



**League**

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association

**220 SOUTH – December 2025**



**A newsletter of the League of the CSOA**

**Merle Jacob, Editor**

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear League Members,

As 2025 comes to a close, I am reminded of how fortunate the League is to have the continued involvement and support that all of you provide, with enthusiasm, to the League of the CSOA. Our Mission statement clearly defines three pillars of commitment to the CSOA, fundraising, community engagement and music appreciation. As you read through this beautiful newsletter, I think you will clearly see the dedication and support to the League's Mission that you provide.



The New Year will give you ample opportunity to participate in various events that support our Mission. I hope that you will participate in as many events as you can.

Your generosity of time and resources enriches all of us in lasting ways. I am deeply thankful for your commitment to the League and our beloved musicians. Your volunteerism does make a difference!

I hope your holiday season was filled with much love and joy. May the year ahead bring you happiness, health and renewed inspiration.

With an Attitude of Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah".



**Sarah Good**

*President, League of the CSOA*

312-294-3171 | cell 312-215-3693 | [goods@csso.org](mailto:goods@csso.org)

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association**

## FALL LEAGUE EVENTS

### FALL IN LOVE WITH MUSIC A ROUSING SUCCESS



FILWM committee members pose with Zell Music Director Designate Klaus Mäkelä.

The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “Fall in Love with Music” was held on Friday, October 17, in Presidents Hall of the Union League Club of Chicago. Guests were welcomed by League President Sarah Good, who also shared a brief history of the event. Sarah acknowledged those League members who collaborated on the very first “Fall in Love with Music” in 2010 – Bridgette Hayes who conceptualized the idea, Cheryl Istvan as League President, and Linda Neumann as Co-Chair. Guests were then served a lovely lunch of lemon herb chicken.

After lunch, Sharon Mitchell, VP of Fundraising, introduced event co-chairs Margo Oberman and Mimi Duginger. Margo subsequently introduced Antoine Tamestit to the stage and shared that Antoine is one of only a few full-time viola soloists in the world. Notably, he plays the first viola made in 1672 by Stradivari, which Antoine lovingly calls “Gustav Mahler.”

Jeff Alexander, President of the CSOA, interviewed Antoine who spoke about his musical background and his life as a viola artist. Antoine then performed music by Bach. We were surprised and thrilled when Antoine invited his fiancé violinist Alexandra Preuciil to join him on





Antoine Tamestit performs on stage.

the stage. They performed a lively duet by Bartok. When Antoine heard that the theme of our event was “Fall in Love with Music”, he decided that a duet performed with his fiancé would be a great addition to our program. Their performance was delightful and thrilling!

Mimi then introduced both Klaus Mäkelä, Zell Music Director Designate for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Jeff Alexander, President of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, to the stage for a panel discussion. Guests were able to learn so much about Klaus from his early music education to his current experiences as an in-demand international conductor. Of course, we were all thrilled to hear how much he enjoys working with our much-loved Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Mimi ended the program by thanking everyone who helped make “Fall in Love with Music” such a huge success,

highlighting our Maestro Sponsors: Pamela and Cushman Andrews, Lori Julian and the Julian Family Foundation, Liz Stiffel, and Helen Zell.

“Fall in Love with Music” 2025 was a huge success, both in our attendance and our financial goals. Total attendance at the event was 180. League members and guests were extremely generous in supporting this historic event with 88 sponsorships and four underwritten event expenses. The total revenue was an incredible \$104,615! This was the highest total revenue and the largest number of sponsorships in the history of the event. A huge thank you goes to our incredibly generous League members and friends who supported this special fundraiser!



Jeff Alexander, CSOA president interviews Klaus Mäkelä.

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

The League's Orientation Day was held on October 10, and it was a wonderful success! New members attended this engaging session, which included an overview of our League's history and activities, as well as a special behind-the-scenes tour of Symphony Center. League President, Sarah Good, opened the session with warm and inspiring remarks. Attendees received valuable materials, including the calendar of events, bylaws, membership benefits and requirements, our latest newsletter, and a volunteer interest survey to help match members with programs that best suit their interests.

