

Teen violinist steps in for injured CSO concertmaster

By Janelle Gelfand | 11:19am EST February 10, 2016



Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra concertmaster Timothy Lees has had to withdraw from his performances as soloist in the Barber Violin Concerto next week due to a physical stress injury, the orchestra announced on Tuesday.

Rising teen violinist Simone Porter will step in to play the Barber Concerto for the concerts conducted by Louis Langrée on Feb. 19 and 20 in Music Hall. Just 19, she has already made debuts with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

The all-American program also includes Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring," which features the Shaker melody "Simple Gifts," Charles Ives' "The Unanswered Question" and Leonard Bernstein's "On the Waterfront" Symphonic Suite.

A native of Seattle, Porter made her professional debut at age 10 with the Seattle Symphony and her international debut with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at age 13. In March 2015, Simone Porter was named a recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant. She made her Carnegie Hall debut on the TV show "From the Top: Live from Carnegie Hall," and appeared in the BBC documentary, "The World's Greatest Musical Prodigies," which aired in the United Kingdom in 2009.

Lees is expected to return to his concertmaster chair by the next subscription concerts on Feb. 26 and 27.