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Mr Jeff Alexander
President
CSO Association

Paris, April 11th, 2019

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the International Federation of Musicians and its entire membership, I wish to express our most profound concern about the CSO Association Board's proposals regarding the musicians' pension scheme and salaries.

Even in times of crisis, wise and careful management requires that priority is given to the musicians, who have made and continue to make the artistic reputation of the institution. While building the international image of an orchestra like the CSO takes decades of collective effort combined with the most exceptional individual skills and talent, inappropriate decisions can very quickly damage its attractiveness.

It is a prime responsibility for the Board and the management to protect the orchestra and its musicians as an invaluable asset, which requires long-term vision and a deep sense of dialogue.

In most capital cities with a tradition of classical music, symphony orchestras constitute a pillar of national culture and an irreplaceable service to citizens and visitors. The international musicians' community, like all music lovers in Chicago, in the United States and the rest of the world, is anxious about the options that are being considered by the CSO Association. The negative impact that such options would have on the livelihoods of both active and retired CSO musicians is incompatible with the image of absolute excellence that this orchestra has patiently and relentlessly built since its foundation, more than 125 years ago.

In light of the above, we urge you to use your influence to ensure that the Board adopts a more reasonable position, thus allowing the CSO to preserve its reputation as one of the most emblematic orchestras worldwide.

Yours sincerely,

Benoît Machuel
General Secretary