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FINAL MusicNOW 2015/16 SERIES CONCERT INCLUDES WORLD PREMIERE OF LIGHT READINGS BY CSO MEAD COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE SAMUEL ADAMS

Program Also Includes Qasim Naqvi’s Fjoloy and Tristan Perich’s Surface Image

June 6, at 7 p.m. at the Harris Theater

CHICAGO—The final program of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s (CSO) 2015/16 MusicNOW series takes place Monday, June 6, at 7 p.m., at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park (205 E. Randolph Dr., Chicago). Curated by the CSO’s Mead Composers-in-Residence Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek, the series finale features three works that are concerned with expansiveness and musical color, as well as uses of digital technology.

The program includes the world premiere of Light Readings, a MusicNOW commission by CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Samuel Adams, and the U.S. premiere of Qasim Naqvi’s choral work Fjoloy both featuring singers from Northwestern University’s Bienen Contemporary/Early Music Vocal Ensemble led by the group’s conductor Donald Nally. After a brief intermission, the audience is invited to return for the closing work on the program, Tristan Perich’s Surface Image, a monumental 60-minute work for piano and 40-channel 1-bit electronics performed by pianist Vicky Chow, a member of the Bang on a Can All-Stars.

Qasim Naqvi’s three-movement vocal exploration, Fjoloy, opens the evening. Originally composed as a score for a Norwegian video installation by artists Mariam Ghani and Erin Kelly, Fjoloy utilizes a group of singers who each follow a monophonic synthesizer track, pulled from an analog Arp Odyssey synthesizer, via headphones. Communicating with the conductor through a system of symbols rather than a traditional score, the singers can remain undistracted by the tight and frequently microtonal harmonies surrounding them, creating an intriguing and unexpected choral sound.
Pakistani composer Qasim Naqvi is a musician of multiple talents who started his career as a drummer, most notably for the band Dawn of Midi. Naqvi received a Masters in Composition and Performance from the California Institute of The Arts, and has since gone on to compose film music for the Sundance Channel, HBO, PBS, NBC, and the Academy Awards.

The program continues with the world premiere of Adams’ Light Readings, an 11-movement work scored for eight musicians and 25 vocalists, including piano prepared with a transducer speaker used to create sine wave resonance. Text for the new work is drawn from the five poems of Friedrich Rückert which were set in Gustav Mahler’s song cycle Kindertotenlieder, and from Hasan Ibn al-Haytham’s Book of Optics, an eleventh-century scientific text that explored visual perception and the physics of light. The movements alternately feature the full vocal ensemble and a smaller SATB subset of singers, supported throughout by sustaining, low-register instruments and pitched percussion. Conductor Donald Nally leads musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and guests, as well as the Bienen Contemporary/Early Vocal Ensemble in this performance that represents a first-time artistic collaboration between the groups for MusicNOW.

California native Samuel Adams studied composition and electroacoustic music at Stanford University, and later obtained a Masters in Composition from Yale. Adams was recently awarded a Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellowship for the summer of 2017, while his upcoming projects include collaborations with Emanuel Ax, Spektral Quartet, and the Australian Chamber Orchestra, as well the world premiere of his CSO-commissioned work for full orchestra in the CSO’s 2016/17 season.

Tristan Perich is a composer whose art lies at the crossroads of mathematics and music, employing electronics, physics, and code in much of his work. Perich’s 2004 release of 1-Bit Music broke ground as the first-ever microchip album, playing back 40 minutes of low-fi 1-bit electronic music through a headphone jack in the side of the CD case. Perich continues to create innovative and provocative art in multiple mediums, from art installations, to machine-generated drawings, to music composed with hand-made electronics—something of a trademark for the composer. Surface Image follows this lead as a composition for solo piano and 1-bit electronics wired to 40 channels of on-stage speakers. The work was commissioned by pianist Vicky Chow of New York’s Bang on a Can All-Stars and later premiered by her in February of 2013. Chow has been called a “new star of new music” (Los Angeles Times), playing with such ensembles as Grand Band, The Virgil Moorefield Pocket Orchestra, and New Music Detroit, and premiering works from such composers as Steve Reich (Piano Conterpoint, North America premiere) and John Zorn (The Aristas, world premiere).

Following each MusicNOW concert, the audience is invited to enjoy a post-concert reception with the artists with complimentary refreshments including pizza provided by Lou Malnati’s Pizzeria and beer provided by Revolution Brewing Company.
Tickets for all MusicNOW concerts can be purchased by phone at 800-223-7114 or 312-294-3000; online at cso.org, or at the Symphony Center box office: 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

Discounted student tickets for select concerts can be purchased, subject to availability, online in advance or at the box office on the day of the concert. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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Symphony Center Presents  
MusicNOW  
Harris Theater for Music and Dance  
205 E. Randolph Drive, Chicago

Monday, June 6, 2016, 7:00 p.m.  
Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
Samuel Adams, Mead Composer-in-Residence  
Elizabeth Ogonek, Mead Composer-in-Residence  
The Bienen Contemporary/Early Vocal Ensemble  
Donald Nally, conductor  
Vicky Chow, piano

NAQVI  
SAMUEL ADAMS  
PERICH

Fjoloy  
Light Readings  
(MusicNOW Commission)  
Surface Image

Tickets: $25, General Admission  
$10, Students

CSO Mead Composers-in-Residence:

Samuel Adams  
Elizabeth Ogonek

Featured composers, conductor and ensemble for June 6, 2016 program:

Qasim Ali Naqvi  
Tristan Perich  
Donald Nally  
The Bienen Contemporary/Early Vocal Ensemble  
Vicky Chow
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 59 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
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