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TWO LONGTIME WOODWIND PLAYERS TO RETIRE AFTER DECADES OF SERVICE TO THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Assistant Principal Oboe Michael Henoeh and CSO Bassoon Dennis Michel Mark Multi-Decade Careers and Perform Final CSO Concert at Ravinia on August 21

CHICAGO — Two longtime members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) woodwind section — Assistant Principal Oboe Michael Henoeh and CSO Bassoon Dennis Michel — will perform in their final CSO concert on August 21 in the Tchaikovsky Spectacular program that closes the Orchestra’s summer 2022 residency at Ravinia. Henoeh and Michel will officially retire in September and will receive the CSO’s Theodore Thomas Medallion for distinguished service from Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti at a date to be announced. Henoeh, who joined the Orchestra in 1972 and holds the Gilchrist Foundation Chair, will retire after 50 years. Michel, who joined the orchestra in 1998, will retire after 24 years.

Michael Henoeh, Assistant Principal Oboe

Henoeh first performed with the CSO as a guest musician in 1971, when he traveled with the Orchestra on its first European tour led by Music Director Sir Georg Solti. In 1972, Henoeh was appointed Assistant Principal Oboe by Solti while still a student at Northwestern University, where he studied with the CSO’s Principal Oboe Ray Still. Originally from Clinton, Iowa, he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music from Northwestern University, both awarded with highest honors. While a student, Henoeh was also a member of the Lyric Opera Orchestra for three years. Upon his retirement, Henoeh will be longest-serving musician appointed by Solti and the longest-serving member of the oboe section.

During his tenure, Henoeh has performed under three CSO music directors (Sir Georg Solti, Daniel Barenboim and Riccardo Muti), as well as Principal Guest Conductor Pierre Boulez and Principal Conductor Bernard Haitink. His solo appearances with the Orchestra include 1988 performances of Haydn’s Sinfonia Concertante led by Sir Georg Solti and 1996 performances of J.S. Bach’s Concerto for Oboe and Violin and Oboe with violinist Maxim Vengerov and Daniel Barenboim on harpsichord, as well as a 2003 performance of Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante with conductor Peter Oundjian at Ravinia. As a soloist and recitalist and chamber musician, Henoeh has toured extensively throughout North America and Europe, appearing with noted conductors Sir Georg Solti, Daniel Barenboim, David Zinman and Alexander Schneider. He has

also performed as principal oboe on more than 50 of the CSO's recordings, many of them Grammy Award winners. Henoch's other recordings include Mozart's Quartet for Oboe and Strings, which was nominated for a 2006 Grammy Award, as well as the 2008 recording *Maiden Voyage* recorded with musicians from Dempster St. Pro Musica, a non-profit arts ensemble he founded that year and that remains dedicated to presenting chamber music concerts of the highest quality in a casual atmosphere.

In his early career, Henoch made a solo debut at Carnegie Hall with the New York String Orchestra in 1970 that led to an invitation from Rudolf Serkin to participate in the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont, where he was principal oboe in the orchestra under the baton of Pablo Casals. Henoch went on to perform at many other prestigious summer festivals, including Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival and the Carmel Bach Festival in California.

In 1996, Henoch was named the artistic codirector of the Chicago Chamber Musicians (CCM), an ensemble with which he performed regularly since its inception in 1986. Henoch is credited with the idea for CCM's highly successful and critically acclaimed Music at the Millennium series, which celebrated 20th-century music in concerts at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art presented each May from 1998 through 2002. In the development of this festival, he worked closely with Pierre Boulez, who served as music advisor and at that time was the CSO's Principal Guest Conductor.

"It has been the honor of a lifetime to have been a member of this great orchestra," said Henoch. "In fact, I can think of no greater honor that any musician could experience, than to have spent 50 years making music with the greatest musicians in the world. I'm so grateful for this opportunity and have been continuously inspired by the members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. I admire their extraordinary dedication and artistry, as well as their commitment to sharing great music with our audiences in Chicago and around the world."

After he retires from the CSO, Henoch will continue to teach at Northwestern University, where he is professor of oboe at the Bienen School of Music. He also continues as Artistic Director of Dempster St. Pro Musica, presenting concerts at SPACE in Evanston. He and his wife, Sunny Masur, share four children and seven grandchildren. They look forward to spending more time with their extended family and friends.

Dennis Michel, Bassoon

In 1998, Dennis Michel was appointed to the position of second bassoon of the CSO by Music Director Daniel Barenboim. Michel previously held the position of principal bassoon of the San Diego Symphony and San Diego Opera. He was also a founding member of the Arioso Wind Quintet, an ensemble based in San Diego that toured regularly and made recordings on the Koch Classics label.

Since joining the CSO, Michel has had the opportunity to appear as a soloist in several subscription concert programs, including performances of Dvorak's Serenade for Winds, and Mozart's Serenade for Winds in C Minor and Serenade No. 11 in E-flat Major. Notably, Michel was also featured in a 2021 performance of Mozart's Gran Partita that was part of the critically acclaimed CSO Sessions digital series.

An active chamber musician, Michel has been featured on the CSO's various chamber music series throughout his tenure and has also performed with the Da Camera Society of Houston, on the chamber series at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, and at numerous summer festivals including Tanglewood, the Bard Festival in New York, Grand Teton Music Festival, and Summerfest La Jolla, where he was a featured artist for 10 seasons. Michel was also an Ensemble Artist with the Chicago Chamber Musicians for 10 years, during which time he directed the group's Professional Development Program that helped advance the careers of young professional chamber ensembles.

Originally from East Wenatchee, Washington, Michel holds degrees from Eastern Washington University and Yale University. His principal teachers include Wendal Jones and Arthur Weisberg, but he also studied with Milan Turkovic at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna when he was 1996 recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship for advanced study. During that time, he also performed with the Vienna State Opera.

"The most significant feeling that I have when reflecting on being part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, is gratitude," said Michel. "To work with such amazing musical colleagues, who have the highest standards has been incredibly rewarding and a reminder of the quality that is in the DNA of this orchestra. When you play with a group of musicians like those in the CSO, you are free to play as beautifully as possible."

After his retirement from the CSO, Michel will continue to perform in a variety of chamber music settings. He will also maintain his bassoon studio at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University and looks forward to returning to summer teaching at the Music Academy in Santa Barbara, where he marked 35 years as part of the woodwind faculty in 2022. He and his wife Peggy, an accomplished oboist, look forward to enjoying their home in Oak Park and Chicago's many cultural offerings, as well as spending time with their grandson and extended family and friends.

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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 greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the pre-eminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Jessie Montgomery is Mead Composer-in-Residence, and Hilary Hahn is CSO Artist-in-Residence.

From baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast repertoire. Its renowned musicians annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally. Since 1892, the CSO has made 62 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

People around the globe listen to weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT radio network and online at [cso.org/radio](https://www.cso.org/radio). Recordings by the CSO have earned 63 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti's recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* (Muti's first of eight releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at [cso.org/resound](https://www.cso.org/resound).

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago (Ken-David Masur, Principal Conductor), a training ensemble for emerging professionals. Through its prestigious Symphony Center Presents series, the

CSOA presents guest artists and ensembles from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, world and contemporary.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers community and education programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, including a free annual concert led by Muti, the CSO is committed to using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.