



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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DAVID CHAMBERS NAMED VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

CHICAGO—Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) President Jeff Alexander announces the appointment of David Chambers as the new Vice President for Development, effective October 23, 2017. Chambers, a 25-year veteran arts administrator, has been serving as Chief Development Officer of the Houston Symphony Orchestra since November 2011.

In his role at the CSOA, Chambers will serve as a member of the senior management team and lead a department of professional fundraisers working collaboratively with volunteers to secure more than \$30 million annually in operating and endowment support for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Chorus, the Symphony Center Presents series, and a wide variety of education and community engagement activities supported by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO. He will also be the staff liaison to the Nominating and Governance and Development Committees of the CSOA's Board of Trustees and support the activities of the CSOA's Governing Members, League, Women's Board, Overture Council, Latino Alliance and African American Network.

In addition to these responsibilities, Chambers will be personally responsible for a portfolio of top donors and prospects and will also support the CSOA's President and Board of Trustees in developing strategies and implementing campaigns to achieve short and long-term fundraising goals for the CSOA.

In announcing Chambers' appointment, Alexander said, "I am very pleased to welcome David to the CSOA family. David draws on a wealth of professional experiences with proven success at major cultural institutions in Melbourne, Sydney and Houston. He is well-regarded among members of the cultural community and demonstrates a clear enthusiasm and passion for orchestral music and the significant and meaningful impact a symphony orchestra can have on its community. I look forward to working with David and having him serve in this important leadership position."

RICCARDO MUTI
Zell Music Director

HELEN ZELL
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

“It is an honor and a privilege for me to be joining a cultural organization with such a distinguished artistic legacy as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra,” Chambers noted. “Even before continuing my career in the arts in the U.S., the incredible artistry and reputation of this Orchestra was familiar to me as a listener in Australia. The organization’s history of generous and dedicated patrons is equally remarkable and something that has made the CSO strong for more than 126 years. It is an exciting time to be coming on board to contribute to the future of this extraordinary cultural institution. I look forward to supporting the artistic and community ambitions of Maestro Riccardo Muti, Jeff Alexander, Board, Orchestra and administration team of the CSOA in my new role.”

Chambers joins the CSOA after serving as Chief Development Officer for the Houston Symphony Orchestra since November 2011 and also as Interim Co-Executive Director since August 2017. During his tenure there, contributed annual operating support has increased by more than 50 percent and membership in the Houston Symphony’s planned giving society increased by more than 70 percent. Chambers also worked with Board and Administrative leadership to complete a number of significant fundraising initiatives and challenge grants connected to a Sustainability Fund, the Houston Symphony Endowment and special funding that supports the growth and ambition outlined in the Houston Symphony’s 10-year strategic plan. He has also overseen 10 record-breaking special events over a six-year period. From 2003 to 2011, Chambers held a variety of positions with Houston Grand Opera (HGO) including the role of Director of Institutional Giving from 2006-2011. In that role, Chambers managed a portfolio of key donors, strengthened the institutional giving program and served as a lead fundraiser for the innovative “Song of Houston” commissioning and engagement project, which resulted in five world premieres while he was with HGO. These new works were implemented by HGO’s nationally-recognized education and community engagement department.

Before coming to the U.S., Chambers held a variety of arts management and communications positions with several of Australia’s top cultural organizations including Opera Australia, the Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition.

Chambers holds a Bachelor of Business degree from the Victoria University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia. A classically-trained musician, Chambers studied clarinet, cello and piano and sang in boys’ choirs throughout his school years. Chambers is married to Alex Steffler, who is pursuing a master’s degree in social work at the University of Houston and completing an internship at Houston Methodist Hospital in 2018 before joining Chambers in Chicago.

CSOA President Jeff Alexander was assisted in this search by Marian Alexander DeBerry, Kris McFeely, and Joseph Scheiber of Campbell & Co., and CSOA Board Chair Helen Zell, Vice Chair Mary Lou Gorno, current and past Development Committee Chairs John Aalbrecht and Joseph Konen and the CSOA’s Director of Human Resources Lynne Sorkin.

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The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: www.cso.org and www.csosoundsandstories.org

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the preeminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Yo-Yo Ma is the CSO’s Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, and Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek are its Mead Composers-in-Residence.

From baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast repertoire. Its renowned musicians annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally. Since 1892, the CSO has made 60 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

People around the globe listen to weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT radio network and online at cso.org/radio. Recordings by the CSO have earned 62 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti's recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* (Muti's first of eight releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at www.cso.org/resound.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a training ensemble for emerging professionals. Through its prestigious Symphony Center Presents series, the CSOA presents guest artists and ensembles from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, world, and contemporary.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers community and education programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, including a free annual concert led by Muti, the CSO is committed to using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.