting opportunity for me, and I’m really looking forward to starting my official roles with the NSO and ASQ,” said Nathan Cook, NSO Principal Cellist. “Many local concert-goers will know that I’ve played a fair bit with the orchestra as a substitute musician, and even as Principal Cellist filling in for Theo for a year a few years ago, but I’m very proud to now become a full-time member of this wonderful organization. I’m also thrilled to join the ASQ and can’t wait to be a part of their performance and outreach projects across the province and beyond.”

The NSO undertook a search process which welcomed local, national and international candidates to apply. Nathan’s audition package, live auditions and interview process demonstrated a great fit with both the orchestra and quartet, and a desire to continue to grow both organizations going forward.

“This is such an exciting opportunity for me, and I can’t wait to get started in my official roles with the NSO and ASQ,” said Nathan Cook, NSO Principal Cellist. “I have spent time over the years working not only with the orchestra as a substitute musician, but also with many of the orchestra musicians on an individual basis. The NSO is a fantastic organization, and I am proud to be able to become a full-time member. The same goes for the ASQ, and I truly look forward to making music and performing with the quartet across the province and beyond.”

Nathan will officially take the stage for the first time as principal cellist during the NSO’s Masterworks 1 concert on September 23, 2022.

For more information please visit: [www.nsomusic.ca](http://www.nsomusic.ca)

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## **BIO**

Cellist **Nathan Cook** has been praised for his “authoritative yet relaxed” playing, his “sweet and pliant” sound, and “the combination of vigor and beauty” in his interpretation (Houston Chronicle). Nathan is a founding member of the Trinitas Chamber Ensemble ([www.trinitasmusic.com](http://www.trinitasmusic.com)) with which he has performed across Canada, in Washington, DC and in numerous venues in the U.S. Midwest. Nathan’s solo, concerto, and chamber performances have been heard regionally and nationally in Canada on CBC Radio, and regionally in the United States on NPR stations in Buffalo, New York; Houston, Texas; and across Iowa.

With wide-ranging interests, Nathan has championed both early music performance and the works of living composers. He was the cellist for and co-Artistic Director of the Hot Earth Ensemble, which from 2008-2015 enriched the music scene in St. John’s with more than 20 concerts of early music involving guest artists from both on and off the island of Newfoundland. At the same time, he has co-commissioned and premiered new chamber works by Clifford Crawley, Andrew Staniland, Karim Al-Zand, Andrew MacDonald, and Andrew Noseworthy.

Originally from Appleton, Wisconsin, Nathan holds an undergraduate degree in chemistry from Grinnell College in Iowa as well as a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Colgate University in New York. He received his masters and doctoral degrees in music at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas where he studied with Norman Fischer. Nathan’s other teachers have included Terry King, Evan Jones, Richard Eckert, Andre Emelianoff and Einar Holm. He currently serves as associate professor of music at Memorial University where he is the coordinator of the chamber music program.