

Year of the Woodwinds invited artist

Larry Combs

Clarinet



Larry Combs joined the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1974 and was appointed principal clarinet by Sir Georg Solti in 1978. He has since appeared as soloist with the Orchestra on numerous occasions in works by Copland, Mozart, Brahms-Berio, Debussy, Corigliano and Rouse. He also has been featured many times on CSO tour concerts performing Morton Gould's arrangement of "Chicago" for clarinet and orchestra.

An avid chamber musician, Combs is a founding member of the Chicago Chamber Musicians, and he has appeared with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Smithsonian Chamber Ensemble. His notable chamber music experiences include joining then CSO Music Director Daniel Barenboim and cellist Yo-Yo Ma in Brahms' *Trio in A Minor* at Orchestra Hall in 1996 and performances at the Ravinia Festival with former Music Director Christoph Eschenbach.

In 2002, he received his second Grammy Award for his recording of Richard Strauss' *Duett-Concertino* with CSO Principal Bassoon David McGill and Daniel Barenboim conducting the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. His recent recording of music for winds and strings by Mozart with the Chicago Chamber Musicians was nominated for a 2006 Grammy Award. Combs also has recorded as soloist and chamber musician on the Erato, Sony, Cedille, Crystal and Summit labels.

Prior to joining the Chicago Symphony, Combs was a member of the New Orleans and Montreal orchestras and of the Santa Fe Opera. In 2008, Mr. Combs retired after 34 years with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.