

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Chicago Philharmonic Announces Summer 2016 Night Out in the Parks Programs**

Chicago, IL – (May 24, 2016) The Chicago Philharmonic will rehearse and perform three side-by-side concerts as part of the Chicago Park District's 2016 Night Out in the Parks series. Student and community musicians of all ages and abilities are invited to bring their instruments and collaborate with Chicago Philharmonic musicians in rehearsing and performing orchestral concerts in Chicago parks. All others are invited to enjoy the concerts as audience members.

The programs are a continuation of the Chicago Philharmonic's ongoing efforts to connect with wide-ranging audiences and bring classical music opportunities to underserved neighborhoods of the city. The orchestra organized two such programs as part of Night Out in the Parks in 2015, at Ping Tom Memorial Park and Columbus Park, and this year adds a third date at Humboldt Park.

Dates and locations for this summer's programs are as follows:

- Saturday, June 18: Ping Tom Memorial Park (300 W 19<sup>th</sup> St, Chinatown)
- Saturday, July 30: Columbus Park Refectory (5701 W Jackson Blvd, Austin)
- Saturday, August 20: Humboldt Park Boathouse (1301 N Sacramento Ave, Humboldt Park)

Both programs will include a side-by-side rehearsal at 3:30 P.M. for all those performing with the orchestra and a public side-by-side concert at 6:00 P.M.

Participation and attendance are free and open to the public. Spots for community musicians will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, and registration is strongly encouraged at [chicagophilharmonic.org/night-out-in-the-parks](http://chicagophilharmonic.org/night-out-in-the-parks). Those who register are guaranteed a place in the orchestra and receive advance access to sheet music. Repertoire for the side-by-side concerts will be announced in early June (exact date to be determined).

The Chicago Philharmonic's other outreach efforts include its Mentorship Program at The Chicago High School for the Arts and Old Orchard Junior High School, Next! and other Side-by-Side performance initiatives for gifted young musicians, and Families to the Phil concertgoing program for Chicago-area families.

The Chicago Philharmonic's Night Out in the Parks programs are supported in part by a generous grant from The Pauls Foundation.

## **About The Chicago Philharmonic Society**

The Chicago Philharmonic Society is a collaboration of over 200 of the highest-level classical musicians performing in the Chicago metropolitan area. Governed under a groundbreaking structure of musician leadership, the Society presents concerts at venues throughout the Chicago area that cover the full spectrum of classical music, from Bach to Britten and beyond. The Society's orchestra, known simply as the Chicago Philharmonic, has been called "one of the country's finest symphonic orchestras" (*Chicago Tribune*), and its unique chamber music ensembles, which perform as the Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players (cp<sup>2</sup>), draw from its vast pool of versatile musicians. The Society's outreach programs connect Chicago-area youth to classical music and provide performance opportunities for members of the community. Founded 26 years ago by principal musicians from the Lyric Opera Orchestra, the Chicago Philharmonic currently serves as the official orchestra of the Joffrey Ballet, continues its 21-year association with the Ravinia Festival, and presents symphonic concerts in Evanston and, beginning in May 2016, at the Harris Theater.

## **About Night Out in the Parks**

These side-by-side programs are presented as part of the Chicago Park District's Night Out in the Parks series, supported by Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Arts programming in neighborhoods across the city advances the goals of the Chicago Park District and the Chicago Cultural Plan. Now in its fourth year, the 2016 Night Out in the Parks series will host over 1,000 cultural events and programs at more than 250 neighborhood parks throughout the city, making community parks a safe haven and hubs of activity. Projects will vary from traditional performances and concerts, to movies, peace rallies, community workshops, nature based programs, dance pieces, festivals, and more. The Chicago Park District has partnered with more than 120 arts and community organizations to expand and produce this successful initiative.

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