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Chicago Children's Choir President and Artistic Director, Josephine Lee, to Receive the Kennedy Center's National Committee for the Performing Arts Award for Arts Advocacy
Biannual award recognizes individuals who have dramatically affected the performing arts landscape through their arts advocacy.

CHICAGO – Chicago Children's Choir (CCC) President and Artistic Director Josephine Lee will be presented the 2018 John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts National Committee for the Performing Arts (NCPA) Award for Arts Advocacy at their annual meeting in Chicago. The award recognizes individuals who have dramatically affected the performing arts landscape through their arts advocacy efforts and passion for supporting the arts in schools, communities, and everyday lives. Josephine will accept the award this evening at the Chicago Yacht Club alongside a performance from CCC members.

"Watching our programs grow year after year and witnessing firsthand the overwhelming impact our mission has on each individual student and on the community at large is what fuels my passion to create change through the arts. I'm humbled to be recognized for these efforts," said Josephine Lee, President and Artistic Director of Chicago Children's Choir. "It is truly an honor to receive this award, and I am grateful to the Kennedy Center for their continued work in recognizing those who strive to impact the arts community."

The award comes at a pivotal time for Josephine and for CCC, an organization which *Chicago Tribune* critic Howard Reich recently described as "indispensable". Through continued community engagement and musical excellence, Josephine is expanding CCC's reach throughout Chicago while ensuring that opportunities with the choir are more accessible to students across the city. The NCPA award for Arts Advocacy is presented biannually in culturally rich cities throughout the country. Lee joins a long list of esteemed honorees, including Marcello Angelini, Rena Blades, Dale Chihuly, Tod Machover and Candy Schneider.

"In all my years living in Chicago, I was deeply moved by, and proud of, the truly outstanding work of the Chicago Children's Choir under Josephine Lee. As the nation's cultural center, one

of the Kennedy Center’s goals is to uplift citizen artists—those who create positive social change through their art,” said Deborah F. Rutter, Kennedy Center President and former head of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. “Through her exceptional leadership of the Children’s Choir of Chicago, Josephine embodies the spirit of citizen artistry, uniting young people across the city, using music to create global citizens, and bringing pure joy to both her young musicians and their audiences. In bestowing the National Committee for the Arts Award for Arts Advocacy, the Kennedy Center celebrates all that Josephine does as a catalyst for good through the arts.”

Located in Washington D.C. with programs nationwide, the Kennedy Center is the nation’s cultural center and the living memorial to President Kennedy. The NCPA was established in 1993 as an organization to support, enhance and advocate national arts education through the Kennedy Center. Comprised of business, cultural, political and philanthropic leaders from across America who are supporters of the performing arts, NCPA members serve as ambassadors for the Kennedy Center in their home communities and are instrumental in spreading artistic vision across the country.

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About Chicago Children’s Choir

Founded as a single choir in Hyde Park at the height of the Civil Rights Movement in 1956, today Chicago Children’s Choir serves more than 4,800 youth who represent all 57 Chicago zip codes. Founder Reverend Christopher Moore believed in using music to unite youth from diverse backgrounds. That simple yet powerful mission has grown exponentially, with programs in 86 city schools, 10 neighborhoods, a choir for boys with changing voices, and the world-renowned Voice of Chicago. Under the leadership of President and Artistic Director Josephine Lee, Chicago Children’s Choir’s mission has been elevated to a world stage, using music to create global citizens and revolutionizing the youth choral arts.