

220 SOUTH – April 2026



A newsletter of the League of the CSOA

Merle Jacob, Editor



League
Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear League Members,

Well, it's only April of the 2025-2026 season and boy have all of you delivered for the League! I'm so impressed with the level of participation that you, our members, give to make the League so successful. Thank you!



We have already completed many events this season and still have much more to do. There are plenty of opportunities available for you to get involved.

Please read on in this beautiful newsletter to learn more about what we've accomplished and what's coming up. Please be sure to contact the appropriate person and sign up early for those events you want to participate in.

You have all made such a wonderful impact to the world of music here at Symphony Center. You are truly a gift to the League and the CSOA.

With a musical Attitude of Gratitude, thank you for all of your dedication to our organization and giving so generously of your time, donations and talents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah". The script is fluid and cursive.



Sarah Good

President, League of the CSOA

312-294-3171 | cell 312-215-3693 | goods@csso.org

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association

WINTER LEAGUE EVENTS

CRAIN-MALING YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION



From Left to Right: judges William Grubb, Charles Gray, Wen-Lei Gu; Conductor: Naomi Woo; Moderator Lisa Flynn; Finalists Sebastian Manning, Ella Wimbiscus, Cecilia O'Malley (winner), Gabriel Raviv, and Chair of the Competition Ansuk Jeong.

The League has been involved with the Young Artists Competition since 1967. This year, Ansuk Jeong served as the chair of the competition committee, Liz Branch as chair of camp scholarship committee, and 15 members of the League volunteered on the day of Preliminary Competition. This year's prestigious competition for Illinois's top student musicians was for string instruments. In December, 36 string musicians competed in the preliminary, and four finalists were chosen to perform with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, under the baton of Naomi Woo, on January 17th. At

the January performance, League members sat together to show our everlasting support for our young musicians. The winner, Cecilia O'Malley (violin), will perform with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 2027. So, stay tuned for a chance to hear this excellent young musician again!



League members Ansuk Jeong, Tim Martin, League President Sarah Good and CSOA staff members Kevin Gupana and Mary Grace Corrigan after the concert.



League members and friends enjoy the concert: Mr. Goodkind, Goodkind friend, Mary Goodkind (member), Goodkind friend.



League members Kathy and John Solaro support the Crain-Maling concert.

AIM CONCERTS BRING MUSIC TO OUR YOUNGEST PATRONS

Why would CSO musicians and other music professionals who are usually pretty serious onstage pretend to be varieties of aquatic birds and various domestic animals?? Why, to delight hundreds of pre-K and kindergarten kids at AIM concerts, of course.

On Feb. 2 David Griffin and Olivia Jakyoungh Huh of the CSO joined Anne Bach and Dionne Jackson of the Lyric Opera in *The Ugly Duckling*. They recounted the classic story with the aid of a talented actor/storyteller. After demonstrating how their instruments make their distinctive sounds, they played selections from the classical music canon as part of the story telling. Assisting in gathering in the youngsters were league members VP of Education Kathy Nordmeyer, John Zimmie and Linda Zimmie, co-chairs of the AIM committee, Christine Hide, Betsy Berry, Merle Jacob, and Sue Bridge preparing for the youngest children for the Ugly Duckling Concert. On Mar.9 *The Bremen Town Musicians* ...aka Baird Dodge and John Bruce Yeh along with Vincent Karamanov (St. Louis Symphony) and Ryan Williamson (Rockford Symphony) took to the stage in Buntrock Hall. Ryan is the son of our own Stephen Williamson. League members Sue Bridge, Merle Jacob, Jacque Sabian, Susan Duda, Janice Young, MaryBeth Dietrick, Kathy Nordmeyer and John Zimmie helped in getting the kids and their chaperones in place. On two days more than 500 Chicago area youngsters clapped and swayed their hands and otherwise joined in. Everyone — adults and tots— had a grand time.



League volunteers (left to right), Kathy Nordmeyer VP of Education, John Zimmie and Linda Zimmie, co-chairs of the AIM committee, Christine Hide, Betsy Berry, and Sue Bridge preparing for the youngest children for the *Ugly Duckling* Concert.



