CLIFF COLNOT LEADS CIVIC ORCHESTRA OF CHICAGO IN SHOSTAKOVICH’S SYMPHONY NO. 9 AND RECENT WORK BY AUGUSTA READ THOMAS

Civic Concert Marks Colnot’s Final Podium Appearance with the Orchestra

Monday, February 29 at 8 p.m.

CHICAGO—Civic Orchestra of Chicago’s Principal Conductor Cliff Colnot, who concludes his tenure with the Orchestra at the end of the 2015/16 season after 22 years, marks his final podium appearance with the Civic at its concert on Monday, February 29, at 8 p.m. The program features Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 9 and EOS (Goddess of a Dawn), a 2014 work by former CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Augusta Read Thomas.

Opening the program is Augusta Read Thomas’ EOS (Goddess of a Dawn), which she calls a “Ballet for Orchestra.” Written in 2014 and premiered in February 2015 by the Utah Symphony under the direction of Thierry Fischer, the work is inspired by the myth of the Greek goddess Eos and is divided into seven rhythmically colorful movements. Thomas wrote this work in honor of the CSO’s former Helen Regenstein Conductor Emeritus Pierre Boulez, who passed away in January 2016. While serving as Mead Composer-in-Residence during the tenure of Music Director Daniel Barenboim, three of Thomas’ works were premiered by the CSO’s then Principal Guest Conductor Pierre Boulez, who was a long-time champion of her music.

The program continues with Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 9, which was originally expected to be a commemoration of the Soviet victory in WWII praising Russia’s greatness and instead displays a very different quality from his so-called “war” symphonies. The work is abstract and witty, exposing the composer’s growing discontent with Stalinist Russia. To conclude the concert, members of the Civic will perform an encore of Stravinsky’s Concerto in D for string orchestra in honor of Cliff Colnot’s exceptional contribution to the Civic Orchestra.

Grammy® award winning composer Augusta Read Thomas has become known as one of America’s most important contemporary composers, having her work performed frequently with major orchestras across America and Europe. Thomas was the longest serving Mead Composer-in-Residence for the CSO, serving from 1997 to 2006, during which time she had a central role in launching the MusicNOW series, and premiered nine commissioned works.
Thomas is also a respected educator, teaching at Eastman, Northwestern, the University of Chicago, Tanglewood and Aspen Music Festival.

Cliff Colnot has served as Principal Conductor of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago for 20 years. He has also served as Principal Conductor of the CSO’s acclaimed MusicNOW series since its inception. Colnot conducts Contempo at the University of Chicago, orchestras at Indiana University, and is on faculty at DePaul University where he conducts the Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. An accomplished arranger, Colnot has scored music for a wide range of genres from pop and jazz to classical, some of which has been performed by the CSO, the English Chamber Orchestra, and artists including Richard Marx, Phil Ramone, Hugh Jackman, and Leann Rimes, among others.

All Civic Orchestra of Chicago performances at Symphony Center are free, but tickets are required. Seating is general admission and there is a nonrefundable $5 per ticket service for all performance. There is a maximum of six tickets allowed per concert, per household.

Ticket reservations for Civic Orchestra of Chicago performances at Symphony Center can be made online at cso.org, in person at the CSO box office at 220 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL or by phone at 312-294-3000.

Civic Orchestra performances are sponsored in part by a generous grant from the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

For more information about the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, visit cso.org/civic.

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Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Monday, February 29, 2016 at 8 p.m.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago

Cliff Colnot, conductor

THOMAS EOS (Goddess of Dawn), a Ballet for Orchestra

SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 9 in E-flat Major, Op. 70

Free and open to the public; tickets are required. Per ticket service fee applies. There is a maximum of six tickets allowed per concert, per household. Reservations can be made online at cso.org, in person at the CSO box office at 220 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL or via phone at 312-294-3000.
Cliff Colnot
In the past decade, Cliff Colnot has emerged as a distinguished conductor and a musician of uncommon range.

One of few musicians to have studied orchestral repertory with Daniel Barenboim, Colnot has served as assistant conductor for Barenboim’s West-Eastern Divan Workshops for young musicians from Israel, Egypt, Syria, and other Middle Eastern countries. Colnot has also worked extensively with Pierre Boulez and has served as assistant conductor to Boulez at the Lucerne Festival Academy. He regularly conducts the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), with whom he recorded Richard Wernick’s *The Name of the Game for Bridge Records*, and he collaborates regularly with the internationally acclaimed contemporary music ensemble *eighth blackbird*. Colnot has been principal conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s contemporary MusicNOW series since its inception and is principal conductor of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, an orchestra he has conducted since 1994. Colnot also conducts Contempo at the University of Chicago, the DePaul University Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, and orchestras at Indiana University. He has appeared as a guest conductor with the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra, the American Composers Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Utah Symphony, and Ancora Chamber Orchestra.

