FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO COMPOSERS ORCHESTRA TO PERFORM THREE WORLD PREMIERES INCLUDING TOMEKA REID AS COMPOSER AND CELLO SOLOIST AND A PERFORMANCE OF ADDRESS FOR ORCHESTRA BY PULITZER PRIZE WINNING COMPOSER GEORGE WALKER.

Chicago, Illinois (December 20, 2017) – Chicago Composers Orchestra (CCO), along with their Music Director Allen Tinkham, presents CCO & Tomeka Reid: Jazz, Electronics & Brand New Music on Sunday, January 14, 2018, 8:30 P.M. at Constellation Chicago, 3111 N. Western Avenue. Featured that evening will be Tomeka Reid, who will join CCO as both composer and performer for the World Premiere of her work entitled Essay No. 1. Also on the program are two additional world premieres by fellow Chicago based composers, Lawrence Axelrod and Beth Bradfish. CCO will also perform a work by the first African American to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Music, George Walker.

Tomeka Reid is a Chicago based cellist, composer and educator, who has been described by Howard Reich of the Chicago Tribune as “a remarkably versatile player.” Equally adept in classical and jazz contexts, Ms. Reid predominantly finds herself in experimental and improvisatory settings and composes for a wide range of instrumentation, from big band to chamber ensemble. Ms. Reid’s music combines her love for groove along with freer concepts. Her commission for Chicago Composers Orchestra, Essay No. 1 represents her first composition with an instrumentation for flute, bassoon, trombone, tuba, percussion, and strings with amplified solo cello. The work features sections of improvisation for the solo and ensemble, weaving in blues form at the end.

Lawrence Axelrod is a composer, pianist and conductor, whose musical activities have taken him around the United States, Europe, South Africa and New Zealand. He has had works performed by Chicago Composers Orchestra, Palomar, Ensemble Dal Niente, Pinotage, Lincoln Trio, Duo Ahlert & Schwab, and Ensemble JungeMusik Berlin in recent seasons. In November, 2014, CCO presented two of Mr. Axelrod’s Brandenburg Fantasias. On this program CCO will perform the World Premiere of his Brown Line.

Beth Bradfish explores contemporary acoustic and electronic sounds as a composer and sound artist with a focus on creating environments where the audience is free to move through the sound and experience it with more than their ears. She is a member of Chicago Composers’ Consortium and has taught as an artist in residence at the School of the Art Institute Chicago. Ms. Bradfish currently holds a Field/Work residency with the Chicago Artists Coalition. CCO will perform the World Premiere of her new work, Fanfare with Singing Insects of South Pond, Lincoln Park that features fixed electronics, and audience participation with a sound file download.
George Walker was born in Washington D.C. in 1922, and went on to study at Oberlin Conservatory and the Curtis Institute of Music where he was the first African American graduate of the school. As a professional musician he continued to be a trailblazer when he was awarded the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in Music. On this program CCO will present Walker's 1958 work entitled Address for Orchestra.

Chicago Composers Orchestra’s Music Director Allen Tinkham is recognized as one of the most gifted conductors and teachers of his generation. He is hailed by The Chicago Tribune as one of Chicago’s most important “educators, mentors and inspirational guides in the training of tomorrow’s orchestral professionals,” working “wonders” in concerts performed at a “professional level.”

Tinkham has won nine ASCAP Awards for the Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music with CYSO, and has premiered many works with CYSO of such composers as Daron Aric Hagen, Gabriel Prokofiev, Augusta Read Thomas, and Marc-Anthony Turnage.

Other recent guest appearances include the Colorado Symphony and the Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He is also on faculty at the New York Summer Music Festival and the Columbia College of Chicago, and is in high demand as a guest conductor and teacher, having conducted at All-State festival orchestras and summer festivals across the country.

Prior to his appointment in Chicago, Tinkham served as Apprentice Conductor of the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, where he mentored under Music Director James DePreist. He also served for many years as a cover conductor at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Tinkham received the Bachelor of Music with Distinction in a Double Major of Theory and Double Bass from the Eastman School of Music and a Master of Music from the University of Michigan in Orchestral Conducting. Tinkham’s principal teachers include David Effron, Murry Sidlin, and Kenneth Kiesler. He has also studied with David Zinman and James DePreist.

The Chicago Composers Orchestra (CCO) is a 40-member concert orchestra that performs and advocates for contemporary music. The CCO presents the music of living composers; takes risks in order to innovate and cultivate musical creativity; and engages listeners through vibrant, imaginative, affordable, and welcoming programs. Launched in 2010 by a team of performers, composers, and community members, the CCO has since produced over 35 concerts and educational programs, worked with over 45 living composers, and presented over 35 world premieres. Visit their website at http://www.chicagocomposersorchestra.org/.

“...CCO fills a gaping void on the local music scene and serves a crucial, much-needed mission in Chicago.” - Lawrence A. Johnson, Chicago Classical Review

WEB: http://www.chicagocomposersorchestra.org/may-13-hymn-to-humanity/
TICKETS: General Admission $15-$20
This show is for ages 18 and over.

For press inquiries, please email Kathryn Bacasmot at kathryn.bacasmot@chicagocomposersorchestra.org

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