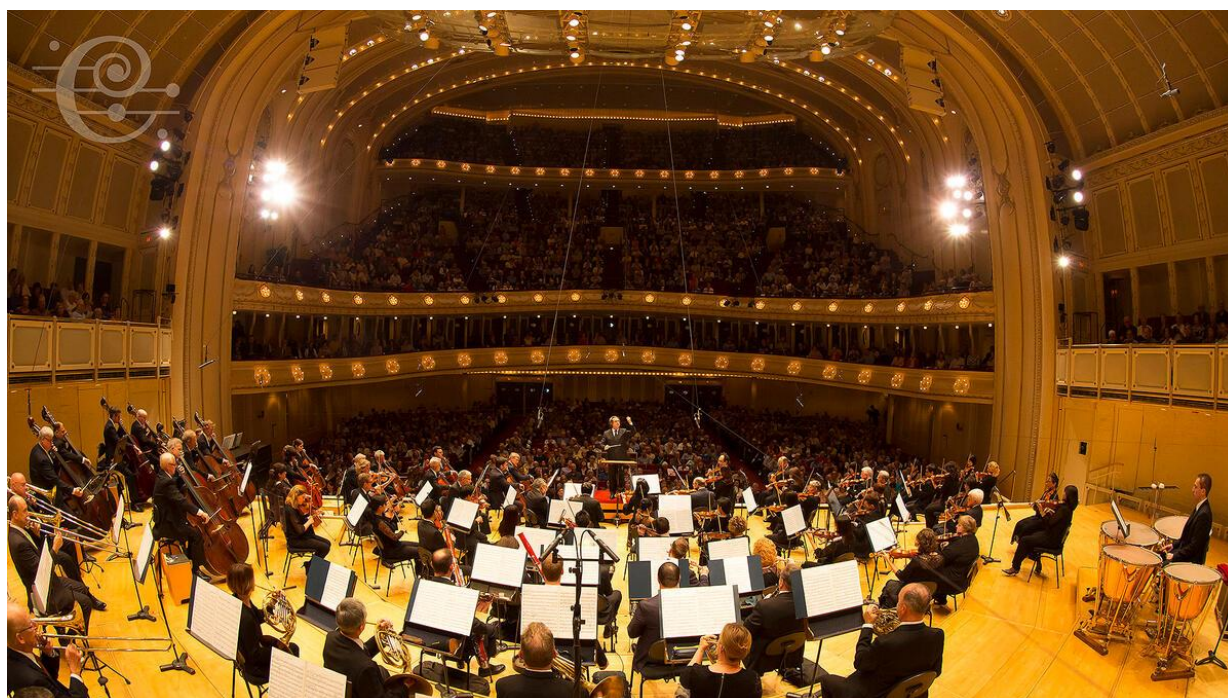


## 220 SOUTH – June 2025



A newsletter of the League of the CSOA

Merle Jacob, Editor

## A WELCOME FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear League of the CSOA members,

What a fabulous year this has been! This marks the 91<sup>st</sup> year since our founding, first as the Women's Association, and now as the League.

We celebrated the League's signature events, including Fall in Love with Music, our Endowed Concert for the wonderful Chorus in March, our ever-popular Musician's Luncheon, Corporate Night, our Salons, and our three all-member meetings.

My focus for the last two years has been musician engagement and selecting a CSO musician to serve as our ambassador.

Violinist Susan Synnestvedt served as our first ambassador and this year, flautist and piccolo player Jennifer Gunn was our ambassador. In May, the League hosted our CSO musicians and wished them luck before their European tour.

An important mission of mine has been for the League to work more closely with the other infinity groups of the CSOA family and I wish to thank the leaders and membership from the Women's Board, the African American Network, the Latino Alliance and the Overture Council for including League member in several of their events and supporting ours.

I wish to thank many members of the CSOA family for always "being there" for the League. I especially want to thank Jeff Alexander, President of the CSOA, and Dale Hedding, VP of Development of the CSOA. Words cannot describe my appreciation for the guidance that Lisa McDaniel, Director of Donor Engagement, has given me, and I am in awe of her knowledge of our history. And then there is Brent! Yes, he has a last name, Taghap. Thank you, Brent, for your patience, commitment, friendship, and always being there for our members.

I also want to thank our members for attending and supporting our meetings and events. Without you, we couldn't have hosted those thousands of school children for the CSO children's concerts, or supported their exploration at the Family concerts, or basked in the awe and wonder of the wee ones for the *Once Upon a Symphony* series, or filled goodie bags for the Civic Orchestra's Bach Marathon, or celebrated with them at our very popular pizza parties after their first and last concerts of the season. Many of our Seniors and Veterans would no longer have the opportunity to hear the CSO, without the SVEP.



Sharon Mitchell, League President, poses with Jeff Alexander, President of the CSOA

The League has taken up many responsibilities associated with supporting our beloved and world-renowned CSO and we would not be able to carry out those duties without the support of our members!

