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Chicago Philharmonic’s Holiday Side by Side Meets Zoom

Side by Side with Chicago Phil

Play with our orchestra on Saturday, Dec. 19 in a virtual concert

Chicago, IL – (November 12 2020) Chicago Philharmonic in collaboration with Chicago Park District and Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s Night Out In The Parks take Side by Side with Chicago Philharmonic’s holiday tradition to Zoom!

Chicago Philharmonic is not alone when it comes to changing its yuletide festivities this winter. Thankfully, the Philharmonic is well-versed in virtual events as it has quickly adapted its 31st season to be live-streamed concert events in its “Hear it Together” fall series. In fact, this summer’s Side by Side virtual events worked as a pilot program to their now developed fall series giving the administration ideas on how to keep bringing music to its loyal patrons during this challenging pandemic.

Each year the Chicago Philharmonic presents free concerts in Chicago parks, inviting community members and students to join us in playing along with our orchestra. This year, being respectful of social distancing measures, the organization has worked on a virtual adaption of the popular program via Zoom! This will be the third installment of the event in its new form as summer brought e-versions on June 21st and August 9th, which have all been led by Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, Scott Speck.

The essence of Side by Side with Chicago Philharmonic remains intact as students and community musicians across Chicago are invited to participate in the orchestra learning and playing alongside the Philharmonic’s world-class musicians. The successful format includes a live conductor-led rehearsal by Maestro Scott Speck with pre-recorded music, followed by live sectional break out groups facilitated by Chicago Philharmonic musicians, culminating in a final run-through that each participant records on their personal device and sends to the Chicago Philharmonic to create one composite performance to be shared. Participants will also have the opportunity to ask questions to Speck in a live Q&A section.
Student and community musicians who register to play, many of whom are Side by Side regulars, will enjoy a holiday-theme lineup. Coleridge-Taylor’s Christmas Overture begins the program with its recognizable Christmas carols entwined together like God rest you merry gentlemen, Good King Wenceslas and Hark the herald angels sing. Then we are taken to the whimsical and joyful tones of March from Tschaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite. An early Catalan carol Riu Riu Chiu that dates back to the 16th century is next. Then we take a trip on Anderson’s Sleigh Ride before ending the experience with Strauss, Sr.'s rousing Radetzky March.

### DECEMBER 19- SIDE BY SIDE PRESS PHOTOS.

Click here to view press photos (Photography Credit: Elliot Mandel Photography). Additional information, photos, or interviews with featured artists are available upon request.

### SIDE BY SIDE WITH CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC

**Saturday, December 19, 2020, 3-5:30pm**

3:00-3:50 pm Rehearsal

3:55-4:20 pm Break Out Sectionals lead by Chicago Philharmonic musicians

4:30-5:00 pm Recording “Performance”

5:00-5:30 pm Optional Q&A session with Maestro Speck

Registration closes Thursday Dec 17, 3pm.

https://www.chicagophilharmonic.org/side-by-side-december-2020/

### 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).

### ABOUT NIGHT OUT IN THE PARKS

This event is presented as part of the Chicago Park District’s Night Out in the Parks series, supported by the Mayor’s Office and Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Arts programming in neighborhoods across the city advances the goals of the 9 Chicago Park District and the Chicago Cultural Plan. Now in its 8th year, the 2020 Night Out in the Parks series will host over 2,000 cultural events and programs year-round at more than 250 neighborhood parks throughout the city, making community parks a
safe haven and hubs of activity. Projects vary from traditional performances and concerts, to community workshops, nature-based programs, dance performances, festivals, site specific projects, and more. The Chicago Park District has partnered with more than 120 arts and community organizations to expand and produce this citywide initiative.

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.