



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago proudly recognizes and celebrates Blake-Anthony Johnson, President & CEO of Chicago Sinfonietta whose leadership, vision, and dedication contribute to the enrichment of our cultural institutions and the advancement of artistic diversity; and

WHEREAS, over the past five seasons, your remarkable leadership and transformative contributions to the Chicago Sinfonietta have elevated it to unprecedented heights, redefining what is possible in classical music and leaving an indelible mark on Chicago's cultural landscape; and

WHEREAS, under your visionary guidance, the Chicago Sinfonietta has flourished—doubling in size, tripling its impact, and pioneering groundbreaking initiatives that include launching new fellowships, establishing the Artist-in-Residence program, exploring the symphonic metaverse, and introducing the nationally embraced Pay-What-You-Can ticketing model; and

WHEREAS, these extraordinary efforts have strengthened the organization's mission to champion artistic diversity, elevate women and BIPOC composers, and inspire audiences and musicians for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, your ability to connect with diverse communities has ensured that symphonic music reflects the stories and experiences of all people, and the milestones achieved under your leadership—including moving into a new concert hall, embarking on a successful tour, and receiving national acclaim—stand as a testament to your unparalleled vision; and

WHEREAS, beyond your professional achievements, your role as a Chicagoan, neighbor, and friend has enriched our city in countless ways, from serving on the Mayor's Cultural Advisory Council to supporting international relations between Chicago and Canada, exemplifying your commitment to strengthening our city's global and cultural connections; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago expresses its immense gratitude for your extraordinary service to the arts and the people of Chicago and wishes you continued success in the next chapter of your journey:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRANDON JOHNSON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby recognize your transformative contributions to the Chicago Sinfonietta and the City of Chicago and your unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive and vibrant cultural institution and offer best wishes for your future endeavors, may your legacy continue to inspire generations to come.

Dated this 18th day of December, 2024.

A blue ink signature of Brandon Johnson, Mayor of Chicago, written over a horizontal line.

Mayor