DEAR CSO FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

The 2017/18 season was a wonderful example of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association's profound impact as a cultural leader. With artistic excellence as their hallmark, Riccardo Muti and the talented Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra continued to endear themselves wherever they performed—from their handsome Burnham home at 220 South Michigan Avenue to the north, south, and west sides of the city and beyond.

Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti has won over audiences through his music-making as well as his demonstrated commitment to sharing classical music with a broad audience since his appointment in 2010. A great example of this from last season was the standing room only, free, community concert at Lane Tech High School in November. Later, in January, we were extremely pleased to announce that Maestro Muti would be extending his contract through 2022 with the promise of continuing to bring the CSO to ever-higher levels of achievement and influence.

Serving as ambassadors for the City of Chicago, Muti and the Orchestra toured both coasts last season. Their reputation preceded them at every location, and they surpassed expectations in performance. Emblematic of the belief that the power of art is timeless, three recent CSO commissions were programmed alongside pillars of the symphonic repertoire on these tours. It is a tremendous undertaking when the Orchestra travels, but one well worth the effort in order to share the artistry of the CSO with new and eager audiences.

There are numerous examples of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association making efforts to reflect the community it serves. The continued growth of the African American Network and Latino Alliance represent strong steps in creating a future for classical music through the sharing of unforgettable musical experiences. The CSOA also had the opportunity to represent its strengths to the symphonic community by hosting the League of American Orchestras Conference in June. We put our best foot forward providing a capstone discussion with Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma and a powerful performance at Symphony Center by the CSO, Muti, and Ma. To see our orchestra represent Chicago so compellingly and eloquently is a great source of pride.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many advocates of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, who have channeled their passion for music into meaningful support. The Trustees, Governing Members, Women’s Board, the League, and the Overture Council are models through their leadership and gifts, and the generosity of donors, foundations, corporations, sponsors, and patrons is equally essential to the life of the CSO. I also extend my thanks to our accomplished staff led by President Jeff Alexander for facilitating all that takes place at Symphony Center and beyond.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association represents not only the best in classical music performance but also the best in cultural leadership and advocacy. As you review this report, notice the many ways the CSOA affects the lives of our community and makes a strong case for its enduring place in our society.

HELEN ZELL
Chair, Board of Trustees
Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

DEAR FRIENDS,

The artistic excellence demonstrated in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s 127th season resonated with a broad cultural audience. As a whole, the season curated by Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti represented diverse compositional styles that spanned five centuries in over 170 performances.

Maestro Muti opened the season with violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, who performed Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto on subscription concerts and Mozart’s Fifth Violin Concerto at the annual Symphony Ball. His ten weeks of subscription concerts continued with his exploration of Bruckner’s symphonies (Symphony no. 4), the premiere of CSO viola and composer Max Raimi’s Three Lisel Mueller Settings; concert performances by CSO concertmaster Robert Chen, principal harp Sarah Bullen, and the low brass section in the world premiere of a concerto by Jennifer Higdon, a concert featuring George Walker’s Lyric for Strings and Copland’s iconic Lincoln Portrait narrated by John Malkovich; remarkable performances of Prokofiev’s Third Symphony and Shostakovich’s Second Cello Concerto with Yo-Yo Ma; and celebrations of composer anniversaries, including a season-long commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Rossini’s death, which culminated in the season finale performances of his Stabat mater. As passionate advocates of the civic value of arts and culture, Muti and the CSO also gave a free community concert at the Lane Tech College Prep High School. Each performance was delivered with the signature beauty, nuance, and depth for which the Muti/CSO combination has come to be known.

As part of our history of representing Chicago across the country and around the world, Maestro Muti led the Orchestra on two major U.S. tours. In October, the Orchestra performed in Kansas City, Missouri, and toured California, playing eight concerts, including a three-concert residency in Berkeley; performances in Costa Mesa, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles for its debut at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. In February, Muti took the Orchestra on an East Coast tour, including two performances at Carnegie Hall; a return to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.; and concerts in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and Naples and West Palm Beach, Florida. Again, Maestro emphasized the importance of supporting new music by programming commissions by both CSO Mead Composers-in-Residence and Higdon’s Low Brass Concerto on tour. Additionally, members of the Orchestra and Muti took time from their busy travel schedules on tour to engage with members of the community in hospitals, schools, and civic centers.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association also celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the Chicago Symphony Chorus. Since 1957, the Chorus has made it possible for the CSO to expand its musical offerings both on stage and through many acclaimed recordings. Their performances of Poulenc’s Gloria, Ravel’s Daphnis and Chloe, Schubert’s Mass No. 5, and Rossini’s Stabat mater, among others, were highlights of the season.

Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek completed their final season as Mead Composers-in-Residence. Their creativity and enthusiasm for the contemporary MusicNOW series made its twentieth season particularly memorable with a concert conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen, an evening of contemporary music at the Art Institute of Chicago, the premiere of Amy Beth Kirster’s Savior, and an opening anniversary concert featuring works by seven of the CSO’s former composers-in-residence.

Under the visionary leadership of Riccardo Muti and Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra created opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds. Its programs reached 45,000 students, teachers, and families and provided training to more than a thousand young musicians. Highlights of the season included a special Concert for Peace at St. Sabina Church on the South Side of Chicago performed by members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and Yo-Yo Ma; the CSO Youth in Music Festival; the Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition; the concerts and activities of the Civic Orchestra; and a particularly dynamic School and Family Matinee concert series, featuring collaborations with the Field Museum and Joffrey Academy of Dance.

The Symphony Center Presents series drew strong audience numbers through its wide-ranging programs performed by visiting soloists and ensembles. The SCP Chamber Music series was truly outstanding, culminating in a performance by pianist Evgeny Kissin and the Emerson String Quartet. The SCP Jazz and Piano series underlined their commitment to today’s most exceptional jazz artists and classical pianists in ten outstanding concerts respectively. In addition, the CSO at the Movies series lured new attendance records with the Orchestra celebrating its long relationship with John Williams in concerts conducted by the composer and featuring his beloved film scores.

