Chicago Philharmonic celebrates the Heroes and Legends of Classical Music in a Thrilling 2018-2019 Season

CHICAGO – (June 13 2018) Fresh from an exciting year, including being named 2018 Professional Orchestra of the Year by the Illinois Council of Orchestras and completing their first Music and Culture Exchange with a tour to Poland, partially supported by an International Connections Fund from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Chicago Philharmonic announces an artistically exciting program for 2018-2019: Heroes and Legends.

Inspired by tales of heroism in history and fiction at home and abroad, the Chicago Philharmonic Artistic Committee in conjunction with Artistic Director Scott Speck presents remarkable musical accomplishments spanning nineteenth-century Europe to the excitement and glamour of the American Roaring 20s and up-to-the-minute living composers.

The season opens with the highly anticipated five-day Chicago Philharmonic Festival: Poland 2018, the culmination of inaugural Chicago Philharmonic Festival and Exchange project. The Chicago Philharmonic’s musical cultural exchange with Poland began in April, when eleven musicians traveled to Poland to lead master classes and rehearse and perform alongside Polish music students at the Academy of Music in Krakow and the Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre of Music in Lusławice.

In exchange, Chi Phil has invited preeminent Polish chamber musicians the Silesian Quartet, noted organist Andrzej Białko and Montreux Jazz Piano competition winner “piano hooligan” Piotr Orzechowski to perform chamber concerts across Chicago venues. On November 10, the Society presents its first symphonic concert of the season, Celebrate Polonia, at the Copernicus Center. In addition to Piano Concerto by national hero Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the orchestra will present the technically demanding Andante spianato et grande polonaise brillante written by Frederic Chopin, Poland’s most renowned Romantic composer, with Warsaw-born Chopin competition winner pianist Łukasz Krupiński.

The Festival continues the following day with a free performance at St. Hyacinth Basilica of Wojciech Kilar’s Missa Pro Pace (Mass for Peace), presented in a liturgical setting. Kilar, most famously known for his film scores including The Pianist and Bram Stoker’s Dracula, returned to his first love of symphonic music to create the work which was performed in 2001 at the Vatican for Pope John Paul II. The concert will be conducted by Marek Mós, friend and noted interpreter of Kilar’s works.

In spring, Chicago Philharmonic returns to the North Shore to present some of the most famous, funny and tragic characters of fiction and folklore. In March, the orchestra brings the dazzling The Roaring Twenties to Pick-Staiger Hall in Evanston with the help of award-winning Cuban
jazz/classical crossover pianist Aldo López-Gavilán. The program includes living composer John Harbison’s *Remembering Gatsby*, a modern composition inspired by Fitzgerald’s famously conflicted American millionaire, Kurt Weill’s 1928 celebration of timeless antihero Mack the Knife, and the jazz inspired concertos of Ravel and Gershwin.

Later in the month, Chicago Philharmonic continues their tradition of unique programming with an innovative multimedia program, **Silent Sherlock**. New York-based composer Tom Nazziola will conduct the ensemble in his own works: new, live scores to three classic short films projected simultaneously featuring legends from the black and white era of film including the hilarious Buster Keaton and Felix the Cat. In April, stories of triumph and tragedy take center stage with Rimsky-Korsakov’s Middle Eastern folk heroine *Schéhérazade* featuring violinist David Perry and Tchaikovsky’s *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture*. Finally, Chicago Philharmonic timpanist Robert Everson will “Raise the Roof”, rounding out the **Defying Destiny** concert with Daugherty’s “joyous romp” that defies tradition with unorthodox performance techniques.

The season closes with an extraordinary spectacle for the eyes and ears. **Cirque de la Symphonie & the Chicago Philharmonic** returns by popular demand to the Harris Theater on the 2019 Memorial Day weekend after a sold-out performance in 2016. Clowns, acrobats, contortionists and jugglers perform superhuman feats alongside the orchestra, perfectly choreographed to classic cinematic scores.

Subscriptions and festival packages are on sale now. Single tickets for all concerts will be on sale starting July 1 2018.

