FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Philharmonic 2015-16 Season to Include Evanston Subscription Series, Inaugural Concert as Harris Theater Resident Company & Chamber Music Series

Chicago, IL – (September 14, 2015) The Chicago Philharmonic is pleased to announce updates to its 2015-16 season, which will include a subscription series in Evanston, inaugural concert as a new resident company at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, and chamber music series at City Winery Chicago and Union Church of Hinsdale.

Previously unannounced components of the season include a May 28, 2016 Harris Theater concert featuring the Chicago debut of Cirque de la Symphonie; varied collaborations with exceptional artistic partners, unique foyer activities, and in-concert educational components to enhance the concerts in the orchestra’s 2015-16 season at Pick-Staiger Hall in Evanston; and a series at City Winery pairing unique mixed instrumental groups with vocalists singing in a broad range of styles.

2015-16 EVANSTON SEASON
Chasing the Sun: Transitions and Transformations
Pick-Staiger Concert Hall (50 Arts Circle Dr, Evanston, IL 60208)

This season explores works written by composers at moments of significant change in their lives or careers. Scott Speck leads the orchestra in his third season as artistic director.

Continuing what has become a tradition for the Chicago Philharmonic, the orchestra will feature “enhancements” in each of the concerts in its 2015-16 Evanston season. These additions to each program complement the repertoire through varied collaborations with exceptional artistic partners, unique foyer activities, and in-concert educational components.

**Turning Points**
**November 15, 2015, 7:00 P.M.**

Scott Speck, Conductor
Robert McDonald, Piano
NEXT! Foyer Music: The Lira Singers

Franz Schubert: Symphony No. 8 in B Minor (*Unfinished*)
Johannes Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1
Wojciech Kilar: *Small Overture for Orchestra*
In *Turning Points*, the orchestra explores the ultimate of all personal transformations as it performs Franz Schubert’s *Unfinished Symphony*, written as Schubert faced his own mortality. Also on the program is Johannes Brahms’s *Piano Concerto No. 1*, a landmark piece for the composer as he overcame self-doubt in striving to be counted with Beethoven and Mozart. Acclaimed soloist Robert McDonald joins the Chicago Philharmonic for this masterwork. *Small Overture for Orchestra* was the first true success for Polish composer Wojciech Kilar, who went on to score 130 films including *Bram Stoker’s Dracula*. Polish vocal group the Lira Singers will perform in the foyer, showcasing some of the Polish Highland music that inspired Kilar’s works.

**Eight Seasons**  
**February 7, 2016, 2:00 P.M.**

Scott Speck, Conductor  
David Perry, Violin  
*NEXT! Foyer Music: Richard Scofano, Bandoneon*

Antonio Vivaldi: *The Four Seasons*  
Astor Piazzolla: *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*  
Osvaldo Golijov: *Last Round*, featuring Visceral Dance Chicago

*Eight Seasons* showcases several stunning works of string music. Antonio Vivaldi’s four short violin concertos known as *The Four Seasons* form the centerpiece of this concert. Argentina’s greatest tango composer and master of the bandoneon, Astor Piazzolla, pays tribute to Vivaldi with a tango masterpiece, *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*. David Perry, First Violinist with the revered Pro Arte Quartet, performs the solo violin parts in both works. The afternoon will also feature a composition honoring the tangos of Piazzolla: *Last Round* by living Argentinian composer Osvaldo Golijov. Visceral Dance Chicago, whose collaboration on Martinu’s *La revue de cuisine* was one of the highlights of the Chicago Philharmonic’s 2014-15 season, returns to join the orchestra for *Last Round*, with the world premiere of choreography by Nick Pupillo. To enhance the evening’s orchestral music by Argentinian composers, the Chicago Philharmonic welcomes bandoneonist Richard Scofano to perform in the foyer.

**Triumph and Transcendence**  
**April 3, 2016, 7:00 P.M.**

Scott Speck, Conductor  
Lincoln Trio: Desirée Ruhstrat, Violin; David Cunliffe, Cello; Marta Aznavoorian, Piano  
Speaker: Physicist Ken Kemner, PhD

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4  
Ludwig van Beethoven: Triple Concerto  
John David Earnest: *Chasing the Sun*

Scott Speck leads the Chicago Philharmonic in Tchaikovsky’s *Symphony No. 4*, often cited as the most significant stylistic turning point for the great Russian composer. Beethoven’s *Triple Concerto* for solo violin, cello, and piano was the first piece written in its form. The Grammy-
nominated Lincoln Trio is featured on this forward-thinking work. *Triumph and Transcendence* will also include the title work of the season, *Chasing the Sun*, which composer John David Earnest envisioned while gazing out the window of a soaring airplane. In honor of its performance of Beethoven’s Triple Concerto, the orchestra welcomes physicist Ken Kemner, recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, to present the results of his x-ray fluorescence analysis of Beethoven’s hair and a bone fragment, which shed new light on possible contributors to the composer’s life-changing illnesses.

**CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC & CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE**

_May 28, 2016, 7:30 P.M._
_Harris Theater for Music and Dance (205 East Randolph Dr, Chicago, IL 60601)_

The Chicago Philharmonic begins a three-year residency at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance by welcoming the world-renowned Cirque de la Symphonie for a collaboration that pairs orchestra and cirque on stage as equal partners. The performance marks the Chicago debut for the troupe, which has performed in four continents and in such revered halls as the Sydney Opera House and the Kennedy Center with such esteemed orchestras as the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Boston Pops. Their roster of performers includes Olympians and world record holders, who perform as aerial flyers, acrobats, contortionists, dancers, jugglers, and strongmen.

The program for the evening features orchestral favorites including selections from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, John Williams's *Star Wars* soundtrack, Bizet’s *Carmen*, Khachaturian’s *Gayaneh*, and more. Tickets ($25 - $125) are available through the Harris Theater box office online at HarrisTheaterChicago.org or by calling 312-334-7777.

**cp² (CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC CHAMBER PLAYERS) SERIES**

_cp² Fall 2015 City Winery Series_
_City Winery Chicago (1200 W Randolph St, Chicago, IL 60607)_

Following the success of its first series at City Winery in the 2014-15 season, cp² (Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players) returns to the venue for a fall series pairing unique mixed instrumental groups with vocalists singing in a broad range of styles. Three programs on October 25, November 22, and December 20 each feature a different singer showcasing the human voice in a variety of styles, including classical, soul, and jazz. Brunch will be available for purchase at the performances, and patrons are encouraged to dress casually.
The Transcendent Voice: Songs of Longing by Schubert, Mahler & Cooke
October 25, 2015, Noon

Susan Platts, Mezzo-Soprano
Neil Kimel, Horn
Alan Darling, Piano

Franz Schubert: Auf dem Strom
Arnold Cooke: Nocturnes
Gustav Mahler: Kindertotenlieder

Feelin’ Good: Grooving Music from Nina Simone, Zvonimir Tot, Gershwin & Beyond
November 22, 2015, Noon

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 & Bess
Selections from the American Songbook
Alfred Schnittke – “Polka”
James Stevenson – “Strumba”
Zvonimir Tot – “Groove Me Wah”
Zvonimir Tot – “Aneri”
Zvonimir Tot – “Sarabande”

St. Nick in Shades: Fresh Riffs on Holiday Tunes
December 20, 2015, Noon

Cheryl Wilson, Vocalist
Jim Gailloreto; Saxophones, Flutes & Clarinets
Jeremy Kahn, Piano

“Santa Claus is Comin’ to Town” – J Fred Coots & Haven Gillespie
“All I Want for Christmas Is You” – Mariah Carey & Walter Afanasieff
“The Christmas Song” – Mel Tormé & Bob Wells
“What Child Is This” (“Greensleeves”) – Traditional, Words by William Chatterton Dix
“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” – Hugh Martin & Ralph Blane
“Oh Holy Night” – Adolphe Adams, Placide Cappeau & John Sullivan Dwight
“Make Me a Present of You” – Arr. Cheryl Wilson, Words by Joe Greene
Other Holiday Favorites
Spring 2016  
City Winery Chicago (1200 W Randolph St, Chicago, IL 60607)

February 14, 2016, Noon  
March 20, 2016, Noon  
April 17, 2016, Noon

Spring 2016  
Union Church of Hinsdale (137 S Garfield St, Hinsdale, IL 60521)

March 6, 2016, 3:00 P.M.  
April 10, 2016, 3:00 P.M.  
May 8, 2016, 3:00 P.M.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TICKETS

The Chicago Philharmonic offers a flexible range of subscription packages to meet a variety of preferences and budgets, including packages of two or three concerts in three different seating/price ranges. Packages including the special May concert with Cirque de la Symphonie are also available. From now until October 15, discounted subscription rates offer up to 25 percent off the single-ticket rate. Subscriptions start at $43. Single tickets are also available and range from $25 to $75. Student tickets, available for most concerts, are $10. Subscriptions and single tickets can be purchased at chicagophilharmonic.org or by calling 312-957-0000.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Outreach Programs

Programs including the Chicago Philharmonic Mentorship Program, Side by Side, NEXT!, and Families to the Philharmonic will reach communities across Chicago and the surrounding area. In 2015, the Chicago Philharmonic also participated for the first time in the Chicago Park District’s Night Out in the Parks series, providing educational public performance opportunities for community musicians. More information about the Chicago Philharmonic’s outreach programs is available at chicagophilharmonic.org/outreach-programs.

