

UCHICAGO •
presents •

Alexander Fiterstein • Atalante
• Black String • Brown-
Urioste-Canellakis Trio •

Cappella Pratensis • Chicago Symphony Winds

Chris Potter Underground Orchestra • Christia

McBride • Edward Arron • Jazzmeia Horn •

Vinikour • Grossman Ensemble • Marquis H

Blacktet • Pacifica Quartet • Parker Quar

Rach Pine • Rahim AlHaj • Rob

• S • Steven Isserlis • Sw

In T akács Quartet • The C

TM The Tallis Scholars • Tri

Yarn/Wire

**CELEBRATING
75 YEARS**

IMPACT REPORT

2018/19

WELCOME



In 2018-19, the University of Chicago Presents concert series marked 75 years of bringing the world's best music, artists, and ensembles to Chicago. Throughout this landmark season, we honored traditions, introduced new talent, and celebrated the people who have participated in making the series a cultural treasure of Chicago. We brought more music than ever to our largest audience yet, and we honored our place at the University by enriching campus life not only with world class performers, but also intriguing talks, lectures, master classes, and more. We shared the music with community members young and old and worked with partners on and off campus to create the fullest and most meaningful experiences for all.

The UChicago Presents staff — and of course the incredibly talented artists — worked hard, but our dedicated patrons, donors, partners, and volunteers were truly the ones who made all of this music possible. Thank you for your interest in and support of UChicago Presents. I invite you to reflect on our work as detailed in this report — as well as your role in bringing the music to life — and plan to join us often for music and more in the coming season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amy Iwano".

Amy Iwano
Executive Director

“

We find the same artists performing at UC Presents and London's most prestigious chamber music venue, Wigmore Hall. We love to go to Wigmore, but it's a great comfort to know that we can enjoy performers of the same quality at home in Hyde Park.

”

— James Shapiro,
subscriber since 1973

TM Krishna



Jazzmeia Horn





MISSION

The University of Chicago Presents concert series endeavors to present music on an intimate scale at the highest level, creating for audiences of all ages experiences that transform, entertain, educate, and enlighten, inspiring a powerful sense of shared humanity. Advancing the values of its home at the University, UCP engages audiences throughout the Chicago region — the student, the Nobel Laureate, the uninitiated, the dedicated musician, and everyone in-between — to nurture curiosity through great music-making.

Atalante



Parker Quartet



Black String



75 STORIES FOR 75 YEARS

As UCP celebrated its 75-year milestone in the 2018/19 season, we sought to acknowledge the community of patrons, artists, and others who have made the series a Chicago cultural treasure by collecting “75 Stories for 75 Years,” which we shared through our program books, on our website and through social media.

**Here are a
few of our
favorites!**



I don't recall the year that I became hooked on UChicago Presents for my live performance music experience, but it definitely was more than 20 years ago when the major venue was the relatively intimate Mandel Hall. I am not a musician, nor do I understand the intricacies of composition or interpretation, and I am without composer or musical group favorites. Therefore, I am more than grateful that UChicago Presents has done the choosing for me. I don't recall being disappointed in any of their choices. Before retirement, I attended the concerts after an often 10-hour work day traveling about 40 miles, sometimes racing to arrive on time. I must admit that occasionally I considered skipping a concert but didn't, and I was always totally refreshed by the magic of the music, whatever the genre. Thank you, UChicago Presents!!!

— Elizabeth Sengupta,
UChicago Presents subscriber

Twenty five years ago you took us in when we were a young quartet, allowing us to explore with you our first adventures with the great string quartets of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Shostakovich, Schubert. You followed us through thick terrain when you listened to us play all five of the Elliot Carter string quartets in one evening. You waited patiently while 10 minutes before the concert a bridge broke, and we rushed around to find a violin for the concert. You have been our supporters for over 25 years, and for that we are eternally grateful. Many of you have become our closest friends, and if one can call a particular audience a home, you are most certainly ours. Happy 75th, UCP!

