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CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FELLOWSHIP 2023/24 PROGRAM APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Program Aims to Expand Professional Training Opportunities for Musicians from Traditionally Underrepresented Backgrounds

CHICAGO—The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces that applications for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Fellowship Program for the 2023/24 Season are now being accepted, with a deadline of March 15, 2023 to submit online audition materials. Introduced in 2022, the CSO Fellowship Program seeks to welcome up to three musicians from populations that have traditionally been underrepresented in American symphony orchestras, including, but not limited to, those who identify as Black, Latino or Indigenous. Venezuelan violinist [Gabriela Lara is the first CSO Fellow](#) and is performing regularly in the CSO and expanding her professional musical training with guidance from CSO musicians throughout the 2022/23 Season.

CSO Fellows selected for the 2023/24 program will gain significant experience rehearsing and performing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, with the opportunity to work with renowned conductors and receive training and mentorship from CSO musicians to better equip them to win auditions in U.S. orchestras. CSO Fellows will play a minimum of 20 subscription weeks with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and will have access to up to 10 one-hour private lessons with a CSO musician annually. CSO Fellows may be invited to continue in the program for up to two additional years. Other benefits such as financial support for initial relocation expenses and auditions will also be available. Application information for the CSO Fellowship Program for the 2023/24 Season is available at cso.org/fellowship.

The CSO Fellowship Program was developed with input and support from Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti as part of his ongoing commitment to training the next generation of musicians, as well as the CSO Members' Committee and the Chicago Federation of Musicians. The program builds upon the CSOA's longstanding focus on the training and development of musicians that began more than 100 years ago with the establishment of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago — the preprofessional training orchestra affiliated with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The CSOA has gone on to create or participate in programs that support young musicians from communities that are traditionally underrepresented in the

orchestral field, specifically those interested in gaining entrance to top conservatories and post-secondary music schools as they seek a career in classical music performance. These programs include the [Percussion Scholarship Program](#), [Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative \(CMPI\)](#) and [Sphinx Orchestral Partners Auditions](#).

Program Eligibility

The CSO Fellowship Program is open to early-career string players (violin, viola, cello, double bass) who are attending or have graduated from college, university or conservatory and are from populations that have traditionally been underrepresented in American symphony orchestras, including, but not limited to, those who identify as Black, Latino or Indigenous. Additionally, applicants must have U.S. citizenship, permanent U.S. residency, or an O-1 or OPT visa at the time of application and must be a member in good standing of the American Federation of Musicians (AFM), or willing to join the AFM if accepted to the Fellowship. If accepted, a Fellow may be invited to remain in the program for up to three years.

Applications for the 2023/24 Season can be submitted now through March 15, 2023 with more information available at cso.org/fellowship. Final auditions will take place April 24, 2023 in Chicago. The CSOA will cover round trip domestic transportation and up to two nights' accommodation for the audition finalists.

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