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GUEST CONDUCTOR AND FLAUTINO MASTER GIOVANNI ANTONINI MAKES HIS CSO DEBUT IN PROGRAM OF ITALIAN CLASSICAL AND BAROQUE MASTERPIECES

Program Includes Works by Boccherini, Vivaldi, Bach and Haydn

Mandolinist Avi Avital Makes CSO Debut as Soloist in Concertos by Vivaldi and Bach

June 7 – 9

CHICAGO—Italian conductor and flautino virtuoso Giovanni Antonini makes his debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in subscription concerts on Thursday, June 7 at 8:00 p.m., Friday, June 8 at 1:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 9 at 8:00 p.m. Mandolinist Avi Avital makes his CSO debut in mandolin concertos by Vivaldi and Bach on a program that also features Vivaldi’s Flautino Concerto in C Major and symphonies by Boccherini and Haydn.

The program opens with Boccherini’s Symphony No. 6 (La casa del diavolo) and continues with a pair of mandolin concertos by Vivaldi and Bach, both of which receive their first CSO performances in these concerts. Composed the same year as his Four Seasons in 1725, Vivaldi’s brief yet virtuosic Mandolin Concerto in C Major is among the best-known works for the instrument. Bach’s Mandolin Concerto in D Minor was likely written for violin, but the work’s brilliant solo lines come alive on mandolin against the spare orchestral accompaniment. Next on the program is another rarity by Vivaldi, the Flautino Concerto in C Major. One of just three concertos Vivaldi wrote for the flautino—the predecessor of the modern piccolo—the C Major concerto is one of the composer’s most demanding and dazzling pieces for any wind instrument. Haydn’s Symphony No. 103 (Drumroll) completes the program. One of Haydn’s final “London” symphonies, Symphony No. 103 takes its nickname from the dramatic timpani roll that opens the piece.
Italian conductor and flautino soloist Giovanni Antonini is the conductor of Il Giardino Armonica and Principal Guest Conductor of the Kammerorchester Basel and Orchestra Mozarteum Salzburg. Renowned for his distinguished interpretations of the classical and baroque repertoire, he is a regular guest conductor at the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Spanish National Orchestra and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. Antonini’s extensive career of recording masterworks of the 17th and 18th century with Il Giardino Armonico includes several albums of instrumental works by Vivaldi, J.S. Bach, Biber, and Locke. He has also recorded an album of flute concertos with Emmanuel Pahud entitled Revolution. He is artistic director of the Haydn 2032 project, created to realize a vision to record and perform the complete symphonies of Joseph Haydn by the 300th anniversary of the composer’s birth. The latest installment of the project, Vol. 5: L’Homme de Génie, was released in November 2017.

The first mandolin soloist to be nominated for a classical Grammy, Avi Avital is one of the foremost ambassadors for his instrument. He has performed worldwide in major halls such as Wigmore Hall, Vienna Konzerthaus, Carnegie Hall, and Beijing’s National Center for the Performing Arts. An exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist, his four albums include the ECHO Klassik Award-winning album Vivaldi (2015) and his Grammy-Nominated recording of Avner Dorman’s Mandolin Concerto. A champion of new works for the mandolin, Avital has had more than 90 contemporary compositions written for him, including 15 concertos. Born in Be’er Sheva in southern Israel, Avital graduated from the Jerusalem Music Academy and the Conservatorio Cesare Pollini in Padua, Italy, where he studied original mandolin repertoire with Ugo Orlandi. Winner of Israel’s prestigious Aviv Competition in 2007, Avital is the first mandolinist in the history of the competition to be so honored.

The Thursday, June 7 concert is part of the CSO’s Classic Encounter series and includes a lively pre-concert scene complete with food and drinks. The June 7 event features a multimedia presentation and conversation with a CSO musician led by WXRT Radio DJ Terri Hemmert. Single tickets for the Classic Encounter reception, priced at $20, may be added to any concert ticket order for the June 7 event. More information is available at cso.org/classicencounter.

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.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, June 7, at 8:00 p.m.
Friday, June 8, at 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, June 9, at 8:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Giovanni Antonini, conductor and flautino
Avi Avital, mandolin

BOCCHERINI  Symphony No. 6 (La casa del diavolo)
VIVALDI  Mandolin Concerto in C Major, RV 425
BACH  Mandolin Concerto in D Minor, BWV 1052
VIVALDI  Flautino Concerto in C Major, RV 443
HAYDN  Symphony No. 103 (Drumroll)

Tickets: $30-$218

Featured Artists for this Performance:
Giovanni Antonini, conductor and flautino
Avi Avital, mandolin

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org) and [www.csosoundsandstories.org](http://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 Ogonke 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](http://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](http://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. 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.