The new members had the rare opportunity to visit the hall, lower level, and even the stage itself. Education VP, Kathy Northmeyer, guided the tour and shared fascinating insights into the history and mechanics of Symphony Center, as well as the League's origins and role in supporting the world-renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the tour!

We are delighted to welcome our newest members and look forward to working alongside them this season: Mrs. Elizabeth (Juliet) Bell, Dr. Leo Merendino, Dr. Richard Finegold, Ms. Rosalin Britton, Mr. Timothy Richard Martin, Ms. Susan Duda, Dr. Felissa Kaplan, Mrs. Jacqueline (Jacquie) Sabian, and Dr. Hannah Johnston.

Please take a moment to welcome them when you see them in the coming weeks!



VP of Membership Fred Garzon explains the League to our new members. Kathy Nordmeyer leads new members on a tour of Symphony Center.

## LEAGUE PIZZA PARTY FOR THE CIVIC MUSICIANS

The opening of the Civic Orchestra's 2025-2026 season at Symphony Center was October 27. To help celebrate this first concert the League provided a Pizza Party for all the musicians and Civic donors in Grainger Ballroom. The pizza was provided by Chicago's Pizza with Miguel Flores donating all the pizzas! What a wonderful way to begin a new season. There were a number of League members present acting as greeters and visiting with the musicians. Juliet Bell, Merle Jacob, Rosalind Britten, Betsy Berry, Ansuk Jeong, Kathy Nordmeyer, Janice Young, Lynda Soucie, Sharon Mitchell and Sarah Good did an amazing job welcoming everyone and letting the Civic musicians know how much the League loves them. It was a great evening for all!



League President Sarah Good welcomes everyone.



Civic members enjoy the food and friends after an outstanding



Maestro Ken David-Masur thanks everyone for their support.



Chairs of the event, Janice Young and Lynda Soucie.



## AIM CONCERTS AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

“Amazing!” “I can’t get the music out of my head!” “How did Jeremy Li play all of those notes?” “I loved it!” “I want to play all of the instruments.” “Astonishing!” “Wow! I’ve never seen such a beautiful place!”

Those are just some of the comments we heard after the AIM concerts on Nov. 12th and 13th. The welcome that the League volunteers provided set the stage for four extraordinary days of concerts that saw more than 14,000 people at these amazing concerts.

Maestro Thomas Wilkins, as always, energized the crowd – and musicians – with the messages of Courage, Caution, and Kindness woven through the music in Wednesday and Thursday concerts. The final piece, the Can Can from Offenbach’s *Orpheus in the Underworld*, had everyone clapping and bouncing in the seats.

On Friday and Saturday, Maestro Andrew Grams and American singer-songwriter of children's music, Justin Roberts, enthralled the audience with the concerts, “Which Instrument Should I Play?”. The audience, children and adults were captivated by the exploration of the sound of individual instruments and how they all work together to create thrilling music.

More than 1,100 people attended the Instrument Petting Zoo, and we ran out of supplies for some of the incredible activities because the Family Concerts are becoming so popular. The energy in the Rotunda was powerful! The children love dressing up as Mini Maestros and conducting an ensemble from the Civic Orchestra. Parents and children also enjoyed the Be a Composer activity where children could put notes on a musical scale and then a Civic Orchestra member played the tune. The scavenger hunt and the instrument puzzles kept families busy.

The concert experience is made all the more wonderful because of the joyous welcome that the following League volunteers provided over these four days: Sue Bridge, Merle Jacob Mary Ann Harting, Sharon Mitchell, Christine Uhlig, Howard & Elise Masur, Juliet Bell, Alissa Gam, Sarah & Mark Good, Betsy Barry, Jackson Chen, Mary Beth Dietrick, and John & Linda Zimmie.



