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Press Contacts:
Eileen Chambers
312-294-3092

CRISTINA ROCCA TO RETURN AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR ARTISTIC PLANNING AT THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CHICAGO—Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) President Jeff Alexander announced today that Cristina Rocca will return to the organization as Vice President for Artistic Planning, the Richard and Mary L. Gray Chair, effective June 28, 2021 after previously holding the position from March 2015 through October 2020. Rocca most recently served as Artistic Director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) during the 2020/21 season.

In returning to her role as Vice President for Artistic Planning, Rocca will create and implement artistic programming plans for the CSOA, working closely with Chicago Symphony Orchestra Music Director Riccardo Muti to develop innovative programs and engage guest artists for all concerts performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and the Chicago Symphony Chorus locally, nationally and internationally. In addition, Rocca will oversee the CSOA Artistic Department and its programming activities that feature a wide variety of musical genres—classical, jazz, world, and contemporary—annually offered as part of the CSOA’s prestigious presenting series, Symphony Center Presents, and in the CSO’s contemporary music series, MusicNOW.

“Having worked in partnership with Cristina Rocca for over five years, I know what tremendous creativity, dedication and commitment she brings to her work and how professionally she represents the organization,” noted CSOA President Jeff Alexander. “I am extremely pleased to welcome her back to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association in this important senior management position.”

“I am very happy that it will be possible to work together again with Cristina Rocca,” said Riccardo Muti. “I have known her well for many years and am proud of the work we have done together in Chicago. She is a person of great experience who has shown a significant commitment to the musicians of the Orchestra. I look forward to her becoming part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra family again.”

“I am deeply grateful to Maestro Riccardo Muti, Jeff Alexander and all of my colleagues in Chicago, said Rocca. “They have offered me the extraordinary opportunity to return to work with one of the great orchestras in the world today. It is a privilege and honor to be part of this organization and I am extremely focused on how we will begin to share the joy of live music-making once again with our loyal audiences and the wider community in the months ahead.”

Originally from Bologna, Italy, Rocca has held artistic planning positions at the Orchestre National de
France; Cleveland Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, Bournemouth Symphony and Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. Her artistic accomplishments were also recognized in March 2020, when she was named Chevalier de l’Ordre National de la Légion d’Honneur by the French President.

The Vice President of Artistic Planning, the Richard and Mary L. Gray Chair, is the only administrative position at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association that is endowed.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org and experience.cso.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 62 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 63 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 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 (Ken-David Masur, Principal Conductor), 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.