**CONCERTS**

**Chicago Philharmonic Festival: Poland 2018**

**CELEBRATE POLONIA**

Saturday, November 10 2018, 7:30pm
The Copernicus Center, Chicago

SCOTT SPECK Conductor  
ŁUKASZ KRUPIŃSKI Piano

IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI Piano Concerto  
KAROL MACIEJ SZYMANOWSKI Concert Overture  
FRÉDÉRIC FRANÇOIS CHOPIN *Andante spianato and grande polonaise brillante*  
SIR ANDRZEJ PANUFNIK Tragic Overture
Chicago Philharmonic Festival: Poland 2018
CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC presents a free CONCERT FOR PEACE

Sunday, November 11 2018, 1:30pm
St. Hyacinth Basilica, Chicago

MAREK MÓS conductor
NATALIA RUBIŚ soprano
KATARZYNA SADEJ mezzo-soprano
JESSE DONNER tenor
KURT LINK bass
ANDRZEJ BIAŁKO organ

WOJCIECH KILAR Missa Pro Pace (Mass for Peace)

THE ROARING TWENTIES

March 9 2019, 7:30pm
Pick-Staiger Hall, Evanston

SCOTT SPECK conductor
ALDO LÓPEZ-GAVILÁN piano

KURT WEILL Kleine Dreigroschenmusic (Suite from The Threepenny Opera)
MURICE RAVEL Piano Concerto in G
JOHN HARBISON Remembering Gatsby (Foxtrot for Orchestra)
GEORGE GERSHWIN Rhapsody in Blue

SILENT SHERLOCK
Film with live music

March 24 2019, 4pm
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

TOM NAZZIOLA conductor

Featuring the silent films
SHERLOCK JR. starring Buster Keating
FADEAWAY featuring Koko the Clown
SURE-LOCKED HOMES featuring Felix the Cat
DEFYING DESTINY
featuring Scheherazade

April 7 2019, 3pm
Pick-Staiger Hall, Evanston

SCOTT SPECK conductor
ROBERT EVERSON timpani

NIKOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV Scheherazade
with David Perry, violin solo
PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture
MICHAEL DAUGHERTY Raise the Roof (timpani concerto)

CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE
Harris Theater, Chicago
Sunday May 26 2019, 7:30pm

Full program to be announced in spring

Chicago Philharmonic Festival: Poland 2018
Chamber Concerts

Silesian String Quartet
Nov 7, 7:30pm | Fourth Presbyterian Church

Andrzej Białko, Organ
Nov 8, 7:30pm | St. John Cantius Church

Piotr Orzechowski, Jazz Piano
Nov 9, 8pm | Polish Museum of America
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 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”.

BIOGRAPHIES

Scott Speck, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, has inspired international acclaim as a conductor of passion, intelligence, and winning personality. Speck is the Artistic Director 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.

Łukasz Krupiński, piano, winner of the 7th International Piano Competition in San Marino, and the winner of all contest prizes: the Audience Award, the Music Critics Award, and the Orchestra Award (September 2016). Finalist of the International Competition of Ferruccio Busoni in Bolzano (2017) and the winner of International Piano Competitions in Aachen (2016) and Hanover (2015). In October 2015 Łukasz found himself in the prestigious group of the best 20 pianists of the 17th Frederic Chopin International Piano Competition.

His debut album Espressione, inspired by his musical travels to Italy with works of Haydn, Chopin and Scriabin, was released in January 2017 and received excellent reviews from Pizzicato Magazine, MDR Kultur, Radio Luxembourg, and Radio France. Łukasz Krupiński has given numerous concerts in Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, Belgium, France, Norway, Germany, Spain, Great Britain, Italy, Russia, China, South Korea, Australia and the USA. Two-time laureate of the "Pro Polonia" Foundation Award (2013, 2014), the Minister of Culture and National Heritage Prize for remarkable artistic accomplishments (2013, 2014), the Minister of Culture and National Heritage Scholarship (2015) and Krystian Zimerman Foundation Scholarship (2015). In 2016 he was honored with a Commemorative Medal of Frederic Chopin University of Music in recognition of artistic achievements.

