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Illinois Council of Orchestras Announces Annual Awards

The Illinois Council of Orchestras is pleased to announce the 2018 recipients of its annual awards for excellence in the field of music performance and for support of musical organizations. An awards panel of judges drawn from the Illinois Council of Orchestras Board of Directors and independent professional conductors and musicians reviewed nominations representing orchestras, youth orchestras, and chamber ensembles from throughout Illinois.

The 2018 ICO Awards:

Professional Orchestra of the Year

Chicago Philharmonic
Scott Speck, *Artistic Director*

Community Orchestra of the Year

The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest
Jay Friedman, *Music Director*

Youth Orchestra of the Year

Rockford Symphony Youth Orchestra
Linc Smelser, *Music Director*

Conductor of the Year (professional orchestra category)

Kirk Muspratt, *Music Director & Conductor*
New Philharmonic

Executive Director or General Manager of the Year

Beth Hoover, *General Manager*
The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest

Board President of the Year

Vince P. Flood, *Board President*
Evanston Symphony Orchestra

Programming of the Year

Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra
Russell Vinick, *Music Director & Conductor*

Community Relations of the Year

Senior Suburban Orchestra
Dan Pasquale D'Andrea, *Music Director & Conductor*

Volunteer of the Year

Karen Hoag
Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras

Cultural Leadership Award

Jay Friedman, *Music Director*
The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest

The Illinois Council of Orchestras was founded in 1974 with a mission:

- to encourage, promote, and assist orchestras throughout the State of Illinois
- to promote an exchange of information among members, including providing consultants and speakers
- to hold educational conferences for member organizations, including musicians, staff, boards, volunteers, and audiences.

Presentation of the ICO Awards will take place during March through July 2018 at local concerts and other events of the winning orchestras.

Information about the Illinois Council of Orchestras is available at: www.ilcouncilorchestras.org



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