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President Preckwinkle Supports the Musicians

Cook County Board President Joins Chicago Symphony musicians on the picket line

March 14, 2019 – (Chicago, IL) – Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle expressed her support today for the striking musicians of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

“I think it’s insulting that billionaires should say to ordinary working people – in this case musicians – that they have enough,” said President Preckwinkle at a press conference outside of Symphony Center, where she joined musicians on the picket line along with a crowd of fellow supporters, including the Chicago Federation of musicians and local union leaders. “I think it’s really important that we support working people in our city and surely our musicians are working people. I’m here to strongly support our musicians and the good work they do, the ways in which they enrich our lives,” added President Preckwinkle

Earlier in the week, CSO Maestro Riccardo Muti also voiced support for the Musicians: “To put the Chicago Symphony at risk does great damage to the world, musically speaking. This is a moment of crisis.”

Though recognized as the one of the world’s best orchestras and one of Chicago’s cultural crown jewels, CSO musicians have seen their compensation, retirement and health benefits stagnate, while competing orchestral associations have increased their musicians’ wages and benefits, as well as provided a housing allowance. Management’s new contract proposal would end their pension plan which the musicians say would harm younger members and as important – if not more – imperil the future of the Orchestra.

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