With the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at its core, the mission of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association is to enrich, inspire, and transform lives through music, community engagement, and education—locally, nationally, internationally. All of our accomplishments, including over 200 ticketed and 200 free concerts and events, are possible because of the inspired dedication, artistry, and skill of our music director and musicians; the support of our Trustees, Governing Members, and volunteer associations; and loyal donors, patrons, and staff members who support the CSOA’s mission.

In closing, please enjoy this reflection of an incredible year of music making and community engagement that allowed the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to inspire near and far.

Sincerely,

JEFF ALEXANDER
President
Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association
**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Just as we strive for continued excellence in our artistic offerings, we also strive to continue to improve our financial picture to one that can sustain the quality of our orchestra and programming for generations to come. This is a key strategic objective of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.

Our financial results for fiscal year 2018 represent a step forward on this path. Total operating revenues increased by almost $2 million to $72.7 million, helped by our best year ever in ticket sales at $23.3 million. Significant philanthropic support of $24.5 million provided critical support for our operations. These enhancements to our revenues slightly more than offset modest cost increases, which were primarily a result of investments made in artistic and operational initiatives. We ended the fiscal year with an operating deficit of $0.9 million, an improvement of over $0.5 million versus last year.

The Association benefits greatly from the generosity of our donors through gifts to our endowment, and we manage our investment portfolios throughout the year to achieve solid risk-adjusted returns. During fiscal year 2018, our endowment, other investments and beneficial interest in trusts grew to $379 million. In addition, we made an optional prepayment on a portion of our long-term bonds, the first step toward a significant reduction of our long-term debt balance over the next several years. As a result of the growth in our assets and the reductions in our liabilities, our net assets increased by $24 million to $291 million.

In many ways, the enhanced results in this fiscal year set the stage for our longer-term goals. Through the activities outlined in a robust new strategic plan, the Association is committed to a multi-pronged strategy to strengthen the financial foundation of this world-class organization that enriches the lives of so many people locally, nationally and internationally. We will continue to build our audiences and operating revenues by providing an unrivaled musical experience, grow our donor base and enhance our stewardship activities to increase operating and endowment support, and carefully manage our costs. We appreciate your continued involvement with, and support of, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association as we look with optimism toward a bright future.

**JAMES W. MABIE**  
Treasurer, Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association

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**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

[ALL DOLLAR FIGURES IN THOUSANDS]

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<th>FOR THE YEAR ENDED</th>
<th>June 30, 2018</th>
<th>June 30, 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Operating Revenue and Support</td>
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<td>Endowment, Other Investments, Beneficial Interest in Trusts</td>
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<td>Net Assets</td>
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**CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June 30, 2018</th>
<th>June 30, 2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ticket Sales</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Number of Concerts*</td>
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<td>221</td>
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<td>Paid Admission</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free to the Public</td>
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<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes CSO, Symphony Center Presents, and Institute events, does not include CSO performances presented on tour and at Ravinia.

For a copy of audited financial statements, please contact the Finance Department at 312-294-3302.
**RECORD-BREAKING SALES**

Over all, ticket sales hit a record: $23.3 million ($1.1 million growth over 2016/17).

- **CSO Main Series subscription renewal rate:** 86%
- **63 Sold Out Concerts**

**CSO at Wheaton series** grew by 12% over 2016/17, with $308,000 in total revenue.

MusicNOW revenue grew to a record: $48,000 with additional MusicNOW concert at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Group sales revenue for CSO Main increased by 35% over the 2016/17 season for a record: $561,000 (21% increase over 2016/17 season).

CSO @ the Movies series: ticket revenue record of $561,000.

**SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS**

(As of 6/30/18)

- **205,102** followers on Facebook
- **75,000** followers on Twitter
- **66,625** followers on Instagram

**REACHING NEW AUDIENCES**

The number of patrons involved with the African American Network nearly doubled to over 1,800 total patrons.

- **Nearly 14,000** student tickets sold
- **18,000** ticket buyers attended Symphony Center for the first time.

- **77%** more patrons purchased tickets in 2017/18 than in 2016/17 using the promo code for the Latino Alliance.
- **24%** the Latino Alliance membership increased by for a total of **343** members.

- **Over 100%** more patrons purchased tickets in 2017/18 than in 2016/17 using the promo code for the African American Network.

- **OVER 180%** attended Symphony Center for the first time.

- **89** Sold Out Concerts

- **$858,000** Group sales revenue for CSO Main increased over the 2016/17 season for a record.
2017/18 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

CSO MAIN SERIES

Since its founding in 1891, the CSO has established a reputation for performing classical music at the highest level and engaging diverse audiences. That legacy continued throughout the 2017/18 season, with excellent music making featuring the CSO’s musicians alongside some of the world’s finest guest artists and conductors.

Muti also conducted three world premieres during the season. In September, the CSO premiered CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek’s All These Lighted Things. The 15-minute work, scored for strings, winds, brass, and an array of percussion, was well received by critics and an audience of 5,564 patrons during the weekend. In February, Muti and the Orchestra premiered Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon’s Low Brass Concerto, which featured members of the CSO’s legendary brass section. Finally, in March, Muti led the CSO in the world premiere of viola section member Max Raimi’s Three Lisel Mueller Settings for mezzo-soprano and orchestra, based on work by the contemporary poet of the same name, for an audience of 6,393 over three nights.

In November, Sir András Schiff conducted Bach’s Piano Concerto No. 5 in F Minor from the piano on a program that also included the music of Haydn, Bartók, and Beethoven. Nikolai Znaider enchanted audiences during his CSO Main Series debut in December, performing and conducting Beethoven’s Violin Concerto in D Major, while Giovanni Antonini conducted, and performed, on the flautino, music of the baroque and classical periods with mandolinist Avi Avital, both making their CSO Main series debut.