— Simin Ganatra, violinist of the Pacifica Quartet, UChicago Ensemble in Residence, 1999-2016



In high school, I heard the Artemis Quartet perform a stunning recital which cemented my love of classical music and propelled me into the study of musicology years later. The CD I bought after that concert became one of my favorite recordings, and exactly a decade later, at UChicago Presents, Artemis performed my favorite piece from that recording (Beethoven's Op. 59, No. 1). Instead of hearing it with fresh ears like in high school, this time I explored the piece in great depth to give the pre-concert lecture. It was bittersweet that one of the names on my signed CD is no longer with us. It made the slow movement even more moving. UChicago Presents brought me closer to that piece, and brought me back to those formative memories of my first encounters with classical music.

— Abigail Fine, Ph.D. '17



SEASON SUMMARY

MAINSTAGE CONCERTS

The **Classic Concert Series** is the hallmark of UChicago Presents, with chamber music being the first genre featured in an organized public offering by the University in 1943. This season's seven concerts resonated with the series' history and included preeminent returning ensembles such as the Takács and Pacifica quartets and the Chicago Symphony Winds, as well as artists making their Chicago debuts, most notably a remarkable first Chicago appearance by pianist Seong-Jin Cho, who filled Mandel Hall with a capacity audience.

The **Howard Mayer Brown International Early Music Series** is the city's only early music series that regularly presents world-touring artists whose music is developed through historically informed performance practices and scholarly research. This series brought six concerts of music spanning more than 400 years, including a glorious Renaissance Christmas program by The Tallis Scholars, who filled Rockefeller Chapel in December, and Beethoven's complete sonatas for cello and fortepiano performed over two evenings with cello superstar Steven Isserlis and renowned fortepianist Robert Levin.

CLASSIC CONCERT SERIES

- Takács Quartet
- Seong-Jin Cho *
- Alexander Fiterstein; Michael Brown; Elena Urioste; Nicholas Canellakis
- Trio Céleste
- Parker Quartet with Richard O'Neill and Edward Arron
- Pacifica Quartet
- Chicago Symphony Winds

HOWARD MAYER BROWN INTERNATIONAL EARLY MUSIC SERIES

- Cappella Pratensis
- The Tallis Scholars
- Steven Isserlis and Robert Levin
- Atalante *
- Rachel Barton Pine and Jory Vinikour

MUSIC WITHOUT BORDERS

- TM Krishna (India)
- Black String (South Korea) *
- Rahim AlHaj (Iraq)

JAZZ AT THE LOGAN

- Christian McBride
- Jazzmeia Horn *
- Marquis Hill Blacktet
- The Cookers
- Chris Potter Underground Orchestra

CONTEMPORARY

- Yarn/Wire
- Grossman Ensemble with conductors Ben Bolter, James Baker, and David Dzubay

SPECIAL

- Sweet Honey in the Rock

* Chicago debut

2018/19



Marquis Hill Blacktet



TM Krishna



Members of the Grossman Ensemble

Jazz at the Logan marked its sixth season with a record number of subscribers eager to welcome young vocalist Jazzmeia Horn, performing in Chicago for the first time, and trumpeter Marquis Hill, who made his homecoming to Chicago's South Side with his Blacktet. The series also welcomed distinguished jazz veterans Christian McBride, The Cookers, and Chris Potter, and 168 students from the Jazz Institute's education programs, who received free tickets to experience all of these concerts.

Each year our series has featured the University's **Don Michael Randel Ensemble in Residence**. This season we were pleased to present Sweet Honey in the Rock, who filled Mandel Hall to the rafters with both audiences and ringing messages of justice and truth.