I wish you all a wonderful summer season. We look forward to spending time with you next season

And again, I thank you for the opportunity to have served you as your president.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Mitchell". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a small dot above the 'i' in Mitchell.

**Sharon Mitchell**

President, League of the CSOA

## LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING

The League ended the 2024/25 season with a joyous celebration and luncheon on June 11. This was the last meeting for President Sharon Mitchell who opened the meeting with her welcoming remarks and a look back at her presidency:

My theme for this meeting is “Life Changing Events.” When I was nine years old my band teacher not only paid for my clarinet rental, but he also gave me free lessons. Each week when I went to his home, he had this powerful, melodic, and gorgeous sound coming out of this huge machine, later, I realized it was a 78 record. Every week he would say to me, “This is the Chicago Symphony and if ever you get to hear them in real life, it will be life changing!” I have had the privilege of hearing the CSO and it has been life changing. When we retired in NYC, we moved to Chicago for one reason: the CSO. Having had the honor of serving as your president has also been life changing, as it has been for all the past presidents.

The CSO has had life-changing effects on many others also. I think about those faces of children in awe when they enter our magnificent hall for the very first time to hear our beloved CSO, and we can’t forget our seniors and veterans.

These opportunities for “life-changing” events are because of you, League members, who are willing to volunteer.

Sharon then recognized the important carried out by our docents and ended the meeting by thanking the League Membership for the privilege and honor of serving as their president and thanked them for their confidence in her.

She then recognized our CSO Ambassador, Jennifer Gunn, for serving this year and bestowed on her a gift on behalf of all the League members.

Sharon was then presented a gift from the CSOA Trustees by Mary Louise Gorno, Chair of the Board of Trustees. Dale Hedding, Vice President of Development, read a thank you note from



CSOA President Jeff Alexander as he was unable to attend the luncheon. Then past President Bill Ward presented Sharon with the gold pendent given to all the outgoing presidents.

Then the Vice Presidents each gave their annual end-of-the year reports.

Vice President of Events Eileen Conaghan said that this past season the League’s sponsored events included, the Bach Marathon goodie bags, the Endowed Concert Reception for the chorus in March, the Musicians Luncheon in April, as well as



the postconcert reception for the CSO musicians before their European tour to the Mahler Festival in May, and the Civic Orchestra pizza party receptions. All of the events were successful and enjoyed by all. The Chorus and the Civic Orchestra members all expressed their appreciation at being honored by the League.



Members enjoying the luncheon and each other.

Vice President of Finance Mary Beth Dietrick reported that 132 members paid dues this year raising a total of \$19,950 to cover the administrative costs of the League such as this luncheon, the Civic receptions, and other efforts and events done for the benefit of League members. The Tribute fund raised \$12,795, well above our \$10,000 goal. These funds go towards the stipend for our Civic Orchestra Fellow, harpist Kari Novilla. The funds from the holiday greeting card project for the CSO musicians and the two salons also went toward our Civic Orchestra stipend. Our Annual Fund goal is \$100,000 of which we have received \$91,115.

Vice President for Fundraising Sarah Good reported that the League raised \$32,821 through ticket purchases and donations for *Fall in Love with Music* with 70 guests attending the event. This year's Corporate Night raised \$679,000. The League portion, including the Drinks and Bites package plus any donations, was \$21,095. Over 69 people attended the Drinks and Bites.

Vice President for Membership Janice Young said that this season was very busy with many activities, events, and programs. We had a tea to honor our 30-year members in September. In October, we had an orientation for 14 new members to discuss the history of the League and all the opportunities for new members to get involved. As the season ends, we have four perspective new members who plan to join the League.

Vice President of Administration Allisa Gam said that the League Annual report for the 2024/25 season is planned to be issued in September. This report will briefly summarize the League's

activities by the League's President and each Vice President. The League's Directory for 2025/26 season is also planned to be issued in September. The last League Directory was issued in 2020, so a lot of content needed to be updated. Sarah Good, incoming President of League, and I are working on the layout and fundamental framework for the new League's Directory. I hope this new framework can be used for upcoming years, with only minor modifications being made as it's reissued.

Vice President of Education Kathy Nordmeyer said that June marked the end of another marvelous season of music for our youngest patrons. The season included three sets of *Once Upon a Symphony* concerts for our tiniest patrons and featured “The Little Red Hen” and “Abiyoyo.” The Negaunee Institute also

created programs that delighted our older children with *Philharmonia Fantastique*, The Music of Our Emotions, and Community Pride which featured the winner of last year’s Crain-Maling Foundation Young Artists Competition, Jaden Teague-Núñez, playing the steel pan drums with the CSO. Additionally, for the Family Concerts, there were engaging activities on all levels of the Rotunda which 2,500 young people took advantage of. There were 20 amazing League volunteers helping out and letting our 19,400 young patrons know how welcome they are at Symphony Center. The League also provided volunteers to help run the Crain-Mailing Foundation Young Artists Competition which featured 36 young pianists competing. Four finalists were selected, and the winner was Jeremy Liu, an eighth-grade student. The League also provided ushers for all the school programs and Community Open Rehearsals for seniors and veterans. The League also supports the docent program which gave 25 presentations at 14 different locations.