Colnot is also a master arranger. His orchestration of Shulamit Ran’s *Three Fantasy Pieces for Cello and Piano* was recorded by the English Chamber Orchestra. For the chamber orchestra of the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival, Colnot has arranged the Adagio from Mahler’s *Symphony No. 10*, Schoenberg’s *Pelleas and Melisande* (both published by Universal) and Manuel De Falla’s *Three Cornered Hat*. For ICE and Julia Bentley, Colnot arranged Olivier Messiaen’s *Chants de Terre et de Ciel* for chamber orchestra and mezzo-soprano, also published by Universal. For members of the Yellow Barn Music Festival, Colnot arranged Shulamit Ran’s *Soliloquy for Violin, Cello, and Piano*, to be published by Theodore Presser. Colnot recently re-orchestrated the Bottesini *Concerto No. 2 in B Minor for Double Bass*, correcting many errors in existing editions and providing a more viable performance version. He has also been commissioned to write works for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Percussion Scholarship Group. His orchestration of Duke Ellington’s *New World Coming* was premiered by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with Daniel Barenboim as piano soloist in 2000, and Colnot also arranged, conducted, and co-produced the CD *Tribute to Ellington* featuring Barenboim at the piano. He wrote music for the MGM/UA motion picture *Hoodlum* and has written for rock-and-roll, pop, and jazz artists Richard Marx, Phil Ramone, Hugh Jackman, Leann Rimes, SheDaisy, Patricia Barber, Emerson Drive, and Brian Culbertson.

Colnot graduated with honors from Florida State University and in 1995 received the Ernst von Dohnányi Certificate of Excellence. He has also received the prestigious Alumni Merit Award from Northwestern University, where he earned his doctorate. In 2001 the *Chicago Tribune* named Cliff Colnot a “Chicagoan of the Year” in music, and in 2005 he received the William Hall Sherwood Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Arts. He has studied with master jazz teacher David Bloom and has taught jazz arranging at DePaul University and film scoring at Columbia College. He also teaches advanced orchestration at the University of Chicago. As a bassoonist, he was a member of the Lyric Opera Orchestra of Chicago, Music of the Baroque, and the Contemporary Chamber Players.

Civic Orchestra of Chicago
Since 1919, young artists have sought membership in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago to develop their talents and to further prepare for careers as professional musicians. Founded by Frederick Stock, second music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra is the only training orchestra of its kind affiliated with a major American orchestra.

The Civic Orchestra offers promising young professional musicians unique access to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra through hands-on training experiences with the musicians of the CSO and some of today’s most sought-after conductors, including world-renowned CSO Music Director Riccardo Muti. Under the guidance of principal conductor Cliff Colnot and CSO Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma, Civic Orchestra musicians develop as exceptional orchestral players and engaged artists, cultivating their ability to succeed in the rapidly evolving world of music in the twenty-first century.
The importance of the Civic Orchestra’s role in greater Chicago is underscored by its commitment to present concerts of the highest quality at no charge to the public. In addition to the critically acclaimed live concerts at Symphony Center, Civic Orchestra performances can be heard locally on WFMT (98.7 FM) and by nearly three million listeners in nationally syndicated radio broadcasts on 160 broadcast outlets in 30 states. These are made possible through a generous gift from the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation.

Since 1997, the Civic Orchestra has provided its members opportunities to develop as teachers, advocates, and ambassadors for using the power of music to contribute to our culture, our communities, and the lives of others. The Civic musicians expand their creative, professional, and artistic boundaries through educational performances at Chicago Public Schools and a series of innovative chamber concerts at various locations throughout the city including Chicago Park District field houses, the National Museum of Mexican Art and Zhou B Art Center.

The Civic Orchestra's long history of presenting full orchestra performances without charge includes concerts at the South Shore Cultural Center (in partnership with the South Shore Advisory Council), the Apostolic Church of God, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School and the New Regal Theater.

The Civic Orchestra is a signature program of the Negaunee Music Institute at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The Negaunee Institute offers a wide range of youth, community, and education programs that engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages, incomes and backgrounds. Through the programs of the Institute as well as projects at schools and community venues that are initiated by CSO musicians and a free annual concert with Riccardo Muti and the CSO, the CSO champions the extraordinary power of music to create connections and build community.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [www.cso.org and www.csosoundsandstories.org]

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the preeminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Yo-Yo Ma is the CSO’s Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, and Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek are its Mead Composers-in-Residence.

From baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast repertoire. Its renowned musicians annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally. Since 1892, the CSO has made 58 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

People around the globe listen to weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT radio network and online at cso.org/radio. Recordings by the CSO have earned 62 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti’s recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi’s Messa da Requiem (Muti’s first of four releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at www.cso.org/resound.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a training ensemble for emerging professionals. Through its prestigious Symphony Center Presents series, the CSOA presents guest artists and ensembles from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, world, and contemporary.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers community and education programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, including a free annual concert with Muti and the CSO, the CSO is committed to using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO. The CSO’s music director position is endowed in perpetuity.
by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.