League volunteers take the children to the concert where David Griffin, French horn and Olivia Jakyoungh Huh, cello, act out the *Ugly Duckling*.



The children and the adults get involved in the concert.



League volunteers (left to right) Kathy Nordmeyer, John Zimmie, Jacqueline Sabian, Sudan Duda, Sue Bridge, Janice Young, wait for the young guests for the March concerts. Not pictured are League volunteers Mary Beth Dietrick and Merle Jacob who are waiting for the youngsters in the Rotunda.



The narrator talks to the children

John Bruce Yeh and Baird Dodge in costumes for the *Bremen Town Musicians*.





The musicians explain their instruments to the spellbound children.

The last school AIM concert of the winter featured conductor Mei-Ann Chen enthusiastically leading members of the CSO in music depicting air, water, fire, wood, and metal. The musical program contained works by Holst, Smetana, Stravinsky, Price and others. 5,000 Chicago area elementary school students descended on Symphony Center on Mar. 20. Getting all those youngsters in and out of the building in four great waves was a major feat. Assisting Symphony Center staff were League members Sue Bridge, Susan Duda, Merle Jacob, Kathy Nordmeyer, Gail Kalmerton and Kay Foran, John and Linda Zimmie. Three Overture Council members also pitched in: Michael Love, Eric Pearce and Christopher Springthorpe.



Volunteers for the AIM concert: seated Jackie Sabin, Michael Love, John Zimmie, Kathy Nordmeyer, Susan Duda. Back row: Chris Springthorpe, Eric Pears, Sue Bridge, Ray Foran, Gail Kalmerton, Linda Zimmie, Merle Jacob



Narrator Robbie Matthew enthralls the audience with his acrobatics.



Thousands of students leave the AIM concerts with the help of League volunteers after an exciting concert which they enthusiastically enjoyed.

Editor's Note: Below is a lovely thank you note from one of the schools who came to our AIM concerts. As you can see, your help with these concerts helps make these concerts special to our student visitors.

Good Morning,

I just had to drop you a note to let you know how wonderful last Friday's morning performance was. First, I would like to thank you for treating us to the box seats. I don't know if I ordered them, and please let me know if I did, but they were wonderful seats. My group was so engaged with the M/C and the performance of the CSO. I do want to give credit to you staff who did a phenomenal job in welcoming us from the minute our bus pulled up.

Thank you for offering this experience to our young students.

FAMILY FUN AT THE CSO CHILDRENS' CONCERT

On March 21, League members helped out as over 2500 Chicago area youngsters, parents, and grandparents came to Symphony Center for a late winter Family Matinee. Before, during, and after the two concerts, the elementary age visitors enjoyed activities created by Neganunee Institute members, and facilitated by volunteers from the League. The kids had a chance to play a violin, viola, cello, trumpet, or trombone with the help of super enthusiastic members of the Civic Orchestra. There were craft projects, puzzles, a scavenger hunt, a chance to be a conductor and lead a group of musicians, and many other fun activities all involving music. Most importantly, the families enjoyed a special youngster-appropriate concert by the CSO, led by conductor Mei-Ann Chen. The CSO played music depicting air, water, fire, wood, and metal in works by Holst, Smetana, Stravinsky, Price and others.



League members working the Family Concert: Seated: L-R Tim Martin, Kathy N., Rita and Richard Finegold, Mary Ann Harting. Standing L-R Jacque Sabian, John and Linda Zimmie and Merle Jacob took the photo.



Civic Orchestra members help the children play an instrument in the always popular Instrument Petting Zoo.



The always popular be a maestro lets children lead an ensemble of Civic Orchestra members.



Children always love to color the bee that is the symbol of this concert.



Civic Orchestra musician, Layan Atieh, helps the children create a tune she will play for them.



Civic Orchestra and harpist Kari Novilla and two harpists from the Chicago Public Schools play for the Family Concert visitors.



League member Tim Martin explains the scavenger hunt came to the visitors.

EXCITING SALON WITH THE LEAGUE'S CIVIC FELLOW

On February 27, 2026, the League held a special and unique Salon for League members and prospective members. A total of 42 people attended, including two new League members who joined before the event. We are grateful to Lori Julian who served as host of the event in her beautiful home. The Salon offered a delicious array of heavy hors d'oeuvres, light desserts, a variety of wine and non-alcoholic beverages.

