



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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VIOLINIST ARNOLD BROSTOFF AND TROMBONIST JAMES GILBERTSEN RETIRE FROM CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra announces that violinist Arnold Brostoff and trombonist James Gilbertsen, members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for 47 years and 43 years, respectively, have retired from the Orchestra. An onstage retirement ceremony for each is planned for later this season.

Arnold Brostoff joined the CSO violin section in 1964, having been appointed to his position by then-music director Jean Martinon. A native of Chicago, Brostoff was a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and attended Roosevelt University, studying with Morris Gomberg. He performed briefly with Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops before being drafted and going to Europe, where he played for two years with the Seventh Army Symphony. Upon his return, during the early 1960s, he studied at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, where he was also a member of the Rochester Philharmonic.

Prior to joining the CSO, Brostoff returned to Europe, where he was a member of the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and concertmaster of the Northwest German Orchestra. He met his wife, Ruth, on one of his many trips to Europe and they have three grown children. Outside of the CSO, Brostoff conducted the Skokie Valley Youth Symphony and has performed extensively around the Chicagoland area, including in schools, clubs and chamber ensembles. His final performance with the CSO was in Vienna on September 6, 2011, at the conclusion of the Orchestra's recent European tour.

James Gilbertsen joined the CSO in 1968, appointed by acting music director Irwin Hoffman. He first heard the CSO when attending a concert with his father, and later attended Northwestern University where he studied with Frank Crisafulli.

Before joining the CSO in 1968, Gilbertsen served as principal trombone in the Florida Symphony Orchestra in Orlando. He also performs in ensemble groups in schools, churches, and retirement homes throughout the Chicago area. His final performance as a member of the Orchestra was on October 4, 2011.

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