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## **MUSIC DIRECTOR RICCARDO MUTI APPOINTS HILARY HAHN AS CSO ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE for 2021-23**

CHICAGO—The [Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association \(CSOA\)](#) is delighted to announce the appointment of three-time Grammy-winning violinist Hilary Hahn as its inaugural Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) Artist-in-Residence. Melding expressive musicality and technical expertise with artistic and intellectual curiosity, Hahn is one of the foremost violinists of our time. Her commitment to educational causes, honest and direct social media presence, and prolific commissioning of contemporary works seek to expand both the audience and repertoire for classical music. Appointed by CSO Music Director Riccardo Muti, she will begin her two-year tenure on September 1, 2021, and will continue in the role through June 30, 2023.

In the newly created position, Hahn will be in Chicago for multiple residencies each season. In December 2021, she will join the CSO for performances of Dvořák's Violin Concerto, a work of special significance to the orchestra, which gave its U.S. premiere 130 years ago in October 1891. Next spring she will perform a mixed recital program in the Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music series, and the coming season also sees her host two of her signature "[Bring Your Own Baby \(BYOB\)](#)" concerts. Providing a nurturing and welcoming environment for new parents to share their love of live classical music with their infants, these innovative free events will continue the CSO's ongoing commitment to families with young children.

The "Bring Your Own Baby" concerts are just one of the ways Hahn plans to strengthen the CSO's connections with the wider Chicago community. She is dedicated to amplifying diverse artistic voices and broadening access to classical music, and throughout her two-year appointment she will complement her public performances with a variety of educational and audience engagement initiatives. In collaboration with the CSO's Negaunee Music Institute, she will participate in projects with the Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative, which provides coaching, mentorship and support to young musicians from diverse backgrounds who plan to pursue professional careers in music, and Notes for Peace, which empowers Chicago families bereaved by gun violence to create original songs memorializing their loved ones.

Music Director Riccardo Muti notes:

“The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is committed to collaborating with musicians who inspire audiences with their artistry and love of music. I am looking forward to the ways that Hilary Hahn will work with the orchestra as CSO Artist-in-Residence and I commend her dedication to sharing music in new ways with audiences around the world, especially at this time when culture can be a healing force for all of us.”

Hahn says:

“I'm thrilled to be appointed Artist-in-Residence of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. I have great admiration for the orchestra and Maestro Muti, and it is an honor to join their organization and be present in the city of Chicago over the next two seasons. Through the powerful conduit of the arts, a residency offers the chance to get to know a community and find ways to be helpful within it. I'm looking forward to exploring those connections and being of artistic service to the city of Chicago and its music lovers, and to making great music with the Chicago Symphony.”

Hahn made her first appearances at Chicago's Orchestra Hall almost two decades ago, when she played Shostakovich's First Violin Concerto with Riccardo Chailly and the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in February 2002. Five years later she made her Chicago Symphony Orchestra debut with subscription concert performances of Goldmark's Violin Concerto. Over the next decade, she returned to Chicago for a number of recitals as part of the Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music series. The second of these featured Hahn's world premiere performances of the new works she commissioned for *In 27 Pieces: the Hilary Hahn Encores*, her Grammy-winning project to revitalize the encore genre. Most recently, she reunited with the CSO under Marin Alsop's leadership for performances of Sibelius's Violin Concerto in May 2019. As the *Chicago Tribune* reported,

“Though the Sibelius Violin Concerto ranks among the most frequently performed and widely beloved in the repertoire, Hahn reimagined the piece with considerable rhetorical flair, technical bravura and interpretive insight. ... Conductor, orchestra and soloist built toward a climax of unstoppable fervor and force.”

It was with her pairing of the Sibelius and Schoenberg concertos that Hahn won her second Grammy Award.

## About Hilary Hahn

“Hilary Hahn was and is the epitome of violinist perfection,” declares Germany's *Nürnberger Nachrichten*. Moreover, as the *New York Times* observes, she is “a daring, mature artist eager for new collaborations and repertory.”