Vice President of Areas Bobbie Huskey said that the mission of the Areas Committee is to increase membership in geographic areas of Chicagoland and to engage these individuals as volunteers in League events and as hosts of events/parties in these geographic areas. The first activity was to develop a database of all League members by their geographical location and whether they are active or supporting members. We found our members are largely located in Chicago, nearby suburbs, and DuPage County. We found that 84% of our members are active and available to volunteer for League functions. During this season, the Committee held two salons to raise funds for the Civic Orchestra Fellow. The salon in the John Hancock building raised \$3,000 and had 74 guests attend. On June 22, Margo Oberman hosted a salon at her home featuring a performance by the Plymouth Trio, a CSO chamber group. The event hosted 60 people and raised \$3,100.



Mary Louise Gorno, Chair of the Board of Trustees and Dale Hedding, Vice President of Development

Strategic Planning/Technology chair Ted Tab explained that the League bylaws had not been revised since 2015 and needed to be aligned with the current state of the League. A committee consisting of the League Executive Committee and eight League members, Mimi Duginger, Cheryl Istvan, Kathleen Jordan, Elizabeth Shelly, Maureen Shelly, Denise Stauder, Liz Stein, and Bill Ward, began work in November of 2022. The committee focused on working on revising the Organizational Chart to include the new Executive Committee position of Vice President of Events and Musicians' Engagement and renaming and redefining many of the Vice President positions. The first draft of the revised bylaws was sent to attorneys at Latham & Watkin and the League, in May 2024. Cheryl Istvan, Bill Ward, Mimi Duginger, and Ted Tabe worked with Latham & Watkins to produce the version of the bylaws which was put to a vote. The vote by the League membership on the updated bylaws occurred on, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Finally, at the CSOA Board of Trustees meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>, the trustees approved the updated bylaws.

President Sharon Mitchell opened the floor to the vote on the new officers for the 2025/26 season. The new officers are:

Sarah Good, President  
Betsy Berry, Vice President of Events  
Juan Solana, Vice President of Finance  
Fred Garzon, Vice President of Membership  
Sharon Mitchell, Vice President of Fundraising  
Ansuk Jeong, Vice President of Strategic Planning  
Rosalind Jackson and John Zimnie, Members-at-Large

The vote to approve the slate was unanimous.



Past Presidents Cheryl Istvan, Lori Julian, Mimi Duginger, Sharon Mitchell, Bill Ward, and Sue Bridge.



The meeting closed with a fantastic performance by two of the CSO's finest musicians, Jennifer Gunn (flute) and Stephen Williamson (clarinet). They were accompanied on the piano by the League's very own Kathy Nordmeyer. Jennifer played Cecile Chaminade's *Serenade aux etoiles* and Stephen Williamson played Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto in A Major, second movement Adagio*. The performances were glorious and so lovely that everyone left the Annual Meeting totally uplifted and so proud to be a League member.



From left to right: Hilda Richards, Lori Julian, and Claretta Meier



Eileen Conaghan, Maryann Harting, Joan Dattel all enjoy being with everyone at the League Annual Meeting





Sharon and Past President Bill Ward



Jennifer Gunn inspires the League with her music



Kathy Nordmeyer accompanies our musicians.



Stephen Williamson delights the League.



Our fantastic musicians with President Sharon Mitchell.



## *FOR THE LOVE OF THE SYMPHONY AWARD*

At the Annual Meeting on June 11, President, Sharon Mitchell bestowed Sue Bridge with one of the League's most important awards: *For the Love of the Symphony*. When many League members were asked to give a few words that came to their mind when they heard the name Sue Bridge, the responses included the following: a joy, positive, great educator and communicator, role model, flexible, loyal, creative, a dedicated person for many causes including the League and the CSO. For these incredible attributes, Sue joins many other loyal and dedicated members. This award was created in 1990, to honor excellence in our membership.

The following members have received this distinction:

Hazel Fackler	1990	Judy Petty	2011
Mary Longbrake	1990	Jane Beam	2013
Rose Salomon	1994	Lori Julian	2015
Danna Carr	1996	Cheryl Istvan	2017
Nancy Fuller	1998	Carol Lennox	2019
Nancy Woulfe	2001	Barb Dwyer	2021
Mary Jane Jones	2004	Mimi Duginger	2023
Meryl Chapin	2006	Sue Bridge	2025
Susie Stein	2006		
Karen McGirr	2008		



Sue Bridge being surprised by being given the For the Love of the Symphony Award.



## SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW: STEPHEN WILLIAMSON, PRINCIPAL CLARINET



Steve Williamson is a world-famous clarinetist, principal clarinet of the CSO, a chamber music musician, a music educator, and a weightlifter. “Weightlifting,” Steve said, “is what I do for fun. In my younger days, I was even a body builder and competed in weightlifting competitions.” He chuckled when he said that now when he does weightlifting, it makes him feel healthy. However, most of Steve’s time is spent making music which as he points out, “I am so blessed to be in the CSO and to be able to share the music we love with the best fan base in the world.” Steve came to music through his father who was a band director. “As I had four brothers, my older brother got first choice of what instrument he wanted to play, and he choose the trumpet which I had wanted. My father pointed out that if I also played trumpet, I would always be competing with him. So, then I said I’d play saxophone as I could

play the jazz I love on it. I then taught myself Happy Birthday on the sax for my uncle’s birthday. After playing it, my father slyly said that the clarinet also could play jazz, so I tried it. He got me hooked, and I’ve never looked back,” Steve remembered fondly. Steve did continue to practice trumpet pieces on the clarinet as both instruments have the same range. “I developed techniques such as double and triple tonguing that are used by trumpeters but which people thought could not be used on the clarinet. However, I did it and it works. Now many clarinetists use these trumpet techniques,” Steve pointed out.

When Steve attended the Eastman School of Music, he thought about becoming a professional musician, but he came from a devout Catholic family who thought a bit differently. “My grandmother on my mom’s side, wanted me to be a priest as we had a number of priests, nuns, and even a saint in the family. In my sophomore year at Eastman, I auditioned for the student orchestra that would play Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 at Carnegie Hall and won a place in the orchestra. After playing in the orchestra, I knew I wanted to be a professional musician. I felt it was a calling. When I played a recording of that performance for my grandmother, she understood. “Playing music is my way of giving back to the world,” Steve explained.

When asked about his instruments, Steve explained that he started on a Buffet-Crampon but was introduced to the Selmer-Paris clarinet by a good friend. “The Selmer is not easy to play,” he

explained. “It requires great air capacity, but it makes such a beautiful sound that it has become the instrument I always play. I even work with Selmer to make improvements to the instrument.” As he now owns 10 clarinets, he is always breaking in the newer clarinets slowly over time. All are made from rare African Blackwood trees that are over 100 years old. Even after the wood is cut, it needs to be aged properly for a few years or the instrument will crack when played he explained. “Instead of changing clarinets and mouthpieces, I change my reeds as they can change the sound the clarinet makes. I learned how to make reeds from scratch with my reed knife when I was in school, and I still make them.”

Steve loves playing chamber music and has been playing in chamber ensembles since his college years. In college, he performed with his wife at many music festivals. “It is so enriching to play chamber music because it is so intimate. You must know all the parts and be able to work closely with a few people to produce this wonderful music which so many great composers have written. Great orchestras can sound like chamber ensembles because everyone in each section knows their music and all the other sections’ music so well that they play as one on a refined level.”

When asked about memorable performances he has played, Steve laughed and said, “Pretty much every performance with Maestro Muti because I came from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra so orchestral music was new to me. Working with Maestro Bernard Haitink was life changing as was working with Maestro Herbert Blomstedt. There are only a few great maestros left from the old school, and I’m lucky to get to work and learn from them. But what really makes a great performance is the energy that comes from the stage to the audience and then from the audience to the stage. We musicians love sharing music, and as I play, I think of all the musicians who came before me and sat in my chair. I never want to let anyone down, and I want to share all our wonderful moments with our fantastic Chicago patrons who are so loyal and supportive of all we do. Playing for the League meeting was a joy because all of you do so much for the orchestra and the musicians. I’m also hoping that one day, when Pope Leo XIV comes to Chicago, the CSO will be able to play for him.” Steve always gives his all as his beautiful and uplifting performance at the League’s Annual meeting showed. He is one of the many remarkable CSO musicians you should know.

## SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW: KATHY NORDMEYER, VP OF EDUCATION



Like many League members, Kathy Nordmeyer is a multitasking dynamo who brings her talents to all that she does for the League and the CSOA. Kathy is the League's Vice President of Education, works for Patron Services, serves on the Theodore Thomas Society Advisory Board, and volunteers for numerous League committees. As Kathy says, "Everything I do is a moment of joy, especially in helping patrons – from the youngest to the oldest – find joy and experience the best music with our fantastic orchestra." Kathy came to music by sheer luck. Her father was in the Air Force, so her family moved every two to three years. When she was in fifth grade the family was stationed in Germany. The apartment they were assigned had a piano, so her mother started Kathy with piano lessons. She was very talented and won a music scholarship to

college and graduated with a degree in music performance. Intending to teach in college, she went on for her Masters in Piano Performance but ended up teaching choral music in high school. "I loved teaching music and helping children learn to love music," Kathy said. She later moved into the digital learning technology world, and thirty years ago ended up living in Chicago. "As soon as I moved here, I got a subscription to the CSO. My first seats were way up in the gallery. When I traveled for work, I had to do the create your own series, but now that I've retired, I can come regularly not only to the symphony concerts, but to the chamber music and piano series concerts," Kathy said. As Vice President for Education, Kathy organizes the League volunteers for our AIM concerts, Family Concerts, and the Crain-Maling Competition.

