CHICAGO--The League of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) presents its 29th annual Corporate Night benefit concert on Monday, June 11, at 7:30 p.m., featuring vocalist Gregory Porter and pianist Marc-André Hamelin with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) led by conductor Edwin Outwater. This annual fundraising event, which is open to both individuals and corporations, includes a cocktail hour and dinner preceding the concert. Tickets also are available for the concert only. The evening also includes the presentation of the second Excellence in Corporate Philanthropy Award honoring Northern Trust as the CSOA’s longest continuing corporate partner.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra and two-time Grammy Award-winning jazz singer-songwriter Gregory Porter perform songs from Porter’s latest Blue Note album, Nat King Cole and Me, which was released last fall. Nat King Cole and Me is a heartfelt tribute to the legendary singer...
and pianist and revisits some of Cole’s most cherished classics such as “Smile,” “Mona Lisa,” “L-O-V-E” and “Nature Boy,” among other new arrangements.

The program also includes the Chicago Symphony Orchestra performing familiar works by two American composers—Leonard Bernstein’s Overture to Candide, as well as George Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue, featuring pianist Marc-André Hamelin. A frequent performer on the Symphony Center Presents Piano series and as a soloist with the CSO, Hamelin brings his technical prowess to this iconic, melodic work that fuses elements of jazz with classical music.

Two-time Grammy winner Gregory Porter has garnered critical acclaim since his 2010 debut album, Water. A California native who played football for San Diego State University, Porter pursued singing and songwriting after an injury derailed his plans for a football career. Porter credits his mother, gospel music and Nat King Cole as his earliest musical influences. He won the Grammy Award for Best Jazz Vocal Album in 2014 for Liquid Spirit and in 2017 for Take Me to the Alley. Porter made his Symphony Center Presents Jazz series debut in 2014 and returned in 2016.

Long known for his matchless exploration of unfamiliar pianistic terrain, Marc-André Hamelin also is recognized worldwide for the originality and technical brilliance of his performances of the traditional keyboard repertoire. He has appeared in recital across the globe and as guest soloist with the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Montréal Symphony, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, London Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and many others. He is a member of the Royal Society of Canada and was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2003 and a Chevalier de l’Ordre du Québec in 2004.

Conductor Edwin Outwater is the Artistic Director of the Eastern Sierra Symphony in Mammoth Lakes, Calif., and Music Director Laureate of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony in Ontario, Canada. He has conducted major orchestras around the globe including the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestras, Tokyo Symphony, Mexico City Philharmonic and Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie. Outwater’s extensive guest conducting schedule this season includes debuts with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s at Carnegie Hall, the Lyric Opera of Chicago and Japan’s Pacific Music Festival, as well as return engagements with the Chicago, San Francisco, Indianapolis and Colorado symphonies.

The League of the CSOA’s 29th annual Corporate Night brings together business leaders from across the Chicago area to support the CSO’s artistic, educational and community programs. Popular artists joining members of the CSO on stage for previous Corporate Night concerts include George Benson, Dave Brubeck, Kristin Chenoweth, Elvis Costello, Melissa Etheridge, Michael Feinstein, Marvin Hamlisch, Herbie Hancock, Heather Headley, Audra McDonald, Sarah McLachlan, Pink Martini, Dianne Reeves, Doc Severinsen, Sting, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and Nancy Wilson.

Corporate Night 2018 is co-chaired by CSOA Trustee and Negaunee Music Institute Board Member Steve Shebik, executive vice president and chief financial officer, Allstate Corp., and
his wife, Megan. The Corporate Night event co-chairs for the League of the CSOA are Cheryl Istvan and Jennifer Bumbu.

This year’s program also includes the presentation of the second Excellence in Corporate Philanthropy Award, which recognizes companies for their outstanding support for the CSOA and exemplary civic engagement in the arts and in Chicago. This year’s awardee is Northern Trust, which has supported the CSOA each year since the orchestra’s founding 126 years ago. The CSOA is proud to honor Northern Trust for its generosity, both past and present, and for its dedication as the CSOA’s longest continuing corporate partner. Rick Waddell, chairman and CEO, and Mike O’Grady, president and incoming CEO, will receive the award on behalf of Northern Trust at the event.

Corporations and other organizations can participate as sponsors or purchase tables for the evening, which includes preconcert cocktails and dinner and prime seats for the concert. Sponsorships start at $25,000, and table packages range from $3,000 to $16,000. For more information on the benefits of sponsorship, please call the CSO’s corporate development department at 312-294-3120.

The League of the CSOA also offers a special ticket package that includes preconcert cocktails and dinner followed by prime seating for the concert for $325 each. For more information and tickets, please contact Kim Duffy at duffyk@cso.org or 312-294-3162.

Concert-only tickets for Corporate Night 2018 are available to the public for $55-$175 and 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.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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Featured Artists for this Performance:
Gregory Porter
Edwin Outwater
Marc-André Hamelin

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: www.cso.org and www.csosoundsandstories.org
Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the pre-eminent 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 60 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 eight 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 led by Muti, 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.