



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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NEGAUNEE FOUNDATION MAKES \$15 MILLION GIFT TO CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

ONE OF LARGEST COMMITMENTS IN CSO HISTORY WILL SUPPORT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS IN PERPETUITY

CSO's Institute For Learning, Access And Training to be Renamed Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) Board of Trustees announced today that the Chicago-based Negaunee Foundation has made a \$15 million gift to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). One of the largest commitments in the institution's 123-year history, it provides both annual operating support and endowment funds to support, in perpetuity, the work of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Institute for Learning, Access and Training, which will be known from now on as the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

The mission of the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO is to create and sustain connections to music for individuals and communities by sharing the extraordinary musical resources of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Through its educational, family and community programs, the Institute engages more than 200,000 children, teens and adults of diverse incomes and backgrounds each year.

Institute programs include concerts for children, families and school groups, such as Once Upon a Symphony and Family Matinees; curricula and programs for teachers and students such as Orchestra Explorers and *Dream Out Loud*; the Civic Orchestra of Chicago—the only pre-professional training ensemble affiliated with a major American orchestra—which offers frequent, free performances at Symphony Center and across Chicago and which celebrates its 95th anniversary this season; and low-cost and free rehearsals and

RICCARDO MUTI
Music Director

JAY L. HENDERSON
Chairman

DEBORAH F. RUTTER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

performances, often led by Music Director Riccardo Muti. The Institute's programs are an important expression of the CSO's commitment to Citizen Musicianship – using the power of music to contribute to our culture, our communities, and the lives of others.

The \$15 million gift from the Negaunee Foundation supports a long-term goal of Riccardo Muti, Music Director of the CSO: to share classical music with more people—especially those who might not otherwise have access to it—and to strengthen the relationship of the CSO with communities. "Performances alone are not enough," Maestro Muti said. "Having a treasure like this Orchestra, we have a responsibility to make it accessible to as many people as possible. This gift will ensure that the talents of the CSO will be shared throughout Chicago and around the world."

Said CSOA President Deborah Rutter, "This commitment to the work of the Institute is truly remarkable. By endowing the work of the Institute in perpetuity, the Negaunee Foundation will significantly increase the CSO's ability to use the power of music to transform and enrich the lives of hundreds of thousands in Greater Chicago and across the globe. The Foundation's generosity will also allow the Institute to become ever more responsive to community needs while sustaining the Institute's longstanding community, education, family and training programs, including the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. We could not be more grateful to Negaunee."

The Negaunee Foundation was created in 1987 to celebrate the arts and education in greater Chicagoland. It has a long history of support for the CSO and the Institute's programs, having been a major donor to the CSO since the early 1990's. Negaunee has been one of the largest annual supporters of the Institute in recent years. The Institute was founded in 2008 to integrate, highlight and expand the CSO's longstanding and wide-ranging education and engagement programs. Since its founding, the Institute has been led by CSOA Vice President Charles Grode with the guidance of the Institute Board.

"Great musicianship and great citizenship are only possible when individuals work toward something bigger than themselves," said CSO Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, Yo-Yo Ma, whose work—since he was appointed in 2010—has focused on the programs of the Institute. "This extraordinary gift from The Negaunee Foundation demonstrates a commitment to both, and ensures that the CSOA can sustain and grow its use of music to contribute positively to our culture, our community and the lives of others. This gift is a testament to the leadership of the CSOA, the exceptional musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Civic Orchestra and the work of the Institute and its Board over the last six years. I am humbled by the generosity of Negaunee and on behalf of the CSOA, incredibly grateful for this support."

CSOA Chairman Jay Henderson said, "When Deborah Rutter became President of the CSOA 11 years ago, she brought with her a commitment and passion for music education, which matched the Negaunee Foundation's focus on early childhood education. Without Deborah's efforts and passion, we might not have developed the Institute to where it stands today, let alone where it will go in the future. I offer my sincere thanks to The Negaunee

Foundation for this incredible gift in support of the Institute's work. Donors like these are critical to the quality of life in our city; the Negaunee gift will ensure that the CSO remains a vibrant organization, not only in presenting extraordinary music but also in increasing access to that music and to the musical resources of the CSO."

More information about the Institute and its programming can be found at www.cso.org/institute or at this link to a PDF of the Institute's latest [Year in Review](#).

In addition to announcing the Negaunee Foundation gift today, the CSOA announced another commitment of \$17 million, from Helen and Sam Zell, to endow the position of Music Director of the CSO in perpetuity. These two commitments are among the largest that the CSO has ever received.

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About the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (cso.org)

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Its music director since 2010 is Riccardo Muti, one of the preeminent conductors of our day. Pierre Boulez is the CSO's Helen Regenstien Conductor Emeritus; Yo-Yo Ma is the CSO's Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant. Mason Bates and Anna Clyne are the CSO's Mead Composers-in-Residence.

The musicians of the CSO annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in downtown Chicago and, in the summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. The CSO frequently tours internationally and occasionally performs in other parts of the U.S. Since its founding in 1891, the Orchestra has made 57 international tours, visiting 28 countries on five continents. At home and on tour, tickets are always in high demand and frequently sold out.

People around the globe enjoy the extraordinary sounds of the Orchestra through broadcasts and webcasts of the weekly CSO Radio program and through CSO Resound, the CSO's own record label. Recordings by the CSO have won 62 Grammy Awards®.

The parent organization for the CSO is the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA). It also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus, directed by Duain Wolfe, and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a pre-professional ensemble conducted by Cliff Colnot. Through a series called Symphony Center Presents, the CSOA brings internationally known guest artists and ensembles from a variety of musical genres—classical, jazz, pop, world, and contemporary—to Chicago.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers a variety of youth, community, and education programs that engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages, incomes and backgrounds. Through the programs of the Institute as well as many other activities, including a free annual CSO concert, the CSOA promotes the concept of Citizen Musicianship: using the power of music to contribute to our culture, our communities and the lives of others.

A nonprofit organization, the CSOA is governed by a voluntary board of trustees and supported by tens of thousands of other volunteers, patrons and corporate, foundation, government, and individual donors.