When Daniil Trifonov, the CSO artist-in-residence, offered to do a master class with the top four finalists of the Crain-Maling Competition, Kathy asked if she could sit in on the class. As Trifonov was playing, his sheet music was becoming very disorganized, and it was hard for him to continue playing. As Kathy said, "I realized he was having problems so I quietly went on stage and turned the pages for him. Because of my background in music, I could do this and let Trifonov concentrate on helping the students get to the next level of playing. I've always been someone who when I see something that needs to be done, I do it. When he no longer needed my help, I just went back to my seat" Kathy explained.

After hearing of Kathy's work with Trifonov, League President Sharon Mitchell asked her to accompany Jennifer Gunn and Stephen Williamson when they played for the League's annual meeting on June 11. Jennifer Gunn played Cecile Chaminade's *Serenade aux etoiles* and Stephen Williamson played Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto in A Major, the second movement Adagio*. Kathy



pointed out, “The Chaminade piece was written for piano and flute while in the Mozart I was playing the orchestra’s part. I have had excellent rehearsals with both of our musicians. It has



been a wonderful opportunity to play with some of the world’s greatest musicians as I was in an accident twenty years ago and seriously injured my wrist. Now to be able to play with such world-renowned musicians is a dream come true.”

With the end of this year’s CSO season, Kathy is looking forward to working in her beautiful flower and vegetable garden. She will still work in Patron Services and help patrons create wonderful experiences for next season’s concerts. Next season she is also looking forward to hearing Richard Strauss’ *Four Last Songs*, Beethoven’s *Piano Concerto No. 2* with Trifonov, and Bruckner’s *Symphony No. 4*. What Kathy looks forward to is working in the background to help make both patrons’ and school children’s visits to Symphony Center a memorable experience. Kathy is one of the Leagues go-to-volunteers who help keep the League’s programs and activities running smoothly and successfully. She is someone you should know.

# LEAGUE EVENTS

## FINAL AIM AND FAMILY CONCERTS

Another season of Adventures in Music (AIM) concerts is over and what a season it has been! We concluded with the School and Family concerts with the theme, "Community Pride" led by the wonderful Maestro Thomas Wilkins who is masterful not only in leading the CSO, but also in engaging the children. A special feature of this program was the winner of last season's Crain-Maling Foundation Young Artist Competition, Jaden Teague-Núñez, playing the steel pan in a composition by his father, a first ever for the CSO. The Saturday Family concert featured fun filled and engaging activities in the Rotunda. The League members who helped to make this a joy-filled concert and set of activities included Fred Garzon, Merle Jacob, Sharon Mitchell, Allisa Gam, Mary Beth Dietrick, Sherry Richards, Judy Hays, and Betsy Barry. You are all a treasure for the CSO and Negaunee.



Jaden Teague- Núñez, winner of the Crain-Maling Foundation Young Artist Competition, plays the steel pan with the Chicago Symphony.





Jaden talks to the audience.



School groups listen attentively to the concert.



Young people try their hand at conducting before the Family Concerts.





## CIVIC END-OF-SEASON PIZZA PARTY

On Monday, June 2, the Civic Orchestra, under the baton of their principal conductor Ken-David Masur, played their final concert of the season. In a program inspired by Italy, the orchestra played Respighi's *Fountains of Rome*, Tarrodi's *Liguria*, and Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 43* to a very appreciative audience. After the concert, Civic Orchestra members, Civic donors, and League members celebrated the end of the season with a pizza party. The League has been supporting the Civic Orchestra by funding a Civic Orchestra fellow, distributing goodie bags to the Civic members during the Bach Marathon, and hosting the postconcert pizza party receptions. President Sharon Mitchell welcomed everyone and reiterated the League's love and support for the Civic Orchestra. Anna Perkins, Orchestra Manager for the Civic Orchestra, and Ken-David Masur, Principal Conductor, also talked about the season and looked forward to the next year. Pizza, cookies, and drinks were the highlight of the party and were enjoyed by all.

One of the surprises at the reception was longtime patron Steve Slaske showing his drawing of the concert to Civic violinist Herdis Gudmundsdottir and to Maestro Ken-Davis Masur. Steve attends many musical events at Symphony Center and makes a line drawing at each one. The line drawing of this Civic concert was signed by both Gudmundsdottir and Masur.



The Civic Orchestra performs on stage at Orchestra Hall.





