CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC WELCOMES RECORD 15 NEW MUSICIAN MEMBERS FOR 22/23 SEASON

CHICAGO (October 19, 2022) - The Chicago Philharmonic Society is pleased to announce the addition of 15 new musician members for the 22/23 Season. With the addition of these new members, Chicago Philharmonic has expanded its pool of the Midwest’s finest musicians to 209.

“It is such a joy to see the orchestra grow,” said Executive Director Terell Johnson. “With so many new concerts, partnerships, and events, we are happy to provide opportunities for these incredibly talented and well-deserving musicians.”
Chicago Philharmonic has a unique governance structure unlike nearly any other orchestra in the United States. The governing body of Board members and Board-appointed committees are made up of a majority of musician members. In total, 13 musicians participate as Board Officers, making up at least 50% of the Board of Directors, and leading nearly all seven Board-appointed committees.

**HOW MUSICIANS BECOME CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC MEMBERS**
Musicians across Chicago and the Midwest are encouraged to submit their resumes and supporting information to the Chicago Philharmonic to be considered by the musician-led Personnel Committee for addition to the orchestra’s Prospective Member list. Prospective Members who perform with the Chicago Philharmonic three times during a season are eligible to be considered for membership. The Personnel Committee evaluates eligible musicians each year for possible addition to the member roster and those approved by the committee are invited to become full Musician Members.

**ABOUT THE CHICAGO PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY**
Founded by musicians of the Lyric Opera Orchestra in 1989, The Chicago Philharmonic Society is a collaboration of over 200 of the highest-level classical musicians in the Midwest. Our orchestra, known as the Chicago Philharmonic, has been called one of the country's finest symphonic orchestras, and our unique chamber music ensembles perform as Chicago Phil Chamber. The brilliance of our structure is in our versatility - we curate the best ensemble for each concert from our exceptional pool of musicians, be it classical, jazz, pops, movie concerts, outreach programming, and everything else.


**CHICAGO PHIL PRESENTS**
Chicago Philharmonic's symphonic and chamber concerts have garnered praise from audiences and critics alike. We take pride in creating boundary-breaking, innovative programs, presenting major World and American Premieres, and performing orchestral classics. Our concerts take place throughout the Chicago area, in Harris Theater, Auditorium Theatre, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, and The Chicago Theatre.

**PARTNER CONCERTS**
Chicago Philharmonic is the premier collaborative orchestra in the Midwest, providing orchestral support to local, national, and international arts organizations. In addition to our 30-year relationship with Ravinia Festival, we served as the Official Orchestra of the Joffrey Ballet for nearly a decade, and have worked with American Ballet Theatre, Lady Gaga, Carrie Underwood, Ballet Nacional de Cuba, Pitchfork Music Festival, “Weird Al” Yankovic, English National Ballet, and many more.

**AZUSA TASHIRO, VIOLIN**
A Chicago based violinist, Azusa Tashiro enjoys her active and diverse career as an orchestra player, chamber musician and violin teacher. She is a Concertmaster of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, and holds positions at the South Bend Symphony Orchestra as an Assistant Concertmaster and the Rockford Symphony Orchestra as a Principal Second Violinist. She has
regularly performed with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Joffrey Ballet, and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago which she served as a Concertmaster in their 2009-10 season. She has also appeared as a Guest Concertmaster in the Orchestra Iowa for their 2018-19 season.

Azusa is the winner of the first place and audience prize from the Plowman Chamber Music Competition. She was extremely fortunate to have studied chamber music with Shmuel Ashkenasi, Mathias Tacke (Vermeer Quartet), Oliver Wille (Kuss Quartet), Rainer Schmidt (Hagen Quartet), and Eberhard Feltz. Azusa is currently a violinist of Chicago based chamber music ensemble International Chamber Artists.

