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THREE LONGTIME CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS TO RETIRE IN SEPTEMBER

Daniel Gingrich, Ronald Satkiewicz and Patricia Dash Conclude Distinguished Tenures with the Orchestra

CHICAGO — The Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) announces the retirement of three longtime members: Daniel Gingrich, horn; Ronald Satkiewicz, violin; and Patricia Dash, percussion. Gingrich and Satkiewicz, who are both currently on sabbatical, last performed with the Orchestra in 2025. Dash performed her final CSO concert on August 16 in the concluding concert of the CSO's summer residency at the Ravinia Festival.

Following their retirements in September, Gingrich and Satkiewicz will receive the CSO's Theodore Thomas Medallion for Distinguished Service on Saturday, September 26. Gingrich, who joined the Orchestra in 1975, will retire after 51 years. Satkiewicz, who joined in 1979, will retire after 47 years, and Dash, who joined the Orchestra in 1986, will retire after 40 years.

Daniel Gingrich, horn

A native of Stickney, Illinois, Daniel Gingrich joined the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1975 after serving as a member of the Rochester Philharmonic and the National Symphony Orchestra. He was a member of the Chicago Youth Orchestra and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago from 1969 until 1972. In 2002, Music Director Daniel Barenboim appointed him associate principal horn and, at the request of Riccardo Muti, he served as acting principal horn from 2013 to 2019.

Across his five decades with the CSO, Gingrich appeared as a soloist on multiple occasions, including performances of Schumann's *Konzertstück* for Four Horns under conductors Riccardo Chailly, James Levine, Christoph Eschenbach and Sir Georg Solti; Mozart's horn concertos with Esa-Pekka Salonen and Edo de Waart; and Schubert's *Auf dem Strom* alongside tenor Steven Tharp and pianist Daniel Barenboim. An active chamber musician and member of the Grammy Award-winning Chicago Pro Musica, Gingrich also spent 20 years coaching the horn section of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and touring Chicago-area schools with a CSO brass quintet.

“Being chosen to join my esteemed mentors in the CSO and then play in the orchestra as it evolved over half a century has been an experience that has exceeded my wildest dreams,” said Gingrich.

In retirement, Gingrich and his wife, Mary, look forward to traveling to visit family and friends. He also plans to continue his volunteer work tutoring adult basic education.

Ronald Satkiewicz, violin

Ronald Satkiewicz joined the CSO in 1979 under Music Director Sir Georg Solti. Prior to his appointment, Satkiewicz served as associate concertmaster of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, first violin of the Columbus String Quartet and faculty member at Capital University. He also performed with the Rochester Philharmonic while studying under Carroll Glenn at the Eastman School of Music where he earned a bachelor's degree and a performer's certificate. He also studied with Ivan Galamian at Meadowmount and Albert Bernard at the New England Conservatory Preparatory Division. He appeared as soloist with the Detroit and Columbus Symphonies, the Rochester and Colorado Philharmonics, the Festival Orchestra of Santa Barbara and the Eastman Philharmonia.

During his 47-year tenure with the CSO, Satkiewicz performed in hundreds of concerts at Symphony Center and on international tours, as well as numerous chamber music performances in Orchestra Hall, at the Art Institute of Chicago and on WFMT broadcasts. As a member of a longstanding CSO string quintet, he frequently brought live music to students in Chicago Public Schools and in senior centers.

“Playing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is a unique and incredible experience,” reflected Satkiewicz. “It’s as if you are playing in a giant chamber music ensemble with everyone listening intently to each other and producing a precise and expressive result.”

In his retirement in Portland, Oregon, Satkiewicz looks forward to spending time with his wife, Amy Stocker, and their family, traveling and pursuing non-musical interests including entomology, fiction and fishing.

Patricia Dash, percussion

Appointed to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra by Sir Georg Solti in 1986 at age 24, Patricia Dash retires after 40 years with the ensemble. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, she previously served as principal percussion of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Florida.

Early in her CSO career, Dash performed with a CSO percussion trio in countless elementary schools throughout Chicago. Seeing the excitement of children encountering percussion instruments and professional musicians up close helped inspire what would become the most meaningful endeavor of her career.

In 1995, Dash founded the CSO's Percussion Scholarship Program (PSP), which provides gifted Chicago-area students with full-scholarship percussion instruction. For more than three decades, she and her husband, percussionist Doug Waddell, have co-directed the program, mentoring generations of young musicians. PSP students have performed at Symphony Center,

appeared on NPR's *From the Top* and on Chicago television and radio, and performed as soloists with the CSO. Among its many alumni pursuing careers in music are three former students who now serve as principal percussionists of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Grant Park Orchestra and Sarasota Orchestra.

For Dash, the program reflects a belief that has become central to her life in music: that being fortunate enough to make a career as a musician also brings an opportunity to give something back. Helping young musicians discover their abilities, develop confidence and find their own paths has been among the most rewarding parts of her 40 years with the CSO.

Dash will continue teaching and co-directing the Percussion Scholarship Program and plans to remain active as a performer, including substituting with the Lyric Opera Orchestra and Grant Park Orchestra. She looks forward to this next chapter — and more time with family.

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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 10th music director from 2010 until 2023, became music director emeritus for life at the beginning of the 2023/24 Season. Jean-Yves Thibaudet is the CSO artist-in-residence for the 2026/27 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 domestically, and since 1892, has made 65 international tours, performing in 30 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](https://www.cso.org/resound)** is the ensemble's Grammy Award-winning 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 Negaunee Music Institute. The **[Chicago Symphony Chorus](https://www.cso.org/chicago-symphony-chorus)**, founded by Margaret Hillis in 1957, is the country's largest professional chorus, and Donald Palumbo currently serves as director. Founded by second music director Frederick Stock during the 1919/20 Season, the **[Civic Orchestra of Chicago](https://www.cso.org/civic-orchestra-of-chicago)** trains the next generation of musicians with Ken-David Masur as its principal conductor. **[Symphony Center Presents](https://www.cso.org/symphony-center-presents)** features guest artists and ensembles across an expansive array of genres, including classical, jazz, global and contemporary. The **[Negaunee Music Institute](https://www.cso.org/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 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.