Joffrey Ballet and Ravinia Festival

The Chicago Philharmonic will continue to serve as the official orchestra of the Joffrey Ballet, with more engagements in 2015-16 than in any other season to date. The orchestra will also perform alongside musicians of international fame at the Ravinia Festival. A list of these and all the Chicago Philharmonic’s performances is available at chicagophilharmonic.org.
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.

CONDUCTOR AND SOLOIST BIOGRAPHIES

Scott Speck, Artistic Director
Scott Speck has inspired international acclaim as a conductor of passion, intelligence, and winning personality. He is the Artistic Director of the Chicago Philharmonic and Music Director of the Mobile (AL) and West Michigan Symphony Orchestras. He has led major orchestras at London’s Royal Opera House, the Paris Opera, Washington’s Kennedy Center, San Francisco’s War Memorial Opera House, and the Los Angeles Music Center. He recently conducted four performances for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and was immediately reengaged for the following season. He has been Music Director of the Joffrey Ballet, Conductor of the San Francisco Ballet, Music Advisor/Conductor of the Honolulu Symphony, and Associate Conductor of the Los Angeles Opera. He was named Principal Guest Conductor of the China Film Philharmonic in Beijing. Scott Speck is the co-author of three of the world’s best-selling books on classical music and dance: Classical Music for Dummies, Opera for Dummies, and Ballet for Dummies. These books have been translated into twenty languages and are available around the world. A Fulbright scholar and summa cum laude graduate of Yale, Scott is a regular commentator on NPR, the BBC, ABC Australia, and Voice of Russia. He has been featured in TED talks and at the Aspen Ideas Festival.

Robert McDonald, Piano
Soloist for Turning Points Concert, November 15, 2015
Robert McDonald has toured extensively as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and South America. He has performed with major orchestras in the United States and was the recital partner for many years to Isaac Stern and other distinguished instrumentalists. He has participated in the Marlboro, Casals, and Luzerne Festivals and the Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Center, and he has broadcasted for BBC Television worldwide. He has appeared with the Takács, Vermeer, and Juilliard string quartets. His discography includes recordings for Sony Classical, Bridge, Vox, Musical Heritage Society, ASV, and CRI. Mr. McDonald’s prizes include the Gold Medal at the Busoni International Piano Competition, the top prize at the William Kapell International Competition, and the Deutsche
Schallplatten Critics Award. His teachers include Theodore Rehl, Seymour Lipkin, Rudolf Serkin, Mieczyslaw Horszowski, Beveridge Webster, and Gary Graffman. He holds degrees from Lawrence University, the Curtis Institute of Music, the Juilliard School, and the Manhattan School of Music. A member of the piano faculty at the Juilliard School since 1999, Mr. McDonald joined the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in 2007, where he holds the Penelope P. Watkins Chair in Piano Studies. During the summer, he is the artistic director of the Taos School of Music and Chamber Music Festival in New Mexico.

David Perry, Violin
Soloist for Eight Seasons Concert, February 7, 2016

David Perry enjoys an international career as a chamber musician, soloist, and teacher. Mr. Perry has performed in Carnegie Hall and many other major cultural centers of North and South America, Europe, and the Far East. Mr. Perry joined the Pro Arte Quartet and the University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty in 1995. The Pro Arte Quartet, the nation’s longest-running string quartet, celebrated its Centennial Anniversary in 2011-2012. Former concertmaster of the Aspen Chamber Symphony, Mr. Perry was on the artist-faculty of the Aspen Music Festival and School for nearly two decades and continues to tour the United States annually as founding violinist of the Aspen String Trio. He has served as guest concertmaster with such groups as the Chicago Philharmonic, China National Symphony Orchestra, the Ravinia Festival Orchestra, the American Sinfonietta, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Active with Orpheus since the late 1980s, he may be heard on many of the ensemble’s Deutsche Grammophon recordings. Mr. Perry’s chamber and solo recordings can be found on the Naxos, Sonos, Sonari, and Albany labels. A 1985 U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, his first prizes have included the International D’Angelo Competition, National MTNA Auditions, and the Juilliard Concerto Competition. Mr. Perry studied with Dorothy DeLay, Paul Kantor, and Masao Kawasaki at the Juilliard School. Thanks to the Nathan McClure Opportunities Fund, he plays on a 1711 Franciscus Gobetti violin, arranged by Chancellor John Wiley and the UW Foundation.