The enchanting musical program featured both classical music and jazz selections. We were entertained by Civic Orchestra Fellows Kari Novilla, principal harpist, and Hamed Barbarji, trumpeter. Both performers described each of the musical pieces they selected and highlighted their inspirations for choosing their musical career.

Additional donations to the League Tribute Fund were greatly appreciated by attendees to help fund the Civic Orchestra scholarship.

I personally want to thank Lori Julian as host of the event, Samme Orwig, Co-Chair, Mimi Duginger, Betsy Berry, Sarah Good, Allisa Gam, and Brent Taghap for everyone's support and assistance in the event.



League members Allisa Gam, Betsy Huskie, President Sarah Good, Kelly Lynch, Rosalin Britton, Linda and John Zimmie enjoy talk and refreshments.



Lori Julian introduces Civic harpist Kari Novilla to the Salon guests.



League members enjoy the concert while VP of Salons and Outreach Bobbie Huskie (left) and President Sarah Good (second from right) thank our wonderful musicians Hamed Barbarji (second from left) and Kari Novilla (right).



Hamed and Kari high five after a very successful concert for the League's salon.

Join us for the next Salon scheduled for May 31, 2026, which will be held at the Hinsdale Golf Club at 6:00 pm. The evening will include dinner and a concert with the CSO Lincoln String Quartet featuring Beethoven's String Quartet No.13 in B-flat Major, Opus 130.



CSO Lincoln String Quartet: Qing Hou (violin), Gabriela Lara (violin), Lawrence Newman (viola), Daniel Katz (cello)

EDUCATION PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS THE ROLE OF MUSIC

On Tuesday evening, March 3, forty League members and their guests enjoyed and profited from an Educational Seminar presented by Dr. Borna Bonakdarpour, MD, Associate Professor of Neurology and Cognitive Neurology at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine where he specializes in neurological conditions affecting the brain and how music affects people experiencing a variety of conditions including Alzheimer's, aphasia, dementia, cognitive impairment. He also leads well-being programs including the Clinically Designed Improvisatory Music (CDIM) in Chicago. This program supports individuals and families who experienced traumatic grief through homicide, and for healthcare workers and legislators who have experienced burnout. Along with Clara Takarabe, his co-director of the Music and Medicine Program (and long-time substitute violist with the CSO), they spent the evening presenting the research and results of their work on the forefront of brain health and the effect of music on it. Most of us have direct experience of the neurological conditions that can upend life – our parents, partners, children, friends and ourselves...and it is heart wrenching to watch people suffering without knowing what we can do to help them – and ourselves.



Dr. Bonakdarpour's presentation, "Harmonizing Recovery: Music-Driven Approaches to Brain Health", highlights how his research and programs show clear evidence that music positively impacts people with neurological conditions, their caregivers, and the people who love them. A special thanks to Allisa Gam

who did so much to help make this evening such a great experience by providing delicious snacks and wine.

IMPACT A ROUSING SUCCESS



On Sunday, March 15, 2026, the Negaunee Music Institute held its 2nd showcase of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's inspiring education and community programs called

The IMPACT host committee (from left to right): Tracy Staniel, Ansuk Jeong, Lenese Reynolds, Valerie Mayuga, Matt Fry, Sue Bridge, Margo Oberman, Paul Watford, Judy Feldman, Leah McGregory, Liz Branch, Sandy rusnak, Sharon Mitchell, and Betsy Berry.

IMPACT! This year's event was co-chaired by Paul Watford, Matt Fry and Margo Oberman. Each season the CSO invests its time, talent and energy into industry-leading programs that reach more than 200,000 people across Chicago and around the world!

Supporters started with a pre-concert Champagne Toast in Forte, and then a concert highlighting some of NMI's programs: CSO for Kids, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Civic Fellowship Program, Percussion Scholarship, Crain-Maling Foundation Young Artists Competition, Notes for Peace, Chicago Refugee Coalition Partnership with a packed audience in Orchestra Hall. The event culminated with a Celebration Dinner in Buntrock Hall honoring CSO Life Trustee, Robert Kohl for his steadfast leadership and support of NMI. The efforts of the evening raised awareness, funding and highlighting the myriads of programs that NMI offers. The original goal was \$200,000 and as of our last report we were at \$319,000. The League was asked to raise \$7,500 for the event, and we passed that goal by raising over \$11,000. A big round of applause goes to Kevin Gupana and the CSO IMPACT staff for their immense help and to all our supporters for making this year's event so successful! We definitely made an IMPACT!



