FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Chicago Philharmonic features its own fabulous musicians as soloists in Defying Destiny

Chicago, IL – (March 27 2019) This April, Chicago Philharmonic celebrate the heroes and heroines of classical music with a jaw-dropping program of sweeping Russian masterpieces, Defying Destiny. Headlining the program is Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov’s fantastical Scheherazade, chronicling the plight of a brave young sultana as she spins tales to save her own life for 1001 nights. Made famous by the collection of Middle Eastern folk tales, Arabian Nights, Scheherazade uses her powers of wit and captivating storytelling to overcome a violent sultan. Concertmaster David Perry also weaves his own dazzling violin solos throughout the piece.

Alongside Scheherazade is Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s Romeo and Juliet Fantasy-Overture, beautifully telling the story of history’s most famous star-crossed lovers with magnificent highs (including the iconic, oft-parodied “love” melody) and a heartbreaking finale. Also, Robert Everson, a “most outstanding performer” (Chicago Tribune) and Chicago Philharmonic principal timpanist, joins the orchestra to perform a boundary-breaking Raise the Roof concerto for timpani and orchestra from Grammy-Award winning living composer Michael Daugherty.

Defying Destiny
April 7 2019, 3:00pm
Pick-Staiger Hall, Evanston

Scott Speck Conductor
Robert Everson Timpani

Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade
Tchaikovsky Romeo and Juliet Fantasy-Overture
Daugherty Raise the Roof

Tickets $25 - $75 | Students $10
chicagophilharmonic.org
(312) 957 0000

Approximate running time 2 hours with intermission. Photos and review tickets available upon request.
ABOUT THE CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

The Chicago Philharmonic Society is a collaboration of nearly 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 Bernstein 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, 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 nearly 30 years ago, the Chicago Philharmonic currently serves as the official orchestra of the Joffrey Ballet, continues its 25-year association with the Ravinia Festival, is a resident company of Harris Theater Chicago, and performs at Auditorium Theater, Symphony Center and all the great concert halls of the Chicago and North Shore area. In 2018, the Illinois Council of Orchestras awarded the Chicago Philharmonic "Orchestra of the Year".

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Scott Speck, Artistic Director, has inspired international acclaim as a conductor of passion, intelligence, and winning personality. Speck is the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Chicago Philharmonic, and Music Director of the Joffrey Ballet, Mobile (AL) and West Michigan Symphony Orchestras.

Speck led four performances for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 2014-15 and was immediately reengaged for four more concerts the following season. His concerts with the Moscow RTV Symphony Orchestra in Tchaikovsky Hall garnered unanimous praise. His gala performances with Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell, Midori, Evelyn Glennie, and Olga Kern have highlighted his recent and current seasons as Music Director of the Mobile Symphony. He was invited to the White House as former Music Director of the Washington Ballet.

In past seasons Speck has conducted at London’s Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, the Paris Opera, Chicago’s Symphony Center, Washington’s Kennedy Center, San Francisco’s War Memorial Opera House, and the Los Angeles Music Center. He has led numerous performances with the symphony orchestras of Chicago, Houston, Baltimore, Paris, Moscow, Shanghai, Beijing, Vancouver, Romania, Slovakia, Buffalo, Columbus (OH), Honolulu, Louisville, New Orleans, Oregon, Rochester, Florida, and Virginia, among many others.

Previously he held positions as Conductor of the San Francisco Ballet, Music Advisor and Conductor of the Honolulu Symphony, and Associate Conductor of the Los Angeles Opera. During a tour of Asia he was named Principal Guest Conductor of the China Film Philharmonic in Beijing.
In addition, Speck is the co-author of two of the world’s best-selling books on classical music for a popular audience, *Classical Music for Dummies* and *Opera for Dummies*. These books have received stellar reviews in both the national and international press and have garnered enthusiastic endorsements from major American orchestras. They have been translated into twenty languages and are available around the world. His third book in the series, *Ballet for Dummies*, was released to great acclaim as well.

**Robert Everson, timpani**

In his debut performance as a soloist, Robert Everson was hailed by the *Chicago Tribune* as “a most outstanding performer,” the *Chicago Sun-Times* as called him a “Master Timpanist” and the *Chicago Classical Review* said of a performance with the Chicago Philharmonic: “spectacular timpani playing”. Although soloing on the timpani is relatively rare, he has done so many times, playing Darius Milhaud’s Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra with the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Chicago String Ensembles and the Illinois Philharmonic. With the Sinfonietta, he has also performed Georg Druschetzky’s Concert for Oboe and Eight Timpani, Russell Peck’s *Harmonic Rhythm*, and the world premiere of Jiri Gemrot’s Concertino for Flute, Bagpipes and Timpani. More recently he has performed the Phillip Glass Concert Fantasy for Two Timpanists with the San Francisco Ballet.

Everson is the timpanist with several orchestras in the Chicago area, including the Chicago Philharmonic, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Ravinia Festival Orchestra, Lake Forest Symphony and Chicago Sinfonietta. He has also performed as an extra with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Grant Park Symphony and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and has performed on Chicago Symphony recordings under Bernard Haitink and Pierre Boulez, one recording winning the Grammy award for best orchestral performance in 2001. He has played with dozens of pop artists and for many Broadway shows, commercial jingles and TV broadcasts. Mr. Everson earned his Bachelor and Master degrees in Percussion Performance from DePaul University, and is the percussion instructor at Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, IL and at the Birch Creek Music Performance Camp in Door County, WI. He performs solo in-school percussion demonstrations for the International Music Foundation of Chicago. He also participates in the educational outreach *Chi Phil AMP (Academy of Music Performance)* with the Chicago Philharmonic and the Seed Program with Chicago Sinfonietta.

**David Perry, violin**

enjoys an international career as a chamber musician, soloist, and teacher. He has performed in Carnegie Hall and across the major cultural centers of North and South America, Europe, and the Far East. Mr. Perry joined the Pro Arte Quartet and the UW-Madison faculty in 1995, and was granted a Paul Collins Endowed Professorship in 2003. He has served as guest concertmaster with such groups as Chicago Philharmonic, China National Symphony Orchestra, Ravinia Festival Orchestra, American Sinfionette, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Thanks to the Nathan McClure Opportunities Fund, Mr. Perry plays on a 1711 Franciscus Gobetti violin, arranged by Chancellor John Wiley and the UW Foundation.

# # #