A special effort this season was the inauguration of **Music Without Borders**, a series bringing artists from around the globe who blend world traditions with contemporary styling. An initiative made possible in collaboration with the University's regional centers and supported by a prestigious grant from the National Endowment for

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the Arts, the series offered more than just concerts. In addition to their performances, each artist participated in a pre-concert talk with a UChicago scholar, a post-show reception open to all audience members, and additional residency activities over the following days, including a lecture, school matinee concerts, lunch discussions with faculty and students, and work with campus ensembles. This season's

collaborators were the Committee on South Asian Studies, the Center for East Asian Studies, and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, with support from International House.

Also new this season was a collaboration with the **Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition**, with whom we presented 14 world premieres by doctoral students as well as established and rising composers commissioned by the CCCC over four concerts.

“

Rounding off its impressive offerings of jazz as well as early, classical, and contemporary music with a stunning line-up of world music, the University of Chicago Presents now stands as one of the most diverse and inclusive professional concert series in the United States.

”

— *Berthold Hoeckner,*
UChicago Professor of Music

Black String in a luncheon discussion



Black String at a school matinee performance



Trio Céleste performing at the University Medical Center



TM Krishna lecturing on the role of art and artists in society



OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Beyond our work to bring these outstanding artists to the stage, the UCP staff put an emphasis on building audiences for performances. Our season started off with a pizza party for students, and that, along with our work with student organizations on campus, resulted in an increase of 70% in student attendance over the prior season. In addition, thanks to the generosity of our donors, 219 students heard magnificent concerts for free through our Sponsor-a-Student program. Our Under 35 ticket program grew as well; supporting this effort, for the second year we offered a CODA event with the Parker Quartet — a post-concert cocktail hour where young professionals had the opportunity to mingle with the artists. UCP also joined the inaugural year of the citywide Teen Arts Pass program to give more access to music-loving teens and to welcome them to the city's great cultural institutions. Reaching to even younger people to build our audiences for the future, UCP offered free youth tickets for children accompanying an adult.

We shared music and musicians with audiences beyond the concert hall as well. Trio Céleste performed at the University of Chicago Medical Center and led a chamber music master class for students in the Music

Throughout UChicago Presents' 75th anniversary season, more than 12,000 people experienced the power of music to connect, uplift spirits, grow community, enrich lives, and give joy.

Department's Chamber Music Program, and we partnered with our colleagues in Community Arts to bring matinee performances to 436 public school students. Our world music artists met with UChicago students in luncheons and workshops and gave school matinee performances, and with Hyde Park Jazz Festival, we offered a free jazz Listening Session with Chris Potter. We built our virtual audience, as well, by setting up visiting artists — Alexander Fiterstein and friends, Trio Céleste, Parker Quartet, and Marquis Hill — to take over the UCP

Instagram account while they were here, and with our friends at WFMT, we live-streamed a rehearsal with Seong-Jin Cho and offered on-air performances by Alexander Fiterstein and Michael Brown, Trio Céleste, and the Parker Quartet with Edward Arron and Richard O'Neill.

Throughout UChicago Presents' 75th anniversary season, more than 12,000 people experienced the power of music to connect, uplift spirits, grow community, enrich lives, and give joy. While we are able to provide some measure of our impact, we believe that impact is also immeasurable and that the contribution of all those who support the music is priceless.

Trio Céleste leads a masterclass with chamber music students



Rahim AlHaj with CPS students



EDUCATION

In our continuing partnership, two of our artists performed on the Logan Center Community Arts' school matinee series for Chicago Public School students. The Korean band Black String shared their centuries-old instruments with students, teaching them about the geomungo (six-stringed zither), traditional bamboo flutes, and traditional Korean percussion, and demonstrating how musicians today can infuse modern music with traditional, culturally significant elements. Trumpeter Marquis Hill, a South-Side native and CPS graduate, performed on the series as well, sharing his path to music in Chicago and the ways he combines his dual interests of hip-hop and jazz in his music.

We also partnered with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies to bring Rahim AlHaj, who performed on the Music Without Borders series, to five Chicago Public Schools, reaching more than 910 students. Through his music, AlHaj shared his story of life as a refugee coming to the United States, and he told students of the ways he uses music to amplify the voices of others who may not be heard.

