



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION
RICCARDO MUTI MUSIC DIRECTOR

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559
TELEPHONE 312-294-3333
FACSIMILE 312-294-3329

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Press Contacts:
[Eileen Chambers](#)
CSOA, 312-294-3092
[Glenn Petry](#)
21C Media, 212-625-2038

HILARY HAHN CONTINUES TWO-YEAR TENURE AS CSO'S FIRST ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE WITH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN MARCH AND CHAMBER RECITAL OF BEETHOVEN, KODÁLY AND CARLOS SIMON ON APRIL 1

CHICAGO – In December, Hilary Hahn made her first appearance as the [Chicago Symphony Orchestra \(CSO\)](#)'s inaugural Artist-in-Residence with an account of Dvořák's Violin Concerto that prompted the *Chicago Tribune* to marvel: "A more triumphant start to her tenure as artist-in-residence can hardly be imagined." This spring, the three-time Grammy-winning violinist returns to Chicago to continue her two-year appointment with two days of community activities (March 13 & 14) followed by a mixed recital on the Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music series, for which she joins cellist Seth Parker Woods and pianist Andreas Haefliger for a program of Beethoven, Kodály and Carlos Simon (April 1).

Reflecting on the residency and what it means to her, Hahn observes:

"This is the first time I've had the opportunity to do a two-year artistic residency. It gives me time to really get to know the Chicago community and try to enhance the presence of music in the city. Music is bonding. It's healing. Every one of us has something in common beyond being in that hall at the same place, at the same time, listening to the same piece. I think the common connections of humanity and music are really deep, and that's what I like to explore in a residency."

Dedicated to amplifying diverse artistic voices and broadening access to classical music, throughout her two-year appointment Hahn is complementing her public performances with a variety of educational and audience engagement initiatives, many of them in collaboration with the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO. The April 1

concert follows her two-day Chicago residency on March 13 and 14, when she joins the Negaunee Music Institute for engagement activities and creative planning meetings. These include a public concert on March 13, featuring a dozen original songs composed through the Institute's "Notes for Peace" project, which helps parents who have lost children to gun violence in Chicago to heal by creating original pieces of music. Hahn wrote one of the new songs with Ashley Adams, who lost her son Marquise Richardson to gun violence last summer, and Sara Lee, Notes for Peace's lead teaching artist, who also serves as Artistic Director of London's [Irene Taylor Trust](#). Free reservations for the March 13 performance are available at [cso.org](#). During this residency, Hahn will also give a masterclass for young violinists from the [Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative \(CMPI\)](#), as well as meet with CSO Association staff and creative partners to develop projects for the 2022-23 season.

To open her April 1 recital program, Hahn has chosen *be still and know* (2016), a piano trio by Sphinx Medal of Excellence winner and Kennedy Center Composer-in-Residence Carlos Simon, whose music blends the influences of jazz, gospel and neo-Romanticism. One of the works featured on *My Ancestor's Gift*, Simon's 2018 album release, the piece takes its title from Psalm 46:10, and draws inspiration from an interview with Oprah Winfrey, who said:

"I have felt the presence of God my whole life. Even when I didn't have a name for it, I could feel the voice bigger than myself speaking to me, and all of us have that same voice. Be still and know it. You can acknowledge it or not. You can worship it or not. You can praise it, you can ignore it or you can know it. Know it. It's always there speaking to you and waiting for you to hear it in every move, in every decision."

be still and know marks Hahn's first performance of Simon's music. She says:

"It's such a gorgeous work. I hadn't played Carlos's music before, but now that he and I have had the chance to sit down, talk music and really get to know each other, I'm excited for it to be the start of an ongoing collaboration with him."

To perform the trio, Hahn will be joined by American cellist Seth Parker Woods and German-Swiss pianist Andreas Haefliger. It was in a five-star review of her recent all-Beethoven duo recital with Haefliger at London's Wigmore Hall that *The Times* of London described theirs as "an ideal recital partnership," and in Chicago, she and the pianist will reprise their account of the composer's Tenth Violin Sonata. Hahn says:

"When Andreas and I play Beethoven, there's some kind of ignition that happens, and we really read each other super-well. He is the consummate chamber musician."

Hahn's Chicago program also includes Kodály's Duo for Violin and Cello. She will be joined once again by Parker Woods, a "cellist of power and grace" (*The Guardian*) who has collaborated with artists ranging from Louis Andriessen and Elliott Carter to Sting and Lou Reed, and who has just been recognized with Chamber Music America's 2022 Michael Jaffee Visionary Award. She explains:

"Kodály drew greatly on his native culture and his sense of folk rhythms and melodies, but he also had intimate knowledge of the violin and cello. You have to completely merge as a duo – it's a conversation, and it's really fascinating to explore with Seth, who has such a knowledge of the repertoire and what it means to be a musician."

About CSO Artist-in-Residence Hilary Hahn

One of the foremost violinists of our time, Hilary Hahn was appointed the CSO's first Artist-in-Residence by Music Director Riccardo Muti and, in the newly created role, she undertakes multiple Chicago residencies each season through June 2023. Her first such residency was last December, when she and the CSO performed Dvořák's Violin Concerto under the baton of Andrés Orozco-Estrada. The critical response was nothing short of euphoric. Pronouncing the performance "breathtaking," Chicago's WTTW.com characterized Hahn as an "artist of extraordinary virtuosity who radiates joy as she plays and has a palpable connection with the orchestra." Similarly, after noting that she and the conductor had previously performed the same work for a Frankfurt Radio Symphony webcast, the *Chicago Tribune* concluded:

"Their redux at the CSO, however, blew even that sterling recorded version out of the water. ... The third-movement Finale was an unbridled delight, Hahn grooving with some of her rhythms and bringing a funhouse zaniness to her high, whirling, 16th-note lines. A more triumphant start to her tenure as artist-in-residence can hardly be imagined."

For her encore, Hahn chose the Largo from Bach's Sonata No. 3 in C, which she "rendered with rapt purity and elevated, soul-easing expression"; as *Chicago Classical Review* put it, she is "one of the finest Bach violinists of our day."

Tickets and patron information

Tickets for the SCP Chamber Music recital with Hilary Hahn on April 1 start at \$39. Free reservations are available for the March 13 "Notes for Peace" concert. Patron Services representatives are available to assist with ticket purchases by web chat at [cso.org](https://www.cso.org), by calling (312) 294-3000 (Tues–Fri, 10am–4pm), or by emailing patronservices@cso.org.

Performances take place at Symphony Center (220 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago) with safety measures in place. More information about current protocols is available at [cso.org/safeandsound](https://www.cso.org/safeandsound).

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

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

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CSO Artist-in-Residence Hilary Hahn: spring residency

March 13 at 3:00 pm

Buntrock Hall at Symphony Center

“Notes for Peace” Concert

Parents of Purpose Over Pain

Musicians from the Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Musicians from the Irene Taylor Trust

Na'Zir McFadden, conductor

Melinda Alberty, Leah Dexter & Meagan McNeal, vocals

Twelve original songs

April 1 at 8:00 pm

Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center

SCP Chamber Music series

With Seth Parker Woods, cello, and Andreas Haefliger, piano

CARLOS SIMON: *be still and know* for violin, cello and piano

KODÁLY: Duo for Violin and Cello, Op. 7

BEETHOVEN: Violin Sonata No. 10 in G Major, Op. 96