Her passion for chamber music isn't only limited to the traditional classical music repertoire. She has been a season artist for the Fifth House Ensemble and has also served as a faculty for their Fresh Inc Festival. With them, she enjoyed the collaborative spirit of chamber music to reach beyond the traditionally-perceived limits of classical music. She has also been the violinist of the Petar Jankovic Ensemble which is a unique chamber ensemble group, made up of a string quartet led by a classical guitar, and widely toured in the US and abroad and released a CD "(Com) Passionate" in 2014. She has also frequently performed with Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues, led by the legendary blues harmonica master/singer/composer, Corky Siegel.

Her performances have been heard numerous times on WFMT, Chicago's classical music radio, including their Impromptu series and Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series.

She has appeared as a soloist with the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, Lakeshore Symphony Orchestra, College of DuPage Chamber Orchestra, and Northwestern University Orchestra. Azusa has participated in music festivals such as the Internationale Sommerakademie für Kammermusik in Frenswegen, Spoleto Festival USA and the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo which she spent three summers and led the orchestra as a concertmaster.

A native of Chiba, Japan, Azusa Tashiro began her violin studies at the age of four. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree from Toho Gakuen School of Music. In 2008, Azusa came to the United States and attended Chicago College of the Performing Arts as a student of Nathan Cole. She went on to receive her Master of Music degree at DePaul University School of Music, where she studied with Ilya Kaler.

**BOB SUTTER, PIANO**

Bob Sutter is a versatile pianist, keyboardist and composer who has performed and/or conducted in pit orchestras for major musical productions—in Chicago and on tour. Among the many shows he’s performed in are Broadway in Chicago productions of “The Lion King,” “The Color Purple,” “Beauty and the Beast,” “Cats” and “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” as well as productions at the Goodman and Steppenwolf theatres.

You can hear him as a solo artist on his eponymous solo piano CD, which features original compositions and standards in a wide array of styles. And you can hear his love of jazz as he plays with the Metropolitan Jazz Octet on the group’s two recordings, “The Road to Your Place” and “It’s Too Hot for Words,” featuring Dee Alexander. Bob also played with the MJO and Dee at the Chicago Jazz Festival and Hyde Park Jazz Festival.
Through the years, he has also worked with the Ravinia Pops Orchestra, Milwaukee Pops Orchestra, Chicago Chamber Musicians and many solo artists—including Patti LaBelle, Anita Baker and Andrea Bocelli. And if you look closely as the cast of “My Best Friend’s Wedding” start to sing “I Say a Little Prayer for You,” you’ll see Bob at the piano.

He studied piano and composition at DePaul University—classical piano under Herman Shapiro, Joe Gattone, Eloise Niwa, Thadeus Kozuch and Deborah Sobo; and jazz piano with Alan Swain, Willie Pickens, James Williams and Don Thompson. He studied jazz improvisation with Jamie Aebersold, Richie Corpolongo and Kenny Werner.

Bob couldn’t be more thrilled than to be performing with the Chicago Philharmonic now.

CAITLIN EDWARDS, VIOLIN
Violinist Caitlin Edwards began her musical journey at the age of eight within a non-profit organization in her hometown of Birmingham, Alabama. She later attended the University of Louisville (BM) and DePaul University (MM). Caitlin is a 2022 Esteemed Artist Award recipient from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, a 2021 3Arts/Walder Foundation awardee, 2018 Gateways Music Festival Rising Star, a co-curator with the Fulcrum Point New Music Project, and a former fellow with the Chicago Sinfonietta. In addition, she has received Grammy certificates for recordings on Disney’s “The Lion King” and for albums by John Legend and PJ Morton. She released her debut album, "Exhale," in 2021. Caitlin is a classically trained violinist, but she’s inspired by gospel, jazz, hip-hop, and neo-soul. She composes original music and intentionally performs the works of Black composers to help ensure that these composers and their compositions are remembered and spotlighted for aspiring young BIPOC musicians and the world as a whole. Caitlin is a proud member of D-Composed and Ensemble Dal Niente.

