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**ICO Awards Committee**

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**Illinois Council of Orchestras Announces Annual Awards**

The Illinois Council of Orchestras is pleased to announce the 2016 recipients of its annual awards for excellence in the field of music performance and for support of musical organizations. An awards panel of judges drawn from the Illinois Council of Orchestras Board of Directors and independent professional musicians reviewed nominations representing orchestras, youth orchestras, and chamber ensembles from throughout Illinois.

**The 2016 ICO Awards:**

**Professional Orchestra of the Year**

Elgin Symphony Orchestra  
Andrew Grams, Music Director

**Community Orchestra of the Year**

Lakeview Orchestra  
Gregory Hughes, Artistic Director

**Youth Orchestra of the Year**

Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra  
Allen Tinkham, Music Director

**Conductor of the Year (professional orchestra category)**

Steven Larsen, Music Director  
Rockford Symphony Orchestra

**Conductor of the Year (community orchestra category)**

Gregory Hughes, Artistic Director  
Lakeview Orchestra

**Executive Director or General Manager of the Year**

Laura Evancho, Executive Director  
Heartland Festival Orchestra

**Guild of the Year**

Friends of the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra

**Volunteer of the Year**

Taylor Scott  
Lakeview Orchestra

The Illinois Council of Orchestras was founded in 1974 with a mission:

- to encourage, promote, and assist orchestras throughout the State of Illinois
- to promote an exchange of information among members, including providing consultants and speakers
- to hold educational conferences for member organizations, including musicians, staff, boards, volunteers, and audiences.

Presentation of the ICO Awards will take place during March through July 2016 at local concerts and other events of the winning orchestras.

Information about the Illinois Council of Orchestras is available at: [www.ilcouncilorchestras.org](http://www.ilcouncilorchestras.org)



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