Chicago, IL – (September 24 2020) **Chicago Philharmonic’s 31st Season: Together** safely brings beloved symphonic and chamber music to Chicagoans of all ages and backgrounds in virtual Fall “Hear it Together” series and two socially-distanced, outdoor chamber concerts.

To stay connected to our friends and communities, this fall we will showcase three treasured performances from our archives for our “Hear it Together” series, hosted by Artistic Director and Principal Conductor [Scott Speck](#). The fall lineup features digital events of **Sonorous Earth** (October 4), **The Dream** (November 1), and **David Perry + Friends** (December 6) at 4 PM. Each virtual event will include live commentary between host, Scott Speck, and co hosts: [Augusta Read Thomas](#), [Nick Pupillo](#), and [David Perry](#) throughout their respective concert. Programming this fall will not only place the observer onstage, right in the middle of the action, during the virtual event but they will have digital access to the event’s recording for 24-hours. Beginning promptly at 4 PM will be featured performances from Chicago Philharmonic’s [NEXT!](#) initiative that gives fresh, talented musicians the opportunity to be heard by Chicago Philharmonic patrons, musicians, and conductors.

The series begins on October 4th with Scott Speck accompanied by special guest composer Augusta Read Thomas, revisiting the world premiere of **Sonorous Earth**, performed by Chicago Philharmonic and [Third Coast Percussion](#). Inspired by Thomas’ 2012 Resounding Earth for percussion ensemble alone, Sonorous Earth was commissioned by the Chicago Philharmonic or percussion quartet and orchestra. The concerto features over 300 bells and gongs sourced from a range of cultures and historical periods, [Sean Connors](#) from Third Coast Percussion will talk about what it was like performing this work. Prior to the main program, NEXT!
returns with **Shift Englewood Youth Orchestra. Ayriole Frost**, Executive Director, will introduce their original work and performance *Sick Beats*.

Scott Speck revisits **The Dream**, a collaborative performance by Chicago Philharmonic and **Visceral Dance Chicago**, with special guest-host and choreographer Nick Pupillo. Music, dance, and literature converge for a striking, theatrical reimagining of *Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s* story, “The Dream of a Ridiculous Man.” Your senses will be awakened by astonishing choreography, sensational music ranging from Rachmaninoff to Radiohead. Prior to the main program, NEXT! will feature newly created work between dancers from Visceral Dance and **People’s Music School’s String Quartet**.

The series closes with Scott Speck welcoming beloved Chicago Philharmonic violin virtuoso David Perry as his special guest host. The pair will provide historical context and perspective about **David Perry + Friends**, featuring music from **George Walker** and **Florence Price** who made their mark in classical music by enhancing Western traditions and embracing their African roots. This special chamber concert is presented in collaboration with **Midsummer’s Music**. Prior to the main program, NEXT! will feature a performance from Chicago Children’s Choir.

After the safe and successful **Chicago Phil Chamber** concert “**Romantic Strings**” on September 13, “**Chicago Phil Brass**” will return to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts on October 11. Come hear popular songs from *West Side Story* (1957) like “I Feel Pretty” and “Maria” by American composer **Leonard Bernstein**, who inspired by Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, wrote his own music tale of “star-cross’d lovers.” A Russian favorite, **Ewald’s** delightful Romantic style Quintet No. 1 (the first of its style) is sure to please and **Gershwin’s** “Bess, You are My Woman Now” blends the musical genres of spirituals, jazz, and blues. Tickets for **Out Back Summer Sessions**, a live, socially-distanced series in North Shore’s parking lot, can be purchased at [http://www.northshorecenter.org/](http://www.northshorecenter.org/).

Fall programming support for “Hear it Together” began this week, encouraging loyal patrons and donors to make a suggested donation. Chicago Phil fans will be happy to know that a modest suggested donation of $15.00 is requested for each "Hear it Together." In honor of individual (suggested donation of $45) and family (suggested donation of $70) support to Fall "Hear it Together" programming, donors will receive links to the program 48-hours before the event. Donations can be made by visiting [http://chicagophilharmonic.org/HearItTogether](http://chicagophilharmonic.org/HearItTogether).

**“HEAR IT TOGETHER” – SONOROUS EARTH**  
**Sunday, October 4 2020**  
**4PM, Virtual Event**  
*Digital access to recording of the live event will be available for 24-hours.*  
[https://www.chicagophilharmonic.org/hear-it-together-sonorous-earth/](https://www.chicagophilharmonic.org/hear-it-together-sonorous-earth/)
“OUT BACK SUMMER SESSIONS” – CHICAGO PHIL BRASS  
Sunday, October 11 2020  
4PM, Live Event  
Seating will be pre-assigned to maximize social distancing; patrons are expected to wear a face mask.  
https://www.chicagophilharmonic.org/chicago-phil-chamber-brass-quintet/  

“HEAR IT TOGETHER” – THE DREAM  
Sunday, November 1 2020  
4PM, Virtual Event  
Digital access to recording of the live event will be available for 24-hours.  
https://www.chicagophilharmonic.org/hear-it-together-the-dream/  

“HEAR IT TOGETHER” – DAVID PERRY + FRIENDS  
Sunday, December 6 2020  
4PM, Virtual Event  
Digital access to recording of the live event will be available for 24-hours.  
https://www.chicagophilharmonic.org/hear-it-together-david-perry-friends/  

Additional information, photos, or interviews with featured artists 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 symphonic music. 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 Chicago Phil Chamber, draw from its vast pool of versatile musicians. The Society’s community engagement programs connect Chicago-area youth to classical music by providing access to symphonic concerts, mentorship from Chicago Philharmonic musicians, and performance opportunities. Founded 30 years ago, the Chicago Philharmonic is known for providing symphonic support to international and national touring companies in all music genres and served as the official orchestra of the Joffrey Ballet for eight years. The Chicago Philharmonic also continues its 25-year association with Ravinia Festival, is a resident company of the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, and performs at all the great concert halls of the Chicago and North Shore area, including Auditorium Theatre and Symphony Center. The Illinois Council of Orchestras has awarded the Chicago Philharmonic “Orchestra of the Year” (2018), “Programming of the Year” (2019), “Community Relations of the Year” (2019), and “Executive Director of the Year” (2020).

