NUVEEN INVESTMENTS EMERGING ARTIST DAVID AFKHAM MAKES SUBSCRIPTION DEBUT WITH THE CSO IN PROGRAM OF WORKS BY BEETHOVEN AND SHOSTAKOVICH

Emanuel Ax is Soloist in Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 1 and Marks 40th Anniversary of CSO Debut in Upcoming Performances

October 20, 21, and 22

CHICAGO—Conductor David Afkham returns to Symphony Center in his subscription debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) for concerts on Thursday, October 20, at 8:00 p.m., Friday, October 21, at 1:30 p.m., and Saturday, October 22, at 8:00 p.m. The program includes Shostakovich’s monumental Symphony No. 10 in E Minor and Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major with Emanuel Ax as soloist. Ax celebrates the 40th anniversary of his CSO debut in these performances which also launch the CSO’s season-long survey of the complete Beethoven piano concertos. Afkham’s CSO appearances in October are endowed in part by the Nuveen Investments Emerging Artist Fund, which is committed to nurturing the next generation of great classical music artists.

The program opens with Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major. One of the most familiar works in the keyboard repertoire, it was performed by the composer at its premiere in 1798 and utilized a larger orchestra than previous piano concertos, complete with trumpets, horns and timpani. Demanding great virtuosity from the soloist, Beethoven’s First Piano Concerto opens with grand and expansive themes in its Allegro con brio movement which gives way to an elegant Largo section and concludes with a sparkling and playful Rondo finale. Completing the program is Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 10. With its powerful brass chorales, satirical waltzes and a thrilling finale, the Tenth Symphony presents a riveting portrait of the Stalin era in Communist Russia and premiered following Stalin’s death in 1953.

A native of Freiburg, Germany, David Afkham is Principal Conductor of the Spanish National Orchestra and Chorus in Madrid. In demand as a guest conductor with some of the world’s leading orchestras, Afkham’s recent debuts include those with the Concertgebouw Orchestra,
City of Birmingham Symphony, and Filarmonica della Scala, as well as U.S. appearances with the Cleveland Orchestra, Seattle Symphony and at New York’s Mostly Mozart Festival. Afkham was the first recipient of the Bernard Haitink Fund for Young Talent, and was a conducting fellow of the Richard Wagner Association in Bayreuth. A 2008 winner of the Donatella Flick Conducting Competition in London, he received an appointment as Assistant Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra for two years. In August 2010, Afkham also became the first recipient of the “Nestlé and Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award,” a title accompanied by special podium appearances at the Salzburg Festival.

Emanuel Ax is one of the most distinguished American pianists of his time, celebrated for his interpretations of Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven. Having come to worldwide attention after winning the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in 1974, Ax has since toured internationally, performing regularly with major U.S. orchestras. A frequent guest of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since his debut appearances in 1976, October 2016 marks the 40th anniversary of Ax’s longstanding association with the CSO. Ax, who was born in Poland but relocated to Winnipeg at a young age, received his formal education in the U.S. where he now resides. In recent years he has collaborated in performances and recordings with such luminary artists as Yo-Yo Ma, Anne-Sophie von Otter, Itzhak Perlman, and Yefim Bronfman. Ax received Grammy® awards for both his collaborations with cellist Yo-Yo Ma, as well as for his own recordings of Haydn’s piano sonatas, volumes two and three. Ax’s 2013 recording Variations received an Echo Klassik Award for Solo Recording of the Year. A leading interpreter of Beethoven’s piano works, Ax’s recent recordings of Beethoven piano concerti with the San Francisco Symphony have been called “among the most distinguished of recent years” (Chicago Tribune).

Tickets for all CSOA-presented 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.

These performances are generously sponsored by the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Family Fund for the Canon.

The appearance of David Afkham is endowed in part by the Nuveen Investments Emerging Artist Fund.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, October 20, 2016, 8:00 p.m.
Friday, October 21, 2016, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 22, 2016, 8:00 p.m.
Chicago Symphony Orchestra
David Afkham, conductor
Emanuel Ax, piano
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 10

Tickets: $34-$222

Featured artists for this program:

David Afkham
Emanuel Ax

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 seven 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. 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.