Several notable conductors returned to Orchestra Hall. Esa-Pekka Salonen returned for a two-week residency; conducting the Orchestra in concerts featuring Mahler’s 9th Symphony, Schoenberg’s Transfigured Night, and Bartók’s Piano Concerto No. 3 featuring another CSO favorite, pianist Mitsuko Uchida. The 2017/18 season also saw the return of Christoph Eschenbach, Herbert Blomstedt, Semyon Bychkov, and John Williams, whose music was featured in four sold-out performances, April 26–29, 2018.

In the 2017/18 season, the CSO joined worldwide celebrations honoring the 100th anniversary of the great American composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein, whose incredible contributions shaped cultural life in the 20th century and beyond. Payare conducted the Orchestra in exhilarating performances of the Symphonic Dances from West Side Story, and later in March, pianist Gilles Vonsattel was the featured soloist in a program featuring Bernstein’s Symphony No. 2 (Age of Anxiety) with Kent Nagano conducting.

Several conductors and soloists made their CSO Main Series debuts this season, including mezzo-soprano Clémentine Margaine performing Chausson’s Poème de l’Amour et de la Mer (Poem of Love and of the Sea), and conductors John Storgårds, Matthias Pintscher, Marek Janowski, and Rafael Payare.

Since its founding in 1891, the CSO has established a reputation for performing classical music at the highest level and engaging diverse audiences. That legacy continued throughout the 2017/18 season, with excellent music making featuring the CSO’s musicians alongside some of the world’s finest guest artists and conductors.
In 2017/18, Maestro Muti led the CSO on two successful domestic tours, visiting Kansas City and West Coast venues in October and East Coast venues in February. From October 11 to 22, the CSO and Muti performed eight concerts, beginning with a stop at Helzberg Hall in Kansas City, Missouri. From there, the CSO performed in California, including the Orchestra’s debut at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. In addition to L.A., Muti and the CSO traveled to Berkeley, Costa Mesa, San Diego, Palm Desert, and Santa Barbara, performing Bruckner’s Fourth Symphony, Rossini’s overture to *William Tell*, music by Schubert and Schumann, and Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto, featuring CSO Principal Clarinet Stephen Williamson. The CSO also performed Brahms’s Second and Third symphonies, as well as Mead Composer-in-Residence Elizabeth Ogonek’s *All These Lighted Things*. The CSO is grateful for the generous sponsorship of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Shillman, supporting CSO concert appearances at West Coast venues.

In February, Muti and the Orchestra headed east on a weeklong tour. The trip began with a performance at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., followed by two well-received concerts at New York’s historic Carnegie Hall and two later concerts at the Carolina Performing Arts Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Audiences heard the East Coast premieres of Jennifer Higdon’s Low Brass Concerto, featuring soloists Jay Friedman, principal trombone; trombone Michael Mulcahy; bass trombone Charles Vernon, and Gene Pokorny, principal tuba. Audiences also heard Mead Composer-in-Residence Samuel Adams’s many words of love, as well as selections by Verdi, Stravinsky, Brahms, Chausson, and Mozart. The CSOA is grateful for Betty Smykal’s generosity, supporting the CSO’s performances at Carnegie Hall this year.

In an effort to extend its reach to CSOA friends and family outside Chicago, the Orchestra performed three concerts in Florida—two at the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts in West Palm Beach, and one program in Naples presented by Artis-Naples. The CSOA is grateful for the consortium of generous donors who helped make the concerts in West Palm Beach and Naples possible.
The Chicago Symphony Chorus, prepared by Chorus Director Duain Wolfe, performs the Poulenc Gloria with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Guest Conductor Alain Altinoglu. (clockwise from top) The Chicago Symphony Chorus with Chorus Director Duain Wolfe and Associate Directors Cheryl Frazes Hill and Don Hertzberg and Assistant Director William Chen on the Armour Hall Stage in Orchestra Hall. Esa-Pekka Salonen leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in a program of works by Bartók, Brahms, and Schoenberg as part of his two-week residency in May 2018. Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra perform Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 5 “The Fiery Angel” on June 14, 2018. Riccardo Muti leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in a concert at Zellerbach Hall on the campus of UC Berkeley during the Fall 2017 West Coast Tour.
The Chicago Symphony Orchestra was founded through the generosity of some of Chicago’s most successful civic leaders who believed the arts to be central to the life of the city. Today, philanthropy continues to play a critical role in the success of the Orchestra and its service to Chicago communities. We are grateful to the many individuals, philanthropic foundations and government agencies as well as corporate partners whose support make the work of the CSOA possible.

The Zell Family Foundation’s continued generosity supported several exciting concerts during the season, including the Schubert Mass conducted by Maestro Muti, the appearance of the Labèque sisters under the baton of Semyon Bychkov, and major support for the CSO’s contemporary music series, MusicNOW.

We are also grateful for major concert support from the Negaunee Foundation, Josef and Margot Lakonishok, Rosemarie and Dean L. Buntrock, and Dietrich and Erika Gross. The CSOA is additionally grateful to the Julian Family Foundation for making a $5 million commitment to support the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the only pre-professional training ensemble of its kind affiliated with a major American orchestra.

Meaningful gifts from our donors supported innovative programming and helped the Orchestra mark significant events and anniversaries during the 2017/18 season. We are thankful for visionary support from Jim and Kay Mabie and the Walter E. Heller Foundation, whose generosity helped the Chicago Symphony Chorus celebrate its 60th anniversary season with captivating performances; Patricia Hyde’s and the Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation’s support of the Symphony Center Presents Jazz series; and Robert J. Buford, Jim and SueAnne Lopata, and Robert C. Peterson for support of the season residency of Esa-Pekka Salonen.