League volunteers preparing for the AIM concerts.



Students arrive at Symphony Center.



Children and families loved the concert.



Children enjoy the instrument petting zoo.



Then they make an instrument. Parents join in too.

## ONCE UPON A SYMPHONY BRINGS JOY TO THE YOUNGEST

On Monday, December 8, League volunteers welcomed 670 of our youngest patrons, the Pre-K and Kindergarten students, to Buntrock Hall for a heart-warming performance of The Ugly Duckling. The children ooo-ed and ahhh-ed, waved their hands and sang with the musicians. David Griffin, French horn, wowed the children as the farmer. An additional treat for the League members was listening to our newest member of the cello section, Olivia Jakyoungh Huh, who played a wonderful Ugly Duckling. Mark your calendars for February 2, 2026 for the next performances of this wonderful tale.





Kathy Nordmeyer gives instructions to the volunteers.  
Costumes



CSO musicians David Griffin and Olivia Jakyoung Huh in their



The youngest ones come to Symphony Center.  
concert.



The young audience is always lively and spell bound by the

## LEAGUE HOLIDAY LETTER PROJECT

The Holiday Letter Project provided an excellent opportunity to contribute to the League Tribute Fund while recognizing and appreciating the exceptional musicians of the CSO.

This year, 33 League Members stepped forward to sponsor 92 extraordinary artists, each of whom received a festive letter honoring their dedication and artistry. Every letter included the name of the League member who made a contribution to the League Tribute Fund in their honor. Thanks to the outpouring of support, we raised \$6,325.00 for the League Tribute Fund, while ensuring our musicians feel valued.

A special thank you to Brent Taghap for printing and delivering the festive holiday letters, and to both Allisa Gam and Merle Jacob for stuffing the envelopes. On December 10, 2025, the musicians discovered these tokens of appreciation in their mailboxes. Thank you to everyone who participated, supported, and helped make this project a success. We have an influence through every letter and act of kindness.

Sharon Quigley, Chairperson, CSOA Musicians' Holiday Letter Project 2025

## GOODIE BAGS FOR THE CIVIC ORCHESTRA

On a cold December morning, League volunteers Sue Bridge, Carol Brosk, Alissa Gam, Claretta Meier, Carol Nykiel, and Jacqueline Sabin joined Goodie Bag Chair Merle Jacob to stuff 100 League bags with items to help Civic Orchestra members in their long Bach Marathon Day on Dec. 15. This year's goodie bags were filled with CSO beanies, hand warmers, hand lotion, a bag of pita chips, chocolate bars, and protein bars to help the musicians get through the day. On Saturday Dec. 13, League members distributed the bags as the Civic members came for rehearsal. This year the Civic members spent the day going to 10 social service organizations that primarily support people experiencing homelessness, adults with disabilities, and seniors to present the series of daytime performances. These visits allow The Civic to engage with people who may not often visit the concert hall and provide moments of musical respite in their communities with the music of Bach. The Civic then ended its day at Fourth Presbyterian Church to play Bach for a very appreciative audience. This year's marathon featured four of the Bach Brandenburg concertos and a selection of Bach's shorter pieces. The concert ended with a rousing sing-along to several of Bach's hymns.



Goodie Bag stuffers Alissa Gam, Claretta Meier, Jacqueling Sabin, Carol Nykiel, Carol Brosk fill the bags.



