

CSO Giving Notes

SPRING 2024
CHARITABLE
GIFT PLANNING
NEWSLETTER

Dear Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association Friend,

Thank you for your enduring support and engagement with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association. Your participation as a CSO family member is vital as our exceptional Orchestra enriches, inspires and transforms lives through music in Chicagoland and around the globe.

The 2023/24 Season has been filled with brilliant performances and meaningful educational events, with a highlight being the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's 64th international tour in January with 14 concerts in 11 European cities. As we come to the close of this remarkable season in June, we also look ahead to an outstanding 2024/25 Season, which has been greatly anticipated and recently announced. The future is indeed bright with the return of familiar guest conductors and soloists, along with many of today's brightest young musical talents.

Critical to the continued success of the CSO's mission are the bequests — at all levels of support — provided by Theodore Thomas Society members. These estate plans will allow the CSOA to bring together musicians who are among the world's finest, providing unparalleled artistic leadership and maintaining a commitment to the highest standards of quality.

Thank you again for all that you do in support of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Louise Gorno".

Mary Louise Gorno
Chair, CSOA Board of Trustees
Chair, Theodore Thomas Society



Theodore Thomas
FOUNDER AND FIRST MUSIC DIRECTOR

JOIN THE

Theodore Thomas.

S O C I E T Y

Named in honor of the founding music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Theodore Thomas Society recognizes those who make financial plans — **in any amount** — to benefit the CSO in the future.

What benefits come with Theodore Thomas Society membership?

- ◆ Annual Theodore Thomas Society event in connection with a performance at Symphony Center
- ◆ Access to VIP ticketing services
- ◆ Listing in CSO program books throughout the season and in the annual report (those who wish to remain anonymous may do so)
- ◆ Invitation for two to the CSOA's Annual Meeting
- ◆ Invitation for two to CSO open rehearsals for donors
- ◆ Opportunity to share your CSO story in a featured profile

Stradivarian Associates, a unique group within the Society, are those members who provide documentation for a planned gift of \$100,000 or more.

They receive all benefits of Society membership, plus:

- ◆ Full dining membership privileges in the Thomas Club at Symphony Center
- ◆ Invitation for two to attend Salon Series events each season
- ◆ Listing in the donor wall display on the historic Orchestra Hall main staircase



For more information on gift planning or the Theodore Thomas Society, contact the CSOA's Development office at 312-294-3100 or gifts@csso.org or visit csso.org/plannedgiving.



Dyanne and John Turner

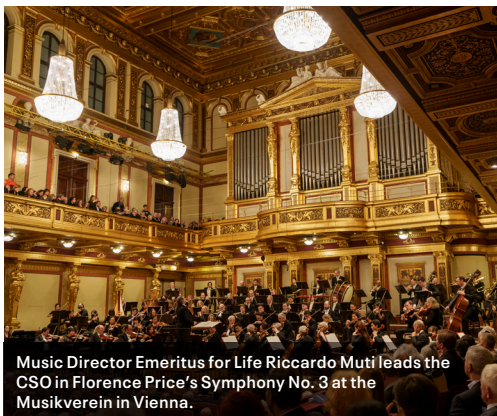
Dyanne and John Turner

What inspires your love of music? As a teenager in the early 70s, Prospect High School had an award-winning jazz program that I (John) played in. I had the opportunity to see the Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Woody Hermann, Stan Kenton, Don Ellis, Maynard Ferguson, Buddy Rich and Lionel Hampton bands. I can remember the thrill. Samara Joy, an emerging award-winning jazz artist and singer, performed recently at Orchestra Hall and was just as thrilling.

What initially drew you to the CSO? I won box seat tickets for a Riccardo Muti concert at a raffle and took my mother. It was a transporative experience. When I retired, I bought season tickets for myself and my wife to CSO concerts at Orchestra Hall and Ravinia. Over the years, we have seen nearly 400 classical performances, which have included the 20 top orchestras in the United States and 17 of the top orchestras in the world. The CSO is truly one of the very best orchestras in the world. We have been blessed to be in their audience so many times.

Why do you feel it's important to support the CSOA as a member of the Theodore Thomas Society? Classical music has become as breathing for my soul. I can't imagine life without it. It is an uplifting communal experience that people need. I want to play a part in supporting this work.

Photos from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's January 2024 European tour. Visit cso.org/tour for other highlights.



Music Director Emeritus for Life Riccardo Muti leads the CSO in Florence Price's Symphony No. 3 at the Musikverein in Vienna.



Riccardo Muti greets the audience at Milan's Teatro alla Scala, where he served as music director from 1986 to 2005.



During the first tour stop in Brussels, CSO Associate Concertmaster Stephanie Jeong, violin Matous Michal and viola Danny Lai perform a free concert for a group of asylum seekers from around the world.



