

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players Present
Feelin' Good: Grooving Music from Nina Simone, Zvonimir Tot, Gershwin & Beyond**

November 22, 2015, Noon
City Winery Chicago (1200 W Randolph St, Chicago, IL 60607)

Adrienne Walker, Vocalist
Carmen Llop-Kassinger, Violin
Lisa Fako, Violin
Monica Reilly, Viola
Margaret Daly, Cello
Zvonimir Tot, Guitar
Rob Kassinger, Bass

Selections of Music by Nina Simone
Selections from *Porgy and Bess*
Selections from the American Songbook
Alfred Schnittke – “Polka”
James Stephenson – “Strumba”
Zvonimir Tot – “Groove Me Wah”
Zvonimir Tot – “Aneri”
Zvonimir Tot – “Sarabande”

Tickets: \$25 General Admission, Students \$10
Tickets available at chicagophilharmonic.org

Chicago, IL – (October 28, 2015) In the second concert of their fall 2015 City Winery series, the Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players (cp²) find their groove in a fusion of Nina Simone, jazz guitar, and cutting edge classical. One of cp²'s most beloved string quartets adds soprano Adrienne Walker, guitarist Zvonimir Tot, and bassist Rob Kassinger for the afternoon's performance. Currently with the national tour of *Dirty Dancing*, Walker performs takes on a range of songs, from the bluesy Nina Simone to Gershwin's much-loved *Porgy and Bess*. Jazz guitarist and UIC professor Zvonimir Tot makes his cp² debut with a number of his own works, which showcase bassist Rob Kassinger, Tot himself, and the entire ensemble. The quartet and Kassinger also perform newer works by Alfred Schnittke and Chicago composer James Stephenson that feature imaginative rhythms and harmonies.

Doors at City Winery open at 11:00 A.M., and brunch will be available for purchase before and during the performance. Casual attire is encouraged.

PERFORMER BIOS

Adrienne Walker, originally from Jonesboro, Georgia, is a vocalist and actor in Chicago. Adrienne was last seen in Porchlight Music Theatre's *Sondheim on Sondheim*. Chicago credits include *HAIR*, *Rent* (Paramount Theatre); *Dreamgirls* (Marriott Theatre); *Porgy and Bess*, *Iphigenia in Aulis* (Court Theatre); and *The Color Purple* (Mercury Theatre), where she received a Jeff nomination for her performance as Shug Avery. Adrienne is currently performing in Court Theatre's *Agamemnon* and upon closing will join the United States tour of *Dirty Dancing*.

Carmen Llop Kassinger has performed in the violin section of the Chicago Philharmonic for twenty seasons. In addition, she has performed with the Chicago Symphony, Lyric Opera, Grant Park Symphony, Chicago Sinfonietta, Lake Forest Symphony, and Music of the Baroque. Carmen received her undergraduate degree in violin performance from Stetson University as well as a Master of Music from the University of Miami.

Lisa Fako, violin, counts Betty Lambert, Victor Aitay, and Joseph Silverstein among her teachers. She has performed at festivals including Tanglewood, Aspen, Strings in the Mountains, the Moab Music Festival, and the Woodstock Mozart Festival, as well as numerous chamber music recitals live on WFMT radio. A busy freelancer in Chicago, Ms. Fako performs regularly with the Chicago Philharmonic, as well as the Lyric Opera, The Lake Forest Symphony, The Elgin Symphony, and many others.

Monica Reilly, viola, has been active as both a performer and educator on the Chicago music scene for nearly three decades. She has played in the viola section of many of the region's orchestras including the Lake Forest Symphony and the Ravinia Festival Orchestra. Most recently Monica has focused her efforts on pursuing her love of chamber music and is a founding member of The Ravenswood Chamber Players.

Margaret Daly is a freelance cellist who has been with the Chicago Philharmonic since its inception. She is a member of the Lake Forest Symphony and the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra. She also plays with many area groups including Chamber Opera Chicago, Chicago Opera Theater, and Grant Park Festival Orchestra.

Zvonimir Tot is a Chicago-based jazz guitarist, composer, and arranger with a style deeply rooted in the jazz tradition but flavored by his European origin. Tot has performed in the United States, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Hungary, Serbia, the Czech Republic, Romania, and Croatia. Tot is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Music at University of Illinois at Chicago and currently teaches jazz guitar, harmony, ear training, counterpoint, and jazz ensembles. He is the founder and owner of *Groove Art Records* and has written over fifty jazz compositions for ensembles ranging from duo to sextet.

Rob Kassinger, bass, has been a member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since 1993. Prior to Chicago, Rob was a member of New Orleans Symphony, and played Assistant Principal Bass for the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. An active chamber musician, Rob has performed with Yo Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, Music of the Baroque, and Daniel Barenboim. His experience as a jazz performer includes appearances with artists such as Branford Marsalis, Charlie Rouse, and the Woody Herman Orchestra.



ABOUT CP²

Cp² (Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players) is a collection of chamber ensembles of varied instrumentation performing under the auspices of the Chicago Philharmonic. Cp² is dedicated to the original concept of chamber music as “the music of friends,” by capturing the jam-session feel of great music played by great musicians. Its groups have been delighting audiences with virtuosic performances in a wealth of musical styles since 2010. Cp² presentations are set in diverse venues around the Chicago area, from churches in Hinsdale to jazz clubs in Chicago, giving each ensemble a chance to speak with its own unique voice.

ABOUT THE CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC

The Chicago Philharmonic is a collaboration of over 200 of the highest-level classical musicians performing in the Chicago metropolitan area. Founded 26 years ago by principal musicians from the Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra, the Chicago Philharmonic has consistently won accolades from music critics and audiences alike. Its symphonic and chamber concerts at locations throughout the Chicago area cover the full spectrum of classical music, from Bach to Britten and beyond. Governed under a groundbreaking structure of musician leadership, the Chicago Philharmonic's mission is to excite, engage, and transform diverse audiences with the beauty and power of great music. Its outreach programs – which connect Chicago-area youth to classical music and provide public performance opportunities for members of the community – play a crucial role in achieving this objective. The Chicago Philharmonic proudly serves as the official orchestra of the Joffrey Ballet, a 21-year associate of the Ravinia Festival, and a new resident company at the Harris Theater.

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