Krupiński has won numerous prestigious prizes and awards at international piano competitions, including the Stanislaw Moniuszko International Competition of Slavic Music in Minsk, Belarus, 2011 (First Prize and Special Award), the 2nd Chopin Siberian International Piano Competition in Tomsk, 2013 (Grand Prix and two Special Awards), Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe Scholarship Competition 2014 (First Prize), the 46th Polish National F. Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, 2015 (Second Prize), the 15th International Piano Competition 2015 of Chopin-Gesellschaft Hannover (First Prize), and the ClaviCologne International Piano Competition 2016 in Aachen (First Prize).

Krupiński is a graduate of the Frederick Chopin University of Music in Warsaw under the supervision of Professor Alicja Paleta-Bugaj and Dr. Konrad Skolarski. Currently he has been a student of Professor Arie Vardi at Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media.

Marek Moś, conductor, is the founding Artistic Director of the AUKSO Chamber Orchestra and Artistic Director of the AUSKO Summer Philharmonic Festival in the Polish lake district. An outstanding Polish violinist and chamber musician, he studied in Bytom and Katowice under Kazimierz Dębicki and Andrzej Grabiec.
Moś is the founder and for many years primarius of the Silesian Quartet, which has become one of Europe’s finest ensembles. Together with this quartet Marek Moś has performed at important festivals and in prestigious venues in Europe and all over the world, such as the Konzerthaus in Vienna, Concertgebouw and Ijsbreker in Amsterdam, Vredenburg in Utrecht, Schauspielhaus in Berlin, Tivoli in Copenhagen, Tonhalle in Düsseldorf, De Singel in Antwerp, Merkin Hall in New York and Jordan Hall in Boston. It was also with the Silesian Quartet that Moś has made 30 world premiere performances of contemporary works – some of them dedicated to the ensemble.

Marek Moś has received numerous individual awards, including the Contemporary Music Competition in Cracow (1979), International UNESCO Tribune in Paris (1984, 1988) and from the Polish Composers Association (1994, 2005). He also received the silver "Gloria Artis" award from the Minister of Culture (2005) and the Silesian County Marshall Award (2005). Currently, in addition to very intensive concert activity, Marek Moś is also professor at the Karol Szymanowski Music Academy in Katowice.

Natalia Rubiś, soprano, praised by the German press for her clear and warm voice with luminous coloraturas, is currently studying under the tutelage of Doris Yarick-Cross at the internationally renowned Opera Program at Yale University. Miss Rubiś is a native of the small village Raba Wyżna, South of Poland. Since leaving her hometown she has had the opportunity to perform all across Europe. She made her professional operatic debut as Calisto in Händel's Giove in Argo at Händel Festspiele in Halle in June 2014. Fiordiligi in Mozart's Così fan tutte (Kraków), Donna Elvira in Mozart's Don Giovanni (cover, Znojmo), Helena in Benjamin Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream (New Haven), Romilda in Händel's Xerxes (Dresden), and Sivene in Gluck's Le Cinesi (Bad Lauchstädt) are just a few of the roles she has performed.

Since October 2013 she has studied with Prof. Hendrikje Wangemann at the Hochschule für Musik in Dresden. In 2014 she completed her Masters Degree at the Music Academy in Wrocław, Poland with the highest degree.

Rubiś has won several prizes including Special Prize at the Maria Malibran Vocal Competition in Milan and "Giovane Promessa" at the Musica Sacra International Competition in Rome. She was Laureate of the 2nd Prize at The International Competition "21st Century Art" in Kiev, Ukraine and at the 10th Vocal Competition in Wroclaw.

In October 2014 she took part in the Polish premiere of Tempo e tempi by Elliott Carter (for soprano and ensemble) during the Nostalgia Festival in Poznan, Poland. She has performed in many other festivals, such as Chopin and his Europe in Warsaw, Musikforum Viktring Klagenfurt, Music bridge Prague - Dresden. She works with Fabio Bonizzoni, Václav Luks, Roman Válek, Rune Bergmann, Werner Ehhardt, Jan Tomasz Adamus, Adam Banaszak, Jacek Rogala, Marek Czekała and others.
Katarzyna Sądej, mezzo-soprano, performs internationally in recital, concert, opera and oratorio. She has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Cartagena International Music Festival, the Zagreb Music Biennale, the Bard Summerscape Music Festival, the Nuits Blanches Festival of Toronto, the Ojai Music Festival, and Le Salon de Musiques in Los Angeles, among other prestigious venues.

