

March 6, 2019

To the Board of Trustees of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra:

Below you will find the Statement of **Maestro Riccardo Muti** concerning the issues currently facing the Musicians and the Board of Trustees.

“At the end of a highly successful tour in Florida I would like to express my concern about the dramatic situation the Musicians of the great Chicago Symphony Orchestra are at this moment.

As Music Director and a musician of this orchestra, I am with the Musicians. I understand their needs and how they should be treated, and the fact that they are among the best musicians in the world.

A crisis would damage the image of the institution. The Musicians themselves, the public and the entire musical world would be surprised to see the Orchestra in trouble.

I hope before my return in a few days, everything will be settled, giving the Musicians the recognition they deserve.

I hope that the Board will remember that theirs is not a job but a mission, and that tranquility and serenity will be given for the Artists to do their work.”