



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

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News

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CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION REVIEWS ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 127th SEASON AND ANNOUNCES OPERATING RESULTS

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) released the results of fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018) at its Annual Meeting on October 16, 2018, at Symphony Center. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra marked its 127th season in 2017/18 with a number of significant artistic achievements and moments of community engagement, as well as record-breaking ticket sales, according to Helen Zell, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and CSOA President Jeff Alexander, who presented the artistic and financial highlights of the season. During the business portion of the meeting, eight new CSOA Trustees were elected to three-year terms and officers of the CSOA board were re-elected, including Helen Zell as Board Chair.

"The 2017/18 season was a wonderful example of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association's profound impact as a cultural leader," said CSOA Board Chair Helen Zell. "With artistic excellence as their hallmark, our Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra continued to serve as ambassadors for the transformative power of music in the City of Chicago and on the U.S. West and East coasts last season. In January, we were extremely pleased to announce that Riccardo Muti would be extending his contract with us through August 2022, allowing the unique artistic combination of Muti and the musicians of the CSO to reach new artistic heights and levels of influence. Strong support for this great Orchestra makes it possible to continue our work to connect audiences in our community, online and across the world with the extraordinary musical resources of the CSO. I would like to express my gratitude to our music director, musicians, patrons, staff, donors and volunteers for their renewed commitment to the CSO during the past year."

"Throughout the 127th season, Riccardo Muti and our extraordinary musicians demonstrated their exceptional artistry and deep commitment to providing access for all audiences in our community and beyond," added CSOA President Jeff Alexander. "As our Orchestra engages with audiences in a variety of settings I meet individuals from all walks of life who are enriched by our wide range of programs and activities. All of these activities are accomplished through the inspired dedication, artistry and skill of our music director and musicians; the support of our Trustees and loyal donors; the continued enthusiasm of our patrons and our staff; and I know

RICCARDO MUTI
Zell Music Director

HELEN ZELL
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

that this continued partnership will ensure a bright future for our great Chicago Symphony Orchestra.”

During the 2017/18 season, the CSOA presented 443 programs including concerts, community events and educational activities with the number of free programs growing to 224, up from 200 in the previous year. The season included a noteworthy 63 sold-out concerts, three world premieres of CSO commissions by Pulitzer Prize-winner Jennifer Higdon, CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek and CSO Viola Max Raimi (all led by Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti), subscription concerts that marked the 60th anniversary of the Chicago Symphony Chorus and special programs to mark the 20th season of the MusicNOW contemporary music series. The CSO’s Latino Alliance marked its sixth year, growing its membership by 24% to 343 active members, and the African American Network reached a total membership of more than 1,800 individuals in its second year. Audiences beyond Chicago accessed the programs of the CSO through radio broadcasts, recordings, tours and online platforms.

In 2017/18, digital audiences connected to the activities of the CSO via social media platforms in larger numbers. Facebook followers grew to 205,102, an increase of approximately 12%, Twitter followers reached 75,000, an increase of 4% and Instagram followers grew to more than 66,625, an increase of approximately 25%, which was sparked by a greater volume and variety of content on this popular platform. The number of CSOA-produced videos also increased last season, expanding to more than 100. These included new Video Program Notes for virtually all of the CSO’s 32 subscription programs, customized promotional videos for CSO and SCP concert programs and original interview content with CSO musicians, as well as CSO and SCP guest artists. This expanded suite of video content choices attracted more than 3 million views on Facebook during the 2017/18 season. In addition, the CSO’s performance of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 led by Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti continued to build its total views to date, surpassing 13 million views on YouTube at the end of the 2017/18 season.

At the close of the 2017/18 season, nearly 11,000 individuals gave support to the CSO through philanthropy. Of those, 9,284 contributed to unrestricted support, including 2,708 individuals who contributed to the CSOA for the first time.

Ticket Sales and Earned Revenue for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

- Ticket sales totaled nearly \$23.3 million—\$1.1 million growth over the 2016/17 season for CSOA-presented events. The 2017/18 ticket sales included 63 sold out concerts and record ticket revenues for the CSO at the Movies series of \$561,000, a 21% increase over the previous year.
- Revenue from the CSO’s annual three-concert series at Wheaton College grew by 12% to \$308,000 and attracted 1,402 subscribers representing an 4% increase from the previous season. The series also included a sold-out performance on March 16 led by Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti.

