FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Chicago Phil Brings Signature Summer Concert Series to Pottawatomie Park in Chicago’s Northside

Chicago, IL – (August 17 2019) Chicago Philharmonic brings *Side by Side with the Chicago Philharmonic* to Rogers Park for the first time in their final summer 2019 concert of the program, presented in association with Chicago Parks District and Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s *Night Out in the Parks* initiative. Chicago Phil (recipient of the 2019 Community Relations of the Year award by the Illinois Council of Orchestras) brings student and community musicians from across the city to rehearse and perform a symphonic concert alongside world-class musicians in Chicago’s beautiful parks.

Led by Artistic Director and Principal conductor Scott Speck, Chicago Phil is proud to present a program with works representing different cultural communities of the richly diverse city of Chicago. Highlights include works by Mexican composer Arturo Márquez, African American composer William Grant Still, Polish composer Frédéric Chopin, Italian composer Pietro Mascagni, and traditional Chinese piece *Dance of the Golden Snake*.

The event will also feature a pre-concert reception celebrating Chicago Philharmonic being awarded a grant from U.S. Bank’s Community Possible program, supporting *Chi Phil AMP*, one of the orchestra’s other community engagement program which provides young music students with meaningful, repeated in-school interactions with, and mentoring by, Chicago Philharmonic musicians.

**Saturday, August 17**

Pottawatomie Park  
7340 N Rogers Ave  
3-5pm – side-by-side rehearsal  
5:30-6pm reception and refreshments with U.S. Bank  
6pm – free side-by-side concert

- **Strauss** Also sprach Zarathustra, Introduction  
- **Chopin/Glazunov** Polonaise from Chopiniana  
- **Bartok** Romanian Folk Dances  
- **Brahms** Symphony No. 4, Movt. 3  
- **Mascagni** Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana  
- **Traditional** Dance of the Golden Snake  
- **Grant Still** Symphony No. 1, Movt. 1  
- **Márquez** Danzón No. 2  
- **Tchaikovsky** 1812 Overture Finale  
- **Sousa** Stars and Stripes Forever
Since the Chicago Philharmonic launched Side by Side in 2015, the program has been received enthusiastically and has steadily expanded. Summer 2019 included five free concerts at Humboldt Park, Ping Tom Memorial Park, Columbus Park Refectory, Hamilton Park and Pottawatomie Park. The program will also return to South Shore Cultural Center in December for a holiday-themed program.

Spots for community musicians and student musicians as young as 8 are available on a first come, first serve basis. Registration is required at http://www.chicagophilharmonic.org/2018-side-by-side-with-the-chicago-philharmonic-registration/

Images and interviews available upon request. Press is welcome to attend.

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". In 2019, the Illinois Council of Orchestras awarded the Chicago Philharmonic with “Programming of the Year” and “Community Relations of the Year”.

ABOUT NIGHT OUT IN THE PARKS

Side by Side with the Chicago Philharmonic is presented as part of the Chicago Park District’s Night Out in the Parks series, supported by Mayor Lori Lightfoot. Arts programming in neighborhoods across the city advances the goals of the Chicago Park District and the Chicago Cultural Plan. Now in its seventh year, the 2019 Night Out in the Parks series will host over 2000 cultural events and programs at more than 250 neighborhood parks throughout the city, making community parks a safe haven and hubs of activity. Projects will vary from traditional performances and concerts, to movies, peace rallies, community workshops, nature based programs, dance pieces, festivals, and more. The Chicago Park District has partnered with more than 100 arts and community organizations to expand and produce this successful initiative.

ABOUT SCOTT SPECK

With performances in London, Paris, Moscow, Beijing, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Washington, Scott Speck has inspired international acclaim as a conductor of passion, intelligence and winning personality.
Scott Speck led four performances for the Chicago Symphony in 2014-15 and was immediately reengaged for four more concerts the following season. He was named Artistic Director of the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra in June of 2013, and has been Music Director of the Joffrey Ballet since 2010. 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. This season he also collaborates intensively with Carnegie Hall for the seventh time as Music Director of the West Michigan Symphony. He was invited to the White House as former Music Director of the Washington Ballet.

In past seasons Scott 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, Scott 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.

Scott Speck has been a regular commentator on National Public Radio, the BBC, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and Voice of Russia, broadcast throughout the world. He has been featured in TED talks and at the Aspen Ideas Festival. His writing has been featured in numerous magazines and journals.

Born in Boston, Scott Speck graduated summa cum laude from Yale University. There he founded and directed the Berkeley Chamber Orchestra, which continues to perform to this day. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Berlin, where he founded Concerto Grosso Berlin, an orchestra dedicated to the performances of Baroque and Classical music in a historically informed style. He received his Master’s Degree with highest honors from the University of Southern California, served as a Conducting Fellow at the Aspen School of Music, and studied at the Tanglewood Music Center. He is fluent in English, German and French, has a diploma in Italian, speaks Spanish and has a reading knowledge of Russian.

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