

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Chicago Philharmonic Heads to Chicago Neighborhoods With Night Out in the Parks Programs**

Chicago, IL – (June 29, 2015) The Chicago Philharmonic and Chicago Park District will present two side-by-side concerts as part of the Park District's 2015 Night Out in the Parks series. 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 orchestral concerts in Chicago parks. All others are invited to enjoy the concerts as audience members.

With the side-by-side programs, the Chicago Philharmonic aims to connect with new audiences, bringing classical music opportunities to underserved areas of the city.

The first program will take place on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at Ping Tom Memorial Park (300 W 19<sup>th</sup> St) in Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood. The second will be held on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at the Columbus Park Refectory (5701 W Jackson Blvd) in the Austin neighborhood. Both programs will include a side-by-side rehearsal at 4:30 P.M. for all those performing with the orchestra and a public side-by-side concert at 7:00 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 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. Repertoire for the side-by-side concerts will be announced later this summer.

This 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.

Its first year applying to participate in Night Out in the Parks, the Chicago Philharmonic was selected by the Chicago Park District to receive funding for the program and join over 80 other organizations in making up the summer-long series. The orchestra hopes to grow the side-by-side concerts into a regular component of its yearly performance and outreach activities.

## **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 200 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 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.

## **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.