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OLIVIA JAKYOUNG HUH ANNOUNCED AS THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CSO Fellow is Appointed to Cello Section **by Zell Music Director Designate Klaus Mäkelä**

CHICAGO – The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces the appointment of Olivia Jakyoung Huh to the cello section of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). Huh officially started on October 27, 2025, after beginning the [2025/26 Season as one of three CSO Fellows](#). Huh participated in the section cello audition process beginning with preliminary auditions in the fall of 2025, winning the final audition in October 2025, and is the third CSO musician appointed by [Zell Music Director Designate Klaus Mäkelä](#).

The CSO Fellowship program was introduced in the 2022/23 Season with the goal of assisting early-career musicians from all backgrounds that have a demonstrated commitment to equity and inclusion as they seek a career in classical-music performance. The CSO Fellowship program's objective is to help musicians become better equipped to win auditions with top U.S. orchestras, including the CSO.

Huh has been performing since a very young age, making her recital debut at the age of 9 on the Kumho Prodigy Concert Series in Seoul, South Korea. The same year, Huh made her concerto debut with the Guri Philharmonic Orchestra. She has gone on to win prizes at several international competitions, including first prize and a special prize at the Alice and Eleonore Schoenfeld International String Competition and first prize at the International Johannes Brahms Competition. More recently, Huh was invited to compete in the Queen Elisabeth Competition and the Geneva Competition, leading to performance opportunities in the United States, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, China, Spain, Japan, Malaysia and South Korea.

In recital, she has given performances at the Stradivari Society and the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago. An avid chamber musician, Huh has performed at prestigious festivals such as the Yellow Barn Summer Festival, the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, the Perlman Music Program Chamber Music Workshop, the Tanglewood Music Festival and the New York String Orchestra Seminar.

Huh attended Yale School of Music, graduating in spring 2025 with a master of musical arts degree in cello performance after studies under Paul Watkins and receiving the 2025 Aldo Parisot Prize. She also earned a master's degree from the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music under the tutelage of Hans Jørgen Jensen. She was a longtime student of Myung-Wha Chung before attending the New England Conservatory, where she earned her bachelor of music degree after studying with Laurence Lesser. She has been a member of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and performed as a cello section substitute with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since 2023.

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.