

CSO Giving Notes

SPRING 2025
CHARITABLE
GIFT PLANNING
NEWSLETTER

Dear Friend of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association,

Thank you for your enduring support and engagement with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association. Your participation as a CSO family member is vital as our exceptional orchestra enriches, inspires and transforms lives through music in Chicagoland and around the globe.

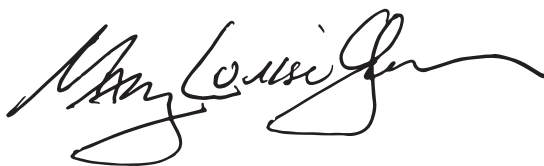
The 2024/25 Season has been extraordinary, filled with brilliant performances and impactful educational initiatives. A particular highlight was the CSO's recent domestic tour, which included performances across Florida, a concert at Carnegie Hall and a residency in Oklahoma. Looking ahead, we are eagerly anticipating Zell Music Director Designate Klaus Mäkelä's second appearance this season, featuring CSO Artist-in-Residence Daniil Trifonov.

As we approach the close of this remarkable season, we also celebrate the exciting announcement of the 2025/26 Season. With the return of esteemed guest conductors, world-renowned soloists and today's brightest young musical talents, the future of the CSO is vibrant and promising.

Critical to the continued success of the orchestra's mission are the generous bequests made by members of the Theodore Thomas Society. These legacy gifts, at all levels, help sustain the CSO's artistic excellence, ensuring that future generations will experience the power and beauty of live symphonic music.

On behalf of the entire CSO family, thank you for your ongoing commitment and support. We are deeply grateful for your role in shaping the future of this extraordinary institution.

Sincerely,



Mary Louise Gorno
Chair, CSOA Board of Trustees
Chair, Theodore Thomas Society



Theodore Thomas

JOIN THE
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.

What benefits come with Theodore Thomas Society membership?

- ◆ Annual Theodore Thomas Society event in connection with a performance at Symphony Center
- ◆ Access to VIP ticketing services
- ◆ Listing in CSO program books throughout the season and in the annual report (those who wish to remain anonymous may do so)
- ◆ Invitation for two to the CSOA's Annual Meeting
- ◆ Invitation for two to CSO open rehearsals for donors
- ◆ Opportunity to share your CSO story in a featured profile

Stradivarian Associates, a unique group within the Society, are those members who provide documentation for a planned gift of \$100,000 or more.

They receive all benefits of Society membership, 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



For more information on gift planning or the Theodore Thomas Society, contact the CSOA's Development office at 312-294-3100 or gifts@csso.org, or visit csso.org/plannedgiving.

MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE



Randy and Lorraine Barba

What inspired your love of music? Lorraine and I both experienced classical music via our parents as children. I picked up trumpet in middle school and suffered through piano lessons in primary school. Lorraine played the flute, double bass and piano. Our parents played classical music at home, and my mother introduced me to the Philadelphia Orchestra. My first efforts as a child to develop a music collection on reel-to-reel tape involved taping all the classical music records my parents had collected. The point is that we grew up with classical music as an important musical influence in our lives.

What initially drew you to attending the Chicago Symphony Orchestra or other CSOA programs? When we moved to Chicago in 1990, we initiated our relationship with the CSO. We have been consistent subscribers since then. Today, the CSO is simply part of our lives. We have been traveling the world and escaping winters in Chicago for 20 years. But somehow, we always tuck in concerts with the CSO in the fall and late spring when we are around Chicago.

Why do you feel it's important to support the CSO with a legacy plan as a member of the Theodore Thomas Society? The CSO is so important to us, and we wanted to do our share to preserve the institution. So, in addition to our yearly contributions, we established a charitable annuity as a win-win way to provide support. In addition, we have included the CSO in our will. We think this commitment is well worth what the CSO has meant to us over the years.

Photos from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's January 2025 domestic tour. Visit [cso.org/tour](https://www.cso.org/tour) for other highlights.





Judy Marth

What inspired your love of music? I grew up in a house filled with music. My parents listened to everything from jazz to Beethoven to opera. As a teenager, I began studying voice, and I'm still singing today.

What initially drew you to attending the Chicago Symphony Orchestra or other CSOA programs? My husband Robert introduced me to orchestral music and then to the CSO. We started attending concerts, and eventually he became a Governing Member. I am now a Governing Member, continuing Robert's legacy of supporting this magnificent orchestra.

