FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 10, 2017

CHICAGO—Once Upon a Symphony, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s family-friendly, weekend matinee concert series for young audiences ages three to five, opens its season at Symphony Center with a production of Stone Soup. Presented in collaboration with Chicago Children's Theatre, Stone Soup is the first of two Once Upon a Symphony productions offered in the 2017/18 season. The program opens Saturday, November 18 at 10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., with additional performances taking place on Saturday, January 20, 2018 and Saturday, February 3, 2018. The second Once Upon a Symphony production, The Elves and the Shoemaker, is offered Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. on March 3, 2018, April 14, 2018, and April 28, 2018.

Stone Soup is the classic folk tale of a hungry traveler who arrives in a village with nothing but a large cooking pot. The traveler captures the townsfolk’s curiosity when he begins to make soup out of “just a stone.” One by one, the villagers begin contributing their own items to the soup, resulting in the most delicious soup any of them have ever tasted. The old folk tale is given new life as members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and actor Alex Mauney teach young audiences the “delicious” and harmonious results of working together. The program features excerpts of works by Brahms, Wagner and Ravel.

The Elves and the Shoemaker features musicians of the CSO along with actor Jazelle Morris in the Brothers Grimm’s classic tale of a poor shoemaker and his wife who only have enough supplies to fashion one last pair of shoes. The couple is magically saved when a pair of perfectly crafted shoes appears and the satisfied customer pays twice the asking price. But who made these incredible shoes, and will it happen again? This creative musical and theatrical production of The Elves and the Shoemaker demonstrates the importance of helping others and the strength of connections we build by doing so, taught through riveting storytelling and music.
Once Upon a Symphony, a program of the Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO, is created specifically for children three to five years of age as a first step in a pathway of opportunities for young people to “grow up” with the CSO by introducing young children to classical music and the instruments of the orchestra. These programs feature compelling music performed by members of the CSO – who also have non-musical roles as characters – to help tell these classic stories, complete with enchanting costumes and sets in the inviting and accessible Buntrock Hall at Symphony Center.

The interactive concert experience begins with preconcert activities facilitated by music educators from the DePaul University School of Music and concludes with a post-performance “Instrument Petting Zoo,” a unique opportunity for audiences to meet the musicians and instruments featured in the Once Upon a Symphony program, and to learn more about musical instruction at Chicagoland community music schools. In addition to the weekend performances, Once Upon a Symphony is also offered on select weekday mornings for preschool groups.

Tickets for all CSOA-presented events at Symphony Center 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.

For information and group ticket reservations for weekday preschool performances of Once Upon a Symphony, please call 312-294-3076.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

Once Upon a Symphony is produced and presented in collaboration with Chicago Children’s Theatre.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Once Upon a Symphony

**Stone Soup**

Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Alex Mauney, actor

Tickets: $17, General Admission

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Once Upon a Symphony

**The Elves and the Shoemaker**

Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Jazelle Morriss, actor

Tickets: $17, General Admission
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 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 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.