League member, Lori Julian, poses with Jim Ginsburg.



Members of the CSO and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago share the stage in Orchestra Hall.

LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS WELCOME SENIORS AT OPEN REHEARSALS

On Wednesday, February 18th, Seniors and Veterans were welcomed into Symphony Center for an Open Rehearsal from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm. Maestro Klaus Makela and the CSO musicians delighted the audience with Lemminkainen, Op. 22 by Sibelius. This piece is a collection of four symphonic poems, written between 1893-1895 and published as a whole only in 1954. Our new Maestro captivated the audience with his direction and the CSO musicians thrilled the audience with this richly complicated score.

We had approximately 425 attendees from 22 Senior and Veteran sites throughout the Chicagoland area. Much appreciation to our fourteen League volunteers who met and greeted our guests. We thank the CSO Usher Corps for all their assistance.

On Wednesday, March 25th, Seniors and Veterans were again welcomed into Symphony Center for an Open Rehearsal with Maestro Riccardo Muti and the CSO. The musicians delighted the audience with Rota's Music from *Il Gattopardo* (The Leopard) and *The Godfather Suite*. There were approximately 450-500 attendees from over 30 sites throughout the Chicagoland area. We are most thankful to Jenise Sheppard, House Manager and the amazing CSO Usher Corps and Carol Kelleher, Coordinator of SVEP, for their incredible magic in making everything run smoothly. Our own League provided 15 volunteers to meet, greet, and help our guests. It was an Open Rehearsal enjoyed by all!

Our next SVEP will be on Wednesday, June 17th at 1:30pm with Maestro Joshua Weilerstein conducting *Lincoln Portrait* and *Ellington Harlem* with the CSO Orchestra. Hope to see you there!



SVEP Volunteers for the Feb. 18 rehearsal.



Fred Garzon parks our senior visitors' walkers.



League volunteers for the March 25 SVEP concert. Front Row: Kathy Solaro, Merle Jacob, Margo Oberman, and Fred Garzon. Middle Row: Lori Julian, Florence Larsen, Mary Beth Dietrich, Jacqueline Sabien, Kathy Nordmeyer and Betsy Berry. Last Row: Vince Connelly, Roz Jackson, John Burrell and Juliet Bell.

LEAGUE SPRING ALL-MEMBER MEETING

On March 18, 45 League members met in person and by zoom to enjoy being with friends and to hear what the League has been doing. President Sarah Good opened the meeting and summarized many of the League's activities during the Fall and Winter seasons. She praised the work on Fall in Love With Music which raised a record breaking over \$100,000, the huge response to the Christmas cards for musicians, and our first Salon in February. She then introduced our guest performer, John Bruce Yeh, Assistant Principal Clarinet and Eb Flat Clarinet. John is also the League's representative to the Orchestra. John played sections from John Williams' Clarinet Concerto which he will be playing in Chicago on April 26th with the Midwest Young Artists. He explained that the concerto was written for his clarinet teacher and mentor. As the longest serving clarinet player in CSO history, 49 years, John reminisced about being hired by Maestro Solti.



After John’s performance, President Good introduced Justin Corp, the new head of VIP Concierge ticketing. He thanked the League for all we do for the Symphony and encouraged League members to use VIP services to get tickets as this is a perk of Active League members. Then Sarah introduced Kevin Gupana, Assistant Director Education and Community Engagement Giving, who talked about a new initiative from the Negaunee Music Institute. They have put together a multimedia presentation for young children called The Cabinet of Wonder. Working with CSO musicians and the Chicago Children’s Theater, they have created this free educational resource for preschool teachers to help them introduce music to young children. Kevin is asking the League to help the Negaunee Music Institute raise \$250,000 for the project. The League’s goal is to raise \$10,000 so we can be a sponsor of one of the programs. Members can go to www.CSO.org/GivetoGoose or call Kevin at 312-294-3156 to donate.

