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SIX CSO MUSICIANS TO RECEIVE THEODORE THOMAS MEDALLION

CHICAGO—Six recently retired Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) musicians will receive the Theodore Thomas Medallion for Distinguished Service during the 2019–20 season. Named for Theodore Thomas (1835–1905), the Orchestra’s founder and first music director, the medallion is presented to retiring musicians in recognition of outstanding service in the Orchestra.

The following CSO musicians will receive the Theodore Thomas Medallion this season:

John Bartholomew, viola, was appointed in 1980 by music director Sir Georg Solti. Prior to his CSO appointment, he attended the Cleveland Institute of Music and was a member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic from 1976 until 1980. Bartholomew retired from the CSO in October 2019.

Originally from Tacoma, Washington, Roger Cline, bass, was appointed in 1973 by Sir Georg Solti. An accomplished woodworker, he also makes percussion instruments that are used by the CSO and other orchestras throughout the world, and he was a longtime member of the Chicago Symphony Members Committee. Cline retired from the CSO in September 2018.

Richard Graef was appointed assistant principal flute in 1968 by Jean Martinon. A member of the Grammy Award–winning chamber ensemble Chicago Pro Musica, he also is on faculty at Roosevelt University’s Chicago College of Performing Arts. Graef retired from the CSO in September 2019.

Seattle native Michael Hovnanian, bass, was appointed in 1989 by Sir Georg Solti. Throughout his time with the CSO, he was an active participant in the chamber music series at Orchestra Hall and the Art Institute of Chicago. Hovnanian retired from the CSO in September 2019.
Born in Washington, D.C., Daniel Orbach, viola, was appointed in 1988 by Sir Georg Solti. Prior to coming to Chicago, he was assistant principal viola of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, as well as principal viola of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and New York City Opera Orchestra. Orbach retired from the CSO in September 2017.

Originally from Rochester, New York, Jonathan Pegis, cello, was appointed by Sir Georg Solti in 1986. During his tenure, he was a regular performer on the chamber music series and served on the faculty at Northwestern University. Pegis retired from the CSO in September 2018.

The Theodore Thomas Medallion for Distinguished Service is historically presented to all retiring members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Suspended on a black and red ribbon, the face of the medal has an engraved likeness of Theodore Thomas, the founder and first music director of the Orchestra. The name of the recipient is inscribed on the back. The Theodore Thomas Medallion also carries an honorarium, both of which are made possible through an endowment from an anonymous donor.

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The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org and 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. Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-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 61 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.