FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Chicago Philharmonic’s “Hear it Together” Celebrates Two Influential Black Composers

Chicago, IL – (November 19 2020) Chicago Philharmonic celebrates two influential black composers on Sunday, December 6 in their David Perry + Friends program presented in collaboration with Midsummer’s Music.

In its final fall program, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Scott Speck, host of “Hear it Together” series, is joined by violin virtuoso David Perry. The pair will provide historical context and performance perspective to this special chamber program that showcases works from George Walker and Florence Price. Adding to the historical dialogue Karen Walwyn D.M.A, recording artist and specialist in the works of Florence Price comes on board as a featured speaker. Executive Director and Assistant Artistic Advisor of Midsummer Music and performer, Allyson Fleck will also join the introductory discussion about the program’s original setting and why these two composers “need to be heard in these strenuous times, as they remind us of the power and beauty of universal feelings expressed in music.” The event starts promptly at 4 PM with a NEXT! performance from Wendy Guiterrez of Chicago Center for Music Education (ChiME) introduced by Executive Director, Troy Anderson.

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.
DECEMBER 6- PRESS PHOTOS. Click here to view press photos. Additional information, photos, or interviews with featured artists are available upon request.

December 06 2020, Sunday, 4 PM
Chicago Philharmonic
“HEAR IT TOGETHER” – DAVID PERRY + FRIENDS
Virtual Event
https://www.chicagophilharmonic.org/hear-it-together-david-perry-friends/
Contact Telephone 312. 957. 0000
Contact Email info@chicagophilharmonic.org

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 MIDSUMMER’S MUSIC
Midsummer’s Music is a multi-faceted organization featuring concerts, collaborations with local organizations and institutions, and is home to an annual music series that attracts musicians from Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Aspen Music Festival, among others.

ABOUT CHICAGO CENTER FOR MUSIC EDUCATION (ChiME)
We help children develop self-confidence, self-expression, craftsmanship, creativity, and empathy through music, while also using the language as a means of improving the quality of life for children with diverse abilities. Through our programs and music therapy services, we serve nearly 3,000 children every year.

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.

DAVID PERRY, Co-Host

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 is a concertmaster with Chicago Philharmonic and Ravinia Festival Orchestra as well as having served as guest concertmaster with such groups as China National Symphony 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.
KAREN WALWYN D.M.A, **Guest Speaker**  
Concert Pianist/Composer and Recording Artist for Albany Records, Karen Walwyn, was recently invited by the Center of Black Music Research of Chicago to perform and record the premiere recording of the Florence Price *Concerto* for Piano (Albany Records): “Walwyn provides a magnificent account of the concerto displaying her considerable technical skills,” reviewed by Bob McQuiston at NPR.

Dr. Walwyn has recently completed a year on Sabbatical from Howard University, having been awarded a Mellon Faculty Fellowship (2011-12) from the John Hope Franklin Institute at Duke University, where she completed her debut choral/solo piano/African Percussion work entitled Of Dance & Struggle; A Musical Tribute on the life of Nelson Mandela debuted by the Elon University Chorale directed by Dr. Gerald Knight.

ALLYSON FLECK, **Guest Speaker**  
Midsummer's Music Executive Director, Assistant Artistic Director, and violist, Allyson Fleck was drawn to Door County for its beauty and is delighted to call it home. Dedicated to chamber music, she has appeared at Midsummer's Music since 2004 and performed at the Token Creek Music Festival, Madeline Island Chamber Music Festival, and at New York's famed Carnegie Hall, among others.

Fleck’s arts administration experience includes roles as the orchestra manager of the Cheyenne Symphony and librarian of the Greeley Philharmonic. As an educator, she was Assistant Professor of Music at Beloit College, a member of the faculty at Ripon College, and at Kennesaw State University where she directed the chamber music program and taught studio viola. She has also taught beginning strings in various school systems. Fleck received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Viola Performance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She enjoys spending time with her boys, Jacob and Eli, listening to music and outdoor activities.

TROY ANDERSON, **Guest Speaker**  
Troy received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Texas and a Master of Music degree from DePaul University. After serving as a freelance musician and teaching artist in Chicago for a number of years, Troy began his career in community arts education in 2001. Prior to his appointment as Executive Director at the Chicago Center for Music Education, he served as Dean of Programs at the Merit School of Music in Chicago and Program Director at the David Adler Music and Arts Center in Libertyville, IL.

As Executive Director, Troy is responsible for leadership and oversight of the day-to-day operations of the school. He has also served as Chair of the Western Great Lakes Chapter and the Members Council of the National Guild of Community Arts Education. In 2012 and 2013 Troy served on the faculty of the Community Arts Education Leadership Institute and as co-convener of the Chicago Consortium of Community Music Schools.

After growing up in a musical family and years of musical study and performance, Troy has a passion for human effectiveness through music. Over the last 17 year’s Troy’s focus has been on providing more access and engaging opportunities to people of all ages to participate in music.