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THE NEGAUNEE FOUNDATION MAKES \$21 MILLION GIFT TO THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

Gift Builds on Foundation's Commitment to Education and Community Programs and Strengthens Endowment

CHICAGO – The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) Board of Trustees announced today that the locally-based Negaunee Foundation has made a \$21 million gift to the CSOA. Representing one of the largest commitments in the CSOA's history, the gift builds on a multi-decade history of giving by The Negaunee Foundation that is focused on education and community programs and strengthens the organization's endowment fund to ensure long term financial stability for the many programs of the CSOA: the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Chicago Symphony Chorus, Negaunee Music Institute and Symphony Center Presents. The new gift also includes operating funds for concert sponsorships and special artistic projects in the current and upcoming seasons.

"The impact of The Negaunee Foundation's transformational gift ensures that young musicians and communities in Chicago, around the country and across the world will remain connected to the extraordinary musical and educational resources of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra," said CSOA President Jeff Alexander. "The CSOA expresses its sincere gratitude to The Negaunee Foundation for this exceptional generosity and vision that will sustain our inspiring and effective programs well into the future."

CSOA Board Chair Mary Louise Gorno added, "The Negaunee Foundation demonstrates tremendous civic leadership with this support. Chicago greatly benefits from donors like The Negaunee Foundation, who recognize the power of the arts to improve lives and connect us in meaningful ways. We celebrate their ongoing commitment to this important work."

Since the 1990s, The Negaunee Foundation has provided the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with leadership gifts for education and community programs and overall operating support for CSO concerts and other programs. In 2014, the Foundation made a \$15 million gift to endow the CSO's formerly named Institute for Learning, Access and Training, which was renamed The

Negaunee Music Institute at that time. Since then, the Foundation has regularly provided leadership support for the CSOA, including a \$10 million gift in 2022 to grow the endowment fund and sponsor CSO concert programs with a wide variety of distinguished artists.

The Negaunee Music Institute connects people to the extraordinary musical resources of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Institute programs educate audiences, train young musicians and serve diverse communities, across Chicago and around the world. Signature programs of the Negaunee Music Institute include CSO for Kids Concerts and School Partnerships that annually engage over 25,000 children pre-K through grade 12, especially within Chicago Public Schools; The Civic Orchestra of Chicago and its innovative fellowship program; various other musician training programs such as the Chicago Youth in Music Festival; the Young Composers Initiative introduced by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery in 2022; the CSO Percussion Scholarship Program; Notes for Peace, a social impact initiative that supports parents who have lost children to gun violence; education and community engagement activities on CSO tours; and several other industry-leading programs that build future audiences and musicians. More information about the Negaunee Music Institute is available cso.org/Institute.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the world's great orchestras. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's distinguished 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, was named Music Director Emeritus for Life beginning with the 2023/24 Season. Jessie Montgomery is Mead Composer-in-Residence, and Hilary Hahn is CSO Artist-in-Residence.

The CSO commands a vast repertoire, from baroque through contemporary music. Its renowned musicians perform more than 150 concerts annually, in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center in downtown Chicago and each summer at the Ravinia Festival in suburban Highland Park. The ensemble regularly tours nationally, and since 1892, has made 64 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

Patrons around the globe enjoy weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings via the WFMT Radio Network and online at cso.org/radio. Launched in 2007, [CSO Resound](https://cso.org/resound) is the ensemble's Grammy Award-winning independent record label, featuring live performances with world-class conductors and guest artists. Since 1916, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have amassed an extensive discography that has earned 65 Grammy awards from the Recording Academy.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA), which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Symphony Center Presents, and the Negaunee Music Institute. The [Chicago Symphony Chorus](https://cso.org/chicago-symphony-chorus), founded by Margaret Hillis in 1957, is the country's largest professional chorus. Founded by second music director Frederick Stock during the 1919–20 season, the [Civic Orchestra of Chicago](https://cso.org/civic-orchestra-of-chicago) is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. [Symphony Center Presents](https://cso.org/symphony-center-presents) features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, world and contemporary. The [Negaunee Music Institute](https://cso.org/negaunee-music-institute) offers community and educational programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds throughout the Chicagoland area.

Through the Institute and numerous other activities — including annual free community concerts in Chicago neighborhoods — the CSO is committed to using the power of music to strengthen bonds with its longtime patrons and create connections with new audiences.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.