

Sunday Afternoon April 13, 2003

**The Chicago Chamber Musicians**

Mathieu Dufour, flute

Michael Henoch, oboe

Larry Combs, clarinet

Dennis Michel, bassoon

Gail Williams, horn

Quintet in e minor Op.67 No. 2

Franz Danzi (1763-1826)

Allegro vivo

Larghetto

Minuetto

Allegretto

La Cheminee du Roi Rene (1944)

Darius Milhaud (1892-1974)

Cortege

Aubade

Jongleurs

La Mousinglade

Joutes Sur L'arc

Chasse a Valabre

Divertimento for oboe, clarinet, and bassoon KV. 439b

W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Allegro

Tempo di Mennuetto

Adagio

Tempo di Mennuetto

Rondo: Allegro assai

INTERMISSION

Trois pieces breves

Jacques Ibert (1890-1962)

Allegro

Adagio

Allegro

Kleine Kammermusik Op 24. No. 2

Paul Hindemith (1895-1963)

Lustig

Walzer

Ruhig

Schnell

Sehr Lebhaft

Musicians will speak about the works from the stage.

## **The Chicago Chamber Musicians**

Now in its 16th season, The Chicago Chamber Musicians (CCM) enjoys an outstanding reputation both for its artistic excellence and for its strong commitment to community service. Since its founding in 1986, CCM has assembled a resident ensemble of 14 world-class artists who collaborate closely to present a broad spectrum of the chamber music repertoire. CCM has toured nationally, including performances at the Ravinia Festival and the Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, and internationally in Tokyo, Salzburg, and Paris, receiving many repeat engagement invitations. More than 27 million listeners have heard CCM through performances broadcast on WFMT, National Public Radio's *Performance Today*, and Minnesota Public Radio. A Chamber Music America / ASCAP winner of the Award for Adventurous Programming for its Music at the Millennium series, CCM has commissioned 10 works from John Harbison, William Russo, Bruce Adolphe and others, and has further collaborated with composers such as Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, John Corigliano, and Pierre Boulez. Mr. Boulez is CCM's Musical Advisor for contemporary programming.

The members of CCM are current and former members of prestigious ensembles such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles and Israel Philharmonics, Chicago Lyric Opera and Paris National Opera Orchestras, Music of the Baroque, Cologne Radio Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Muir Quartet, and Los Angeles Piano Quartet. The CCM musicians are on the faculties of Northwestern, DePaul and Roosevelt Universities. The Chicago String Quartet and the CCM Brass are ensembles-in-residence with CCM, and the Chicago String Quartet is also a resident quartet of the Taos School of Music in New Mexico.

CCM reaches more than 50,000 people annually in Chicago through more than 45 distinctive performance and community programs. With its hallmark combination of artistic drive and social concern, CCM has enriched the city of Chicago and established itself as a national leader in musical performance, education, and outreach.

## **Larry Combs**

Larry Combs enjoys a musical career that spans over four decades. Previously a member of the orchestras of New Orleans and Montreal, Mr. Combs joined the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1978. He has since appeared as soloist with the orchestra numerous times in music of Mozart, Debussy, Corigliano, Brahms, Berio and Copland. An avid chamber musician as well, Combs is a founding member of the Chicago Chamber Musicians and has appeared in recent seasons with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Smithsonian Chamber Ensemble. He has recorded as soloist and chamber musician on the Erato, Sony, Cedille, Crystal and Summit labels. In 1994, Combs and an ensemble comprising Daniel Barenboim and members of the orchestras of Chicago and Berlin received the Grammy award for Best Chamber Music Performance for their interpretation of the chamber music of Mozart and Beethoven.

## **Mathieu Dufour**

Mathieu Dufour became the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's principal flute in 1999, succeeding Donald Peck who retired following the 1998-1999 season. Mathieu had been principal flute soloist of the Paris National Opera Orchestra since 1996. Prior to his appointment there, he served as principal flute of the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse for three years.

A native of Paris, France, Mathieu began his flute study at the age of eight with Madeleine Chassang at the National Regional Conservatory in Paris. At the age of fourteen, he was awarded the school's gold medal by unanimous vote. He subsequently studied with Maxence Larrieu at the National Conservatory of Music in Lyon, where he was unanimously awarded first prize in 1990. Additional awards include second prize at the Jean-Pierre Rampal International Flute Competition (1990), third prize at the International Flute Competition in Budapest(1991), and second prize at the International Flute Competition in Kobe, Japan (1997).

