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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Chicago Philharmonic Mentorship Program to Create Partnership with Old Orchard Junior High

Chicago, IL – (February 23, 2015) The Chicago Philharmonic Mentorship Program is a pilot program through which Chicago Philharmonic musicians will provide in-school mentoring in Spring 2015 for over 200 band and orchestra students at Old Orchard Junior High School (OOJH) in Skokie. Elements of the program include master classes, a side-by-side rehearsal, and a concert at the school presented by students and their musician mentors. The program further engages the students' families with a group outing to attend a Chicago Philharmonic concert.

Through repeated meaningful contacts with professional musicians, the program helps cultivate students' music skills while also advancing their overall development and success in school and beyond. "One aspect of this program that we think really sets it apart," says Chicago Philharmonic Executive Director Donna Milanovich, "is the opportunity, through repeated meaningful contacts between the students and the musicians, for real relationships to develop and for the musicians to become role models for the students in their development as musicians and as they chart their paths for future careers."

The Chicago Philharmonic hopes to use the pilot program as a model for similar programs to be offered at other Chicago area junior high and high schools in the future, expanding the program's impact to hundreds of additional students. The program builds on other existing outreach initiatives from the Chicago Philharmonic, including Families to The Phil, which provides free concert tickets to Chicago-area students and their family members, and Side by Side, which provides selected high school students the opportunity to perform alongside the orchestra at Chicago Philharmonic concerts.

The side-by-side concerts at OOJH will take place on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. (band concert under the direction of Julie Liebman), and Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00p.m. (string orchestra concert under the direction of Ingrid Nevinger). Both concerts are open to the public. Old Orchard Junior High School is located at 9310 Kenton Ave, Skokie, IL 60076.

The Chicago Philharmonic Mentorship Program is made possible by generous contributions from the Charles and M.R. Shapiro Foundation and program sponsors J.W. Pepper and Wintrust. Individual contributions to The Chicago Philharmonic Society are welcome and can be made at <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/store/34171/alldonations/21290>.

About Old Orchard Junior High School

Old Orchard Junior High School educates approximately 600 students per year. It is a diverse junior high school with over 65 languages spoken among its students. Over fifty percent of its

students currently meet the national definition for living in poverty. Students have the chance to participate in a variety of music experiences such as band, string orchestra, choir, chamber ensembles, general music, and guitar club.

About The Chicago Philharmonic

The Chicago Philharmonic is a musician-governed not-for-profit organization founded 25 years ago by principals from the Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra. Today, the orchestra is a collaboration of over 225 of the highest-level classical musicians performing in the metropolitan Chicago area and has consistently won accolades from music critics and audiences alike. The orchestra's symphonic concerts at Pick-Staiger Hall and Nichols Concert Hall in Evanston, IL and their chamber series at locations all over the Chicago area cover the full spectrum of classical music, from the masters of Baroque to the composers of today. The Chicago Philharmonic is proud to serve as the official orchestra for the Joffrey Ballet and to have maintained a partnership with the Ravinia Festival for over 20 years.