



For Immediate Release:

June 24, 2026

Press Contact:

[Hannah Sundwall](#)

[312-294-3083](tel:312-294-3083)

PAVEL VINNITSKY ANNOUNCED AS THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CHICAGO – The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces the appointment of Pavel Vinnitsky as clarinet and bass clarinet of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). A frequent guest musician with the CSO at Symphony Center and on tour since 2022, Vinnitsky won the final audition for the position in December 2025 and officially joins the Orchestra on September 14, 2026. He is the eighth musician appointed by [Zell Music Director Designate Klaus Mäkelä](#).

Prior to his appointment, Vinnitsky earned acclaim for his solo, chamber and orchestral performances around the world, previously serving as an acting member of the New York Philharmonic's clarinet section and associate clarinet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

An avid chamber musician, Vinnitsky has appeared with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the New York Philharmonic Chamber Music Series, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Met Chamber Players at Carnegie Hall and Wind Soloists of New York; he is also a co-founder of the Conservatory Series at the University of Cincinnati.

Beyond the classical stage, Vinnitsky has recorded for major motion picture soundtracks produced by Warner Bros., Universal Pictures, Paramount Pictures, Disney and 20th Century Fox, and has contributed to productions for Netflix and Amazon.

His artistic versatility extends beyond the traditional repertoire through new music commissions, explorations of contemporary and Eastern European folk-music fusion, and collaborations with pop and rock artists including Sting, Lady Gaga, Tony Bennett, Paul McCartney and Peter Gabriel.

Vinnitsky regularly presents masterclasses at leading music institutions, including the Curtis Institute of Music, Juilliard School, Yale School of Music, Indiana University, Northwestern University and Manhattan School of Music. He currently serves as

associate professor of clarinet and chair of the Winds, Brass and Percussion Department at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM).

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

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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.