FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Chi Phil AMP’s 6th season expands, nearly doubling community impact

Chicago, IL – (November 6, 2019) Each Fall, Chi Phil AMP (Academy of Music Performance) prepares the Chicago Philharmonic musicians to mentor young musicians in under-resourced neighborhoods in Chicago. Nearly 80 professional musicians will mentor junior high and high school students in preparation for an upcoming band or orchestra concert, after which they will coach them through the rehearsal process and play alongside them at their concert.

After five seasons of the program’s success, Chicago Philharmonic has received a generous grant of $50,000 from the U.S. Bank’s Market Impact Fund to expand the organization’s Community Engagement programs. This funding will allow the Chicago Philharmonic to grow Chi Phil AMP from four to seven schools in 2019-2020, focusing on schools in the South and West sides of the city. The program will return to Old Orchard Junior High (Skokie), Chicago Bulls College Prep (Near West Side), UIC College Prep (Medical District), and Benito Juarez Junior High (Pilsen). Three new schools from the south and west sides will join for a pilot year in 2019-2020 as well. Through repeated meaningful interactions between students and musicians this program not only cultivates students’ music skills, but also advances their overall development and success in school and beyond. An estimated 500 students will participate in the program in the 2019-2020 school year.

“We are thrilled to nearly double the impact of Chi Phil AMP,” says Chicago Philharmonic Executive Director Donna Milanovich. “With this program, we can provide valuable one-on-one and small group, rehearsal and performance to students without these mentorship opportunities, enabling them to excel while supporting the programming of the individual school’s music teacher.”

Support for Chi Phil AMP is provided by the U. S. Bank Market Impact Fund, the Charles and M. R. Shapiro Foundation, Judy Guitelman and Dan Epstein, and the Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, the Skokie Fine Arts Commission, and Mathew Lucante Violins.

More information, interviews, and photos are 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 community engagement 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". In 2019, the Illinois Council
of Orchestras awarded the Chicago Philharmonic with “Programming of the Year” and “Community Relations of the Year”.

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