Vocal ensemble Cappella Pratensis and carnatic singer TM Krishna led workshops with students in the University's Early Music and South Asian Music Ensembles, respectively, and Trio Céleste led a masterclass with UChicago chamber music students.

SPONSOR-A-STUDENT

The Sponsor-a-Student (SAS) program, first introduced more than 15 years ago, is an ongoing effort by UCP to increase accessibility to concerts for current UChicago students by allocating a prescribed number of tickets for each concert, subsidized by donors to the "Sponsor-a-Student" ticket fund.

Despite the long-standing nature of the program and the fact that student tickets account for a consistent portion of UCP's ticket sales, the 2018/19 season saw a record high participation in the Sponsor-a-Student program.

Over the 2018/19 season, 219 tickets were issued to more than 129 students, marking a dramatic 900% increase over the 2017/18 season.

Success in these efforts may be attributed to increased efforts through targeted social media and student-specific eblasts, as well as to the start-of-year Student Pizza Party, which took place before the Takács Quartet concert on October 12. The event drew more than 100 people, with 32 requesting tickets to that night's concert. Several students in attendance that night also became regular concert attendees through the Sponsor-a-Student program throughout the season.

Audience members take a selfie at Seong-Jin Cho's debut



Marquis Hill with students of the Jazz Institute of Chicago



2018-19 SEASON BY THE NUMBERS

26

Mainstage
Concerts

4

Chicago Debuts

23

UCP Debuts

136

Musicians

19

Outreach &
Engagement Events

12,050
Total Served

1,602
Attendance

10,312
Attendance

37%

Ticket Sales
Increase over
2017-18 Season

2,033
20%

Student
Tickets

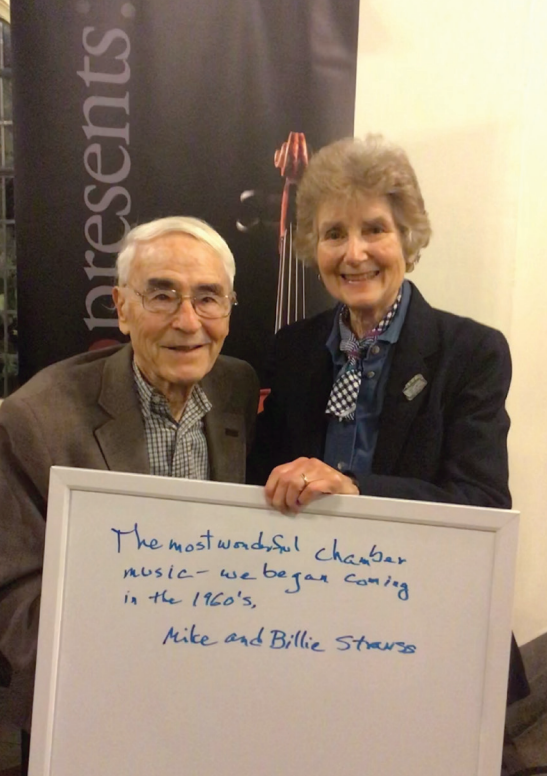
1,756
17%

First-time
Ticket Holders

219
2%

Sponsor-a-
Student
Tickets

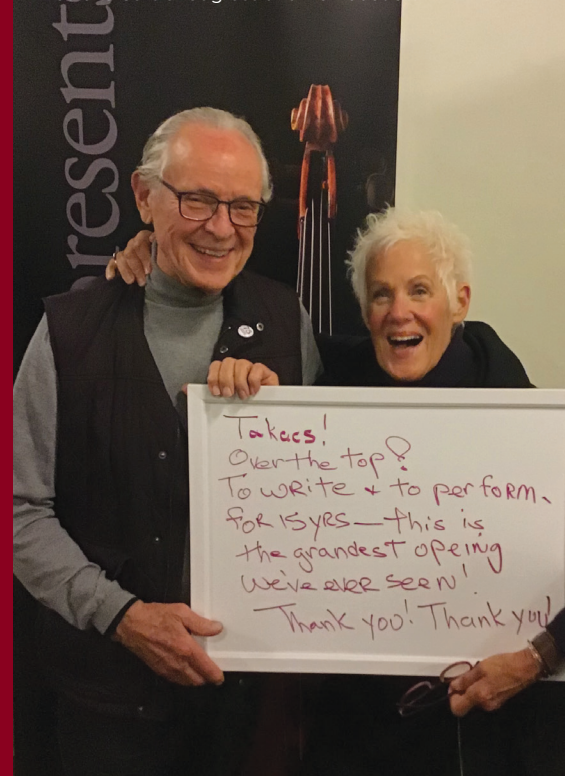
Patrons Michel and Billie Strauss



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our patrons.

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happened
because of
YOU!

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THANK YOU

To the many people who were involved in making the season successful, particularly **The Saints** and coordinator **Anita Shore**; **Max Evert**, Mandel Hall Manager; **Frank Gilbert**, Logan Center Production Coordinator; **Emily Hooper Lansana**, Director of Community Arts; **Greg Redenius**, Logan Center Associate Director for Facilities and Operations; **Jack Siegel**; **Sean Willis**, Logan Center Evening and Weekend Manager; **UChicago Press** and **Marta Tonegutti**; and the **Seminary Coop**. UChicago Presents is also deeply grateful to **Berthold Hoeckner**, **Denise Jorgensen**, **David Levin**, **Bill Michel**, **Anne Robertson**, the **Office of the Provost**, and the **staff of Rockefeller Chapel** for their support of music on campus.