- More than 347,000 tickets were sold for 219 ticketed concerts.
- The CSO Main series subscription renewal rate in FY18 was 86%, one of the highest rates for a major U.S. orchestra.
- In addition to ticket revenue, other revenue of \$10.2 million included tour fees, merchandise sales, space rentals, royalties, recording fees and miscellaneous activities.
- Approximately 437,000 people attended CSOA performances and presentations at Symphony Center and in other venues in the greater Chicago area last season including Edman Memorial Chapel at Wheaton College and St. Sabina Church. There were 224 free events that included CSO open rehearsals for students, seniors and community groups; All-Access chamber music concerts at Symphony Center and in three venues on Chicago's South Side; Chicago Youth in Music Festival events; partnership events with Chicago Public Schools; and programs for at-risk and incarcerated youth as well as the annual free CSO Community Concert at Lane Tech High School in Chicago's Roscoe Village neighborhood; Civic Orchestra of Chicago performances and chamber music performances by CSO and Civic musicians in neighborhoods across the city.

** Figures exclude CSO concerts at Ravinia Festival or on tour anywhere outside the Chicago area.*

Contributed Revenues for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

- Overall, during the 2017/18 season, support for general operating, endowment, future year operating support and unrealized commitments totaled \$42.7 million.
- General operating support to the CSO was \$24.5 million. This total included approximately \$17.3 million in gifts from individuals, more than \$4.6 million from corporate sponsorships and partnerships, more than \$2 million in grants from foundations and government agencies, and \$500,000 from unrestricted bequests in direct support of the CSO's operations.

Financial Information for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

- Operating revenues totaled \$72.7 million.
- Operating expenses totaled \$73.7 million, resulting in an operating deficit of \$0.9 million, an improvement of more than \$0.5 million over fiscal year 2017.

Endowment

- The value of endowment investments increased to \$303 million.

Total Assets

- Total assets at year-end were \$508.8 million, and net assets were \$291.2 million, continuing to provide the foundation for artistic excellence, audience development and engagement and education initiatives.

Artistic Highlights for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

In remarks that recapped artistic highlights of the 2017/18 season, CSOA President Jeff Alexander underlined the impact of programs led by Riccardo Muti which featured wide-ranging repertoire by composers such as Bruckner, Cherubini, Copland, Dvořák, Mozart, Penderecki, Rossini, Schubert, Shostakovich and the American Pulitzer Prize-winning composer George Walker (1922-2018), as well as world premieres of new music by Jennifer Higdon, CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek and CSO violist Max Raimi.

At the beginning of the Orchestra's 127th season Muti led programs that showcased the brilliant artistry of violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, who performed Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in subscription concerts and Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5 for the annual Symphony Ball program. Muti's opening residency also included Rossini's *William Tell* Overture to launch a season-long commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the composer's death, a return to the symphonies of Anton Bruckner with a performance of his Symphony No. 4 (*Romantic*) and the world premiere of *All These Lighted Things* by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek. The works on this program were also part of the Orchestra's tour programs in Kansas City and on the West Coast in October 2017, a tour that included the Orchestra's debut at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

In November, Muti returned for a residency that included the CSO's annual, free Concert for Chicago, this year performed for a standing-room-only audience at Lane Tech High School in Chicago's Roscoe Village. November subscription concerts included performances of the Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1 with celebrated pianist Kirill Gerstein, as well as the CSO's first performance of Puccini's *Preludio sinfonico* and a rare performance of Strauss' *Le bourgeois gentilhomme*, which featured standout performances by Gerstein and CSO Principal players including Concertmaster Robert Chen and Principal Cello John Sharp.

The world-premiere performances of the CSO's co-commissioned Low Brass Concerto by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon in February 2018 featured the Orchestra's extraordinary musicians of the low brass section including Principal Trombone Jay Friedman, Trombone Michael Mulcahy, Bass Trombone Charlie Vernon and Principal Tuba Gene Pokorny. These performances, led by Muti, were followed by additional performances of the work at Carnegie Hall and in venues in Florida and North Carolina as part of the Orchestra's critically-hailed East Coast Tour that included the Orchestra's first appearance in Washington, D.C., at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts since 2005, and performances in Florida that marked the first of the Orchestra's multi-year commitment to return to communities in Naples and West Palm Beach.