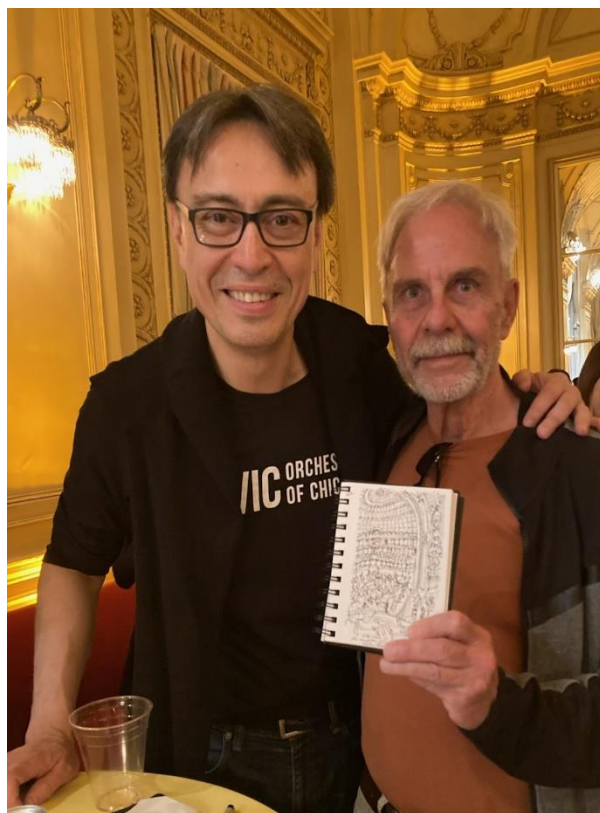
From left to right: Patrons enjoy pizza. League members Margo Oberman and Kathy Nordmeyer.



League President, Sharon Mitchell, addresses reception attendees.

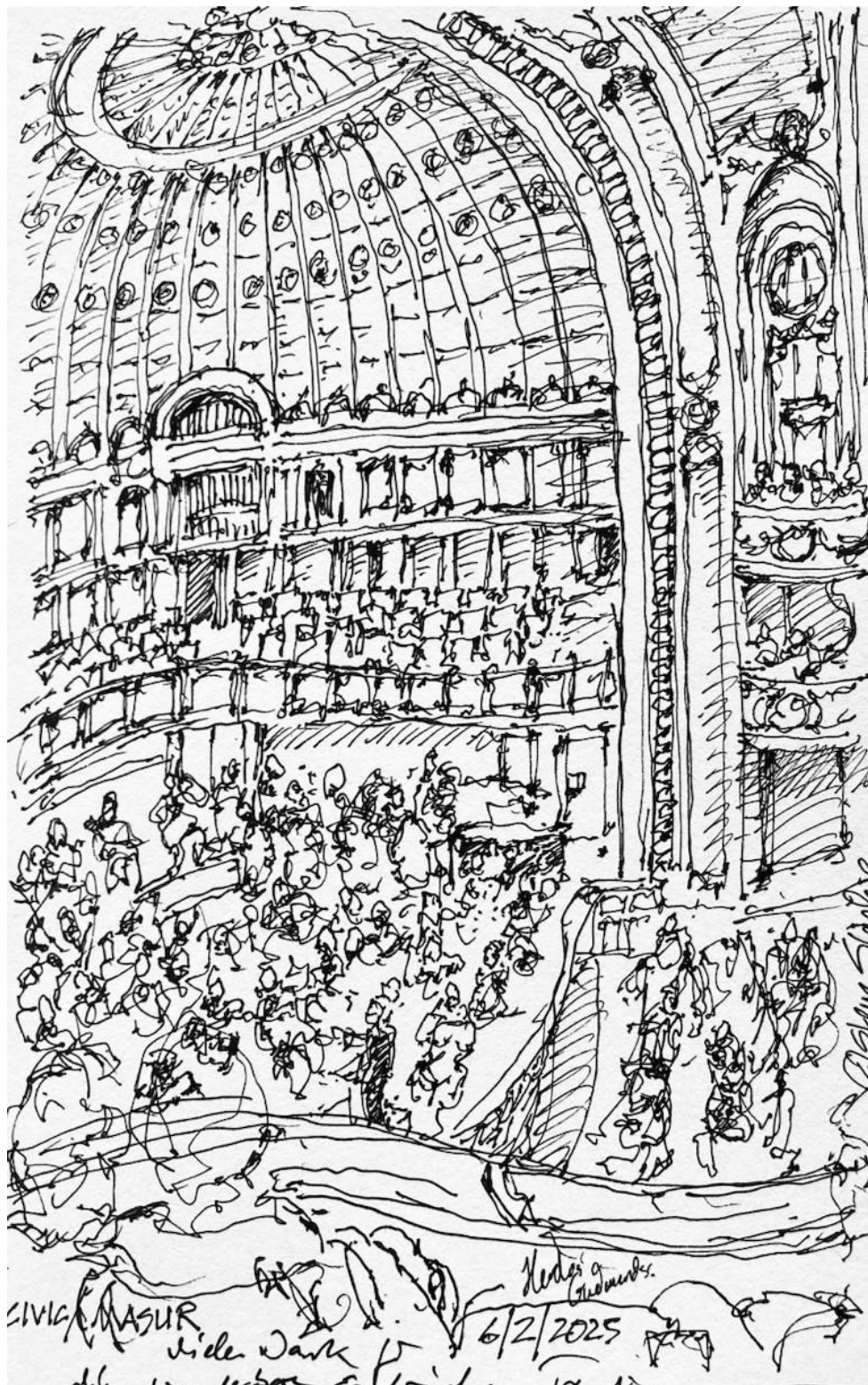


Civic personnel manager, Anna Perkins, and principal conductor, Ken-David masur, offer remarks.



