



CHICAGO
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Guide to Planned Giving





Discover the benefits of making a legacy gift to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Gifts from our family of CSO donors provide the resources that create extraordinary musical opportunities and preserve the CSO's future.

WHAT IS PLANNED GIVING?

Planned gifts, such as making a bequest through a will or trust or establishing an annuity, can be an advantageous way to provide support for the CSO in the future. After making provisions for you, your family and those closest to you, a legacy gift to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra will have a meaningful impact on future generations. Such gifts may also be eligible for important charitable income and/or gift or estate tax deductions. The funds received from planned gifts support the CSO's long-term stability and may also be designated to help build our endowment fund.

QUESTIONS?

Contact CSO Development with your questions

PHONE 312-294-3100

EMAIL gifts@cso.org

MAIL 220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604

ONLINE cso.org/support

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra encourages you to contact your financial or estate professional for legal advice. Theodore Thomas Society benefits are as of September 2015 and are subject to change.

TYPES OF PLANNED GIFTS

Bequest through a will or trust

Remember the CSO in your estate plans by including a provision in your will or living trust. You may either designate a percentage of your estate assets or a specific dollar amount as a gift to the CSO. You can also give real estate or personal property, such as a musical instrument. Our legal name is “Chicago Symphony Orchestra,” an Illinois not-for-profit organization.

Bequest through a retirement plan or life insurance policy

Name the CSO as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy. Using your retirement plan can be an especially tax-efficient and easy way to remember the CSO through your estate. Simply name the CSO as a primary or secondary beneficiary on your retirement plan’s beneficiary designation form. This option usually offers an important tax advantage since most retirement plans are subject to income taxes—and possibly estate taxes—if left to an individual. However, if the CSO is named as a beneficiary, the CSO does not pay income or estate taxes on the distribution.

Another option is to make a current gift, if allowed by existing law, from a qualified IRA distribution.

Charitable Lead Trusts

With this type of planned gift, you irrevocably transfer assets to a charitable lead trust, which then makes an annual payment to the CSO for a number of years. At the end of the term, the remaining assets go to your heirs or beneficiaries. This arrangement is especially helpful for large estates, allowing assets to be passed on to heirs with low (or no) estate and gift taxes.

Life Income Gifts

A life income gift allows you to make a gift to the CSO while providing yourself or others with income for a period of time before the CSO receives your gift. The CSO can pay an income to you, to your designated beneficiaries or both.

How does it work?

1. You give cash, securities or property assets.
2. You and your beneficiaries receive a regular income, and you may also realize income tax and capital gains tax savings.
3. After the term of your income benefit, the CSO then receives your legacy gift.

There are several types of life income gifts:

- **Charitable Gift Annuities**
In exchange for an outright gift, the CSO pays a fixed quarterly dividend at attractive investment rates to you and/or another beneficiary for life. This is the most common form of a life income arrangement. You may also create a *deferred charitable gift annuity*, taking a tax deduction in the year of the gift, but delaying the first annuity payment for one or more years.
- **Charitable Remainder Unitrusts**
Establish a trust from which you and/or other beneficiaries receive variable annual payments for life or a term of years. At the end of the term, the remainder of the trust assets go to CSO.
- **Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts**
Establish a trust from which you and/or other beneficiaries receive annual payments of a fixed dollar amount for life or a term of years, after which the remainder of the trust assets go to the CSO.

THANKING YOU

Theodore Thomas Society

Named in honor of the founding music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Theodore Thomas Society recognizes those who make financial plans—in any amount—to benefit the CSO in the future. Stradivarian Associates, a unique group within the Society, are those members who provide documentation for an irrevocable planned gift of \$50,000 or a revocable planned gift of at least \$100,000.

What are the benefits of General Membership?

- Annual Society event in connection with a performance at Symphony Center
- Listing in our program books throughout the season and in the Annual Report (those who wish to remain anonymous may certainly do so)
- Invitation for two to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association's Annual Meeting
- Invitation for two to Chicago Symphony Orchestra Open Rehearsals for Donors
- Access to VIP ticketing services

Stradivarian Associates receive all the benefits above, plus:

- Full dining membership privileges in The Thomas Club at Symphony Center
- Invitation for two to attend Salon Series events each season
- Listing in the Donor Wall display on the historic Orchestra Hall main staircase

Create a Fund or Naming Opportunity

For extraordinary gifts to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, both outright and planned, your generosity can be acknowledged in a unique way with a named fund or named space within Symphony Center. Please contact the CSO to begin a conversation.

REPLY FORM



Planned Giving

Discover the benefits of making a legacy gift to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

- I would like more information on making a planned gift to the CSO.
- I am interested in or have questions about:

- I have included a gift to the CSO in my estate plan and would like to become a member of the Theodore Thomas Society.
 - I wish to remain anonymous.

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

The CSO respects your privacy. Any information discussed or shared will be kept strictly confidential.

Mail this form to:

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Development
220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604

312-294-3100 • gifts@cso.org • cso.org/support

