CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES POLICY STATEMENT
2026-27 Season

1. All programs must be submitted by the date listed on the Program Proposal Sheets.

GROUP SELECTION POLICIES:

2. All groups shall be limited to members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with the following exceptions:

   2.1. Keyboard players who are not members of the CSO;
   2.2. Vocalists;
   2.3. Instruments not on the Orchestra roster.

3. Members may perform only on the instrument under which they are listed on the official Chicago Symphony Orchestra roster.

4. All musicians are limited to participation in two groups ONLY, except for cellists who will be allowed to participate in three groups.

5. If more groups apply than the available number of concerts, then each group is given points based on the following criteria:

   5.1. A CSO musician is given one point for each group in which he or she is a participant. A CSO cellist that is listed in three groups will be given two points. Any individual CSO musician eliminated from the series because of the ranking process during the previous season will be given zero points the following year. Non-CSO musicians are given two points each.

   5.2. Totaling the number of points in that group and dividing by the total members in the ensemble (including non-CSO Musicians) then ranks each group.

   5.3. Groups are then listed in lowest to highest order. The eligible groups are selected to equal the number of available concert dates. In the case of a tie at the break off point, a random draw of those tied groups will determine which group(s) is/are eligible.

6. Ensembles should consist of trios, quartets or quintets only. Group Leaders may submit programs with a larger complement of musicians, but those groups will be subject to further review and approval and may not be selected for participation.

7. Ensembles will be selected for eligibility via proposal process. Eligibility (conformity to Policy Statement) will be mutually agreed upon by Staff and Chamber Liaisons.

8. Personnel changes are sometimes impossible to avoid; however, group leaders must replace the absent group member with a musician who is NOT already participating in the series. Last minute personnel changes due to illness or extraordinary causes will be given due consideration by management in consultation with the chamber

music liaisons. All personnel or program changes must be submitted in writing for approval by management.

PROGRAM POLICIES:

9. Preferred program must be submitted for consideration by the date listed on the program proposal form. Should you wish, an alternate program may be submitted. In case of duplications, group leaders will be contacted to discuss possible program changes. In the event the matter is not resolved, management reserves the right to decide which program will be presented as submitted in consultation with the chamber music liaisons. Should any group submit a program not adhering to the Chamber Concert Series Policy Statement (thus jeopardizing the group's eligibility for participation), its group leader will be contacted by the Artistic Department to discuss possible changes. The group leader will be given a reasonable amount of time to conform to the Policy Statement or risk being eliminated from the process.

10. All programs shall consist of works for three or more players. Duo recitals (e.g., violin and piano) will not be permitted.

11. No more than one non-Chicago Symphony musician will be accepted for any group consisting of three players. Up to two non-Chicago Symphony musicians will be accepted for groups consisting of more than three players.

12. No conducted performances will be permitted unless approved by the CSOA President.

13. Any unusual costs (instrument cartage or rental, music rental, etc.) MUST be clearly documented and approved along with the program.

GENERAL POLICIES:

14. In the case of limited seating capacity, Performers may only be provided with 2 (two) complimentary tickets. These tickets will be left at the box office under each musician’s name and can be picked up prior to the performance.

15. Any requests by musicians in a chamber ensemble to record (audio and/or audio-visual) a chamber rehearsal or performance must be approved by all members of the performing group and communicated to the CSOA administration for approval. Media recording and utilization requests must be submitted to the CSOA no later than 30 days prior to the requested recording date.