



The first African American executive to guide a nationally renowned orchestra, Blake-Anthony Johnson has served as Chief Executive Officer of the award-winning Chicago Sinfonietta since May 2020. A civically engaged and transformational leader, Mr. Johnson focuses on community-centric, multi-disciplinary, and educational initiatives that enable cultural institutions to provide equitable access and public service to all. Appointed President & CEO in April 2022, Johnson has been universally recognized and applauded for his civic engagement & transformational leadership.

An active member of numerous organizational boards and committees, including The Sir Georg Solti Foundation U.S., the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events (in various roles) the Steering Committee of Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative, the the Cultural Arts Council for the City of Chicago, and the League of American Orchestras' EDI Orchestra Management Committee, Mr. Johnson is also an accomplished musician, and is a former professional cellist and

protégé of Michael Tilson Thomas at New World Symphony. A champion of arts education, Mr. Johnson is a member of the Faculty at Roosevelt University's Chicago Conservatory of Performing Arts.

Mr. Johnson has established a reputation for advancing the arts with innovative ideas (his Pay-What-You-Can Program at Chicago Sinfonietta, introduced this season, and praised by *The New York Times* when announced, continues to be a frontrunner in the field, inspiring other organizations to adopt this practice nationwide). He also launched the Artist-in-Residence initiative and has expanded the flagship Project Inclusion Freeman Fellowship program.

Mr. Johnson's former posts include two terms on the National Endowment for the Arts Music Panel; Assistant Personnel Manager, Spoleto Music Festival USA; Director of Learning and Community, Louisville Orchestra; and as an Arts Advisory Council Member in Louisville, Kentucky.