Boxes of goodies around the tables as League volunteers



Joan Dattel, Sharon Mitchell, Merle Jacob, Allisa Gam, and Janice Young spent a cold day giving out bags to Civic members. Civic Orchestra members show off their goodie bags before they go into rehearsal





## LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS MAKE YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION

### AN AMAZING DAY FOR ALL

What a wonderful day at Symphony Center. On Sunday, December 7, the League volunteers welcomed 35 string players for the Crain-Maling Foundation Young Artists Competition. League volunteers Mary Beth Dietrick, Jackson Chen, Peter Bouchard, Sue Bridge, Patty Weber, David Weber, and Jacqueline Sabin manned the morning shift. Then Timothy Martin, Betsy Berry, Merle Jacob, Rosalind Britton, Margo Oberman, and Janice Young took the afternoon shift. Volunteers welcomed the young musicians, took them to the practice rooms, and then to their auditions. What extraordinary talent! One parent said, "this is so well organized, and you all exhibit a chill vibe which made it so easy for the young musicians." While all the young musicians were fantastic—many started studying at the young ages of 2 and 3. Ultimately, the judges could only pick four finalists out of the outstanding competitors. The finalists were Ella Wimbiscus, cello, Gabriel Raviv, cello, Cecilia O'Malley, violin, and Sebastian Manning, violin. The four finalists will play with the Civic Orchestra on January 17, 2026, in a final round which will determine the winner. Don't miss this wonderful event!



League volunteers Peter Bouchard, and Jackson Chen with a young artist they were taking to their audition.



## THE LEAGUE'S VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** If you have ever wondered if our volunteering makes a difference, these letters to Carol Kelleher, Assistant, CSO for Kids, from a grateful parent/teacher explains why we give our time. Seeing all these wonderful young people just warmed my heart and made a very long day go by so quickly. Merle Jacob

### AIM Educational Concerts

Dear Carol and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Team,

Thank you so much for the wonderful opportunity for our Southside Occupational students to experience The Chicago Symphony Orchestra on November 12th, seeing "Sounding Together" led by conductor Thomas Wilkins. We had such a memorable and inspiring time. Many of our students participated in band at their previous schools, and hearing the live performance brought back very special memories of the instruments they once played. It was truly meaningful to watch their excitement and recognition as the music filled the hall. We were also incredibly impressed by how organized your team was throughout our entire visit. From the moment we arrived, we felt welcomed, supported, and comfortable. Your team's professionalism and kindness made the experience smooth and enjoyable for both students and staff. We are especially grateful for the inclusion of an ASL interpreter for our hard-of-hearing students. This thoughtful accommodation ensured that every student could fully participate in and appreciate the performance, and it meant so much to them—and to us. We are extremely thankful as well for your generosity in providing buses for our visit. That support made this experience possible for our students, many of whom would not have otherwise been able to attend. Thank you again for opening your doors to us and creating such a magical and educational experience for our school community. We deeply appreciate your partnership and kindness.

Jamie Harlin, Special Education Teacher Southside Occupational Academy Chicago Public Schools

### Young Artists Competition

"My son, E--, participated in the concerto competition this weekend, and I wanted to pass along our heartfelt thanks for an incredible experience. From start to finish, the competition was the most professionally and thoughtfully run youth music program we have ever experienced. The warmth, care, and professionalism of everyone we encountered (and particularly Peter Bouchard) was second to none. After learning the news that he had not passed to the finals, E--- immediately remarked "I've completely won from a musical experience perspective." We could not agree more. Your competition has further inspired and confirmed our son's true love of classical music, and we could not be happier about his experience. We look forward to seeing the extraordinary musicians in the finals and continuing to enjoy the unprecedented beauty of CSO concerts. Thank you again.

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## SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW

### JOHN BRUCE YEH

#### ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CLARINET AND E FLAT CLARINET



Did you know that John Bruce Yeh won the “Frank Sinatra Musical Performance Award” when he was 19 years-old, and “Old Blue Eyes”—ie, Frank Sinatra---presented him with the award. However, John wasn’t always destined to be a musician. Both his parents were scientists, and it was always assumed John would also go into a scientific profession, but that wasn’t to be. John explained, “My mother had taken piano lessons so we had a piano at our house. I started taking piano lessons when I was six, but it just wasn’t for me. Then in second grade, we were offered orchestra instruments, and the clarinet picked me.” He stopped piano lessons. “I now regret not continuing with piano lessons as it is a good basis for all music lessons. I’m delighted that my daughter still plays piano while my wife and I play the clarinet.”

