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GATEWAYS FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA PROGRAM FOR APRIL 19 PERFORMANCE AT SYMPHONY CENTER ANNOUNCED

Program to Feature Take 6, a Multi-Grammy Award-Winning Gospel Sextet

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces program details for the Symphony Center Presents Special Concert featuring the Gateways Festival Orchestra on [Friday, April 19, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.](#) Celebrating its 30th season, the Gateways Music Festival has planned performances throughout Chicagoland in the days prior to this culminating concert at Symphony Center. With a mission to connect and support professional classical musicians of African descent and enlighten and inspire audiences through the power of performance, the renowned ensemble brings together professionals from leading U.S. orchestras and conservatory faculties. Led in this performance by the Gateways Festival Orchestra's critically acclaimed conductor [Anthony Parnter](#), the program will include Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson's *Worship: A Concert Overture*, Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and a second half featuring Margaret Bonds' *Montgomery Variations* along with a set of vocal selections by multi-Grammy Award-winning gospel sextet Take 6. Tickets and more information available at [cso.org](#).

Take 6 is the most awarded a cappella group in history, with 10 Grammy Awards, 10 Dove Awards, two NAACP Image Awards, a Soul Train Award and more. Their self-titled debut album garnered them two 1988 Grammy Awards and landed them in the Top Ten Billboard Contemporary Jazz and Contemporary Christian Charts. April 2018 marked the release of the group's 16th album, titled *ICONIC* and the debut of a PBS special, *The Summit*, alongside The Manhattan Transfer. Take 6 has performed with notable artists across genres including Stevie Wonder, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Whitney Houston and more, and the group was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2014. The group is set to release a new album in April of 2024.

About the Gateways Music Festival and conductor Anthony Parnter

The mission of Gateways Music Festival is to connect and support professional classical musicians of African descent and enlighten and inspire communities through the power of performance. Founded in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in 1993 by noted concert pianist Armenta Hummings Dumisani, the festival was brought to Rochester, New York, in 1997 when Hummings Dumisani joined the Eastman School of Music faculty. Approximately 125 musicians – comprising players in major symphony orchestras, faculty from renowned music schools and conservatories, and active freelance artists – participate in each festival. In 2016, while remaining an independent non-profit organization, Gateways formalized its longstanding relationship with Eastman and the University of Rochester. Among other mutual benefits, this deepened relationship provided much of the infrastructure and resources necessary for Gateways to increase its programming capacity, appoint its first paid staff position and broaden its impact in and beyond Rochester, NY.

Gateways Festival Orchestra is led by renowned orchestral and Hollywood-based conductor Anthony Parnter, whose credits include podium appearances with U.S. orchestras including the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra and more, as well as recording sessions for major film projects such as *Avatar: The Way of Water* and *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, among others. Parnter attended Northwestern University and Yale University and is a bassoonist as well as a conductor.

Patron Information

Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at [cso.org](https://www.gatewaysmusicfestival.org/cso.org) or by calling [312-294-3000](tel:312-294-3000), Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The walk-up Box Office at 220 S. Michigan Ave. is open Monday-Saturday 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

All artists and programs are subject to change.

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