FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Chicago Philharmonic returns to North Shore with an Ode to a Golden Era**

Chicago, IL – (February 18 2019) This March, Chicago Philharmonic travels back in time to perform music from and inspired by the 1920s with sensational guest soloist Aldo López-Gavilán in The Roaring Twenties. Headlining the program is George Gershwin’s American smash, Rhapsody in Blue, complete with bustling piano solos and the iconic opening clarinet glissando. Gershwin often called this boisterous piece a tribute to the American spirit, calling it “a sort of musical kaleidoscope of America, of our vast melting pot, of our unduplicated national pep, of our metropolitan madness.”

Alongside Rhapsody in Blue is Maurice Ravel’s brilliant Piano Concerto in G Major, played to light-hearted, jazzy perfection by Aldo López-Gavilán with “dazzling technique and rhythmic fire”. (Seattle Times) Ravel, a talented pianist himself, composed works that require blinding dexterity, subtle musicianship, and a deep understanding of both jazz and classical music. Cuban-born López-Gavilán, dubbed a “formidable virtuoso” by The London Times, brings an inspiring energy and unique interpretation to his Chicago debut. Rounding out the program are Kurt Weill’s Suite from The Threepenny Opera, both a socio-political statement inspired by Weill’s 1920s Berlin and the forerunner of modern musical theater, and living composer John Harbison’s Remembering Gatsby, inspired by Scott Fitzgerald’s great novel.

**The Roaring Twenties**
March 9 2019, 7:30pm
Pick-Staiger Hall, Evanston

**Scott Speck** Conductor
**Aldo López-Gavilán** Piano

Kurt Weill Suite from The Threepenny Opera
Maurice Ravel Piano Concerto in G Major
John Harbison Remembering Gatsby
George Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue

Tickets $25 - $75 | Students $10
cicagophilharmonic.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.

**Aldo López-Gavilán, Piano**, was born in Cuba to a family of internationally acclaimed classical musicians. His first international triumph was at the age of 11, when he won the Danny Kaye International Children’s Award, organized by UNICEF. He made his professional debut at the age of 12 with the Matanzas Symphony Orchestra. Parallel to his classical abilities, López-Gavilán developed remarkable improvisational skills. He was invited to perform in the world-famous Havana Jazz Festival with legend Chucho Valdés, who called López-Gavilán “simply a genius, a star.”

In 1999, he recorded his first CD, “*En el ocaso de la hormiga y el elefante*”, which won the 2000 Grand Prix at Cubadisco. He was also invited by Maestro Claudio Abbado to perform as soloist in a special concert dedicated to the 250th anniversary of Mozart’s birth, in which he was accompanied by the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela. The following year, Abbado invited him to perform Prokofiev’s Concerto No. 1 in Caracas and Havana. Aldo’s remarkable professional career also includes composing original music for award winning films, arranging his own compositions for international orchestras as well as performing in some of the world’s greatest concert halls, such as Amadeo Roldán (Cuba), Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center (USA), Teresa Careñio (Venezuela), Bellas Artes (Mexico), Royal Festival Hall (U.K.), Nybrokajen 11 (Sweden), The Hall of Music (Russia), and Duc de Lombard et Petit Journal Montparnasse (France).