Lincoln Trio
Featured Artist for Triumph and Transcendence Concert, April 3, 2016

In 2012, Fanfare Magazine hailed the Chicago-based Lincoln Trio as "one of the hottest young trios in the business." The Grammy-nominated trio – made up of Desirée Ruhstrat, David Cunliffe, and Marta Aznavoorian – has been praised for its polished presentations of well-known chamber works and its ability to forge new paths with contemporary repertoire. The trio has performed throughout the United States, including appearances at Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Ravinia Festival, (Le) Poisson Rouge, the Indianapolis Symphony Beethoven Chamber Music Series, and the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebration with President Barack Obama. Internationally, the trio has performed in Germany, Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, and South America. Champions of new music, the Lincoln Trio has performed numerous compositions written especially for them. 2014 saw the premiere of a Chamber Music America Award commission with composer Laura Elise Schwendinger and a trio by renowned Chicago-based composer Stacy Garrop. The trio’s extensive discography includes Notable Women, which featured Grammy and Pulitzer Prize winning composer Jennifer Higdon. The CD has received numerous accolades, including The Guardian’s Hidden Gems of 2011, and was listed on Alex Ross of the New Yorker’s “Nightafternight playlist for summer's end.”
The Lira Singers
**Foyer Music for Turning Points Concert, November 15, 2015**
The all-female Lira Singers form the core of the Lira Ensemble, made up of four to fourteen women and one of the few professional, fine arts female vocal groups in the Midwest. The Singers perform in authentic, colorful folk garb from various regions of Poland, in period gowns, or in traditional concert dress, depending on the music performed. When presenting folk music, the Singers perform a bit of choreography.

Visceral Dance Chicago
**Featured Dance Company for Eight Seasons Concert, February 7, 2016**
Founded in 2013 by Artistic Director Nick Pupillo, Visceral Dance Chicago is a contemporary dance company dedicated to a bold and progressive world of movement. The company was named one of *Dance Magazine*’s 25 to Watch in January of 2015. Visceral Dance Chicago began its third season performing at the prestigious Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival in July 2015. The *Chicago Tribune* has called the troupe “expertly devised and stylish,” and the *Chicago Sun Times* wrote, "The buzz about this troupe is more than justified."

Nick Pupillo, Founder and Artistic Director of Visceral Dance Chicago
**Choreographer for Visceral Dance Performance for Eight Seasons Concert**
Nick Pupillo, Founder and Artistic Director of Visceral Dance Chicago, graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science in Ballet. Pupillo has received various awards for his choreography, including the Dance Chicago Outstanding Choreography Award in 2005 and 2012. His work has been described by the *Chicago Tribune* as "a stroke of choreographic genius." Pupillo is frequently invited to conduct master classes in the United States and around the world and has taught for the Jazz Dance World Congress, Chicago Dance Connection, and Chicago National Association of Dance Masters.

Richard Scofano, Bandoneon
**Foyer Music for Eight Seasons Concert, February 7, 2016**
Born in 1976 in Paso de los Libres in the Argentine province of Corrientes, bordering Brazil, Richard Scofano forms part of a rich legacy of bandoneonists, a musical lineage which began with his grandfather. Currently residing in Chicago, Scofano and his ensemble have been featured in such settings as the Summer Dance series in Millennium Park and the Old Town School of Folk Music. In 2014 and 2015, Scofano completed an extensive tour of China with tango theater and dance work *Identidad*, performing at over 30 venues around the country.

Physicist Ken Kemner, PhD
**Speaker at Triumph and Transcendence, April 3, 2016**
Ken Kemner obtained his PhD in Condensed Matter Physics at the University of Notre Dame in 1993. From 1993 to 1996 he was a National Research Council Fellow at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. where he focused on magnetic materials and environmental research. In 1996 he joined Argonne National Laboratory where he began to develop the Molecular Environmental Science Research Group, an integrated multidisciplinary research group that makes use of the Advanced Photon Source, the most brilliant high energy x-ray source
in the Western Hemisphere. In 1999 he received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers and in 2000 he received the International Union of Crystallography Young Scientist Award. Since 2003 he has been an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Notre Dame. He has over 140 publications and has delivered more than 375 presentations.

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