John credits his first clarinet teacher, Mr. Herritt, with giving him a great musical foundation, and then continued lessons with a more advanced teacher, Mr.

Gray, who could take his skills to the next level. “He was my mentor from grade school to my two years at UCLA. He also lived two minutes from my house. He was an amazing teacher and shepherded me in the right way to become a professional musician,” John explained. He entered UCLA at 15 as a premed major, but he felt the pull of music. “I realized music was my passion, and to my parents’ credit, they agreed. They said as long as you do your best, we will support you. That advice has stayed with me and has influenced how I have raised my daughters,” John proudly said. He then transferred to the Julliard School of Music, and later began auditioning with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cincinnati Symphony, and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra for orchestral positions. “The conductor at St. Paul was someone I had worked with. He felt I would be held back with a chamber orchestra so I didn’t win. The following month I auditioned with the CSO and won! Maestro Georg Solti recognized my talent and became my mentor,” he explained.

John smiled as he said how Solti skyrocketed the CSO to international fame and each year encouraged the orchestra to be better. “He would say I conducted the New York Phil and they are good, but we are better. The next year he would say, I conducted the Boston Symphony. They are good, but we are better. The following year after conducting the Berlin Philharmonic,

he said, they are good but we must be better!” John was 19 when he won his audition and dropped out of Julliard. Later he enrolled in Northwestern University School of Music who enabled him to finish his college degree at Julliard.

When asked about the different conductors he has worked with, John explained that Solti was driven and insisted on high standards. Carlo Maria Guilini was worshipful of the music and beloved by the musicians. Daniel Barenboim brought a softer edge and gentleness to counter Solti’s precision. Pierre Boulez brought his ability to dissect complex music to the orchestra while Bernard Haitink raised the standard of the orchestra by insisting on precise intonation. Riccardo Muti brought the fire of Solti and the absolute precision of Haitink but in an Italianate way. “Muti brought us Verdi’s operas which we had never played. He lavished his experience with Verdi and this added immeasurably to the orchestra. Muti also opened the orchestra to everyone by starting the free concerts in Millenium Park and the neighborhoods and then opening the rehearsals to patrons, seniors, and veterans. He was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love by Chicagoans at that first Millenium Park concert. Now Klaus Makela is putting his stamp on the orchestra. We are all looking forward to what is to come,” John explained.



A young John with Frank Sinatra.

John’s love of new music started at UCLA and continued at Julliard where he met new music composers. When he came to Chicago, he played Boulez’s music and met Howard Sandoff who introduced John to more contemporary music. In 1979, he formed the Chicago Pro Music so he could play more new music. He has also worked with Pierre Boulez and Elliot Carter on new music for the clarinet. He continues his love of new music and chamber music by playing with chamber music groups and playing at numerous music festivals.

When asked what he does for fun, John laughing said, “I play chamber music with my wife, walk my dog, do Pilates to stay healthy, and cook food. I love all kinds of food and will cook whatever is in the fridge. My daughter Molly has picked up my love of food and has the program *Girl Meets Farm* on the Food Network. But even more, I love playing with my three granddaughters.”

John brings his love of life, music, and people to all he does. In his 48 years with the symphony, he has enriched the orchestra with his exceptional talent, but more importantly, he is looking forward to what is to come and what he can give to the his beloved CSO. This year, John is the League’s musician engagement liaison. John Bruce Yeh is someone you should know.



## UPCOMING LEAGUE OPPORTUNITIES

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AIM CONCERTS IN 2026

**Monday, February 2, 2026 – Once Upon a Symphony School Concert for PreK & K**

#### **The Ugly Duckling**

A young duckling is teased for being different. After facing loneliness and other struggles, the duckling matures into a stunning swan, realizing true beauty comes from within. Explore this musical portrait of self-discovery, acceptance and inner strength.