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES, in order of appearance

SCOTT SPECK - Artistic Director and Principal Conductor
With recent performances in London, Paris, Moscow, Beijing, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Washington, Scott Speck has inspired international acclaim as a conductor of passion, intelligence, and winning personality.

Scott Speck was named Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of Chicago Philharmonic 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, Renée Fleming, 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 New York’s Lincoln Center, 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 bestselling 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.

AUGUSTA READ THOMAS - Composer

The music of Augusta Read Thomas (b. 1964 in New York) is nuanced, majestic, elegant, capricious, lyrical, and colorful — "it is boldly considered music that celebrates the sound of the instruments and reaffirms the vitality of orchestral music" (Philadelphia Inquirer).

A composer featured on a Grammy-winning CD by Chanticleer and Pulitzer Prize finalist, Thomas' impressive body of works "embodies unbridled passion and fierce poetry" (American Academy of Arts and Letters). The New Yorker magazine called her "a true virtuoso composer." Championed by such luminaries as Barenboim, Rostropovich, Boulez, Eschenbach, Salonen, Maazel, Ozawa, and Knussen, she rose early to the top of her profession. The American Academy of Arts and Letters described Thomas as "one of the most recognizable and widely loved figures in American Music."

She is a University Professor of Composition in Music and the College at The University of Chicago. Thomas was the longest-serving Mead Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for conductors Daniel Barenboim and Pierre Boulez (1997-2006). This residency culminated in the premiere of Astral Canticle, one of two finalists for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in Music. During her residency, Thomas not only premiered nine commissioned orchestral works but was also central in establishing the thriving MusicNOW series, through which she commissioned and programmed the work of many living composers. For the 2017-2018 concert season, Thomas was the Composer-in-Residence with the Eugene Symphony Orchestra, while Francesco Lecce-Chong served as Music Director and Scott Freck as Executive Director. Thomas was MUSICALIVE Composer-in-Residence with the New Haven Symphony, a national residency program of The League of American Orchestras and Meet the Composer.

Thomas won the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize, among many other coveted awards. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Thomas was named the 2016 Chicagoan of the Year.

In 2016, Augusta Read Thomas founded the University of Chicago's Center for Contemporary Composition, which is a dynamic, collaborative, and interdisciplinary environment for the creation, performance and study of new music and for the advancement of the careers of emerging and established composers, performers, and scholars. Distinguished by its formation within an uncompromising, relentlessly searching, and ceaselessly innovative scholarly environment, which celebrates excellence and presents new possibilities for intellectual dialogue, the Center comprises ten integrated entities: annual concert series featuring the Grossman
Ensemble, CHIME, visiting ensembles, distinguished guest composers, performances, recordings, research, student-led projects, workshops and postdoctoral fellowships.

NICK PUPILLO, Choreographer

Nick Pupillo graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science in Ballet. In 2001, Pupillo joined the acclaimed Giordano Dance Chicago and toured with them for three years. Pupillo decided in 2006 to train and mentor young talent by developing Visceral Studio Company. In 2007, he founded Visceral Dance Center to provide the Chicago community with a new venue for artistic and technical growth. Pupillo also founded Visceral Dance Chicago in the fall of 2013. He created twelve signature works for the company: Impetere, Senza di te, Sum Noir, My Realm, She Three, Vital, Atlas, Synapse, Soft Spoken, Take, Keep and Mad Skin, as well as for collaborations with the Chicago Philharmonic: La Revue De Cuisine, The Last Round, The Dream, and Trisagion.

Pupillo has received various awards for his choreography, including "The Dance Chicago Outstanding Choreography Award" in 2005/2012 and "The Cliff Dwellers 2013 Choreographer of the Year." His work has been described as "a stroke of choreographic genius...complex, tumbling changes...in this portrait of perpetual motion" (Chicago Tribune). Pupillo is frequently invited to conduct master classes in the U.S. and around the world; he received the 2018 Artistic Achievement Award from Chicago National Association of Dance Masters. Pupillo is currently an artist in residence at Culver Academies.

VISCERAL DANCE CHICAGO

Visceral Dance Chicago is a contemporary dance company dedicated to a bold and progressive world of movement. Since its inception, the company has developed a diverse and respected repertoire. With works by distinguished choreographers Danielle Agami, Sidra Bell, Banning Bouldin, Mónica Cervantes, Marguerite Donlon, Brian Enos, Mark Godden, Robyn Mineko Williams, Harrison McEldowney, Fernando Melo, Ohad Naharin, Kevin ODay, and Pupillo; Visceral Dance Chicago continues to challenge audiences' expectations. In January of 2015, Visceral Dance Chicago was named one of Dance Magazine’s “25 to Watch” recognizing the company's accomplishments and potential in the national community. "Visceral Dance Chicago breathes life into the Chicago arts community with their ability to intertwine complex human emotions with the raw beauty of dance and physical movement" (Chicago Stage Standard).

DAVID PERRY - Violin

David Perry 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.