FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players
Fuse Folk, Classical, and Jazz at City Winery Chicago

Chicago, IL – (October 3, 2016) The Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players (cp²) explore folk music and its rich intersections with classical and jazz at City Winery Chicago (1200 W Randolph St, Chicago) in “Different Folks.” A versatile cp² quintet performs improvised, original adaptations of classic tunes such as “I’ll Fly Away,” “Ramblin’ Boy,” and “Poor Wayfairin’ Stranger.” Doors open at 11:00 A.M., and brunch will be available for purchase before and during the performance. Casual attire is encouraged.

Different Folks
Music from the Roots on Out

Sunday, October 9, 2016, Noon
City Winery Chicago (1200 W Randolph St, Chicago)

Nick Mazzarella, Saxophone
Jeff Yang, Violin
Tom Vaitasas, Piano
Christian Dillingham, Bass
Jeremy Cunningham, Drums

I’ll Fly Away
Ramblin’ Boy
Poor Wayfairin’ Stranger
And other tunes

“Different Folks” is the first concert in the the Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players (cp²) Fall 2016 Series at City Winery Chicago. Other concerts in this series include Handel & Eggs (November 20) and St. Nick in Shades II (December 18).

About The Chicago Philharmonic Society

The Chicago Philharmonic Society is a collaboration of over 200 of the highest-level classical musicians performing in the Chicago metropolitan area. Governed under a groundbreaking structure of musician leadership, the Society presents concerts at venues throughout the Chicago area that cover the full spectrum of classical music, from Bach to Britten and beyond. The Society’s orchestra, known simply as the Chicago Philharmonic, has been called “one of the country’s finest symphonic orchestras” (Chicago Tribune), and its unique chamber music ensembles, which perform as the Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Players (cp²), draw from its vast pool of versatile musicians. The
Society’s outreach programs connect Chicago-area youth to classical music and provide performance opportunities for members of the community. Founded 26 years ago by principal musicians from the Lyric Opera Orchestra, the Chicago Philharmonic currently serves as the official orchestra of the Joffrey Ballet, continues its decades-long association with the Ravinia Festival, and presents symphonic concerts in Chicago’s North Shore region and, since May 2016, at the Harris Theater.

**About The Performers**

Saxophonist and composer **Nick Mazzarella** has been a consistent presence in Chicago’s music scene since the early 2000s, and his regular performances represent an aesthetically unique contribution to the city’s rich jazz and improvised music culture. His two working trios and quintet are the primary vehicles for his endeavors as a composer and leader, while as a collaborator or sideman he has performed, recorded, and/or toured with such artists as Rob Mazurek, Frank Rosaly, Tomeka Reid, Avreeayl Ra, Ingebrigt Håker Flaten, Hamid Drake, and Dana Hall. This performance marks his debut with The Chicago Philharmonic Society.

**Jeff Yang** is a member of The Chicago Philharmonic Society and the Palomar Ensemble in Chicago, and he performs regularly with the Grant Park Symphony. Jeff is former first violinist with Corky Siegel’s Chamber Blues, and outside of the classical scene, he has played with Mannheim Steamroller, jazz violinist Randy Sabien, harmonica virtuoso Howard Levy, and singer/songwriter Marcy Levy and been seen in many PBS productions of Soundstage with artists such as Faith Hill, Jewel, Dennis DeYoung, Burt Bacharach, Peter Cetera as well as on numerous Oprah shows with Andrea Bocelli and Il Divo.

**Tom Vaitasas**, piano, started playing in Chicago in 1992 while finishing his B.A and music education degrees from NIU. 2000-2008 was a period of European tours with blues legends Lurie and Carrie Bell while also working in Chicago between trips. He has performed with jazz greats Von Freeman and Dee Dee Bridgewater and continues to perform in and out of Chicago with various groups. This performance marks his debut with The Chicago Philharmonic Society.

Bassist **Christian Dillingham** received his musical training at Youngstown State University, and Duquesne University, earning a Bachelor’s and Master’s in Music degrees. He is a student of Jeffrey Turner, Micah Howard, Jeffrey Grubbs, and Tony Leonardi. He is a member of the Chicago Philharmonic, Chicago Sinfonietta, and a variety of chamber ensembles.

**Jeremy Cunningham** is a drummer, composer, and improviser. Originally from Cincinnati, he moved to Chicago in 2009, where he currently performs and composes as an integral part of the city’s vibrant music scene. Since moving to Chicago, Cunningham has performed with an impressive roster of luminaries such as Von Freeman, Chris Foreman, Jeff Parker, Mike Allemana, Marquis Hill, Caroline Davis, Nick Mazzarella, and Dave Miller. He can be heard on Marquis Hill’s albums “New Gospel” and “Sounds of the City,” as well as Caroline Davis’s “Live, Work, Play.” This performance marks his debut with The Chicago Philharmonic Society.

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