Recent opera performances include her L.A. Opera debut as the Page of Herodias in Strauss' Salome, her SOPAC Ottawa debut as Le Prince Charmant in Massenet’s Cendrillon, and an appearance in the title role of Bizet’s Carmen in the Palm Springs Opera Guild annual gala concert. She will make her Chinese debut at Opera Chengdu in 2019 as Giannetta in Donizetti’s L’Elisir D’Amore. Upcoming, she will be singing the mezzo-soprano solo in Durufle’s Requiem in Ottawa’s Concerts by the Canal series, and she will make her debut with the Chicago Philharmonic as the alto soloist in Wojciech Kilar’s Missa Pro Pace.

Other recent highlights include her San Diego Opera and Opera Industry debuts as well as the mezzo-soprano solos in J.S. Bach’s Mass in B minor at Festival Mozaic in San Luis Obispo. Her numerous recital performances have taken her around the world throughout North America, South America, Europe and Asia. Katarzyna is a graduate of Bard's Vocal Arts Program and the University of Toronto’s Opera School. She is a featured soloist on the 2013 Metier Records’ CD Rising at Dawn. Her performance on the recording was described as “…nothing short of enthralling. Hers is a stunningly rich, beautiful voice, with a deep, perfectly centered vibrato and pitch allied to profound expressiveness.” (James Altena, Fanfare Magazine) Katarzyna has performed numerous world premieres, including a premiere of Pulitzer prize-winning composer John Harbison’s song cycle A Right to Pleasure.

Jesse Donner, tenor, is rapidly emerging on the operatic and concert stage with a voice that is “vibrant” (Chicago Classical Review) and “fresh and juicy” (Chicago Tribune). Donner holds a bachelor’s degrees from Iowa State University and a master’s degree from the University of Michigan, where he was seen in Ariadne auf Naxos, Der Kaiser von Atlantis and L’Incoronazione di Poppea.

The Des Moines, Iowa native received the coveted 2015 Men’s Voice Fellowship from the Luminarts Cultural Foundation and the Bel Canto grand prize, received the 2014 George Shirley Award for Opera Performance, a Special Encouragement Award from the 2014 Metropolitan Opera National Council Regional Auditions, and First Place in the 2012 Michigan Friends of Opera Competition.

At Lyric Opera, Jesse Donner has appeared in Capriccio (Diener), Tannhäuser (Walther), Nabucco (Abdallo) and Der Rosenkavalier (Kellner). He also covered the lead tenor roles of General Alfredo in the world premiere of Bel Canto, Ismaele in Nabucco, and the Drum Major in Wozzeck. Other performing credits include his debut with Opera in the Ozarks as Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly, as a tenor soloist in Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with Adrian Symphony,
and with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago in both Mozart’s Great Mass in C Minor and Poulenc’s *Les mamelles de Tiresias*. Other concert appearances include with the Grant Park Orchestra, the Toledo Symphony, and University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra.

**Kurt Link, bass,** has earned a reputation as one of America’s finest basses as a winner of the Metropolitan Opera, Liederkranz, Opera Index and Sullivan competitions. He has performed major bass roles with companies such as the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, La Monnaie, Santa Fe Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Washington Opera, Dublin Grand Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Florida Grand Opera, Atlanta Opera, New Israeli Opera, the opera companies of Portland, Minnesota, Michigan, St. Louis, Utah, Edmonton and the opera festivals of Chautauqua, Wexford (Ireland), Hong Kong, Wolf Trap, Glimmerglass and Spoleto (USA and Italy).

Engagements from recent seasons include *Turandot* with Opera Birmingham, *Don Giovanni* with the Arizona Opera, *I Capuletti et I Montecchi* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with the Florentine Opera, *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Utah Symphony Orchestra & Opera, *Roméo et Juliette* with the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, *La Traviata* with El Paso Opera, and with the Metropolitan Opera for productions of *War and Peace*, *The Gambler* and *Macbeth*. In concert, recent engagements include Verdi’s *Requiem* with the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra and at the National Cathedral in Washington, Beethoven’s 9th Symphony with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony and with the Japan Symphony, Mozart’s Mass in c minor with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Mozart’s *Requiem* in Vienna, Munich, Budapest and Prague with the Dallas Symphony Chorus, and the bass soloist in Dvorak’s *Stabat Mater* with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal.