Why do you feel it's important to support the CSO with a legacy plan as a member of the Theodore Thomas Society? Music is the one language that has no barriers. It transcends all differences and draws us together as a family. Too many music programs are being deleted from educational institutions. Too many young people are being deprived of the beauty of music and the impact it can have on a young life. The CSO's community outreach and family programs give so many children the opportunity to hear and enjoy great music. Music is nurturing to the young, the old and every age in between. The CSO nurtures its audiences, giving us joy and making us whole. It is an honor to be a part of this ongoing mission.



Include the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in your will or trust

Legal Name: **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Address: **220 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60604**

Tax ID Number: **36-2167823**

Sample language:

- ♦ For a specific dollar amount bequest: "I hereby give and bequeath \$ _____ from my estate to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, Chicago, Illinois, for its general purposes."
- ♦ For a percentage-based remainder bequest: "I hereby give and bequeath all (or _____ %) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, Chicago, Illinois, for its general purposes."

Other planned gift options

- ♦ Name the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Orchestra Association (CSOA) as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or IRA. It's as simple as contacting your retirement plan administrator or financial institution to complete a beneficiary form.
- ♦ If you have established a Donor Advised Fund, consider directing a distribution of these funds after your lifetime to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.
- ♦ A life insurance policy can be used to make an exceptional gift through either a beneficiary designation or by transferring ownership of the policy to the CSOA.
- ♦ Establish a Charitable Gift Annuity with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association and enjoy fixed lifetime payments, all with a simple agreement and a one-time gift.

Did you know?

Rose Fay Thomas, My Great-Great-Great-Grandaunt

Shortly after joining the Civic Orchestra's tuba section in 2022, **Ben Poirot** heard from his mother's cousin, an amateur genealogist, who shared details about his maternal great-great-great-grandmother Katherine Maria Fay (1846-1928), the sister of **Rose Fay** (1852-1929), who was the wife of Theodore Thomas (1835-1905), the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's founder and first music director. That makes Ben the great-great-great-grandnephew of Theodore and Rose Fay Thomas!

Rose moved to Chicago as a young woman, living with her brother Charles Norman Fay (1848-1944) until marrying Theodore in 1890. She founded the National Federation of Music Clubs and the Anti-Cruelty Society, serving as their first president. After Theodore's death in 1905, Rose edited his *Memoirs* and helped donate his music collection to the Orchestral Association and Newberry Library.

Ben, a native of Simsbury, Connecticut, began on trumpet before switching to tuba. He attended Western Connecticut State University and toured with the New York Youth Symphony. After moving to Chicago for his master's at Northwestern University, he joined the Civic Orchestra. Now in his third season, Ben will give his Civic farewell performance, which will feature Respighi's *Fountains of Rome* and Sibelius' Second Symphony.

A longer version of this article appears on cso.org/pgimpact.





Demonstrate your lifelong passion for music with a planned gift.

Your future support — in any amount —
of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra can:

- ◆ Strengthen the Orchestra and musical programs you love.
- ◆ Create opportunities for new audiences to discover and grow their love of music.
- ◆ Achieve tax savings and income opportunities for you today and your heirs in the future.

[Read this gift-planning newsletter to learn more.](#)



Planned gifts support transformational experiences

NEWS AND PROJECTS

- ◆ On March 17, the CSO's Negaunee Music Institute hosted an inspiring evening celebrating the transformative power of music in Chicago communities. Guests enjoyed a tribute dinner featuring a CSO horn quartet, a showcase concert highlighting talented young artists and community musicians, and a celebratory reception with performers and CSOA leaders.
- ◆ From May 1 to 4, Zell Music Director Designate Klaus Mäkelä conducts a program featuring Brahms' Second Piano Concerto with pianist Daniil Trifonov in his final performances as CSO Artist-in-Residence. The program also includes Dvořák's Seventh Symphony and Boulez's *Initiale*, highlighting the CSO's rich musical legacy.
- ◆ The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is one of five ensembles and the only U.S. orchestra invited to participate in the third-ever Mahler Festival, running May 9-18, 2025, at the Royal Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.
- ◆ Following a successful winter tour with the CSO, Music Director Emeritus for Life Riccardo Muti returns for two weeks in June. From June 12 to 14, Principal Trumpet Esteban Batallán makes his much-anticipated CSO solo debut in two brilliant concertos under the baton of Maestro Muti. Then, from June 19 to 24, Muti leads the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Verdi's Requiem, a powerful season finale you won't want to miss.