In 2017/18, the CSO performed three concerts in Florida in recognition of a growing constituency of the Orchestra’s extended friends and patron family. Significant gifts from the Nancy A. Lauter and Alfred L. McDougall Charitable Fund, Robert Kohl and Clark Pellett, Helen and Sam Zell, The Regenstein Foundation, Richard and Helen Thomas; Mary Winton Green; Sidney and Dorothy Kohl; Mr. and Mrs. William Gardner Brown; Bruce and Martha Clinton for The Clinton Family Fund, Ms. Shawn M. Donnelly and Dr. Christopher M. Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Glossberg; Lynne R. Haarlow; Dolores Kohl Kaplan; Howard B. Bernick Foundation; Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus F. Freidheim, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Toft enabled the CSO to commence an annual Florida residency this year.

Generous contributions also supported exciting new music commissions during the season. The Poetry Foundation supported the CSO commission and world premiere of a work by the Orchestra’s own Max Raimi based on the poems of long-time Chicagoland resident Lisel Mueller, while the Edward F. Schmidt Commissioning Fund supported the world premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon’s Low Brass Concerto, also a CSO commission.

During the 2017/18 season, almost 11,000 donors helped the CSOA raise nearly $24.5M in direct operational support. This included more than $4.6M in corporate sponsorships, partnerships, and in-kind support; more than $2M in grants from philanthropic foundations and government agencies; and $500K in unrestricted bequests supporting the Association’s general operations. Of the almost 11,000 donors, 9,284 contributed to unrestricted support, 2,708 for the first time. In total, the CSOA raised $42.7M in current and future contributed revenues, which includes gifts to the Association’s endowment and other investment funds.
SIGNATURE EVENTS

- The annual Symphony Ball launched the 2017/18 season with a gala event featuring the music of Mozart, Tchaikovsky, and celebrated violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter. The CSOA is very grateful to Symphony Ball Chairs Sandra and Earl Rusnak as well as Liz Adams, Women’s Board President for helping make the event a success.

- In June, the 29th annual Corporate Night celebrated the many corporate leaders and arts partners who supported the CSO during the season. The Association was pleased to honor Northern Trust with the Excellence in Corporate Philanthropy Award for its ongoing support of the Orchestra and CSOA programs. The CSOA also thanks Megan and Steve Shebik for their inspiring leadership as Corporate Night Chairs and Jennifer Bumbu and Cheryl Istan for their dedicated work as League Event chairs.

- Also in June, the CSOA hosted the second annual Concert for Peace in partnership with Saint Sabina Church. The program, part of the Initiative for a More Peaceful Chicago, aims to provide healing and solace through music to some of Chicago’s most disenfranchised communities. The CSOA is thankful for generous sponsorship from BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois in support of the concert and initiative.

- The Association is also grateful for first-time sponsor BMO Harris Bank, and the meaningful support it provided for the League’s spring fundraiser, A Toast to John Williams, in which Williams returned to Orchestra Hall to lead the CSO in selections from some of his most beloved compositions.

- In October, the League of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association produced their 8th annual Fall in Love with Music fundraising luncheon, featuring special guest James Gaffigan. The CSOA thanks Mimi Duginger, President of the League, as well as event co-chairs Pamela Andrews and Marguerite Guado for their leadership and support for this special afternoon, which included a performance by Members of the CSO cello section.
■ Bank of America
Bank of America, a corporate partner of the CSOA since 1988, has been instrumental in helping the CSOA share its music and mission with the people of Chicago, the U.S., and the world. As the Global Sponsor of the CSO, Bank of America provides broad-based support for the CSO’s concerts and programs, including national and international tours, and CSO National Radio broadcasts, which reach more than 250,000 listeners each week. The CSOA is proud to continue this historic partnership and is tremendously grateful for Bank of America’s generous support.

■ Allstate Insurance Company
The CSOA thanks Allstate Insurance Company for its significant gifts supporting the Negaunee Music Institute’s community and music education programs. During the 2017/18 season, Allstate was the Youth Education Program Sponsor of CSO School Concerts, School and Community Partnerships, Education Open Rehearsals, the CSO’s Chicago Youth in Music Festival, and a Jazz for Young People Concert featuring the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis.

■ The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation
The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association appreciates the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation’s generosity toward the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. The Civic is the CSO’s pre-professional training orchestra for emerging musicians. The Association is grateful for the Foundation’s commitment to celebrating Ms. Cheney’s legacy through philanthropic support of the arts.

■ United Airlines
For the last 42 years, United Airlines has served as the official airline of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The CSOA applauds United Airlines’ ongoing commitment to communities through charitable partnerships and support for landmark arts and culture institutions.

■ Exelon
Through its corporate citizenship program, Exelon collaborates with communities to deliver cutting edge ideas and achieve meaningful change. The CSOA is grateful for Exelon’s continuing support as season sponsor for the Symphony Center Presents Jazz series.

SEASON SPONSORS

BEQUESTS
Legacy gifts supporting the CSO provide resources that create extraordinary musical opportunities, preserving the CSO’s future. Planned gifts, including bequests made through a will or trust, or established through an annuity, help ensure the Orchestra continues to share the transformative power of music with future generations. The CSOA is grateful to Marion Edelstein, a beloved former League and Governing Member, who left a $1M bequest to support the CSO; Mary Jo Hertel, a former member of the Chicago Symphony Chorus, for her bequest of $245K; and to an anonymous donor who left a $1.673M bequest to support the Orchestra.
(clockwise from top left) Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti leads the CSO in one of two tour programs at New York’s Carnegie Hall on February 10, 2018, as part of the Orchestra’s East Coast tour. The CSO’s MusicNOW contemporary music series offered a program on May 7, 2018, at the Art Institute of Chicago in settings including the museum’s sculpture court, as part of its celebration to mark the 20th anniversary of the series. CSO trombone Michael Mulcahy conducts the CSO Brass in its annual concert on December 20, 2018. Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti leads a CSO open rehearsal for community groups in Orchestra Hall on November 15, 2017. Conductor Giovanni Antonini and mandolinist Avi Avital appear in their CSO debuts on a program of Italian Baroque and classical master works on June 7, 2018.