**Monday, March 9, 2026 – Once Upon a Symphony School Concert for PreK & K**

#### **The Bremen Town Musicians**

When four farm animals are no longer needed, they set off for the town of Bremen, dreaming of becoming musicians. On the way, they discover a house full of robbers! The friends quickly join forces to scare away the thieves, uncovering hidden courage they never knew they had.

**Saturday, March 21, 2026 - Family concert for Ages 5-12 with Activities in the Rotunda**

#### **Classical Elements**

Conductor Mei-Ann Chen and members of the CSO embark on a musical exploration of air, fire and water. Journey through a musical depiction of the elements that help to create balance on planet Earth and discover how we are all part of that harmony.

If you are interested in helping with these concerts, please contact Kathy Nordmeyer at [nordmeyerk@gmail.com](mailto:nordmeyerk@gmail.com)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SENIOR AND VETERAN

### OPEN REHEARSALS

The League and the Negaunee Music Institute are so fortunate again to be offering 3 Open Rehearsals in 2026 to the Senior and Veteran Engagement Program. The first open rehearsal is on **Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00am-12:30pm** conducted by Klaus Makela. Featured will be **Sibelius** *Lemminkainen*: Four Legends from the *Kalevala*, Op. 22, **R. Strauss** *Ein Heldenleben*, Op. 40, and **Sibelius** *Musette* from Suite from *King Christian II*, Op. 27.

The next SVEP will be on **Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-12:30pm** with Maestro Riccardo Muti. The concert will feature **Tchaikovsky** Symphony No. 3 in D Major, Op. 29 (*Polish*), **Rota** Music from *Il Gattopardo* (The Leopard,) and **Rota** Suite from *The Godfather*.

The last Open Rehearsal will be on **Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm-3:30pm**. The featured conductor Joshua Weilerstein will lead the CSO musicians in **Montgomery** *Banner*, **Martinu** *The Rock*, **Copland** *Lincoln Portrait*, **Ives** *Three Places in New England*, and **Ellington** *Harlem*. We need greeters and helpers for all three Open Rehearsals. All volunteers are invited to stay for the rehearsals. Please contact Margo Oberman ([honye@obermail.net](mailto:honye@obermail.net)) if you are interested.

## **SALON ANNOUNCEMENT: FEBRUARY 27, 2026, AT 5:00-7:00 PM**

Members and their prospective member are invited to attend this enchanting Salon with hors d'oeuvres, beverages and a special musical performance by the award-winning, multi-genre harpist, Kari Novilla, principal harpist with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

The Salon will be held at the home of Lori Julian, 840 N. Lake Shore Drive, Apt 701, Chicago, IL 60611. Space is limited for this event so make your reservations soon. Spouses who are not members, will be placed on a wait list in order received and if spots become available, spouses will be invited.

A minimum \$55 donation to the League Tribute Fund is required for admission to the event to fund the League's Civic Orchestra Fellow's yearly stipend. We encourage additional donations beyond the Salon admission fee to the League Tribute Fund to fully fund this scholarship.

RSVP to Allisa Gam (GamA@cso.org) or call her at 248-250-0630 and make your donation by February 13, 2026. Only guests who have notified Allisa and who have donated to the League Tribute Fund by February 13th will be admitted. No walk-ins will be admitted due to upfront planning for refreshments.

Donations can be made via the League website, The League | Chicago Symphony Orchestra by scrolling down to the red TRIBUTE FUND button. You can indicate this donation is being made in honor of Kari Novilla, League Salon. If not paying online, please notify Victoria Menendez at 312 294-3129 or MenendezV@cso.org and to Brent Taghap after January 5<sup>th</sup> to make your donation separately from your RSVP to Allisa Gam.