The 2017/18 season also marked the 60th anniversary of the Chicago Symphony Chorus and included performances of significant choral repertoire with Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti such as Schubert's Mass No. 6 in E-flat in anticipation of Holy Week and the June season finale performances of Rossini's Stabat mater, the Orchestra's first performances of the landmark work since 1972 in Orchestra Hall and 1994 at the Ravinia Festival that featured internationally acclaimed soloists including Krassimira Stoyanova, Dmitry Korchak, Eric Owens and Ekaterina Gubanova.

In his other subscription weeks, Muti collaborated with noteworthy soloists to perform a diverse range of repertoire including Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* with distinguished actor John Malkovich, Debussy's Sacred and Profane Dances with CSO Principal Harp Sarah Bullen, Mozart's Sinfonia concertante with CSO Concertmaster Robert Chen and viola soloist Paul Neubauer, as well as Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 2 with the CSO's Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, on a program that also included performances of Prokofiev's Third Symphony. This June program of all-Russian works with Muti and Ma was also a focal point of the 2018 national conference of the League of American Orchestras, attended by more than 1,300 delegates from orchestras across the country and hosted by the CSOA.

Several conductors shared their artistry as soloists and conductors with the Orchestra in the 2017/18 season including pianist Andras Schiff and violinist Nikolai Znaider, as well as Giovanni Antonini in his CSO debut as conductor and as a flautino soloist in an all-Baroque program. Other highlights of subscription programs included the solo debut of CSO Principal Bassoon Keith Buncke in the Mozart Bassoon Concerto; the subscription debut of Venezuelan conductor Rafael Payare leading the Orchestra in Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story* as part of a season-long Bernstein at 100 celebration; and Academy Award-winning composer John Williams leading four sold-out performances of his orchestral and film music. The program with John Williams was one of three programs in the CSO at the Movies series, which reached a record ticket revenue of \$561,000, and also included presentations of *Singin' in the Rain* and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Film programming featuring the CSO also capped the 2017/18 season in June with three sold-out SCP Special Concert presentations of *Star Wars: A New Hope*.

Several conductors made significant returns to the podium in the 2017/18 season including Herbert Blomstedt leading symphonies of Mozart and Beethoven; Austrian conductor and Pittsburgh Symphony Music Director Manfred Honeck leading Mahler's Symphony No. 5; and Esa-Pekka Salonen leading critically-hailed performances of Mahler's Symphony No. 9, as well as subscription concerts with pianist Mitsuko Uchida and a special concert to mark the finale of the 20th season of the CSO's contemporary music series featuring the world premiere of a MusicNOW-commissioned violin concerto by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Samuel Adams with soloist Karen Gomyo.

As co-curators of the MusicNOW series, CSO Mead Composers-in-Residence Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek completed their very successful three-year tenure last season leading a

special celebration of the 20th season of the contemporary music series. Launching with an opening concert that featured works by seven of the CSO's composers-in-residence, the series went on to present the world premiere of American composer Amy Beth Kirsten's *Savior*, inspired by the life and death of Joan of Arc, as well as a special innovative concept of short performances of works by contemporary American composers in the galleries of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Symphony Center Presents (SCP) programming during the 2017/18 season featured exceptional artists and musical artistry through its Piano, Chamber Music, Orchestras and Jazz series, as well as a number of Special Concerts.

The SCP Piano series presented the much-anticipated return of pianist Evgeny Kissin in recital, as well as a special appearance by Polish pianist Piotr Anderszewski and debuts for Lucas Debargue and Martin Helmchen. The SCP Orchestras series welcomed the Marinsky Orchestra and its dynamic artistic leader Valery Giergev for a program of Shostakovich, Prokofiev and Strauss along with the return to Symphony Center of the Minnesota Orchestra after an absence of 50 years. The SCP Chamber Music series attracted enthusiastic audiences for presentations including a program of all the Brahms piano trios with the all-star ensemble of pianist Emanuel Ax, cellist Yo-Yo Ma and violinist Leonidas Kavakos and a program of piano quintets featuring the Emerson String Quartet with pianist Evgeny Kissin.