Artist Steve Slaske showing his work to Civic violinist Herdis Gudmundsdottir and Ken-David masur.





Steve's drawing of the Civic Orchestra in Symphony Center.



## CORPORATE NIGHT

Corporate Night was an evening to remember! The event raised \$679,000 of which the League portion was \$21,095 for the CSOA. Corporate Night is one of the League's signature fundraising events, and this year's committee chairs were Joan Dattel and Claretta Meier who were helped by committee members Liz Branch, Merle Jacob Eileen Conaghan, Carol Nykiel, and Sarah Good. The committee planned the décor and the food for the formal dinner for the corporate guests in the Granger Ballroom and the casual Drinks and Bites for the League members and patrons in Forte. The highlight for the committee was the tasting session where we got to taste numerous dishes and decide on what would be served.



Heather Headley performing with the CSO.

The night of the event, each decorated room was absolutely beautiful and very festive. For the Drinks and Bites in Forte, everyone had a selection of appetizers that includes mini beef wellington, shrimp hushpuppies, roasted artichoke hearts, amber dessert bars, and much, much more.

After dinner, tickets in hand, everyone headed to Orchestra Hall for the Heather Headley concert. At the performance, Heather Headley, with her wide vocal range – did not disappoint! Actor and tenor Curtis Bannister and the Fred Nelson ensemble joined Heather in a number of the songs. Steven Reineke conducted our own Chicago Symphony Orchestra.



Corporate Night cochairs, Joan Dattel and Claretta Meier, survey all spaces before the event.

Between selections, Heather spoke of her career highlights, expressing gratitude to her family, having this opportunity to perform with the world renowned CSO and to the audience for supporting the arts. Her precious six-year-old daughter joined her on stage to dance with her mother during the grand finale.

The final treat for the committee was the opportunity to join Heather, her family, and other guests in the Green Room for a postconcert reception. Heather was very friendly and shared that she now lives in Wheaton with her husband and children. She also graciously posed for pictures with everyone.

Corporate Night was a successful fundraiser and a special evening enjoyed by all. Stay tuned for next year's Corporate Night—A Musical Tribute to John Williams and Steven Spielberg.



The elegant table settings in Grainger Ballroom.



A food station set up in Forte for the Drinks & Bites reception.



Angela D'Aversa and Eileen Conaghan enjoy the Drinks & Bites reception

Judy Feldman, Liz Branch, and Sharon Mitchell pose for a photo in Forte.



Janice Young, Liz Branch, and Sarah Good smile for a photo.



## FINAL SVEP CONCERT OF THE 2024/25 SEASON

On Wednesday, June 18, 2025, the Senior and Veteran Engagement Program had the last of its 3 Open Rehearsals for the 2024/25 season. The League volunteers greeted over 900 guests from 35 sites to Symphony Center. The Open Rehearsal from 1:30pm -3:00pm was Verdi's *Requiem Mass* conducted by Maestro Riccardo Muti with singers Elena Guseva, Marianne Crebassa, John Osborn, and Maharram Huseynov and our own beloved CSO musicians. It was an afternoon to remember! Maestro Muti so engaged the audience, and everyone was thrilled to be a part of the audience for this exceptional concert. The thanks received from our guests spoke volumes and the League looks forward to offering these Open Rehearsals for the 2025/26 season. Special appreciation goes to the 15 League volunteers, Carol Kelleher, Jenise Sheppard (from the CSO Administration) and the CSO Usher Corps. A great team effort!



900 seniors packed Orchestra Hall for the rehearsal.



Margo Oberman oversees the walkers that the volunteers parked in the Lobby for the visiting seniors.

## FINAL SALON OF THE SEASON



League members pose with the featured guest performers: The Plymouth Trio

Sixty League members and guests gathered for a delightful afternoon at the beautiful home of Margo and Mike Oberman in bucolic Mettawa (Libertyville) on Sunday, June 22. The Areas Salon featured a performance by the Plymouth Trio - Lei Huo (violin), Lei's sister Qing Hou (violin), and Qing's husband Lawrence Neuman (viola) - all members of the CSO. They played works by Mazas, Mozart, Handel, and Dvorák. Following their warmly received performance, they took questions from the audience about their musical journeys. The trio made a point of thanking the League for its support of the CSO and its mission, as well as complimenting the Obermans on the wonderful acoustics of their entertainment space. They then stayed to talk further with guests over light bites and beverages provided by the Obermans and the Areas committee, under the leadership of Bobbie Huskey, with Betsy Berry, Liz Branch, Joan Dattel, Fred Garson, Kathleen Solaro, and Denise Stauder. The event raised \$3,100 for the League Tribute Fund in support of Civic Orchestra of Chicago harpist Kari Novilla.