DAVID TAYLOR, VIOLIN
David Taylor joined the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as Assistant-Concertmaster in 1979. Born in Canton, Ohio, he first studied violin with his father beginning at the age of four and later continued his studies with Margaret Randall and Rafael Druian at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He later studied with Ivan Galamian and Dorothy DeLay at the Juilliard School, where he received both bachelor and master’s degrees. He became a member of the Cleveland Orchestra in 1974 as a first violinist. With the Chicago Symphony he has made numerous solo appearances, including performances with Sir Georg Solti. He also has served as Acting-Concertmaster of the Saint Louis Symphony and Concertmaster of the Milwaukee Symphony. For many years David has served as the Concertmaster of the ArsViva Chamber Orchestra. As a lover of chamber music he often performs in recitals and solo performances in the Chicagoland area, at Ravinia and on WFMT. He performs often with the Pressenda Trio with fellow CSO cellist Gary Stucka and pianist Andrea Swan. He is also a frequent soloist with the regions local orchestras. He teaches privately and is on the faculty of Roosevelt University and the Moody Bible Institute. A frequent coach of orchestral violinists he has students in orchestras across the United States and Japan. David lives in downtown
Chicago and is married to another violinist, Michelle Wynton. He has a daughter, Sarah, who lives in Wheaton.

**GEOF BRADFIELD, SAXOPHONE**

Geof Bradfield’s work as a composer and performer on saxophones and clarinets embraces intersections of modern jazz and other streams of African Diaspora music, drawing inspiration from Charlie Parker, Melba Liston, Lead Belly, Shona mbira music, and Gullah spirituals. Born in Houston, TX, Bradfield has performed throughout North America, Europe, Russia, Asia, Africa and the Middle East, sharing the stage with artists such as Randy Weston, Dana Hall, Clark Sommers, Brian Blade, Anna Webber, Orrin Evans, Jeff Parker, Matt Ulery, and Ryan Cohan. His work is featured on 50+ CDs including eight albums as a leader that have garnered critical accolades from the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune and NPR. Nate Chinen describes his Yes, and...Music for Nine Improvisers (Delmark Records) as “an album of chamber-esque color and oft-surprising texture, because Bradfield is the sort of composer who creates room for departure.” He has received grants and awards from Chamber Music America, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, DCASE, Illinois Arts Council, and the Mellon Foundation. The Downbeat Critics Poll has named him a Rising Star Tenor Saxophonist and Arranger multiple years. Mr. Bradfield is a Professor of Jazz Studies at Northern Illinois University.

**JIM WIDLOWSKI, DRUMSET**

Jim’s credits include Chicago (BIC) productions of Hamilton, the Book of Mormon, Billy Elliot, Wicked, Frozen, Beautiful, Rent and the Lion King. He has also performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera, Grant Park Symphony and the Milwaukee Symphony.

**JOHN WOJCIECHOWSKI, SAXOPHONE**

Saxophonist John Wojciechowski, of whom the Chicago Tribune’s Howard Reich wrote: “…technically accomplished, musically profound and harmonically daring” is originally from Detroit and has spent the last 20 years performing and teaching in Chicago. In addition to leading his own groups, he has performed or recorded with The Chicago Jazz Orchestra, The Chicago Jazz Ensemble, The Woody Herman Orchestra, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Clark Terry, Charlie Haden, and Kurt Elling among many others. John was also a third place finalist in the 1996 Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition.

John is currently a member of the Chicago Jazz Orchestra, Dana Hall’s spring, the Jeff Campbell Trio (w/ John Hollenbeck), and Ryan Cohan’s Sextet and Quartet. John has
appeared on dozens of recordings as a sideman, and has two recordings as a leader: “Lexicon”, released in 2009 and “Focus” which was released in the fall of 2015 on Origin records to critical acclaim.