The SCP Jazz series welcomed Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for a multi-day residency that included a Jazz for Young People program and special concert with keyboardist/vocalist Jon Batiste. Other series highlights included a night of Afro-Cuban keyboard fireworks with pianists Chucho Valdez and Gonzalo Rubalcaba; a double bill with the Bill Charlap Trio and Grammy Award-winning vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant performing music of iconic American composer Leonard Bernstein during his centennial year; and a thrilling season finale with the Count Basie Orchestra and vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater with her recent *Memphis* project.

SCP Special Concerts represented a wide range of programs including a unique evening of literature and chamber music featuring Chicago native and award winning actor and comedian Bill Murray and cellist Jan Vogler, the annual Chinese New Year concert featuring the Chongquin Chuanju Opera Theatre, a special appearance by pianist Herbie Hancock and a first-ever Symphony Center appearance for Spanish-born Flamenco singer Diego El Cigala

Educational and engagement activities for 2017/18 were produced by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO and included 224 free events connecting young musicians, students and community members to the musical resources of the CSO.

These events took place at Symphony Center, in schools and community venues across Chicago and on tour. Institute programming included an interactive recital for more than 50 young men and women at the Illinois Youth Center in Warrenville featuring performances by Riccardo Muti with singers from Lyric Opera's Ryan Opera Center, as well as CSO musicians;

open rehearsals with the Civic Orchestra led by Riccardo Muti and Emmanuel Krivine; a special Civic Orchestra residency at DePauw University with Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma; the annual Youth in Music Festival including a side-by-side rehearsal with Civic Orchestra musicians and young musicians from three community music schools led by the CSO's Solti Conducting Apprentice Erina Yashima; the annual Bach Marathon with participation by Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, musicians of the Civic Orchestra and Merit School of Music; and intensive partnerships with 40 schools and community organizations from across the city. In 2017/18, the Institute produced 36 School and Family concerts reaching more than 33,000 audience members and featured collaborations with the Field Museum and the Joffrey Academy of Dance. In addition, the popular Once Upon a Symphony program traveled to West Palm Beach, Florida for the first time as part of the CSO's 2018 East Coast tour activities. The Institute also organized a second Concert for Peace at St. Sabina Church with participation by Yo-Yo Ma, as well as musicians of the CSO and Civic Orchestra and Chicago Children's Choir. Part of the Negaunee Music Institute's larger "Initiative for a More Peaceful Chicago," this year's Concert for Peace attracted another capacity audience with a program that included songs created with parents from the Purpose over Pain organization, which supports families who have lost loved ones to gun violence.

CSOA Trustees, Governing Members and Officers Elected

- Eight new CSOA Trustees were elected to three-year terms: Peter J. Barack, Founding and Senior Partner in Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP; H. Rigel Barber, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of JMP Realty Corporation; Timothy A. Duffy, attorney at the Law Office of Timothy A. Duffy, P.C. and Vice President of CeresNexus LLC; J. Bradley Fewell, Senior Vice President of Security, Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel at Exelon Generation; Graham C. Grady, Partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP; Dr. Randall S. Kroszner, Norman R. Bobins Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business; Dr. Mohan Rao, Chief Executive Officer of Epsilon Economics LLC; Daniel E. Sullivan, Jr., Managing Director, Head of Private Banking, CIBC Private Wealth Management.
- Two new CSOA Life Trustees were also elected: Joyce Taglauer Green, philanthropist and co-founder of the Judson and Joyce Green Center for the Performing Arts, DePauw University; and David Hackett, Partner, Baker & McKenzie, LLP.
- Seventeen Trustees were re-elected to additional 3-year terms, and 43 new Governing Members were installed. Special acknowledgement was given to 30 individuals who have served on the CSOA Board of Trustees for 30 years or more.
- The following individuals were elected as officers of the CSOA: Helen Zell, Chair; Mary Louise Gorno, Robert A. Kohl and Liisa Thomas, Vice Chairs; and James W. Mabie, Treasurer.
- A moment of silence was observed for those trustees who passed away during the 2017/18 season: Cherif Bassiouni and Richard L. Gray.

- New donors now listed on the CSOA's donor wall were recognized in remarks by CSOA Board Chair Helen Zell.

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 pre-eminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Yo-Yo Ma is the Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-in-Residence and Erina Yashima is the Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice.

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.