

For Immediate Release:
May 7, 2025

Press Contact:
[Eileen Chambers](#)
312-294-3092

HARPIST LYNNE TURNER TO RETIRE AFTER REMARKABLE 63-SEASON CAREER WITH THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A Member of the CSO Since 1962, Turner to Play Final Concerts at Orchestra Hall in May and at Ravinia This Summer

CHICAGO – Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Harp Lynne Turner, who was appointed to the Orchestra in 1962 by Music Director Fritz Reiner, has announced her retirement at the end of this summer's Ravinia Festival season. Before then, Turner will perform her final concerts in Orchestra Hall in May programs featuring Mahler's Sixth and Seventh symphonies and travel with the Orchestra for performances during a spring European tour with stops in Amsterdam, Hamburg, Dresden, Prague and Wrocław.

Throughout her distinguished career, Turner performed under music directors Fritz Reiner, Jean Martinon, Sir Georg Solti, Daniel Barenboim and Riccardo Muti, as well as Principal Conductor Bernard Haitink and principal guest conductors Carlo Maria Giulini, Claudio Abbado, Pierre Boulez, and Zell Music Director Designate Klaus Mäkelä. She also participated in more than 50 international tours, including the Orchestra's first visits to Asia, Australia, Europe, Russia and South America. Along with Principal Trombone Jay Friedman, who also joined the orchestra in 1962, Turner shares the distinction of being the longest-serving members in the orchestra's history and one of the longest-serving musicians in any American orchestra. She will receive the CSO's Theodore Thomas Medallion for Distinguished Service at a date to be announced.

"Being a member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for more than six decades has truly been the honor of a lifetime," Turner reflected. "I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the privilege of making music at the highest level, alongside extraordinary colleagues and in collaboration with some of the world's most inspiring conductors. As I look back, I'm filled with deep joy and pride — along with appreciation to the people of Chicago, who made every performance an occasion to remember."

Turner first appeared with the Orchestra at the age of 14, in 1956, performing the first movement of George Frideric Handel's Harp Concerto in B-flat Major at four Young People's

Concerts. She was a member of the Civic Orchestra from 1956 until 1959 and later won a scholarship to study at Tanglewood.

Following studies in Chicago with Alberto Salvi, Turner continued her musical education with Pierre Jamet at the Paris Conservatory, earning the school's highest honor — the *premier prix, première nommée*, with special distinction *hors concours* — after only one year of study. She also studied with Nicanor Zabaleta at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena.

In 1962, Turner became the first American to win first prize in the International Harp Contest in Israel — the world's oldest harp competition. She returned to Israel multiple times in subsequent years to serve as a judge in the competition and to participate in two gala concerts featuring first-prize winners from around the globe, including a 2019 event held in Tel Aviv at which she performed Maurice Ravel's Introduction and Allegro with members of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Turner comes from a distinguished musical family. Her father, Sol Turner, was a member of the Civic Orchestra's violin section from 1927 until 1931 (serving for many seasons as concertmaster) and a member of the CSO for more than 20 years in addition to positions with the Saint Louis Symphony and the NBC-Chicago orchestras. Her mother, Evelyn Klein Turner, was an accomplished pianist and her first teacher. Turner's younger brother, Richard Turner, became principal harpist of the Winnipeg Symphony in 1977 and held that position for more than 45 years.

Turner's children are continuing the creative tradition: Her son Bennett has been making social-issue documentaries for PBS for more than 25 years, while her daughter Rachel is a successful interior designer.

Praised for her "extraordinary" musicianship (WFMT Radio), her "penetrating and sculpted" playing (*Chicago Sun-Times*) and her "glorious" sound (*Splash Magazines*), Turner has appeared with the Israel Philharmonic, Baltimore Symphony, New York Woodwind Quintet and Siena Festival Orchestra, among other ensembles, and she has been featured on U.S. and international television. She served on the faculties of DePaul University and Lake Forest College and was active in the CSO's education program for many years.

Recordings she has performed on include works by Corigliano, Schoenberg, Wagner, Mahler, Berlioz, Bruckner, Del Tredici and Brahms, as well as Rimsky-Korsakov's *Sheherazade* under the direction of Daniel Barenboim.

Additional highlights of Turner's 63-season career include performing Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* with Margaret Hillis and the Chicago Symphony Chorus, founding the CSO chamber group L'Ensemble Récamier, collaborating with members of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, participating in hundreds of Orchestra Hall concerts for children and families, and serving as acting principal harp.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](https://www.cso.org)

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the world's great orchestras. In April 2024, Klaus Mäkelä was named the Orchestra's 11th music director, and he will begin an initial five-year tenure as Zell Music Director with the 2027/28 Season. Riccardo Muti, the Orchestra's distinguished 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, became Music Director Emeritus for Life at the beginning of the 2023/24 Season. Daniil Trifonov is the CSO Artist-in-Residence for the 2024/25 Season.

The CSO commands a vast repertoire, from baroque through contemporary music. Its renowned musicians perform more than 150 concerts annually, in Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center in downtown Chicago and each summer at the Ravinia Festival in suburban Highland Park. The ensemble regularly tours nationally, and since 1892, has made 64 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

Patrons around the globe enjoy weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings via the WFMT Radio Network and online at [cso.org/radio](https://www.cso.org/radio). Launched in 2007, [CSO Resound](#) is the ensemble's Grammy Award-winning independent record label, featuring live performances with world-class conductors and guest artists. Since 1916, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus have amassed an extensive discography that has earned 65 Grammy awards from the Recording Academy.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA), which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Symphony Center Presents, and the Negaunee Music Institute. The [Chicago Symphony Chorus](#), founded by Margaret Hillis in 1957, is the country's largest professional chorus. Founded by second music director Frederick Stock during the 1919/20 Season, the [Civic Orchestra of Chicago](#) is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving as its principal conductor. [Symphony Center Presents](#) features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, world and contemporary. The [Negaunee Music Institute](#) offers community and educational programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds throughout the Chicagoland area.

Through the Institute and numerous other activities — including annual free community concerts in Chicago neighborhoods — the CSO is committed to using the power of music to strengthen bonds with its longtime patrons and create connections with new audiences.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.