VP of Strategic Planning Becky Davenport discussed the committee’s plans for defining long term goals for the League. They will be asking everyone to be part of in person or zoom interview group in April and May to help shape the goals of the League for the next 5 years.

VP of Events Betsy Berry discussed the upcoming Musicians Luncheon, the Endowed Choral Concert, and the Civic Post Concert Pizza party. She encouraged all League members to come to these events to show our love for the CSO musicians, chorus, and Civic Orchestra.

VP of Education Kathy Nordmeyer introduced John Zimmie as the chair of the AIM concerts. She encouraged League members to volunteer to help at these concerts for children and students. She also discussed the excellent educational program about music and dementia that Dr. Borna Bonakdarpour, MD, Associate Professor of Neurology and Cognitive Neurology at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, gave.

VP of Outreach Bobbie discussed the salon at Lori apartment with Kari Hamed Barbarji who classical and jazz pieces trumpet. She encouraged attend the next salon in May 31.

VP of Fundraising Sharon then introduced Dr. Susan Sue Bridge dressed in a costume, who urged all members to attend this Corporate Night featuring Williams’ music for Steven Spielberg’s films. Everyone was asked to take a short quiz about Williams’ music, but only two members answered 4 out of the 5 the questions correctly.



League members enjoying breakfast goodies and good friends before the meeting.

Huskey Julian’s Novella and played for harp and everyone to Hinsdale on

Mitchell Shark, ie. shark League year’s the John

Finally, President Good reminded everyone to attend the All-Member Meeting on Monday June 15 at 11am in Forte. Shen then adjourned the meeting.



President Sarah Good and John Bruce Yeh talk before his performance for the League.

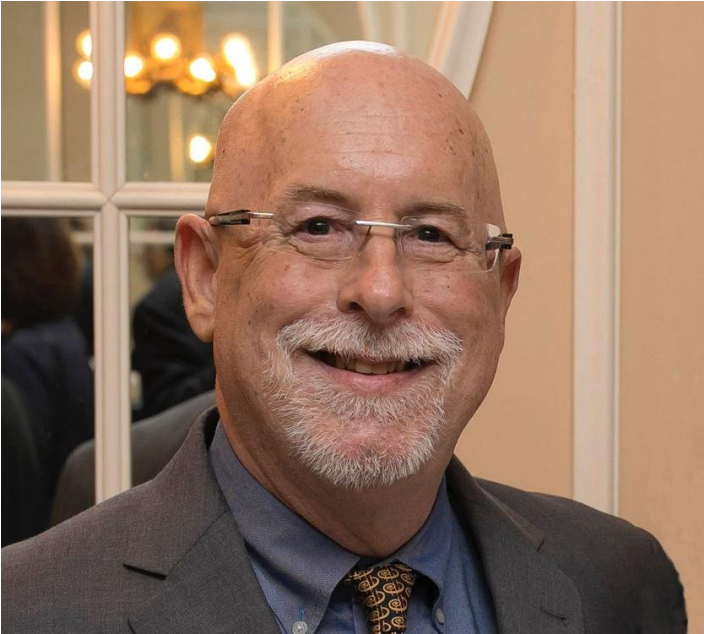


VP of Education and Kathy Nordmeyer with Justin Cord, the new VIP Concierge of Ticketing



SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW:

ROBERT COAD, RETIRED MANAGER OF VIP PATRON SERVICES



He was the voice you heard when you called VIP Services. He solved all your ticketing problems, found tickets for you when concerts were sold out, and made sure you had the best possible seats for your concerts. There was not ticketing problem too large or too small that he didn't solve quickly and with a personal touch that made you feel that he was your friend. That voice and help belong to Robert Coad, the retired manager of VIP Services.

As Robert says, "Since October 2005 when I was hired, I have loved working at Symphony Center. It has been a fantastic job, and what is funny is that I have no background in music." He grew up in White Bear Lake, Minnesota—a small town outside of Saint Paul. He decided after high school that he wanted to be a chef so he went to culinary school. "I got my first job in a hotel kitchen, and I hated it. I realized that being a chef just wasn't for me. I was working for the OMNI Hotels so I tried being a waiter. Then I worked with housekeeping and then the front desk. That's when I

knew hotel management was for me," he explained.