Since making her debut with the Baltimore Symphony at the age of 11, Hahn has appeared as soloist with most of the world's preeminent ensembles. Following previous artistic residencies at the Vienna Concert House, for JapanArts in Tokyo, and with the National Orchestra of Lyon, Philharmonic Orchestra of Radio France, Philadelphia Orchestra and Seattle Symphony, this

season she serves as Virtual Artist-in-Residence of the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, with which she premiered Michael Abels's *Isolation Variation* and a new cadenza to Mozart's Fifth Violin Concerto. Other highlights of the present season include the release of her new album *Paris*, recorded for Deutsche Grammophon with Mikko Franck leading the Philharmonic Orchestra of Radio France, and returns to the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Houston Symphony and Dallas Symphony, where she delivered the keynote speech for the Second Annual Women in Classical Music Symposium.

Hahn is a prolific recording artist, all 20 of whose feature albums for Decca, Deutsche Grammophon and Sony have been Billboard top-ten bestsellers, while three have also been recognized with Grammy Awards. As a passionate advocate for new music, she has championed and commissioned works from a wide array of contemporary composers and is the dedicatee of such major new compositions as Einojuhani Rautavaara's posthumously premiered *Two Serenades for violin and orchestra*, Lera Auerbach's *Sonata No. 4: Fractured Dreams* and Jennifer Higdon's Violin Concerto, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Music. The violinist's most recent solo commission is *6 Partitas* by the late Antón García Abril, who – like Auerbach, Higdon and Rautavaara – was a contributor to *In 27 Pieces*. Ever willing to push musical boundaries, Hahn has also undertaken a number of non-classical projects. She was featured in the Oscar-nominated soundtrack to *The Village* and has collaborated with folk guitarist Tom Brousseau, singer-songwriter Josh Ritter and alt-rock band ... And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead.

Hahn has long demonstrated a deep commitment to her fans. Always free and offered on an infant-friendly schedule, her "Bring Your Own Baby" concerts build on her history of performances at such non-traditional spaces as community dance workshops, yoga studios and knitting circles. Her numerous educational initiatives include recordings of the first three books of the Suzuki Violin School; a book of sheet music to accompany *In 27 Pieces*, which includes her own fingerings, bowings and performance notes; and #100daysofpractice, a popular Instagram-based initiative that helps transform the lonely practice process into a social celebration of artistic development. An avid and early blogger, she posts a variety of original writing on her website.

The subject of two documentaries, Hahn holds honorary doctorates from Middlebury College and Ball State University, where there are three scholarships in her name. In 2001, she was named "America's Best Young Classical Musician" by *Time* magazine.

## About the CSO Artist-in-Residence

The CSO Artist-in-Residence is a newly created artistic role, designed to provide opportunities both for long-term collaboration with the orchestra and for reaching new audiences through the transformative power of music. Hahn will be the first to serve in the role, which represents the most recent initiative of Riccardo Muti's tenure to build and strengthen connections between the orchestra and its Chicago community. Consistently committed to expanding these connections, it was Muti who appointed internationally celebrated cellist Yo-Yo Ma as Creative Consultant in January 2010. Ma served in the role until June 2019, by which time it was renamed the Judson

& Joyce Green Creative Consultant. In that position, he worked with Muti and the orchestra to fortify their ties with the wider Chicago community, with special emphasis on programs for families and young children, as well as on training the next generation of musicians through collaborations with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

As CSO Artist-in-Residence, Hahn joins incoming CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery, who begins her tenure on July 1, 2021, and will continue in the role through June 30, 2024.

Click [here](#) for high-resolution photos and more.

The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation.

The Artist-in-Residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is made possible through a generous gift from James and Brenda Grusecki.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [cso.org](http://cso.org) and [experience.cso.org](http://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. Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-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 63 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](http://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](http://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.

