

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Chicago Philharmonic Heads to Austin Neighborhood For Side-By-Side Night Out in the Parks Performance**

Chicago, IL – (August 26, 2015) The Chicago Philharmonic and Chicago Park District will present the second of two side-by-side concerts as part of Mayor Rahm Emanuel's 2015 Night Out in the Parks series on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at the Columbus Park Refectory (5701 W Jackson Blvd) in the Austin neighborhood.

Music-playing students and community members of all ages and abilities are invited to bring their instruments and collaborate with Chicago Philharmonic musicians in rehearsing and performing an orchestral concert. All others are invited to enjoy as audience members. A side-by-side rehearsal will begin at 4:30 P.M. for all those performing with the orchestra, and the public side-by-side concert will start at 7:00 P.M.

With this program and another summer 2015 side-by-side program in Chinatown, the Chicago Philharmonic aims to connect with new audiences, bringing classical music opportunities to underserved areas of the city.

Participation and attendance for Saturday's performance are free and open to the public. Spots for community musicians will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, and registration, which runs through Friday at 5:00 P.M., is encouraged at [chicagophilharmonic.org/night-out-in-the-parks](http://chicagophilharmonic.org/night-out-in-the-parks). Those who register will receive advance access to sheet music for the concerts as well as one complimentary ticket to a performance in the Chicago Philharmonic's 2015-16 season.

The orchestra will perform a program of beloved works from a variety of orchestral styles:

- "The Star Spangled Banner" – Francis Scott Key
- Overture to *The Barber of Seville* – Gioacchino Rossini
- "Blue Tango" – Leroy Anderson
- "Finlandia" – Jean Sibelius
- *Romanian Folk Dances* – Béla Bartók
- *Carmen* Suite – Georges Bizet
- "Armed Forces Salute" – arr. Bob Lowden
- "The Stars and Stripes Forever" – John Philip Sousa

The Chinatown program took place on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at Ping Tom Memorial Park (300 W 19<sup>th</sup> St). Community participants in the orchestra ranged in age from 9 to 51 years old and came from Chinatown; other neighborhoods in Chicago's North, South, and West sides; and Chicago suburbs extending as far as Elgin and Hobart, IN.

This summer's Night Out in the Parks initiative marks the first time that the Chicago Philharmonic has made side-by-side experiences open to the general public. In the past, selected students have performed side-by-side with the orchestra as part of its symphonic series in Evanston. Earlier this year, the orchestra launched the Chicago Philharmonic Mentorship Program, through which Chicago Philharmonic musicians participated in side-by-side rehearsals and concerts and gave masterclasses at Old Orchard Junior High School in Skokie.

The Chicago Philharmonic was selected by the Chicago Park District to receive funding and join over 80 other organizations in making up this summer's Night Out in the Parks series. The orchestra hopes to grow the side-by-side concerts into a regular component of its yearly performance and outreach activities.

Night Out in the Parks programs with the Chicago Philharmonic are made possible in part by generous support from program sponsor U.S. Bank.

### **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 20-year associate of the Ravinia Festival, and a new resident company at the Harris Theater.

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

Side-By-Side with the Chicago Philharmonic is 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 third year, the 2015 Night Out in the Parks series will host over 1,000 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 80 arts and community organizations to expand and produce this successful initiative.