Robert worked for the OMNI hotels for 20 years, but then left to work for his uncle. A friend, however, lured him to Chicago with a job at the Ambassador East Hotel. "I loved being able to help people and make their stay special. In the 1990s, the Ambassador East hosted celebrities such as Frank Sinatra, Barbara Bush, Red Skeleton, Nancy Reagan, and the NSyc Band. There were also many stage actors from the Steppenwolf Theater," Robert said. He went on to explain that he was contacted by a very good friend, Stephanie Scott, who had just been hired by Henry Fogel, then the President of the CSOA, who wanted to make patron services a more personable experience. Robert explained that Stephanie thought he would be a perfect for the job she had in mind. When the job came open, he was hired. "When I took the job, I worked to simplify ticketing and bring a personal touch to dealing with our VIPs and all our patrons. Now that I'm semi-retired I'm helping Justin Corp, the new manager, to get to know the VIPs."

Robert explained that when he first started working, he had no musical background, but everyone was very nice and helpful to a non-musician and made him feel at home. His first concert at the CSO was with Maestro Barenboim conducting Mahler's *Fifth Symphony*. "I fell in love with the CSO and with Mahler. I've also loved everything Maestro Muti has done and now Maestro Makela. I try to attend the preconcert lectures as I learn so much from them, especially what to listen for. Since I worked here it was easy to stay for the Thursday concerts, and my seat in the lower balcony is close to the exit so I can leave quickly," he chuckled.

When asked his plans for retirement, he laughed and said that he really had none. "I want to catch up on my sleep and do my cardiac rehab. As you get older, there are more doctors' appointments."

His last bit of advice as the sage of patron services is for League members, "SUBSCRIBE! All the VIP staff have been well trained and are here to help League members. As League members, you have VIP privileges for getting tickets to concerts. League members also can get reserved seats in the lower balcony for the Civic Orchestra concerts. Use our services and don't hesitate to ask for help," Robert emphasized.

Robert Coad has done so much for the CSO, its patrons, and the League with his patience, empathy, knowledge, and love of people. Robert is someone you should know.

UPCOMING LEAGUE EVENTS

STRATEGIC PLANNING NEEDS YOUR INPUT

We are very excited to launch a strategic planning session for the League this spring. The League of the CSOA has a long and rich history, and as we begin our strategic planning process, we are committed to ensuring a vibrant and rewarding future for both our members and the CSO.

This process starts with listening. We invite you to share your perspectives by joining one of our upcoming members listening sessions in April and May. Each session will be limited to 15 participants to allow for meaningful conversation; additional sessions will be added if needed. Following these sessions, we will distribute a survey to all members to ensure everyone has the opportunity to share their voice.

Please RSVP to GamA@csso.org if you are able to join one of the following sessions:

In-person sessions:

- Thursday, April 23 | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Wednesday, May 13 | 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Virtual sessions:

- Tuesday, April 14 | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
- Wednesday, May 6 | 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Thank you for being an important part of this process as we work together to build a strong, sustainable, and inspiring future for the League. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Davenport, chair of Strategic Planning, at beckylynnhovenport@gmail.com

UPCOMING AIM CONCERTS

AIM Concerts for families and students will again need volunteers to help greet the students and get them to their seats. If you can help with the concerts, please contact Linda and John Zimmie at 2CSOfans@gmail.com

Monday, April 13, 2026 – Once Upon a Symphony School Concert for PreK & K

The Bremen Town Musicians

Friday, May 8, 2026 – School Concert for Prek-2

Saturday, May 9, 2026 - Family concert for Ages 3-8 with Activities in the Rotunda

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SENIOR AND VETERAN OPEN REHEARSAL

The League and the Negaunee Music Institute are so fortunate again to be offering Open Rehearsals in 2026 to the Senior and Veteran Engagement Program. The last Open Rehearsal of this season will be on **Wednesday, June 17th, 1:30pm-3:30pm**. The featured conductor Joshua Weilerstein will lead the CSO musicians in **Montgomery Banner**, **Martini The Rock**, **Copland Lincoln Portrait**, **Ives Three Places in New England**, and **Ellington Harlem**. We need greeters and helpers for this Open Rehearsal. All volunteers are invited to stay for the rehearsals. Please contact Margo Oberman (honye@obermail.net) if you are interested.

