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PRINCIPAL HARP SARAH BULLEN TO RETIRE AFTER 24 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CHICAGO—Sarah Bullen, principal harp of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO), performs in her final CSO concert on August 15 in the Tchaikovsky Spectacular program that closes the Orchestra's summer 2021 residency at Ravinia. Bullen will officially retire in September 2021 and will receive the CSO's Theodore Thomas Medallion for Distinguished Service from Zell Music Director Riccardo Muti at a date to be announced. She has been principal harp for the Orchestra for 24 years.

In 1997, Bullen was appointed to the position of principal harp by then-Music Director Daniel Barenboim. Prior to the CSO, Bullen was principal harp of the New York Philharmonic from 1987 to 1997, having been appointed to the position by then-Music Director Zubin Mehta. She began her orchestral career 40 years ago in 1981 as principal harp of the Utah Symphony.

During her CSO tenure, Bullen has performed on more than 20 international tours with the Orchestra and appeared as a soloist with the CSO multiple times including appearances with Daniel Barenboim in Ginastera's Harp Concerto and with Pierre Boulez in Debussy's *Sacred and Profane Dances*, a work she also performed with Riccardo Muti in her most recent solo appearance in 2018. Throughout her career, Bullen has won critical acclaim in more than 50 concerto appearances, including those with the New York Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta and Eric Leinsdorf and orchestras around the world.

Bullen has also served as a soloist, chamber musician, lecturer and judge at numerous American Harp Society conferences and at the World Harp Congress and the USA International Harp Competition. For her achievements in the field, she was also recognized as one of the foremost harpists of the 20th century in *Harp Column* magazine.

As a leading educator, Bullen has taught master classes throughout the world. During her tenure in New York, she served as chairperson of the harp department of the Manhattan School of Music. In Chicago, she was a professor of harp at Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts for several years through 2016 and continues to maintain a private studio. Several of Bullen's students have gone on to enjoy major professional careers.

She is the author of the best-selling book *Principal Harp: A Guidebook for the Orchestral Harpist*, in two volumes. Bullen is also the co-author of *Anthology of Harp Duets, Volume One*, published in 2016 by Lyon & Healy. Her solo and chamber music recordings include *The Essential Harp* and *Lyon & Healy*

Hall's Inaugural Concert with the latter featuring performances by Bullen along with fellow CSO musicians Louise Dixon (flute) and Max Raimi (viola).

Originally from Long Island, New York, Bullen was a student of Marcel Grandjany, Mildred Dilling and Susann McDonald. As a Naumburg Award recipient, she graduated from the Juilliard School with bachelor's and master's degrees in music.

"Being part of this extraordinary orchestra for more than 20 years has been a gift," said Bullen. "I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity for artistic collaboration at the highest level with my colleagues and to share music with audiences around the world."

After retirement, Bullen will move to Portland, Oregon to be close to family. She will continue to teach privately and explore many non-musical interests.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra: cso.org and experience.cso.org

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the pre-eminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Jessie Montgomery is Mead Composer-in-Residence, and Hilary Hahn is CSO Artist-in-Residence.

From baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast repertoire. Its renowned musicians annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally. Since 1892, the CSO has made 62 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

People around the globe listen to weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT radio network and online at cso.org/radio. Recordings by the CSO have earned 63 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti's recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* (Muti's first of eight releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at cso.org/resound.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago (Ken-David Masur, Principal Conductor), a training ensemble for emerging professionals. Through its prestigious Symphony Center Presents series, the CSOA presents guest artists and ensembles from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, world and contemporary.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers community and education programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, including a free annual concert led by Muti, the CSO is committed to using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.