(clockwise from top left) Vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater caps the Symphony Center Presents Jazz series with a high-energy concert on June 1, 2018. Guest conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen on the podium during his May 2018 residency with the Orchestra, which included acclaimed performances of Mahler’s Ninth Symphony. Academy Award-winning composer John Williams acknowledges the enthusiastic audience after leading the CSO in the first of four sold-out concerts featuring his music in April 2018.
JAZZ SERIES

Symphony Center Presents Jazz (SCP Jazz) had a stellar season filled with thrilling performances from legends and rising stars. The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis returned to Symphony Center for a three-concert residency in October, which included a Jazz for Young People educational concert and a performance featuring multi-instrumentalist and band leader Jon Batiste as special guest alongside the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. In February, patrons heard Afro-Cuban musical greats, pianists Chucho Valdés and Gonzalo Rubalcaba, perform music from their Trance project, a reimagining of Cuban jazz for two pianos. In March, the Bill Charlap Trio and vocalist Cécile McLorin Salvant treated SCP Jazz audiences to a double bill filled with gems from the American Songbook. Charlap and Salvant enchanted audiences with fresh and clever interpretations of the classics, enlivening them with unexpected flair.

PIANO SERIES

The 10-concert Symphony Center Presents Piano season featured legendary and debut artists offering engaging programs of some of the most renowned works of the piano repertoire. Highlights include recitals by Piotr Anderszewski performing the music of Bach, Chopin and Janáček, as well as a special screening for subscribers of his film Warsaw Is My Name; Evgeny Kissin’s masterful interpretations of the music of Beethoven and Rachmaninov, and a debut by Martin Helmchen performing a program of works by Schumann and Beethoven.

CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

The Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music series featured four performances by some of the world’s leading chamber musicians. In February, CSO favorites Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma were joined by violinist Leonidas Kavakos in an all-Brahms program, and in April pianist Evgeny Kissin performed piano quintets of Mozart, Fauré, and Dvořák with the Emerson String Quartet to the delight of sold-out audiences.

ORCHESTRA SERIES

Each season, the Symphony Center Presents Orchestra series invites symphonic ensembles to Symphony Center. In 2017/18, Symphony Center audiences heard the St. Petersburg, Russia-based Mariinsky Orchestra in a program led by its music director Valery Gergiev that included Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 9, Richard Strauss’s Ein Heldenleben, and Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 2, featuring Denis Matsuev as soloist. In January, the Minnesota Orchestra returned to Orchestra Hall for the first time since the 1960s to present a program of works by Tchaikovsky, Sibelius, and Beethoven led by their music director, Osmo Vänskä.
During the 2017/18 season, the popular CSO at the Movies series included a performance led by one of America’s most accomplished and successful composers for film and the concert stage, John Williams. His performances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra were a highlight of the series that also included performances of film scores with screenings of the classic film *Singin’ in the Rain* and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*, the first of the enormously popular series.

Symphony Center Presents also featured special concerts throughout the season including a performance by award-winning keyboardist and composer Herbie Hancock, who returned to his hometown in a concert demonstrating his five decades of influence on the world of jazz and rhythm and blues. In February, we celebrated the Year of the Dog in a splendid musical celebration of the Chinese New Year that included a performance by the Chongqing Chuanju Opera Theatre. Their traditional Chinese opera selections from China’s Chengdu Province included dazzling and colorful costumes and acrobatic choreography. The concert also featured the Zhejiang Symphony Orchestra performing orchestral arrangements of Chinese folk melodies and favorites. This performance was generously sponsored by Ling Z. and Michael C. Markowitz. In April, Spanish-born Flamenco singer Diego el Cigala brought an intensely emotional performance to Symphony Center featuring selections from his latest album *Indestructible*.

**CSO AT THE MOVIES**

**SPECIAL CONCERTS**

*Symphony Center Presents* also featured special concerts throughout the season including a performance by award-winning keyboardist and composer Herbie Hancock, who returned to his hometown in a concert demonstrating his five decades of influence on the world of jazz and rhythm and blues. In February, we celebrated the Year of the Dog in a splendid musical celebration of the Chinese New Year that included a performance by the Chongqing Chuanju Opera Theatre. Their traditional Chinese opera selections from China’s Chengdu Province included dazzling and colorful costumes and acrobatic choreography. The concert also featured the Zhejiang Symphony Orchestra performing orchestral arrangements of Chinese folk melodies and favorites. This performance was generously sponsored by Ling Z. and Michael C. Markowitz. In April, Spanish-born Flamenco singer Diego el Cigala brought an intensely emotional performance to Symphony Center featuring selections from his latest album *Indestructible*. 
During its 20th anniversary season, MusicNOW, the CSOA’s nationally recognized and critically acclaimed new music series, took audiences on an immersive journey exploring the genre’s groundbreaking repertoire, including the work of past Composers-in-Residence alongside new commissions and world premieres. Three concerts were performed at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, in addition to a special concert at the Art Institute of Chicago and the season finale at Symphony Center. MusicNOW programs are performed by CSO musicians along with guest artists. Elizabeth Ogonek and Samuel Adams, Mead-Composers-in-Residence, curated the series.