**KATE CARTER, VIOLIN**
Kate Carter is a versatile violinist who enjoys a varied career as a recitalist, orchestral player and teacher. She has been the Assistant Concertmaster of the Elmhurst Symphony since 2008, and she also performs regularly with ensembles including the Chicago Philharmonic, Lyric Opera Orchestra, Joffrey Ballet, Camerata Chicago, Fulcrum Point New Music Ensemble, Access Contemporary Music, and others. Recent activities include recording a second album of American works with Blue Violet Duo, as well as co-founding the Pyrenean String Quartet with fellow Chicago Philharmonic members. Kate is also active as a member of the Board of Directors of the Musicians Club of Women, a group dedicated to supporting women in music. Dr. Carter holds degrees from Northwestern University and the Eastman School of Music. She plays on a modern Italian violin that was built for her by Jamie Lazzara. A California native, she is proud to call Chicago her adopted hometown. When not performing or teaching, she enjoys long-distance running, swimming and biking along the beautiful lakefront.

**KIT POLEN, BASS**
Chicago Philharmonic bassist Kit Polen performs regularly with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, including joining them on tours through Europe, Asia, and the US. Since 2015, he has been Principal Bass of Camerata Chicago as well as the Associate Principal Bass of the Quad City Symphony Orchestra, in addition to performing with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. As a chamber musician, he has performed with many artists around the country including the Kontras Quartet, Chai Collaborative Ensemble, and Leon Fleisher. Equally comfortable outside the traditional symphonic setting, Polen has collaborated with CSO’s MusicNOW series, the Chicago Composer’s Orchestra, and has also been a part of multiple Grammy nominated R&B recordings.

**MARA MCCLAIN, CELLO**
Mara McClain is currently a freelance cellist in the Chicago area, performing regularly with the Lyric Opera Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Joffrey Ballet Orchestra, Chicago Philharmonic and the Grant Park Music Festival. Mara was previously a member of the Alabama Symphony, in Birmingham Alabama, from 2006-2018. She attended the Cleveland Institute of Music for her undergraduate studies with Richard Aaron. Prior to her appointment with the Alabama Symphony she joined the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, as principal cellist. After many years away, she is thrilled to be back in Chicago with her husband, who is also a cellist, teacher and the director of the Barston Suzuki Center at the Music Institute of Chicago. Mara has enjoyed playing in many ensembles in the US, China, Japan, South America and France throughout her career.
MICHAEL HOVNANIAN, BASS
Michael Hovnanian grew up in the Seattle area. His primary teachers were James Harnett and Ronald Simon of the Seattle Symphony. He also studied with Frederick Tinsley of the Los Angeles Philharmonic at California Institute of the Arts, where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. A member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra from 1989 until 2019, he is currently an instructor of double bass at DePaul University in Chicago.

NICHOLAS ADAMS, BASS
Originally from the Western Pennsylvania area, Nicholas Adams received a Bachelor’s of Science in Music Education from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania studying under Nathan Santos as well as Jeffrey Grubbs of the Pittsburgh Symphony. Following that, Nicholas studied at the Academy of Music in Zagreb, Croatia under Niška Bobetko before pursuing a Master’s degree at Carnegie Mellon studying under Micah Howard. Following that, Nicholas relocated to the Chicago Area where he joined the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and started freelancing in the greater Chicago Area. After moving to the area, Nicholas won the position of Principal Bass at the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, served as Principal Bass of the Charleston Symphony, regularly plays with many regional orchestras, and maintains a colorful freelancing career playing with various jazz, rock, and blues outfits. In addition to performing, Nicholas is the Co-Founder Rishi Productions, a Chicago-Based media production company where he helps lead a team of creatives that work with various organizations across the United States as well as internationally.

ROY MEYER, VIOLIN
In addition to his role as concertmaster of the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Roy is a founding member of the Apollo Music Festival in Houston, Minnesota. Chamber music collaborations include performances with Mike Block and Wu Tong of Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble, and violinists Tobias Steymans, concertmaster of the Bavarian Radio Symphony, and Robert Hanford, concertmaster of the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Festival appearances include the Round Top Festival and performances with Opera Italiana with musicians of the Metropolitan Opera as part of the Central Park Summer Concerts, among others.