Widely acclaimed in symphonic works, Mr. Link often performs *The Creation*, *St. Matthew Passion* (BWV 244), *Missa Solemnis*, the *Requiem* Masses of Verdi, Mozart and Gabriel Fauré, J.S. Bach’s Mass in B minor (BWV 232), Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 and many other works with Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Montreal, Tokyo, Baltimore, Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Florida, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Charleston, Phoenix, Jacksonville, Aspen, San Antonio, Milwaukee.

**Andrzej Białko, organ.** Born in Kraków in 1959, Białko studied piano at the Musical Secondary School. In 1973, he began learning to play the organ, first privately and then at the Academy of Music in Kraków under the supervision of Professor Joachim Grubich. In 1981 he received the first prize in the International Organ Competition in Rome, Italy. In 1985, he was awarded first prize in the framework of the National Organ Competition in Bydgoszcz-Gdańsk.

Białko has taken part in many Polish organ festivals and has also performed in Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Slovakia, Switzerland, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Lebanon and in both North and
South America. He has been active as a teacher as the professor of the Organ Department at the Academy of Music in Kraków and the Władysław Żeleński State School of Music in Kraków. He collaborates with numerous music ensembles including Kraków Philharmonic and National Philharmonic in Warsaw.

Kraków music lovers remember his unforgettable performances of complete organ works of Johann Sebastian Bach in the season 1990/91 and in the Jubilee Year 2000. He also presented an anthology of organ music from the 16th to the 20th centuries in a series of 20 concerts under the common title ‘Ars organi’ in the years 2001-2002. In 2006 he was awarded a silver medal "Gloria Artis" by the Polish Minister of Art and Culture.

In his diverse and ever-expanding repertoire, embracing all styles, Białko has also performed the complete organ works of Dietrich Buxtehude, Nicolaus Bruhns, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, César Franck, Franz Liszt and Johannes Brahms. Several of his recordings became a precious contribution to the tape archives of the 2nd channel of the Polish Radio. He also recorded 20 CDs.

Paderewski Symphony Chorus
Founded in January of 2000, the Chorus of the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra is composed of the seasoned choral musicians and vocal music enthusiasts. It is an integral part of the PaSO Organization. Its members meet on weekly basis yearlong under the expert tutelage of Maestro Luciano Laurentiu. To date, the choir has performed more than 100 concerts with the orchestra as well as on its own. Covering a full range of music styles and forms from oratorio to opera and sacred music, the PaSO Chorus has performed in a multitude of Chicago area churches and concert halls, including the Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center, Rosemont Theatre, Harris Theatre, Millennium Park and the Copernicus Center. The highlights of past seasons include Harnasie by Karol Szymanowski, Angelus and Exodus by Wojciech Kilar, Messiah by Haendel, Missa in F- major by Michał Poniatowski, Litania Ostrobramska by Stanisław Moniuszko, Oratorio The lord call on us by Włodzimierz Korcz, oratorio Tu es Petrus by Piotr Rubik, and the Haunted Manor Opera by Stanisław Moniuszko, as well as a large selection of excerpts from opera, operetta, musicals and hundreds of popular and artistic songs.