Edgar Riehl

Edgar Riehl

What inspires your love of music? My parents both loved music. My father was a band teacher in the Wheaton Public Schools, and he played the clarinet in the DuPage Symphony. My mother was a teacher in the Glen Ellyn Public Schools. My parents introduced me to music at an early age. I began to learn to play the piano at about 7 years of age and then started taking violin lessons a few years later. My father gave me clarinet lessons during my grade school years.

What initially drew you to the CSO? In high school, I studied the violin with Otakar Sroubek of the Chicago Symphony. I recall that my lessons were partly sponsored by a scholarship from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association. During high school, I played violin in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, commuting downtown from Wheaton by train two nights a week for rehearsals in Orchestra Hall with Gordon Peters. On the weekends my parents brought me to sectional rehearsals with my section leader, Leon Brenner.

After graduating from Wheaton Central High School, I decided to study electrical engineering at Northwestern University. I loved music, but I was also interested in radio and electronics from the time I was a young boy. While a student at NU, I joined the NU Symphony and took violin lessons from Samuel Thaviu. After graduation, I went to work for a local company as an audio and electrical engineer.

Why do you feel it's important to support the CSOA as a member of the Theodore Thomas Society?

Although I did not follow a career as a professional musician, music has always been central to my life. I take great pleasure in hearing classical music on the radio every day and regularly attend local concerts. Classical music is the soundtrack of my life. I recognize that it is essential to involve young people and provide opportunities for them, and that is one reason I decided to leave a bequest to the CSO. The other reason is my appreciation for the support the CSO gave me when I was a young musician.



Mary Louise Gorno, chair of the CSOA board of trustees and the Theodore Thomas Society (right), shares dinner with CSO violin Mihaela Ionescu during the final tour stop in Rome. Gorno was part of a patrons tour group that traveled with the Orchestra to several cities.

Include the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in your will or trust

Legal Name: **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Address: **220 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60604**

Tax ID Number: **36-2167823**

Sample language:

- ◆ For a specific dollar amount bequest: "I hereby give and bequeath \$ _____ from my estate to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, Chicago, Illinois, for its general purposes."
- ◆ For a percentage-based remainder bequest: "I hereby give and bequeath all (or _____ %) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, Chicago, Illinois, for its general purposes."

Other planned gift options

- ◆ Name the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or IRA. It's as simple as contacting your retirement plan administrator or financial institution to complete a beneficiary form.
- ◆ If you have established a Donor Advised Fund, consider directing a distribution of these funds after your lifetime to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.
- ◆ A life insurance policy can be used to make an exceptional gift through either a beneficiary designation or by transferring ownership of the policy to the CSOA.
- ◆ Real estate or personal property such as an instrument may be gifted to the CSOA.

Did you know?

In 1899 a small group of Chicago women — led by Rose Fay Thomas, wife of the CSO's founder and first music director Theodore Thomas — focused their attention on the city's neglected animal population. The majority of an estimated 50,000 workhorses were old or sick, and many were regularly beaten in the streets by insensitive drivers. Also, countless homeless dogs and cats wandered the streets.

On January 19, 1899, Rose hosted a meeting in the Thomas home (on Bellevue Place in the heart of the Gold Coast) to discuss the group's concern for the welfare of these animals. At a second meeting two months later, by-laws for the Anti-Cruelty Society were adopted, and Mrs. Thomas was elected the organization's first president. These women set goals to eliminate cruelty to animals, to educate the public on humane treatment and to create a refuge for stray cats and dogs. Five years later, the Society opened its first animal shelter, and today — 125 years after its founding — the organization is still going strong.



Rose Fay and Dickey, the Thomas family's Springer Spaniel, in the late 1890s
PHOTO: GEORGE GLESSNER, COURTESY OF GLESSNER HOUSE COLLECTIONS



Demonstrate your lifelong passion for music with a planned gift.

Your future support — in any amount — of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra can:

- ◆ Strengthen the Orchestra and musical programs you love.
- ◆ Create opportunities for new audiences to discover and grow their love of music.
- ◆ Achieve tax savings and income opportunities for you today and your heirs in the future.

[Read this gift planning newsletter to learn more.](#)



Planned gifts support transformational experiences

NEWS AND PROJECTS

- ◆ A special concert in March celebrated six years of partnership with the support and advocacy group Purpose Over Pain through the Notes for Peace program. An initiative of the CSO's Negaunee Music Institute, Notes for Peace empowers parents across Chicago who have lost children to gun violence to create original songs of tribute with support from the Civic Orchestra Fellows and guest artists.
- ◆ Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh and the CSO premiere a new concerto composed by the CSO's Mead Composer-in-Residence Jessie Montgomery in concerts from May 30 to June 1.
- ◆ The Civic Orchestra of Chicago is joined by singers from the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center on June 3 for the finale of Civic's 2023/24 Season.
- ◆ Hilary Hahn, CSO Artist-in-Residence and *Musical America's* 2023 Artist of the Year, returns on June 9 for an afternoon showcasing the intimate beauty of chamber music.