Kathy Solaro and Betsy Berry greet salon guests.



Margo Oberman poses with other salon guests.



Salon guests enjoying refreshments before the performance.





Salon committee members Fred Garzon and Betsy Berry waiting for the performance.



President Sharon Mitchell introduces the Trio



Lei Huo and Qing Hou play Mazas





# IMPORTANT LEAGUE INFORMATION

## LEAGUE EVENTS – 2025/26 SEASON

September 24	Fall All-Member Meeting & Luncheon (11:30 AM   Grainger)
October 17	Fall in Love with Music (Time & Venue TBC)
March 18	Spring All-Member Meeting & Luncheon (11:30 AM   Grainger)
June 17	Annual All-Member Meeting & Luncheon (11:30 AM   Grainger)

*Event dates for the 2025/26 season are still TBC. Dates will be confirmed as we approach the beginning of the season and will be communicated to the membership via League leadership.*

If you would like to volunteer at Community Open Rehearsals/SVEP, please contact Margo Oberman at [\*\*honye@obermail.net\*\*](mailto:honye@obermail.net).

If you would like to volunteer for Adventures in Music (AIM) concerts, please contact Kathy Nordmeyer at [\*\*nordmeyerk@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:nordmeyerk@gmail.com).

If you have any questions, please contact Brent Taghap at [taghapb@csso.org](mailto:taghapb@csso.org)



## IMPORTANT LEAGUE INFORMATION

### A REMINDER ABOUT OUR TRIBUTE FUND

For many years, the League has funded, through our Tribute Fund, a stipend for a fellow in the Civic Orchestra. Our annual contribution for this purpose is \$10,000. While contributions to this fund are voluntary, we would like for you to keep this fund in mind and help it grow. Some of you have kindly made memorial donations. Donations are also a nice way to thank or honor someone for any reason. Of course, un-designated donations are completely welcome. You can make your donation to the League Tribute fund at [cso.org/league](https://cso.org/league). Contributions can also be made by calling the Development Department at (312) 294-3100.

### LEAGUE ANNUAL FUND

The League Annual Fund is one of our biggest fundraising tools. Unlike our other fundraisers, it doesn't include any entertainment or food; it just requires your generosity. Our annual goal is \$100,000, and at the end of the fiscal year the entire Annual Fund content is transferred to the CSOA's general fund, to be used as needed.

All members are required to contribute to the League Annual Fund each year - \$150 for Active Members and \$250 for Supporting Members. Many kindly give more than the required amount – as this is necessary if we are to reach our goal. Members can also contribute as often they like.

Contributions for the 2025-2026 fiscal year may be made at any time between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026. However, payment by April 1 is greatly appreciated. You can make your donation to the League Annual Fund at [cso.org/donate/q/7](https://cso.org/donate/q/7). Contributions can also be made by calling the Development Department at (312) 294-3100.

### WEB LINKS FOR LEAGUE MEMBERS

League CSO page: <https://cso.org/support/get-involved/the-league/>

League Symphony Store: <https://symphonystore.com/collections/league-of-the-csoa-apparel>

League Tribune Fund: <https://order.cso.org/donate/q/12>

League Membership Dues: <https://order.cso.org/donate/q/8>

League Annual Fund: <https://order.cso.org/donate/q/7>

League Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/theleagueofthecsoa>

### 2024/25 LEAGUE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Sharon Mitchell

Vice President of Events: Eileen Conaghan

Vice President of Finance: Mary Beth Dietrick

Vice President of Fundraising: Sarah Good

Vice President of Membership: Janice Young

Vice President of Administration: Allisa Gam

Vice President of Education: Kathy Nordmeyer

Vice President of Areas: Bobbie Huskey

Strategic Planning/Technology: Ted Tabe

Secretary: Liz Branch

Members-at-Large: Ansuk Jeong, Juan Solana

## 2025/26 LEAGUE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Sarah Good

Vice President of Events: Betsy Berry

Vice President of Finance: Juan Solana

Vice President of Fundraising: Sharon Mitchell

Vice President of Membership: Fred Garzon

Vice President of Administration: Allisa Gam

Vice President of Education: Kathy Nordmeyer

Vice President of Areas: Bobbie Huskey

Vice President of Strategic Planning: Ansuk Jeong

Technology: Ted Tabe

Secretary: Liz Branch

Members-at-Large: Rosalind Jackson John Zimmie



**League**

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association