The Silesian Quartet, winner of multiple awards and distinctions both in its native Poland and abroad, is one of the country’s leading chamber music ensembles. Its members – Szymon Krzeszowiec and Arkadiusz Kubic on violin, Łukasz Syrnicki on viola, and Piotr Janosik on cello – spent the early years of their career developing their abilities under the supervision of musicians from such quartets as the LaSalle, Amadeus, Juilliard, Smetana, and Alban Berg string quartets. Today, the ensemble enjoys international renown, giving concerts throughout the world. It has performed in such famous venues as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Wiener Konzerthaus, deSingel in Antwerp, Berliner Schauspielhaus, Tivoli in Copenhagen, Salle Pleyel in Paris, Carnegie Hall in New York, Jordan Hall in Boston, Hoam Art Hall in Seoul, and Sala de las Bellas Artes in Mexico City. The Quartet performs the canon of great chamber music masterpieces, but also devotes special attention to the music of our time. Its extensive
discography includes recordings of music from many different eras, with particular emphasis on Polish music from the last three decades. Among its more than forty CDs, its set of Bacewicz’s complete string quartets on Chandos won the Gramophone Award in the chamber music category in 2017 and three have won the Fryderyk Award of the Polish Phonographic Academy for the Best Chamber Music Album. For twenty-five years, ‘The Silesian Quartet and Its Guests’ International Chamber Music Festival, organized annually by the Quartet, has attracted dozens of outstanding Polish and foreign artists.

**Piotr Orzechowski, jazz pianist.** Born in 1990, pianist and composer Piotr Orzechowski is one of the most award-winning young jazz musicians. A graduate of Berklee College of Music, he has received many prizes, including 1st Prize at the Montreux Jazz Solo Piano Competition (2011), which he was the first Pole to win in the legendary Swiss festival’s history.

The artist is the leader of the High Definition Quartet, with which he has won several international competitions, and undertaken a collaboration with contemporary jazz trumpet giant Randy Brecker which resulted in two concert tours: in Poland (2012) and the Persian Gulf countries (2013). Piotr toured with such eminent jazz personalities as Victor Mendoza (Taiwan, 2014) and Perico Sambeat (Ecuador, 2015).

He has to his credit some albums as follows: a solo disc with arrangements and pieces inspired by the oeuvre of Krzysztof Penderecki – *Experiment: Penderecki* (Decca/Universal, 2012); a disc recorded with High Definition Quartet entitled *HOPASA*, containing his own compositions (EmArcy/Universal, 2013); and an album recorded in collaboration with Marcin Masecki accompanied by the Capella Cracoviensis, entitled *Bach Rewrite* (Decca/Universal, 2013). He released a piano solo album - *15 Studies for the Oberek* (Decca/Universal, 2014) and *Bukolics* (Bukoliki) that is his own arrangement of Witold Lutosławski music (Fortune, 2015).

He has worked with such eminent personalities as, among others, Philip Glass, Steve Reich, Krzysztof Penderecki, Adrian Utley of Portishead, Avishai Cohen, Randy Brecker, Victor Mendoza, Carlos Zingaro, Skalpel, Adam Baldych and Vladislav ‘Adzik’ Sendecki.

**Aldo López-Gavilán, piano.** Praised for his “dazzling technique and rhythmic fire” in the Seattle Times, and dubbed a “formidable virtuoso” by The Times of London, Cuban pianist and composer Aldo López-Gavilán excels in both the classical and jazz worlds as a recitalist, concerto soloist, chamber-music collaborator, and performer of his own electrifying jazz compositions. He has appeared in such prestigious concert halls as the Amadeo Roldán (Cuba), Teresa Careño (Venezuela), Bellas Artes (Mexico), Carnegie Hall and Jordan Hall (U.S.), Royal Festival Hall (U.K.), Nybrokajen 11 (Sweden), The Hall of Music (Russia), and Duc de Lombard et Petit Journal Montparnasse (France), as well as venues in Canada, Santo Domingo, Colombia, Spain, Greece, Hong Kong, Burkina Faso, Germany, and Austria.

In 2014 toured the U.S., appearing at Florida’s Miami Dade County Auditorium, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the San Francisco Jazz Festival, and he completed an ASCAP
film music workshop under the direction of Robert Kraft at New York University. He also toured extensively in Europe, South America, Canada, and the U.S. with Cuban singer-songwriter Carlos Varela, for whom he wrote all the string arrangements for an award-winning documentary that was broadcast by HBO Latino in the U.S. In 2015 he joined the New York-based Harlem Quartet – co-founded by his brother Ilmar, the quartet's first violinist – for concerts in Calgary, Seattle, and Phoenix.