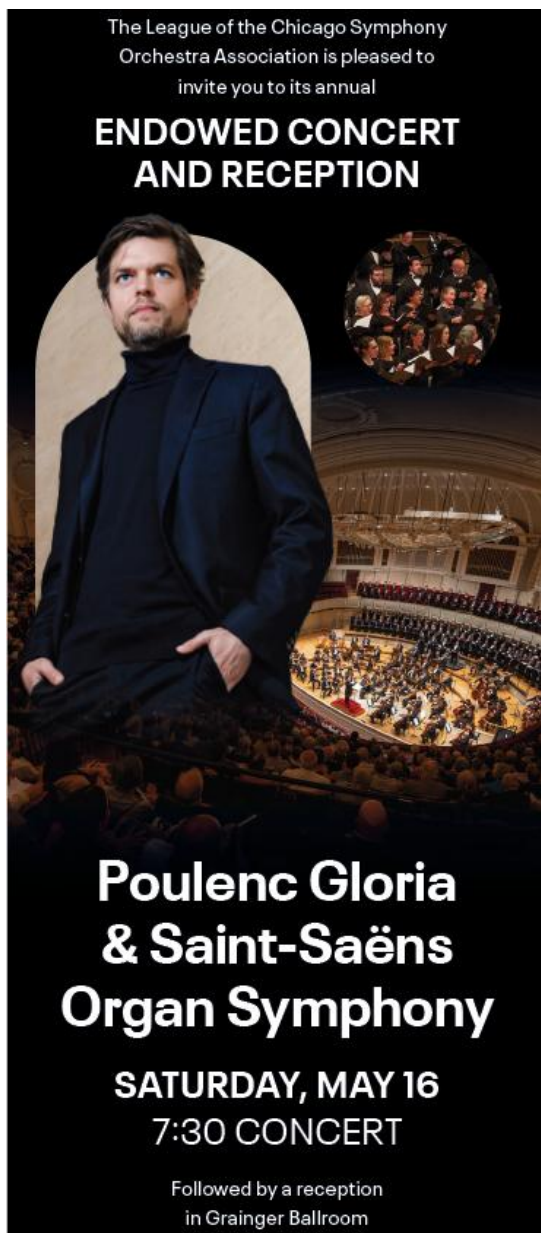
CIVIC ORCHESTRA POSTCONCERT RECEPTION

The League's pizza party for Civic Orchestra musicians last October was very popular and gave League members the opportunity to make new friends and visit with the musicians. Many League members were at the door to welcome the musicians and their guests and answer any questions about the League. On June 1, the League will host another post-concert pizza party to celebrate a fabulous year for the musicians. The June 1 concert will feature the Civic Orchestra and members of the Ryan Opera Center of Lyric Opera. It will be a fabulous concert so be sure to call Justin Corp at **VIP Patron services 312-294-3020** and get your reserved seating. We need as many League members as possible to meet and greet the musicians to show them how much they are appreciated and loved by the League.

ENDOWED CONCERT AND RECEPTION

Since 1985, the League has endowed a choral music performance through the support of its members. This year's concert on May 16 will be Poulenc's *Gloria* with Maestro Juraj Valchuha and soloist Erin Morley, soprano, and the CSO Chorus. The program will also include Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite* and Saint-Saens epic *Organ Symphony*. After the concert, the League will hold a reception for the Chorus and League members in the Granger Ballroom. Please plan to attend this wonderful concert and reception. As an Active League member you can get tickets through the **VIP Patron services 312-294-3020**. If you are unable to come to the concert, please consider helping the League by making a donation of any size to the League of the CSOA Endowed Concert Fund. Please contact Brent Taghap at taghapb@csso.org to make a donation.

We need as many League members as possible at this concert to welcome the Chorus members and to show them the League's love and support for them.



