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INTIMATE CONVERSATION WITH ITZHAK PERLMAN

Free and Open to the Public

***Presented by Harris Theater in Partnership with
Access Living***

**Mr. Perlman To Be Awarded Presidential Medal of
Freedom at White House, November 24**



CHICAGO – On **January 6, 2016** at 12PM, the **Harris Theater for Music and Dance** will present Grammy and Emmy award-winner **Itzhak Perlman** conducting the **Juilliard Orchestra** in their first Chicago appearance in 10 years. Treasured by audiences throughout the world for his remarkable artistry, Mr. Perlman, who contracted polio at age four, is also one of the most important and committed advocates for accessibility, and a source of inspiration for young musicians with and without disabilities.

As part of this highly-anticipated engagement, Mr. Perlman will participate in an intimate conversation with **Marca Bristo, President and CEO of Access Living**, about access, the arts, and shifting attitudes toward disability throughout his extraordinary life and career.

This conversation will be **free and open to the public** and will serve as a platform to discuss the importance of accessibility, here in Chicago and around the world. Access Living and the Harris Theater are thrilled to partner around this community outreach initiative as a part of ADA25, a celebration of the

25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Following this meaningful talk will be a performance at 7:30pm at the Harris Theater.

“Access Living is a powerful voice for people in the Chicago area who live with disabilities,” said Itzhak Perlman. “I am honored to work with this organization and the Harris Theater to continue to increase the visibility of the disability rights movement.”

Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Itzhak Perlman enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. **This year Mr. Perlman has been honored by President Barack Obama with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, for his incredible dedication to the arts and for being an important voice on behalf of persons with disabilities. He is being honored alongside other major contributors to the arts including Steven Spielberg, Barbra Streisand, Stephen Sondheim and James Taylor.** Having performed with every major orchestra and at venerable concert halls around the globe, Itzhak Perlman was granted a Kennedy Center Honor in 2003 by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in celebration of his distinguished achievements and contributions to the cultural and educational life of the United States. He has performed multiple times at the White House, most recently in 2012 at the invitation of President Barack Obama and Mrs. Obama, for Israeli President and Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree Shimon Peres; and at a State Dinner in 2007, hosted by President George W. Bush and Mrs. Bush, for Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. In 2009, Mr. Perlman was honored to take part in the Inauguration of President Obama, premiering a piece written for the occasion by John Williams alongside cellist Yo-Yo Ma, clarinetist Anthony McGill and pianist Gabriela Montero, for an audience of nearly 40 million television viewers in the United States and millions more throughout the world.

“Mr. Perlman's leadership and example have opened new doors for inclusion in the arts and physical access to the arts,” said Marca Bristo, President & CEO of Access Living. “We are thrilled to partner with Harris Theater for this wonderful opportunity to hear Mr. Perlman talk about his commitment to inclusion and to see him conduct on stage.”

A pioneer of Chicago’s disability rights movement and a former patient of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, Marca Bristo helped launch Access Living, one of the country’s first ten centers for independent living. Since 1980, Access Living has provided peer services and advocacy to over 40,000 people with disabilities, and it has won systemic improvements in housing public schools, public transportation, public access and long-term care.

Single tickets for Itzhak Perlman with Juilliard Orchestra now available at www.HarrisTheaterChicago.org or by calling the Harris Theater Box Office at 312.334.7777.

••• All programs, prices, and dates are subject to change •••

Partnership:

The Harris Theater is proud to partner with ADA 25 Chicago in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act with this performance. Itzhak Perlman with Juilliard Orchestra presented in partnership with Access Living.

Sponsorship

This performance is made possible with support from ADA25, Contributing Sponsor.

The Northern Trust Company is the Harris Theater's 2015–2016 season sponsor. United Airlines is the Official Airline of the Harris Theater. Hyatt Regency Chicago is the Harris Theater's season hotel partner. The Theater gratefully acknowledges the Irving Harris Foundation for its leadership support of the Presenting Fund. The Harris Theater is partially supported by the Illinois Arts Council Agency. All performances take place on the Elizabeth Morse Genius Stage at the Harris Theater.

About Harris Theater for Music and Dance

The Harris Theater's mission is to partner with an array of Chicago's emerging and midsize performing arts organizations to help them build infrastructure and achieve artistic growth and long-term organizational sustainability. Opened on November 8, 2003, the Harris Theater for Music and Dance was the first multi-use performing arts venue to be built in the Chicago downtown area since 1929. Today the Theater continues to host the most diverse offerings of any venue in Chicago, featuring the city's world-renowned music and dance institutions and the *Harris Theater Presents* series of acclaimed national and international artists and ensembles.

Imagine: The Campaign for Harris Theater, is a \$38.8M comprehensive fundraising effort supporting the Theater's multifaceted mission. The campaign ensures the continued growth and artistic development of the Harris Theater over the next 10 years.

The *Imagine* campaign is led by four transformational gifts: from The Irving Harris Foundation, Joan W. Harris; Alexandra and John Nichols; Chauncey and Marion D. McCormick Family Foundation, Abby McCormick O'Neil and D. Carroll Joynes; Caryn and King Harris, The Harris Family Foundation. Additional leadership gifts supporting programmatic and capital projects have been generously funded by The Crown Family, Jay Franke and David Herro, Jack and Sandra Guthman, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Neisser Family Foundation, The Northern Trust Company, Christine and Glenn Kelly, Laura and Ricardo Rosenkranz, and Marilyn and David J. Vitale.

The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust and Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust are the lead underwriters of fundraising for *Imagine: The Campaign for Harris Theater*.

The Harris Theater maintains a commitment to engaging Chicago residents of all ages and communities. Programs like the popular *Eat to the Beat* and *Exelon Family Series* advance access to, and understanding of, the performing arts. The Theater partners with health and human service agencies, K-12 schools, and community arts organizations, providing more than 8,800 underwritten performance tickets through the *Access Tickets Program* since 2009. The Theater also connects gifted young artists and students to presented artists through master classes, artist talks, and other enrichment activities.

To learn more about the Harris Theater, please visit HarrisTheaterChicago.org. Call the Box Office at 312.334.7777 to request a brochure or additional information.

The Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago's state-of-the-art 1,525-seat performance venue, can also be found on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Access Living

Established in 1980, Access Living is a change agent committed to fostering an inclusive society that enables Chicagoans with disabilities to live fully-engaged and self-directed lives. Nationally recognized as a leading force in the disability advocacy community, Access Living challenges stereotypes, protects

civil rights and champions social reform. Their staff and volunteers combine knowledge and personal experience to deliver programs and services that equip people with disabilities to advocate for themselves. Access Living is at the forefront of the disability rights movement, removing barriers so people with disabilities can live the future they envision.

