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TWO MUSICIANS ANNOUNCED AS THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CHICAGO – The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces the appointment of two new musicians to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) string sections: Jikun Qin joins the viola section on April 13, 2026, and Jasmine Lin joins the second violins on July 6, 2026. Both won their final auditions in October 2025. They are the fifth and sixth CSO musicians appointed by [Zell Music Director Designate Klaus Mäkelä](#).

About Jikun Qin

Violist Jikun Qin, a native of Shanxi, China, has appeared as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player across Asia, Europe, and the United States, performing in renowned venues such as Carnegie Hall, David Geffen Hall, Chicago Symphony Center, Boston Symphony Hall, Kimmel Center and Forbidden City Concert Hall.

Qin has performed with many orchestras and has served as a substitute musician with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra and Boston Symphony Orchestra. He is also a member of the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra.

An active chamber musician, Qin has collaborated with a wide range of ensembles. His festival appearances include the Perlman Music Program, Verbier Festival, Curtis Summerfest and NYO-China. He has worked with distinguished artists such as Itzhak Perlman, Antoine Tamestit, Kim Kashkashian and Roberto Díaz.

Qin trained at the Middle School attached to the China Conservatory before moving to New York. After studies at the Juilliard Pre-College, he completed both his bachelor's and master's degrees at the Juilliard School, where his principal teachers included Roger Tapping, Paul Neubauer, Molly Carr and Cynthia Phelps.

About Jasmine Lin

Canadian Chinese violinist Jasmine (Meng Jia) Lin began playing the violin at the age of four. She was awarded the grand prize at the 2014 Kocian International Violin Competition and was a recipient of the 2018 Canada Council for the Arts Instrument Bank loan. She has performed with the Czech Chamber Philharmonic Pardubice and has participated in leading festivals such as

the Schiermonnikoog Festival, Toronto Summer Music, Gstaad Menuhin Academy and Kneisel Hall.

She received her bachelor and master of music degrees from the Juilliard School, studying with Masao Kawasaki. She continued her studies at the Manhattan School of Music with Nicholas Mann, Sheryl Staples and Sylvia Rosenberg, and began doctoral studies at Rice University under Cho-Liang Lin. Prior to this, she studied with Atis Bankas in her hometown of Toronto at the Taylor Academy of the Royal Conservatory of Music.

The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](https://www.cso.org)

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the world's great orchestras. In April 2024, Klaus Mäkelä was named the Orchestra's 11th music director, and he will begin an initial five-year tenure as Zell Music Director with the 2027/28 Season. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, became Music Director Emeritus for Life at the beginning of the 2023/24 Season. Joyce DiDonato is the CSO Artist-in-Residence for the 2025/26 Season.

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 domestically, and since 1892, has made 65 international tours, performing in 30 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](https://www.cso.org/radio). Launched in 2007, **CSO 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**, founded by Margaret Hillis in 1957, is the country's largest professional chorus. Donald Palumbo is the Director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus. Founded by second music director Frederick Stock during the 1919/20 Season, the **Civic Orchestra of Chicago** is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. **Symphony Center Presents** features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, world and contemporary. The **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.