Meyer has appeared as soloist with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Wartburg Community Symphony Orchestra, and Indiana State University Orchestra. He has served as the concertmaster of Illinois Symphony Orchestra since 2015 and continues to perform with the Sarasota Orchestra, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and Chicago Philharmonic.
A dedicated educator, Meyer has led master classes at the Apollo Music Festival, the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Virginia Tech, SUNY New Paltz, Indiana State University, and the Aber Suzuki Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and served as a member of the faculty at the Illinois Chamber Music Festival in Bloomington, Illinois. In 2018, he served as the visiting professor of violin at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Roy Meyer began violin studies at 4 years old with Kyoko Fuller and earned his Bachelor of Music from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Masters of Music from the University of South Florida in Tampa, and pursued a certificate at New York University. His primary teachers include David Perry, Carolyn Stuart, Gregory Fulkerson, Naoko Tanaka, and Laurie Hamilton.

When not on stage, Roy enjoys following sports, traveling, and hiking.

STEVE ROBERTS, GUITAR

Steve Roberts (guitars, mandolin, banjo, other fretted instruments), a veteran of the Chicago rock, jazz and experimental music scene, has recorded and performed with a myriad of local and touring artists. His work as co-founder/songwriter/electric guitarist for the bands Loud Thoughts and the post-punk/art rock D-Section has somehow led (most unnaturally), to popular and not-so-popular music, orchestral, new music, musical theater and chamber music. Recent performances on guitar, banjo and mandolin include:

- The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Godfather live soundtrack; Melissa Etheridge in concert; Stewart Copeland and his Ben Hur soundtrack live; Otello with Riccardo Muti and The Chicago Symphony Orchestra (Carnegie Hall and recording); Steven Spielberg's Lincoln soundtrack; Fulcrum Point New Music Ensemble; Chicago Chamber Musicians; Contempo; Chicago Philharmonic; The Pirate Queen: (Broadway) Tootsie The Musical (Broadway); Lyric Opera Orchestra of Chicago and The Grant Park Symphony Orchestra.

Some favorite performances include the US premier of Elevator Music on Mars by Tomi Raisanen: The World, Chicago and New York premiers of Jacob TV's multimedia operas The News; World Premiere of Jacob TV’s Freedom Songs; ; Gnarly Buttons by John Adams with the Chicago Chamber Musicians featuring Larry Combs on clarinet; Working with Sting and Rob Mathes on the pre-Broadway production of Sting’s The Last Ship; Wozzeck and Jesus Christ Superstar with the Lyric Opera, Bernstein’s Mass with Marin Alsop and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Using his Masters degree in music composition to write songs for his wife Julie to sing to their Great Dane Lester and Standard Poodle PHIL.

SYLVIA DE LA CERNA, VIOLIN

Sylvia de la Cerna is Chicago-based violinist and music educator.

She has performed as a substitute violinist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Grant Park Symphony and is a founding member of the Chicago Sinfonietta.
Sylvia has been a soloist with the Orchestra of Illinois, the Chicago Chamber Orchestra and the Chicago Jazz Ensemble.

She has also performed and toured with The Black Music Repertory Ensemble, The Gateways Chamber Ensemble, and the Dee Alexander Jazz Group.

Sylvia has accompanied acclaimed musicians such as Jon Batiste, Common, Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Page and Plant, Diana Ross, Andrea Bocelli, Stevie Wonder, the late Aretha Franklin and Ray Charles to name a few, and previously served as the National Music Contractor for Vince Gill. She has toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe and performed on national television shows including The TODAY Show and the Oprah Winfrey Show.

Her numerous recording credits include Ten City, Earth Wind and Fire, The Chicago Sinfonietta, and a Grammy-nominated album with the Lake Forest Symphony.

Sylvia has taught violin for more than two decades and has a passion for sharing the gift of music with students from the South Side of Chicago through de la Cerna Music.

She previously served as a member of the Board of Governors and Secretary for the Chicago Chapter of the Recording Academy.

She received her Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Arts degrees from Oberlin College/Conservatory and her Master of Music degree from the Yale School of Music.

Sylvia continues to perform throughout the Chicagoland area, the United States, and abroad.
INTRODUCING OUR NEW MUSICIAN MEMBERS!

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