CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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IMPACT: SHOWCASING EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS OF THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Concert and Fundraising Benefit for Programs of the Negaunee Music Institute Announced for March 15, 2026

CHICAGO — On Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., the Negaunee Music Institute (NMI) at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) presents IMPACT: Showcasing Education & Community Programs of the CSO. This performance and fundraising benefit at Symphony Center features musical performances by extraordinary artists affiliated with the Institute, including musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Percussion Scholarship Program and more.

IMPACT raises funds to support the NMI's innovative education and community programs that reach more than 200,000 people in Chicago and across the world annually. From the Percussion Scholarship Program (PSP), which provides weekly instruction and intensive training to students free of charge, to the Civic Orchestra, which prepares talented emerging professional musicians for orchestral careers, IMPACT spotlights lives transformed by the power of music.

Musicians from the CSO and Civic Orchestra of Chicago open the program with Dvořák's Finale from Serenade for Winds. Conductor Doug Waddell leads PSP students and CSO percussion Patsy Dash in Amandi's Ritmo Bagatello, followed by the students' performance of Zivkovic's Trio per Uno; Dash and Waddell founded the PSP in 1995. Pianist Jeremy Liu — winner of the 2025 Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition — performs Chopin's Etude in A Minor, Op. 25, No. 11 (*Winter Wind*), and students from Chicago Public Schools perform Grieg's Prelude from *Holberg* Suite alongside musicians from the CSO and Civic Orchestra.

MARY LOUISE GORNO *Chair, Board of Trustees* | JEFF ALEXANDER *President*

The program continues with an introduction to Mother Goose and the Cabinet of Wonder, a groundbreaking new project supporting early childhood education that was produced by the CSO and Chicago Children's Theatre with visionary leadership from American singer-songwriter Natalie Merchant, before conductor Ken-David Masur leads the Civic Orchestra in Beethoven's *Egmont* Overture.

A work entitled *Miracle Baby*, performed by the Civic Orchestra, features Leah Dexter on vocals and highlights Notes for Peace, an NMI program in partnership with Purpose Over Pain that uses the therapeutic benefits of music to support families who have lost loved ones to gun violence. The Civic Orchestra also performs arrangements of Zlata Tkach's Doina and *Puisorii* with vocalist Ana Everling, highlighting the NMI's partnership with the Chicago Refugee Coalition. The program concludes with the Civic Orchestra performing Elgar's Finale from *Enigma* Variations. Principal Conductor of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago Ken-David Masur leads the performances.

Event Packages and Sponsorship Opportunities

Event packages and sponsorship contributions grant access to reserved seating and pre- and postconcert festivities, in addition to supporting the CSO's ongoing efforts to educate audiences, train young musicians and serve countless communities.

A preconcert champagne toast at Symphony Center's Forte event space celebrates the NMI's impact. A postconcert celebration dinner, held in Buntrock Hall, recognizes Life Trustee Robert Kohl for his remarkable support and leadership of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association's (CSOA) education and community programs.

Patrons may enhance their experience with two reserved seating options: one Box Level seat or one Lower Balcony seat. Both options include admission to the preconcert toast and the postconcert dinner, as well as name recognition on the IMPACT webpage.

Patrons may also choose to support the IMPACT event through two distinct sponsorship tiers: Platinum and Gold.

- Platinum Sponsorship: This top-tier package includes concert admission with one reserved Box (up to eight seats) and grants access to all pre- and postconcert festivities. Supporters at this level receive name/logo recognition on invitations and event signage, as well as name recognition in the IMPACT program book, on the event webpage and in the event remarks.
- Gold Sponsorship: This package includes concert admission with six Box Level seats and grants access to the pre- and postconcert festivities. Supporters receive name recognition in the IMPACT program book, on the event webpage and in the event remarks.

Ticket Information

Individual concert tickets for IMPACT are free; reservations are required.

Order your tickets or sponsor the event at cso.org/supportIMPACT by March 5.

Patron Information

Contact Patron Services for personalized assistance online at cso.org/contact or by calling 312-294-3000, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

The 2025/26 Civic Orchestra season is generously sponsored by Lori Julian for the Julian Family Foundation, which also provides major funding for the Civic Fellowship program.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago acknowledges support from the Illinois Arts Council.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the world's great orchestras. In April 2024, Klaus Mäkelä was named the Orchestra's 11th music director, and he will begin an initial five-year tenure as Zell Music Director with the 2027/28 Season. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, became Music Director Emeritus for Life at the beginning of the 2023/24 Season. Joyce DiDonato is the CSO Artist-in-Residence for the 2025/26 Season.

The CSO commands a vast repertoire, from baroque through contemporary music. Its renowned musicians perform more than 150 concerts annually, in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center in downtown Chicago and each summer at the Ravinia Festival in suburban Highland Park. The ensemble regularly tours domestically, and since 1892, has made 65 international tours, performing in 30 countries on five continents.

Patrons around the globe enjoy weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings via the WFMT Radio Network and online at **cso.org/radio**. Launched in 2007, **CSO Resound** is the ensemble's Grammy Award-winning independent record label, featuring live performances with world-class conductors and guest artists. Since 1916, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have amassed an extensive discography that has earned 65 Grammy awards from the Recording Academy.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA), which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Symphony Center Presents and Negaunee Music Institute. The **Chicago Symphony Chorus**, founded by Margaret Hillis in 1957, is the country's largest professional chorus. Donald Palumbo is the Director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus. Founded by second music director Frederick Stock during the 1919/20 Season, the **Civic Orchestra of Chicago** is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. **Symphony Center Presents** features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres,

including classical, jazz, world and contemporary. The **Negaunee Music Institute** offers community and educational programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds throughout the Chicagoland area.

Through the Institute and numerous other activities — including annual free community concerts in Chicago neighborhoods — the CSO is committed to using the power of music to strengthen bonds with its longtime patrons and create connections with new audiences.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.