FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Chicago Philharmonic & Visceral Dance Chicago’s The Dream is Featured on “Hear it Together”

Chicago, IL – (updated, October 28, 2020) Chicago Philharmonic and Visceral Dance Chicago’s striking collaboration, The Dream, returns on Sunday, November 1 as part of the Philharmonic’s “Hear it Together” series.

Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Scott Speck continues as host for November’s The Dream which marks the second live-streamed event of Chicago Philharmonic’s 31st Season: Together. Joining Speck throughout the event is Founder and Artistic Director of Visceral Dance Chicago Nick Pupillo. The pair will discuss the process of collaborating on a project where “the dance and music are equal partners” creating a performance that is “a music/dance hybrid that is more than the sum of its parts” (Speck).

A theatrical reimagining of Fyodor Dostoevsky’s “The Dream of a Ridiculous Man,” this story is a journey of redemption and renewal. The program features a diverse range of musical selections ranging from Rachmaninoff to Radiohead curated and performed by the Chicago Philharmonic with astonishing choreography and dance from Visceral Dance Chicago. The event starts promptly at 4 PM with a NEXT! performance from Jose Vidal, clarinet, and Oliver Talukder, oboe, of The People’s Music School performing Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s Polonaise: No. 4 from 12 Duos, arranged for clarinet and oboe, introduced by
Executive Director, Tom Bracy. This special cameo music performance will also be joined by a new contemporary dance created especially for this performance from Alana Jones of Visceral Dance Chicago, choreographed by Nick Pupillo.

Fall programming support for “Hear it Together” encourages loyal patrons and donors to make a suggested donation of $15.00 for each program. For full access to the three-concert series the suggested donation is $45.00 for individuals and $70.00 for families. In honor of supporting donations to Fall "Hear it Together" programming, donors will receive information about how to view the password-protected event live. Following the live-stream, donors will have 24-hour access to the recorded version. Donations can be made by visiting http://chicagophilharmonic.org/HearItTogether.

NOVEMBER 1- THE DREAM PRESS PHOTOS. Click here to view press photos. Additional information, photos, or interviews with featured artists are available upon request.

“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/

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.

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).

OLIVER TALUKDER - Oboe
Oliver Talukder is a freshman at The Curtis Institute of Music. He is an alumnus of the People’s Music School and was an inaugural fellow of the Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative (CMPI). In high school, Oliver was a member of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra (CYSO) for four years, where he participated in the CYSO tour of the Baltics, performing in Stockholm, Helsinki, Estonia, and St. Petersburg. In 2019, Oliver was a member of Carnegie Hall’s prestigious National Youth Orchestra of the USA (NYO) and toured Europe in Germany, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. When not playing his oboe, Oliver enjoys doing yoga and meditation.

JOSE VIDAL - Cello
Jose Vidal is a senior at Lane Tech College Prep. He is a member of SLAM, the high school honors program at The People’s Music School, where he has been a clarinet student for nine years. In 2018 Jose performed alongside Project& and internationally renowned flutist, Claire Chase in the production of Pan at the Garfield Park Conservatory. In the summer of 2019, Jose attended Interlochen Center for the Arts on a full scholarship. This past summer he was accepted to the L.A. Philharmonic's National Youth Orchestra Festival. In his spare time, Jose enjoys swimming and is hoping to study mechanical engineering and design next year.

PEOPLE’S MUSIC SCHOOL
The People’s Music School is the first completely free music school of its kind in the country. Founded 44 years ago in Uptown by an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, the school has grown into a strong community movement serving over 850 underrepresented students across Chicago who would not otherwise be able to afford this opportunity. Through rigorous, intensive after-school music instruction, the students learn character-building skills that transfer to all areas of life. The school is 100% tuition-free, over 90% of color, and has a 100% high school graduation and college entrance rate.

TOM BRACY
Tom Bracy employs his nearly 30 years’ experience in education, marketing, and management to perform a variety of roles. He is known as an advocate, consultant, and educator. He is currently the executive director (Chicago) for The People’s Music School. The People’s Music School believes music is transformative and empowers the lives of youth, families, and communities. Additionally, he serves as an adjunct instructor for Northeastern Illinois University (Business), College of DuPage (Music Business), and North Park University (Arts Administration). He is an educational clinician for Conn-Selmer, Inc., a division of Steinway Musical Instruments, where his last post included being the director of urban education.

He was the chief executive officer of Harmony Project National Division. Harmony Project builds safer schools and communities while closing the achievement gap through the teaching of music. His primary role was to support its nine affiliates in six states throughout the U.S serving thousands of students. During his 13-year tenure with Merit School of Music, Bracy served in nearly every capacity at the Chicago-based community music school. His last post was as their executive director. Before joining Merit, Bracy was the executive director of the Association for Catholic Music Education. He also worked for the Chicago Park District as an area manager. He started his career as a band director for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Bracy’s primary instrument is percussion with additional studies in trombone. He earned his Master of Management, Master of Business Administration, and Master of Human Resources Management from North Park University in Chicago.

ALANA JONES
Alana Jones is a Houston native. As a founding member of Vitacca Dance Project under the direction of Kelly Ann Vitacca, she trained under Ballet Master Phillip Broomhead while attending the High School of Performing and Visual Arts. In 2014 Ms. Jones was accepted on scholarship and trained with the American Ballet Theatre and Dance Theatre of Harlem. Thereafter, Ms. Jones was accepted on scholarship to SUNY Purchase Conservatory of Dance.

During her time at Purchase College, Ms. Jones was invited into the ballet concentration where she performed and studied works by George Balanchine, Norbert De la Cruz, Michelle Ulerich, and Colby Damon. During her four years, she has also trained with BalletX, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance, and Arts Umbrella. Alana recently earned her BFA and is elated to begin her first season with Visceral Dance Chicago.