Include the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in your will or trust.

Consider naming the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as a beneficiary in your will or trust documents.

Legal Name: Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Address: 220 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60604
Tax ID Number: 36-2116723
Sample language:

For a specific dollar amount bequest: “I hereby give and bequeath $______ from my estate to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, Chicago, Illinois, for its general purposes.”

For a percentage-based remainder bequest: “I hereby give and bequeath (X%) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, Chicago, Illinois, for its general purposes.”

Easily make a legacy gift with a simple form

One of the easiest forms of estate planning that you can enact without the expense of counsel or document fees is to name the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, which can include IRAs and 401(k)s, 403(b)s, Keogh and profit-sharing plans. If these savings are left to family or friends after your lifetime, those beneficiaries are then responsible for income taxes, due when they receive the funds. By leaving such a plan to the CSO, it transfers without income or estate tax, increasing the value of your savings and enabling the CSO to have greater impact on future generations. Another similar form of estate planning that is easy to enact without the expense of counsel or document fees is to name the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or savings account. It’s easy; make a legacy gift with a simple form.

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Read this giving notes newsletter to learn more.

Demonstrate your lifelong passion for music with a planned gift.

Your future support — in any amount — of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra can:

- Strengthen the Orchestra and musical programs you love.
- Create opportunities for new audiences to discover and grow their love of music.
- Achieve tax savings and income opportunities for you today and your heirs in the future.

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Did you know?

While traveling through Germany during the summer of 1883, Theodore Thomas visited his nephew-in-law Franz Strauss in Munich. Strauss’ son Richard, an aspiring composer, had been working on a new symphony, and Thomas, impressed with the score, promised to perform the 19-year-old composer’s work with the Philharmonic Society of New York. Thomas kept his word and led the world premiere — and the first of the composer’s works heard in the United States — of the Symphony No. 2 in F Minor in December 1884.

After founding the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1891, Thomas introduced several of Franz’s tone poems to Chicago audiences, including the U.S. premières of Till Eulenspiegel’s Merry Pranks, Also sprach Zarathustra, Don Quixote and Jean Hainichen’s First violin concerto of those scores — along with the mazurkas of the Second Symphony — are among many of the treasures in Thomas’ collection, housed at Symphony Center in the Rosenthal Archives.
What benefits come with Theodore Thomas Society membership?

- Annual Theodore Thomas Society event in connection with a performance at Symphony Center
- Access to VIP ticketing services
- Listing in CSO program books throughout the season and in the annual report (those who wish to remain anonymous may do so)
- Invitation for two to the CSOA’s Annual Meeting
- Invitation for two to CSO open rehearsals for donors
- Opportunity to share your CSO story in a featured profile

Stradivarian Associates, a unique group within the Society, are those members who provide documentation for an irrevocable planned gift of $50,000 or more or a revocable planned gift of $100,000 or more. They receive all benefits of Society membership, plus:

- Full dining membership privileges in the Thomas Club at Symphony Center
- Invitation for two to attend Salon Series events each season
- Listing in the donor wall display on the historic Orchestra Hall main staircase

JOIN THE

Named in honor of the founding music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Theodore Thomas Society recognizes those who make financial plans — in any amount — to benefit the CSO in the future.

MEET MEMBERS OF THE THEODORE THOMAS SOCIETY

Michael and Kathleen Elliott

What inspires your love of music? Music has always been a very important part of our lives. We both took piano lessons from an early age. Mike also played a brass instrument, and I studied voice and sang professionally. Today, music of all types fills our home (sometimes too loudly!).

What initially drew you to the CSO? Mike lived in Boston for many years and was an enthusiastic supporter of the Boston Symphony and the Boston Pops. When we moved to Chicago in 1990, it was only natural that we support our new hometown orchestra, the CSO.

Why do you feel it’s important to support the CSOA as a member of the Theodore Thomas Society? It’s hard to imagine a world without the richness that the arts bring. We feel so fortunate to be living in Chicago with a world-class symphony orchestra. We want to do our part to ensure it will be there for generations to come.

Stradivarian Associates

Members of the Stradivarian Associates of the Theodore Thomas Society gather for an event after a February matinee concert to meet composer Jimmy López Bellido and guest conductor Klaus Mäkelä.

Dr. Steve Andes

As a member of the Theodore Thomas Society, Dr. Steve Andes honors his mother, who introduced him to classical music as a child. His annual donations to the Civic Orchestra of Chicago are likewise inspired by a late friend who used to attend Civic concerts with him.

Andes’ earliest memories of music include attending the CSO’s concerts for children, performances at the Grant Park Music Festival and opera productions. He often would be accompanied by his mother, who was a classically trained pianist. As a teenager, he continued to develop his musical interests. “While other kids listened to the popular music of the day, I was listening to the popular music of the Baroque era.”

Andes considers planned giving an important way to ensure the future success of this life-enriching art form. “Music brings me so much joy,” he said. “The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is a crown jewel of our city.”