Four concert programs highlighted MusicNOW’s 20-year history at the forefront of presenting contemporary music and championing the composers and works fostered throughout the series. On October 2, audiences heard a retrospective program with works by all seven former composers-in-residence: Mason Bates, Anna Clyne, John Corigliano, Osvaldo Golijov, Shulamit Ran, Augusta Read Thomas, and Mark-Anthony Turnage. The November 13 concert featured pianist-composer and MacArthur Fellow Vijay Iyer performing with trumpeter-composer Wadada Leo Smith.

April 2 marked the world premiere of Amy Beth Kirsten’s Savior (a MusicNOW commission made possible by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation) based on the life of Joan of Arc. A special event on May 7—generously sponsored by longtime CSOA supporters Richard and Mary L. Gray—featured chamber ensembles throughout several galleries in the Art Institute of Chicago, allowing audiences to experience new music in a nontraditional venue. The season concluded on May 21 with conductor-composer Esa-Pekka Salonen leading members of the CSO at Symphony Center in a program featuring two world premieres by the Mead Composers-in-Residence: Elizabeth Ogonek’s The Water Cantos [notes from quiet places] and Samuel Adam’s Chamber Concerto, both of which are MusicNOW Commissions. The CSOA is grateful for the generous support of MusicNOW sponsors: the Sally Mead Hands Foundation, the Julian Family Foundation, The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust, Cindy Sargent, Joan Harris, and the Zell Family Foundation.
In accordance with its mission, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association presents concerts beyond its downtown home of Symphony Center to reach a wide range of communities, interests, schedules, and budgets across Chicagoland. For the annual Concert for Chicago, the CSO performed a concert at Lane Tech College Prep High School in the city’s Avondale neighborhood. An audience of approximately 1,800 enjoyed the music of Schubert and Brahms, conducted by Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti. The CSO also performs a series of runout concerts to locations outside the Cook County region. In 2017/18, the CSO returned to the Hancher Auditorium at the University of Iowa, where audiences were treated to a program featuring Tchaikovsky's Manfred Symphony and Bruch's rarely performed Concerto for Two Pianos featuring the sisters Katia and Marielle Labèque with Semyon Bychkov conducting.

Community vitality is strengthened through meaningful connections to the arts. During the 2017/18 season, the CSO continued to engage audiences in the western suburbs. The CSO’s partnership with the DuPage Foundation complements the work of local arts and culture organizations in DuPage County, and helps the Orchestra make meaningful connections with audiences through world-class programming and long-term partnerships with local organizations, academic institutions and schools, and residents.

For the second year, the CSO presented three concerts in Edman Memorial Chapel at Wheaton College, featuring masterworks of the symphonic canon along with talented guest conductors and soloists, giving western suburban residents the opportunity to experience one of the world’s greatest orchestras firsthand in an outstanding concert venue. Performing at Edman Memorial Chapel is a pleasure for Muti, the CSO, and guest artists as well. Musicians and conductors have praised the hall’s acoustics, admiring its sonority and clarity of sound.

Maestro Manfred Honeck led the series-opening concert with a powerful performance of Schubert’s masterful Ninth Symphony. The program also featured German violinist Arabella Steinbacher performing Berg’s Violin Concerto. Honeck returned in January to lead one of the world’s greatest Mahler orchestras in a performance of his Fifth Symphony alongside Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 25 featuring the Austrian pianist Till Fellner. To conclude the series, audiences were treated to a CSO performance with Muti at the podium, in a program of music by Mozart and Haydn, and featuring Concertmaster Robert Chen and violist Paul Neubauer as soloists.

During the 2017/18 season, there were a total of 653 Wheaton College series subscriber households, and of this total, 81% (528 households) have purchased CSO concert tickets in the last seven years.

The CSO’s All-Access Chamber Music series began on October 29, and featured CSO musicians in self-organized, small ensembles performing selections of some of their favorite chamber music works. The series aims to present music across Chicago by welcoming audiences to Orchestra Hall as well as neighborhood venues. 2017/18 season concerts included performances at Kenwood Academy High School, the David and Reva Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago, and South Shore Cultural Center. All concerts are free, and have been since the series began. The six-concert series in 2017/18 featured options for nearly every musical taste with works ranging from Brahms and Beethoven to Poulenc and other 20th century composers. In 2017/18, three All-Access Chamber Music concerts were presented in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center—a first for the series—welcoming nearly 5,000 patrons to these enjoyable performances. The All-Access Chamber series is generously underwritten by an anonymous donor.
During the 2017/18 season, the Civic Orchestra—the CSO’s prestigious training orchestra for professional musicians—presented a series of six concerts in Orchestra Hall, the fourth annual Bach Marathon, and concerts at the South Shore Cultural Center and Nicholas Senn High School. The season began with a residency at DePauw University, where, sponsored by Judson and Joyce Green, the orchestra performed with Yo-Yo Ma as soloist and offered numerous chamber performances in communities within and surrounding the university. Additionally, the orchestra participated in two open rehearsals led by Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti, and a third led by Emmanuel Krivine.

The Civic Fellowship program engaged 14 Civic musicians who embarked on additional artistic and professional development that supplemented their membership in the orchestra. Throughout the season, they designed community engagement projects that engaged people on the west and south sides as well as the western suburbs, mentored young musicians who study at The People’s Music School, performed at numerous schools throughout Greater Chicago and collaborated with students to create new artwork, participated in the CSO’s Initiative for a More Peaceful Chicago, and presented the New Music Workshop.

More than 16,000 people attended free, full orchestra and chamber concerts presented by the Civic Orchestra; During the Bach Marathon, Civic ensembles gave 15 performances over the course of 10 hours in schools and neighborhood venues across the city.
In April 2018, CSO Artistic Administrator Frieda Greenwald led the Civic Orchestra in a duo of symphonies by two masters of the Classical and Romantic eras: Beethoven’s Fourth Symphony and Rachmaninov’s Second Symphony.
The Initiative for a More Peaceful Chicago uses music to bring hope and solace to people living in some of Chicago’s most underserved communities, and provides a positive, creative outlet for self-expression to young people residing in juvenile justice facilities. During the 2017/18 season, musicians from the CSO and Civic Orchestra collaborated with partners to provide songwriting workshops for Cook County youth incarcerated at the Illinois Youth Center, as well as the faith community of St. Sabina Church through the Purpose Over Pain program for parents who have lost children to gun violence. Led by CSOA Trustee Paul Wiggin, a team of web developers worked pro bono to build notesforpeace.org, a website that showcases the music written with the Purpose Over Pain participants.

