



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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**\*\* MEDIA STATEMENT \*\***

"The Trustees of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) are disappointed that the Chicago Symphony Orchestra musicians -- represented by the Chicago Federation of Musicians -- have given notice they intend to strike after 11 months of thoughtful negotiations. The Board is passionate about helping ensure that our world-class city has a world-class orchestra, and our commitment to the art form and the artistic quality of the CSO is as strong as ever.

As Board members we are responsible for the financial well-being of the Association that governs the orchestra, not only in the present, but well into the future so that Chicago has a symphony for future generations. It is for these reasons that we believe we must secure both the musicians' future and that of the Association's by updating our pension structure and agreeing on a complete compensation package that is sustainable. It would be irresponsible for the Board to continue to authorize a pension program that jeopardizes the Orchestra's future.

We remain committed to the success and long-term health of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra so that future generations may experience its magnificent performances and educational activities. We look forward to the eventual resolution to a new contract for our musicians, and we appreciate the tremendous support the Orchestra receives from corporate, foundation and individual donors and the patrons who share our love of inspirational symphonic music."

--CSOA Board Chair Helen Zell

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Zell Music Director

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