



For Immediate Release:
July 30, 2025

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JOYCE NOH RETIRES AFTER 46 SEASONS AS A VIOLINIST IN THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CHICAGO – Joyce Noh, a member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's (CSO) second violin section, recently retired on June 30 after 46 years of service. Noh began her professional career in 1977 as a member of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra before joining the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1979. She was appointed by the eighth music director Sir Georg Solti and was the first Asian woman to join the CSO. Noh will be recognized with the CSO's Theodore Thomas Medallion for Distinguished Service at a date to be announced.

Across her distinguished tenure with the Orchestra, Noh performed under music directors Sir Georg Solti, Daniel Barenboim and Riccardo Muti, as well as Principal Conductor Bernard Haitink, principal guest conductors Claudio Abbado and Pierre Boulez and Zell Music Director Designate Klaus Mäkelä. Noh participated in 43 international tours, including the Orchestra's first tours to Australia, Russia and South America, as well as many U.S. tours before making her final tour with the Orchestra to Europe in 2024 with Riccardo Muti.

In addition to performing with the Orchestra, Noh regularly participated in the CSO Chamber Music series, including memorable performances as part of the longtime series in Fullerton Hall at the Art Institute of Chicago. She was also a member of CSO ensembles that performed in Chicago area schools, as well as at various community organizations for seniors and those with disabilities in support of music education and community engagement activities over the years.

Reflecting on her distinguished career in the CSO, Noh said, "I have incredible memories of making music with my wonderful colleagues in the Orchestra over so many years and in concert halls across the country and around the world. When I joined the Orchestra there were only a few women but now there are many more who bring their exceptional artistry into our performances. Seeing that change in the ensemble has been very rewarding. I also feel grateful to have had the opportunity to share music with young people in classrooms and in the CSO's school and family concerts. Music is important for everyone, and I'm glad I could be part of this."

As a violin soloist, Noh performed with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra and has been featured in recitals and chamber music concerts across the U.S., as well as on several television and radio programs, including live broadcasts on Chicago's fine arts radio station, WFMT.

A dedicated educator and champion for music education, Noh has more than 30 years of teaching experience and has mentored young musicians who have gone on to top music schools and professional careers. She has also been a board member of the Sejong Cultural Society in Chicago and served as a judge for the Sejong Music Competition.

As she started her own musical journey in Seoul, South Korea, Noh's first teacher was her mother Yeonok Lee who was among the first female violinists hired to play in the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra. She went on to be recognized with extraordinary support from the renowned novelist and humanitarian Pearl S. Buck, who invited Noh to the U.S. in 1968 offering her a full music scholarship. She attended Philadelphia's New School of Music, which was founded by the Curtis String Quartet, including violinist Jascha Brodsky who was Noh's mentor and teacher. Noh also attended the Juilliard School where she studied with Ivan Galamian before pursuing additional chamber music studies with renowned violinists Felix Galimar and Robert Mann.

Following her time in the CSO, Joyce Noh looks forward to new opportunities to continue inspiring concert audiences and young musicians alike while enjoying more time connecting with her three children and four grandchildren and traveling to some of her favorite places.

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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. Joyce DiDonato is the CSO Artist-in-Residence for the 2025/26 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 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](https://www.cso.org/chicago-symphony-chorus), founded by Margaret Hillis in 1957, is the country's largest professional chorus. Donald Palumbo is the director of the Chicago Symphony Chorus. 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) is a training ensemble for emerging professionals with Ken-David Masur serving 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, world 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 Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.