And to the UChicago scholars who have contributed to this season:

- **George Adams**: Ph.D. candidate in Music History/Theory
- **Philip Bohlman**: Ludwig Rosenberger Distinguished Service Professor of Jewish History, Music and the Humanities in the College
- **Seth Brodsky**: Associate Professor of Music and the Humanities in the College
- **Jon Bullock**: Ph.D. candidate in Ethnomusicology
- **Thomas Christensen**: Avalon Foundation Professor of Music and the Humanities
- **Drew Edward Davies**, Ph.D. '06: Associate Professor of Musicology, Northwestern University
- **Alex Glynn**, **Darren Kuser**, and **Jane Vincent**: Students of William Colvin Professor in Music, Romance Languages and Literatures, and the College Robert Kendrick's graduate seminar
- **Julianne Grasso**: Ph.D. candidate in Music History/Theory
- **Berthold Hoeckner**: Professor of Music and the Humanities in the College
- **Travis Jackson**: Associate Professor of Music and the Humanities
- **Erol Gregory Mehmet Koymen**: Ph.D. candidate in Ethnomusicology
- **John Lawrence**: Ph.D. candidate in Music History/Theory
- **Nikhil Mandalapharthy**, A.B. '19
- **Steven Rings**: Associate Professor of Music
- **Anna Schultz**: Associate Professor of Music and the Humanities
- **Ethan Waddell**: Ph.D. student in East Asian Languages and Civilizations
- **Lawrence Zbikowski**: Professor of Music and the Humanities in the College



ARTS PARTNERS

UChicago Presents values the support of the many partners whose participation made possible and enriched our concert season.

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Reva and David Logan Foundation, Illinois Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, Provincie Noord-Brabant

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Promotional Partners

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UChicago Presents gratefully acknowledges the many friends who graciously supported our programs in the 2018-19 season.

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* Denotes individuals who have sponsored a student.

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Thank you for making our
75TH SEASON a success!

“

UCP stands out in this community for its commitment to quality programming and artistic integrity. It has been humbling and exhilarating to be a part of the storied history of this series. Here's to another 75 years!

”

— David Skidmore,
Founding Member and Executive
Director of Third Coast Percussion

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