A member of the Georges Cziffra Foundation and Juventus, Mathieu has given numerous recitals and concerts throughout Europe and Japan as part of their Young European Soloists ensemble.

### **Michael Hensch**

The 2002-2003 season marks Michael Hensch's 30th year as the Assistant Principal oboe of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Hensch appeared as a soloist with the orchestra in February 2002. He was appointed to the CSO by Sir Georg Solti in 1972, while he was still a student at Northwestern University. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music, both awarded with highest honors, while concurrently performing as a regular member of the Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra for three seasons. Mr. Hensch has been a participant in several of the most prestigious music festivals in the United States, including the Marlboro Music Festival, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, and the Carmel Bach Festival in California. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1970 as a soloist with the New York String Orchestra and during the course of his career has appeared as a soloist and chamber music player throughout North America and Europe. In 1999 and again in 2000 Mr. Hensch was engaged to perform as principal oboe of the International Festival Orchestra for concerts in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan. In 1996, Michael Hensch became the Artistic co-Director of The Chicago Chamber Musicians. He has performed with CCM since its inception and has been an ensemble artist since 1990. Mr. Hensch is credited with the original idea of a 20th century chamber music retrospective that became known as CCM's critically acclaimed Music at the Millennium series.

Mr. Hensch is currently Associate Professor of Music at the Northwestern University School of Music.

### **Dennis Michel**

Dennis Michel joined the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1998 as second bassoon after serving as principal bassoon of both the San Diego Symphony and the San Diego Opera since 1981.

In addition to his orchestral career, Dennis has been an active chamber music performer and was a founding member of the Arioso Wind Quintet, with whom he toured extensively and recorded for Koch International Classics. He also has been a featured artist at the La Jolla Chamber Music Society's Summerfest and with the Da Camera Society of Houston. He has appeared as soloist with the San Diego Symphony on numerous occasions, as well as with the San Diego Chamber Orchestra. Since joining the CSO, he has performed with the Chicago Pro Musica, The University of Chicago Contemporary Players, and regularly appears as a guest artist with the Chicago Chamber Musicians.

Dennis has performed at numerous summer festivals, including Tanglewood, the Grand Teton Festival, the Bard Festival in New York, the Flagstaff Festival, and the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival. Since 1988, he has been a faculty artist at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. His former students now hold positions in orchestras ranging from the New York Philharmonic to the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Toronto and Houston symphonies, and the Rochester Philharmonic. A native of eastern Washington, Dennis's interest in music began at an early age, listening to his father's record collection of symphonic and chamber music. As a second-grader living on a farm in northern Idaho, he heard a televised New York Philharmonic Young People's Concert which featured a bassoon soloist. That broadcast sparked a fascination with the instrument and music which continues today. Dennis earned a bachelor's degree with honors from Eastern Washington University and a master's degree from Yale University. His principal teachers include Wendal Jones and Arthur Weisberg. In 1996, he studied bassoon with Milan Turkovic at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna as a Fulbright Scholar. During that time, he also performed with the Vienna State Opera.

Dennis enjoys spending time with his wife, Peggy, a freelance oboist, and their son Hans. His hobbies include running, travel, wine, and cooking.

### **Gail Williams**

Gail Williams is an internationally recognized hornist and brass pedagogue. She has presented concerts, master classes, recitals, and lectures throughout North America, as well as in Europe and Asia. After 20 years with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Ms. Williams is in demand as a soloist, chamber musician and recording artist. She is currently principal horn of the Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra and has recently performed on a number of prestigious chamber music series. She is a founding member of the Chicago Chamber Musicians as well as the Summit Brass, an ensemble with whom she has made eight recordings.

In addition to her recordings with Summit Brass, Ms. Williams can be heard on her three solo recordings, two of which are available on Summit Records. The recordings feature compositions by Ludwig van Beethoven, John Mc Cabe, Jan Koetsier, Dana Wilson, and also works for horn and percussion by Alec Wilder and Charles Taylor.

Gail Williams is the horn professor at Northwestern University, where she has been on the faculty since 1989. Ms. Williams' awards included Ithaca College's Young Distinguished Alumni Award and honorary doctorate of music, also from Ithaca College.