On June 10, the website was launched when Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, CSO and Civic musicians, the St. Sabina Band, and Chicago Children’s Choir participated in the second annual Concert for Peace at St. Sabina Church.
CSO SCHOOL AND FAMILY CONCERTS

The 2017/18 CSO School and Family Concert series included a total of 36 performances that engaged over 33,000 students grades pre-K-8 and families with children ages 3-9. A new Once Upon a Symphony production, The Elves and the Shoemaker, opened on March 3 and set the classic story in Chicago’s Uptown neighborhood. The concert featured Janelle Morriss as narrator alongside a chamber ensemble of Members of the CSO. The school and family concert series theme, In Harmony, explored the sounds of friendship, the natural world and folklore. On March 16, nearly 1,000 Chicago Public Schools students participating in CSO-Connect partnerships attended school concerts presented in collaboration with the Field Museum, including a replica of NORM the T. Rex’s skull, which was on display in the Rotunda. To close the series, Members of the CSO welcomed dancers from the Joffrey Academy of Dance in early May for performances of Igor Stravinsky’s The Firebird.

CHICAGO YOUTH IN MUSIC FESTIVAL

The 2018 Chicago Youth in Music Festival, presented in collaboration with 10 partner organizations from across the city and suburbs, included opportunities to celebrate and support young musicians—elementary through high school, beginner to advanced—who are passionate about classical music. Students from The People’s Music School, Chicago Metamorphosis Orchestra Project, and Sistema Ravinia youth orchestras traveled to Symphony Center for a day of coaching and side-by-side rehearsal with the Civic Orchestra under the direction of CSO Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice Erina Yashima, and musicians of the CSO taught a total of 14 master classes for advanced high school musicians affiliated with Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras, Merit School of Music, Music Institute of Chicago and Elgin Youth Symphony. To conclude the Festival, the Institute in collaboration with the League of the CSOA presented the Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition. The 2017/18 competition in piano was accompanied by the Civic Orchestra and conducted by Erina Yashima. Yerin Yang was named the competition winner and will appear as a soloist with Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra during CSO School and Family Concerts in March 2019.

500 people attended the finals of the 2018 Crain-Maling CSO Young Artists Competition.
SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout 2017/18, the Institute expanded its partnerships with Chicago Public Schools. CSO-Connect partnerships with seven CPS schools provided teachers with support as they developed and implemented arts-integrated curricula. Additionally, each partner school received in-school presentations by the Civic Fellows that featured a memorized performance of music the students heard when they attended a CSO School Concert at Symphony Center in March. During the weeks that followed the school concert, students collaborated with the fellows to create original music and artwork that responded to the concert and grew out of the curriculum their teachers developed, connecting with the theme “Curiosity leads to empathy.” This work was showcased at a culminating event in May.

Approximately 20,000 students and their chaperones attended a CSO School Concert at Symphony Center; over the course of the season, 363 schools, 139 of which were Chicago Public Schools, participated in Institute programs.

CSO ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY ON TOUR

The CSO continued its tradition of offering education and engagement activities while on tour, both on the east and west coasts. In total, musicians taught 24 master classes at the Weill Music Institute at Carnegie Hall, the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory, and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Music. In West Palm Beach, Florida, Palm Beach Day Academy hosted two performances of *Once Upon a Symphony: Stone Soup* and invited students from Opportunity, Inc., a nearby school in an underserved community. Additionally, a string quartet of CSO musicians played a concert for students at Dreyfuss School of the Arts, a public school in West Palm Beach, followed by coaching of string sections from the school’s orchestra.

On the west coast, Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti led a rehearsal of the Berkeley School of Music Symphony Orchestra, and a CSO string quintet performed a free concert at a San Diego Public Library.

During CSO tours in 17/18, musicians of the CSO taught 24 master classes.

NEGAUNEE MUSIC INSTITUTE

Approximately 20,000 students and their chaperones attended a CSO School Concert at Symphony Center; over the course of the season, 363 schools, 139 of which were Chicago Public Schools, participated in Institute programs.

Photos, p. 40: Assistant Concertmaster Tran-Ong Vu coaches senior Rebecca Vazquez during a master class at Lane Tech High School. The master class was part of a series of educational activities that led up to the CSO’s November 2017 community concert at the school. ◆ p. 41: (top left) A string quartet of CSO musicians offered a chamber ensemble performance and coached high school musicians at Florida’s public Dreyfuss School of the Arts during the February 2018 tour. ◆ CSO piccolo Jennifer Gunn leads a masterclass during a CSO tour. ◆ A captivated audience in West Palm Beach, Florida, watches a production of *Once Upon a Symphony: Stone Soup* during a February 2018 tour performance staged at Palm Beach Day Academy. ◆ Students observe and interact with their peers’ art projects during the CSO-Connect culminating event, hosted by Uptown’s Walt Disney Magnet School in May 2018.
CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA | RICCARDO MUTI
Zell Music Director
YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant
DUAIN WOLFE
Chorus Director and Conductor