His recording career began in 1999 with the CD *En el ocaso de la hormiga y el elefante*, which won the 2000 Grand Prix at Cubadisco as well as awards in the jazz and first-works categories. López-Gavilán’s second album, *Talking to the Universe*, was a success with audiences and critics alike. In 2006, he gave a concert of his newest works that was later turned into his third album, *Soundbites*. Two years later he was included in a documentary on the history of Latin jazz in Cuba titled ¡Manteca, Mondongo y Bacalao con Pan!, directed by Pavel Giroud. It was in that same year that he recorded his fourth CD, *Dimensional*, and was also hired to compose the music for a TV documentary titled El Proceso: la historia no contada. In 2009 he released his fifth album, *Aldo López-Gavilán en vivo*, and finished his first live DVD, Más allá del ocaso, which included orchestral selections and jazz compositions. In May 2012 he released his sixth album, *De todos los colores y también verde*.

**Tom Nazziola, composer and conductor.** Tom Nazziola’s music has been featured on virtually every medium in the world of composition. From "live film music" to choral and orchestral pieces, his work has been performed in France, Ireland, Slovenia, Guatemala, Croatia and throughout the United States – as well as broadcast nationally and internationally on radio and television. His music has been performed by several contemporary ensembles including: Bang on a Can, Eastman Percussion Ensemble, VocalEssence, Cantori NY, and the New Jersey Youth Symphony among others. He has also composed pieces for renowned artists such as Todd Reynolds and Michael Burritt. His highly praised film score for "The Golem" was featured on John Schaefer's "New Sounds" (WNYC); his compositions have also been aired on NBC, ABC, ESPN, BET, and CBS. His music has supported national ad campaigns, documentaries, and news programs with a recognizable client list including: Staples, Subway, Special Olympics, Dexter, Fox College Sports, NFL Network, ABC’s Primetime Medical Mysteries, Hooking up Dog the Bounty Hunter and CBS News. In addition to composing, he is also the musical director and orchestrator for The BQE Project, a celebrated New York-based chamber ensemble known for its original compositions performed live-to-film.

Tom has been commissioned by the American Composer’s Forum, VocalEssence, Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts, Cantori NY, Museum of the Moving Image and the New Jersey Youth Symphony (first commissioned composer by this organization) among others. He has received numerous awards, including the Bistro Award, the Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Gold Seal Award, AMBY Award, and the Erich Parker Parent’s Choice Award. His music has been featured on several radio stations across the country including: NPR, WNYC, WWUH, WJFF and WCAL.
As a performer, Nazziola has played with Rufus Reid, Dave Liebman, Bob Brookmeyer, George Russell, Terrance Blanchard, Jeff Beal, Richie Beirach, John Hollenbeck, Michael Brecker, Gerry Mulligan, Marvin Hamlish, Gloria Gaynor and Terry Silverlight. He has also played percussion in Martin Short's Broadway play "Fame Becomes Me" as well as the Broadway smash hit "Newsies". In the area of film, he has recorded on the soundtrack for Paramount Picture's "Mad Hot Ballroom." Tom's performances can also be heard on Disney's "Baby Einstein" CDs and DVDs in which he has served as principal keyboardist for over 10 years.

Tom is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and holds a master's degree in composition from Brooklyn College and is currently pursuing a PhD in composition at Rutgers University. He also studied composition and orchestration at the Juilliard School and at the Mannes School of Music.

Robert Everson, timpani, is a principal timpanist with the Chicago Philharmonic and performs with many orchestras in the Chicago area including Chicago Sinfonietta, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, the Ravinia Festival Orchestra, Ars Viva and the Lake Forest Symphony. In his debut performance as a soloist, Robert Everson was hailed by the Chicago Tribune as "a most outstanding performer", and the Chicago Sun-Times called him a "master timpanist".

He is a frequent extra player with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Grant Park Symphony, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO), and has performed on CSO recordings under Bernard Haitink and Pierre Boulez, the latter having won 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's and Master's Degrees in Percussion Performance from DePaul University, and is the percussion instructor at Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, IL as well as 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, and participates in the educational outreach SEED Program with the Chicago Sinfonietta.

David Perry, violin, enjoys an international career as chamber musician, soloist, and teacher. He has performed in Carnegie Hall, 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 the Chicago Philharmonic, China National Symphony Orchestra, the Ravinia Festival Orchestra, the American Sinfoniette, 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.