



**CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION**  
**RICCARDO MUTI** MUSIC DIRECTOR

220 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60604-2559  
TELEPHONE 312-294-3333  
FACSIMILE 312-294-3329

**For Immediate Release:**  
March 21, 2022

**Press Contacts:**  
[Eileen Chambers](#), 312.294.3092

## **WINNER OF 2022 CRAIN-MALING FOUNDATION CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION ANNOUNCED**

### **Pianist Noah Kim Wins First Prize**

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association announces that pianist Noah Kim is the first-place winner of the 2022 Crain-Maling Foundation Chicago Symphony Orchestra Young Artists Competition. His winning performance was of the first movement of Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No. 2. As this year's winner, Kim will appear as a soloist in a Chicago Symphony Orchestra Youth Concert during the 2022/23 season.

Kim was one of four young pianists from across Illinois who auditioned in the final round on Saturday, March 19, 2022 on Orchestra Hall's Armour Stage. This year's final round was accompanied by the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, under the baton of conductor Andrew Grams. The Young Artists Competition is organized jointly by the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO and the League of the CSOA.

**Noah Kim**, age 15, is a sophomore at Vernon Hills High School and studies piano at the Music Institute of Chicago's Academy with Marta Aznavoorian.

In 2020, Kim performed Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 1 in G Minor with the Oistrakh Symphony of Chicago as the winner of the DePaul Concerto Festival. He is a first-place winner of other numerous competitions including the Sejong Music Competitions of 2018 and 2020, the Illinois State Music Teachers Association in 2019, Clara-Schumann International Piano Competition in 2019, the Chicago Area Music Teachers Association's Roberta Savler Piano Contest in 2018, and Walgreens National Concerto Competition 2019. In March 2020, Kim was featured on WFMT's Introductions. Most recently, Kim won second prize in the David D. Dubois Piano Competition 2022. He has performed in masterclasses with John O'Connor, Alan Chow, Christopher Harding, Jon Kimura Parker, Sylvia Wang, and Marian Hahn.

In addition to piano, Kim plays violin in his school orchestra. He also participates on his school's math team and in the Future Business Leaders of America organization.

The other three finalists were (in alphabetical order): **Kimiko Darcy (runner up), Shivshankar Prasad, and Kevin Zhou.**

The CSOA is grateful to the Crain-Maling Foundation as its title sponsor of the Young Artists Competition. Special thanks to Dr. Michael Maling for his enduring support.

The event's host was Robbie Ellis, a broadcaster, composer, music director, and comedy song maker. He works at WFMT as the host on Sunday afternoons and as the producer and presenter of Introductions, a weekly show that profiles local pre-college musicians. He started in classical radio at RNZ Concert in Wellington, New Zealand. In addition, Ellis has worked as an event host for the International Music Foundation, Cedille Records, and the Northbrook Symphony Orchestra, and has been a teaching artist with Chicago Opera Theater, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and The Second City, with which he has also toured on land and sea as a music director.

Conductor Andrew Grams led the Young Artists in the Competition finals. The winner of 2015 Conductor of the Year honors from the Illinois Council of Orchestras, Grams has led ensembles throughout the United States, including the Chicago, Philadelphia, and National Symphony orchestras and the Detroit, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Dallas and Houston symphonies. Grams was named music director of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra after an international search in 2013 and recently concluded his tenure there after eight seasons.

The Civic Orchestra of Chicago accompanied the finalists. Since 1919, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago has been one of the nation's premier orchestral training programs for emerging professionals. Benefiting from a unique alliance with the world-renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Civic members refine their skills under the guidance of musicians of the CSO, Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti and Principal Conductor Ken-David Masur, as well as numerous guest artists who visit Symphony Center each season. The Civic Orchestra is a signature program of the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO. The Negaunee Music Institute shares the extraordinary musical resources of the CSO, creating connections to music for individuals and communities in Chicago and across the world.

Programs of the League of the CSOA span music appreciation, fundraising and education and include the Crain-Maling Foundation CSO Young Artists Competition. More information about the League of the CSOA is available at [cso.org/support/get-involved/the-league/](http://cso.org/support/get-involved/the-league/).

###

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra:** [cso.org](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://cso.org/resound).

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) 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.