VIOLINS
Robert Chen
Concertmaster
The Louis C. Sudler
Chair, endowed by an
anonymous benefactor
Stephanie Jeong
Associate Concertmaster
The Cathy and Bill
Oshorn Chair
David Taylor
Yuan-Qing Yu
Assistant Concertmasters*
So Young Baek
Cornelius Chiu
Alison Dalton
Gina DiBello
Kozue Funakoshi
Russell Hershower
Qing Hou
Sando Shia
Susan Synnestvedt
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Baird Dodge
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Sylvia Kim Kälkullen
Assistant Principal
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Ni Mei
Fox Fehling
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VIOLAS
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Principals Viola Chair,
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Catherine Brubaker
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Sunghee Choi
Youming Chen
Weiyao Gan
Danny Liu
Diane Maes
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Max Raimi
Weiling Wang

CELLOS
John Sharp
Principal
The Eloise W. Martin
Chair
Kenneth Olsen
Assistant Principal
The Adele Gidwitz Chair
Karen Bassok
Loren Brown
Richard Hirsch
Daniel Katz
Katinka Kleinjan
Jonathan Peggs
David Sanders
Gary Stucka
Brant Taylor

BASSES
Alexander Hanna
Principal
The David and Mary
Weston Grove Chair
Bass Chair
Daniel Armstrong
Roger Clines
Joseph DiBello
Michael Hovman
Robert Kassinger
Mark Kramer
Stephen Lester
Bradley Opland

HARP
Sarah Bullen
Principal
Lyne Turner

FLUTES
Stefan Ragnan
Hosukulsdottir
Principal
The Irka and Dietrich
M. Gross Principal
Flute Chair
Richard Grimm
Assistant Principal
Emma Gerstein
Jennifer Gunn

OBOES
Michael Henoch
Assistant Principal
The Gilchrist
Foundation Chair
Lora Schaefer
Scott Hostetler

ENGLISH HORN
Scott Hostetler

CLARINETs
Stephen Williamson
Principal
John Bruce Yeh
Assistant Principal
Gregory Smith
J. Laurier Bloom

E-FLAT CLARINET
John Bruce Yeh

BASS CLARINET
J. Laurier Bloom

BASSOONs
Keith Buncke
Principal
William Buchman
Assistant Principal
Dennis Michel
Miles Mamer

CONTRABASSOON
Miles Mamer

HORNS
Danae Gingrich
Acting Principal
James Smeler
David Griffin
Oto Carillo
Susanna Gaunt

TRUMPETS
Mark Ridout
Assistant Principal
John Hagstrom
Tage Larsen

TROMBONES
Jay Friedman
Principal
The Lisa and Paul Wiggin
Principal Trombone Chair
Michael Mulcahy
Charles Vernon

BASS TROMBONE
Charles Vernon

TUBA
Gene Pokorny
Principal
The Edith and Principal
Armstrong Trumpet Chair,
edowed by
Christine Querfeld
The Adolph Herseth Principal
Trumpet Chair, endowed by
an anonymous benefactor,
currently is unoccupied.
The Chicago Symphony Orchestra
string sections utilize revolving
seating. Players behind the first
desk (first two desks in the violins)
change seats systematically
every two weeks and are listed
alphabetically. Section
percussionists also are listed
alphabetically.

* Assistant concertmasters
are listed by seniority.
‡ On sabbatical
§ On Leave

The Louise H. Benton Wagner
Chair currently is unoccupied.
The Nancy and Larry Fuller
Principal Oboe Chair was
occupied during the
2017/18 season.
The Adolph Herseth Principal
Trumpet Chair, endowed by
an anonymous benefactor,
currently is unoccupied.
The Chicago Symphony Orchestra
string sections utilize revolving
seating. Players behind the first
desk (first two desks in the violin)
change seats systematically
every two weeks and are listed
alphabetically. Section
percussionists also are listed
alphabetically.
CHICAGO SYMPHONY CHORUS
2017–2018 season roster

Anastasia Cameron Balmer
Andrea Caruso
Michael Cavalleri
William Chiu
Joan Cincinogri
Bethany Clearfield
Joseph Cloonan
Natalie Colas
Katy Compton
Natalie Consur
Tamaron Consur
Magaly Cordero
Ryan J. Cox
Sandu Craus
Beena David
Angela De Venuto
Leah Dexter
Micah A. Dingler * 
Claire DiVizio
Hannah Dixon McColl
Katarzyna Dudek
Mercedith Taylor Du Bon
Jeffrey Duke
Kathryn Duncan
Thomas E. Dynig
Ashley Eason
Stacy Eckert
Stephen C. Edwards
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Nora Engonopoulos
Jared Velasco Esguerra
Nicholas Falco
Andrew Fisher
Megan Fletcher
Legh Fritz
Hannah Goff
Carl Frank
Kirsten Fyr-Seary
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Klaus Georg
Dimitri German
Liana Ginettis
Jennifer Gingrich
Carl Glick
John Goodwin
dan Gottierisn
Mary Lutz Gottierisn
Nida Grguricaristic
Elizabeth A. Grzuzel
Kimberly Gunderson
Amy Owsum-Becker
Elizabeth Haely
Kevin Michael Hall
Ashley Hardgrave
Michael Randall Hasser
Dakell Haynes
Adam Lance Hendrickson
Megan Hendrickson
Daniel Julius Henry Jr.
Janghui He
Betty Hoats
Camer Humes
Ingrid Israel Mikołajczyk
Taylor Jacobson
Carla Janzen
Garrett Johannsen
Kathryn Kamp
Alison Kelly
Robin A. Kessler
Jung Kim
Jes Kotho
Taiba Koostta
Lisa Kotara
Susan Kreutz
Alexandra Kunath
Joe Laroche
Mathew Lake
Frank Daniel Lauercisn
Kathryn Lee
Rosalind Lee
Kristin Lelma
Lee Lichman *
Sara Litchfield
Amanda Compton LoPreist *
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Suzanne Ma-Akers
Megan Magasari
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Antone Quanrant *
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Leo Radosavljevic
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Stephen Richardson
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Benjamin Rivera
Nicoleta Roman
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