## **LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CORPORATE NIGHT**

Corporate Night is one of the CSOA's major annual fundraisers, and the League is asked to assist in the planning and implementation of this major event. It is an evening of food and music designed to fill Symphony Center with corporate sponsors, League members and our affiliate groups, and music lovers across Chicagoland. It is also an excellent opportunity to showcase our League and all the ways in which we, too, support our beloved CSO!

This year's event will be held on the evening of Tuesday, June 23, and will feature the very popular movie music of John Williams. League members Sarah Good, Sharon Mitchell, Claretta Meier, Peter Bouchard, Joan Dattel, Juliet Bell, Jacqueline Sabian, Hannah Jophnston, and Merle Jacob are serving on the Corporate Night executive committee co-chaired by Sue Bridge and Kathy Solaro. Sub-committee action will begin later in January. In addition to attending, how would you like to be involved? Which of the following sub-committees would you like to join?

- Food
- Décor
- Entertainment
- Announcement/invitation design
- Mailing preparation
- Social media
- Liaison to CSOA support groups

If one of these committees is calling out to you, let Sue Bridge [sue6721@gmail.com](mailto:sue6721@gmail.com) and Kathy Solaro [kathleensolaro@gmail.com](mailto:kathleensolaro@gmail.com) know which one.

## VOLUNTEER CONTACTS

To volunteer for the Crain Mailing Competition, please contact Ansuk Jeong at [granble@gmail.com](mailto:granble@gmail.com)

To volunteer at Open Rehearsals/SVEP, please contact Margo Oberman at [honye@obermail.net](mailto:honye@obermail.net).

To volunteer for Adventures in Music (AIM) concerts, please contact Kathy Nordmeyer at [nordmeyerk@gmail.com](mailto:nordmeyerk@gmail.com).

League questions? Please contact Sarah Good (League President) at [goods@cso.org](mailto:goods@cso.org), Allisa Gam (VP of Admin) at [gama@cso.org](mailto:gama@cso.org), or Brent Taghap at [taghapb@cso.org](mailto:taghapb@cso.org).



## FUNDRAISING

### LEAGUE TRIBUTE FUND

For many years, the League has funded, through our Tribute Fund, a stipend for a fellow in the Civic Orchestra. Our annual contribution for this purpose is \$10,000. While contributions to this fund are voluntary, we would like for you to keep this fund in mind and help it grow. Some of you have kindly made memorial donations. Donations are also a nice way to thank or honor someone for any reason. Of course, un-designated donations are completely welcome. You can make your donation to the League Tribute fund at [cso.org/league](https://cso.org/league). Contributions can also be made by calling the Development Department at (312) 294-3100. Be sure to tell them that your donation is for the League's Tribute Fund.

### LEAGUE ANNUAL FUND

The League Annual Fund is one of our biggest fundraising tools. Unlike our other fundraisers, it doesn't include any entertainment or food; it just requires your generosity. Our annual goal is \$100,000, and at the end of the fiscal year the entire Annual Fund content is transferred to the CSOA's general fund, to be used as needed.

All members are required to contribute to the League Annual Fund each year - \$150 for Active Members and \$250 for Supporting Members. Many kindly give more than the required amount – as this is necessary if we are to reach our goal. Members can also contribute as often they like.

Contributions for the 2025-2026 fiscal year may be made at any time between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026. However, payment by April 1 is greatly appreciated. You can make your donation to the League Annual Fund at [cso.org/donate/q/7](https://cso.org/donate/q/7). Contributions can also be made by calling the Development Department at (312) 294-3100. Be sure to tell them that your contribution is for the League's Annual Fund.

### LEAGUE IMPACT SPONSORSHIP

**IMPACT** is more than music—it's about creating opportunities, building connections, and sharing the power of music with people of all ages and backgrounds. The IMPACT Committee is a group of members from all the CSOA's affiliate groups and is chaired by Margo Oberman, Paul Watford and Matt Fry. The event is scheduled for Sunday, March 15, 2026 and will showcase Education and Community Programs of the CSO. Join fellow League members to experience performances by the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Percussion Scholarship Program students, CSO musicians, and more.