The League of the Chicago Symphony
Orchestra Association is pleased to
invite you to its annual

ENDOWED CONCERT AND RECEPTION

Poulenc Gloria & Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony

SATURDAY, MAY 16
7:30 CONCERT

Followed by a reception
in Grainger Ballroom

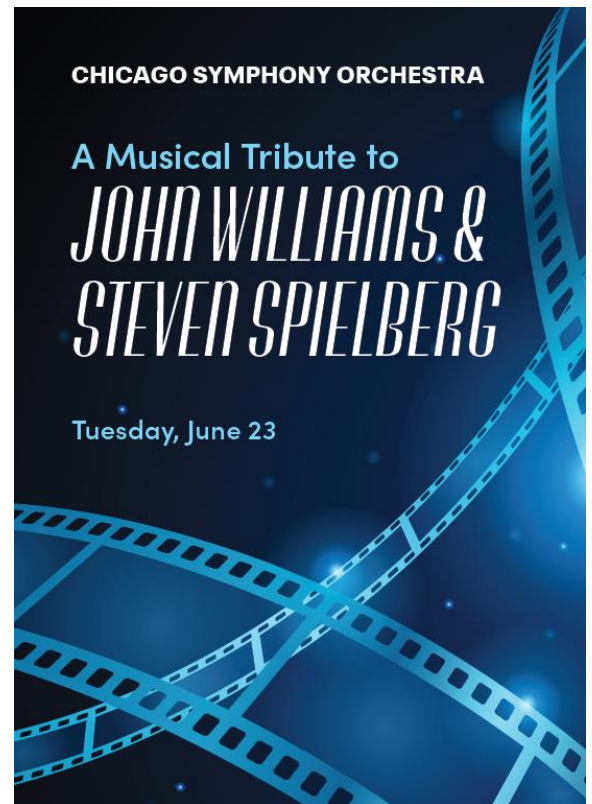
CORPORATE NIGHT TO CELEBRATE JOHN WILLIAMS' MUSIC

As in past years, our League is serving as the co-sponsor of the CSOA's annual Corporate Night on Tuesday, June 23, at Symphony Center. This fundraising event is an opportunity for the CSOA to express deep appreciation for the support of their corporate sponsors.

The evening's program is centered around the collaboration between two iconic American artists, John Williams and Steven Spielberg, and the memorable music from their films.

The League plans the pre-concert activities, entitled "Drinks & Bites," for our family, guests, and the public who will enjoy a pre-concert cocktail hour with an abundant array of warm and cold appetizers, desserts, and beverages, featuring a specialty cocktail. Our League's Corporate Night Committee also plans the pre-and post-concert activities and dinner for the corporate sponsors throughout the evening. We may purchase a package for the evening which includes the cocktail hour and the following concert. Tickets for the evening's concert alone are also available. Package and ticket costs will be contained in the formal invitations which will be sent out later in April.

Let's conclude the year by gathering together with fellow members, family and friends to support and enjoy this final League-sponsored event of the 2025-2026 season.



Fundraising: Corporate Night [A Musical Tribute to John Williams & Steven Spielberg | Chicago Symphony Orchestra](#);

Children's Concert Sponsorship [Make a gift | Chicago Symphony Orchestra](#)

IMPORTANT LEAGUE INFORMATION

League Events – 2025/26 Season

Updated as of March 25, 2026

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)
May 31, 2026	Salon: Lincoln String Quartet (6:00 PM Hinsdale Golf Club)
June 1, 2026	Civic Post Concert Reception #2 (9 PM Buntrock Hall)
June 15, 2026	Annual Meeting (11 AM Forte)
June 17, 2026	SVEP Open Rehearsal (1:30 Orchestra Hall)
June 23, 2026	Corporate Night (6 PM Forte)

THE LEAGUE ONLINE INFORMATION

While we are creating our own webpage for the League, social media accounts will be our resources 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 Tabe (the chair of Technology) at theodore.b.tabe@gmail.com

WEB LINKS FOR LEAGUE MEMBERS

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

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>

2025/26 LEAGUE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Sarah Good

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 Administration: Allisa Gam

Vice President of Education: Kathy Nordmeyer

Vice President of Outreach: Bobbie Huskey

Vice President of Strategic Planning & Operations: Ansuk Jeong

Secretary: Liz Branch

Members-at-Large: Rosalind Jackson & John Zimmie