Building on last year's success, the League will once again participate in fundraising for **IMPACT**, with a goal of contributing \$7,500. Donations from the League can be made in different ways. If you are buying an event package from [CSO.org/support](https://CSO.org/support) **IMPACT**, 100% of that ticket purchase will go towards the League's counted goal. If you are reserving a free GA ticket from [CSO.org/support](https://CSO.org/support) **IMPACT**, then please make a donation of any size to the Negaunee Music Institute (NMI), too, then we can count that in the overall League Fundraising Goal.

## LEAGUE EVENTS – 2025/26 SEASON

Updated as of December 2025

January 17, 2026	Crain-Maling YAC Finals (1 PM   Orchestra Hall)
February 2, 2026	AIM: The Ugly Duckling (9 AM   Orchestra Hall)
February 18, 2026	SVEP: Strauss with Klaus Mäkelä (10 AM   Orchestra Hall)
February 27, 2026	Salon: Kari Novilla, Harp (5:30 PM   840 N Lake Shore Dr)
March 9, 2026	AIM: The Bremen Town Musicians (9 AM   Orchestra Hall)
March 15, 2026	IMPACT Benefit Concert (6:30 PM   Orchestra Hall)
March 18, 2026	Spring All-Member Meeting (11 AM   Grainger Ballroom)
March 21, 2026	AIM: Classical Elements (10 AM   Orchestra Hall)
April 7, 2026	Musicians' Luncheon (12 PM   Thomas Club/Grainger)
April 13, 2026	AIM: The Bremen Town Musicians (9 AM   Orchestra Hall)
May 8, 2026	AIM: Mother Goose & The Cabinet... (9 AM   Orchestra Hall)
May 9, 2026	AIM: Mother Goose & The Cabinet... (10 AM   Orchestra Hall)
May 16, 2026	Endowed Concert Reception (9:30 PM   Grainger Ballroom)
June 1, 2026	Civic Post Concert Reception #2 (9 PM   Buntrock Hall)
June 15, 2026	Annual Meeting (11 AM   Forte) <i>*Please note change of date and venue</i>
June 23, 2026	Corporate Night (6 PM   Forte)

## 2025/26 LEAGUE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Sarah Good

Vice President of Administration: Allisa Gam

Vice President of Education: Kathy Nordmeyer

Vice President of Events: Betsy Berry

Vice President of Finance: Juan Solana

Vice President of Fundraising: Sharon Mitchell

Vice President of Membership: Fred Garzon

Vice President of Outreach: Bobbie Huskey

Vice President of Strategic Planning & Operations: Ansuk Jeong

Secretary: Liz Branch

Members-at-Large: Rosalind Jackson & John Zimmie

CSOA Liaison: Brent Taghap

## **LEAGUE ONLINE INFORMATION**

Please support the League using our social media accounts for information sharing.

If you have an account on Facebook, visit <https://www.facebook.com/theleagueofthecsoa> and “follow.”

If you have an account on Instagram, follow the League at <https://www.instagram.com/theleagueofthecsoa>.

If you want to share something on these accounts, feel free to send pictures and contents to Ted Tabé (the chair of Technology) at [theodore.b.tabe@gmail.com](mailto:theodore.b.tabe@gmail.com).

## **WEB LINKS FOR LEAGUE MEMBERS**

League CSO page: <https://cso.org/support/get-involved/the-league/>

League Symphony Store: <https://symphonystore.com/collections/league-of-the-csoa-apparel>

League Tribune Fund: <https://order.cso.org/donate/q/12>

League Membership Dues: <https://order.cso.org/donate/q/8>

League Annual Fund: <https://order.cso.org/donate/q/7>

League Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/theleagueofthecsoa>