For Immediate Release:
February 21, 2018

Photos Available Upon Request
PR@CSO.org

HERBERT BLOMSTEDT RETURNS TO SYMPHONY CENTER TO LEAD CSO IN SYMPHONIES OF MOZART AND BEETHOVEN

At 90, Blomstedt Returns to the CSO Podium During a Year of 90 Concerts with Leading Orchestras Around the World

March 1, 2 and 3

CHICAGO—The distinguished conductor Herbert Blomstedt, who turned 90 in July 2017, returns to Symphony Center to lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in subscription concerts on Thursday, March 1, at 8:00 p.m., Friday, March 2, at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 3, at 8:00 p.m. Blomstedt, who last led performances with the CSO in 2007, conducts Mozart’s Symphony No. 39 and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3 (Eroica) on this program. Blomstedt’s appearance with the CSO this year is part of 90 concert performances with leading orchestras around the world including the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony, where Blomstedt holds the title of Conductor Laureate and served as Music Director from 1985 to 1995.

The program opens with Mozart’s Symphony No. 39 in E-flat Major, composed toward the end of the composer’s life. Though it is one of Mozart’s later works, the Symphony No. 39 was innovative in its time for its adagio opening fanfare, and for its use of the clarinet—still a fairly new and novel instrument at the time of the work’s composition in 1788—taking the place of the oboe in the score. The symphony’s stately opening and subsequent theme are thought by some scholars to have inspired the famous first movement to Beethoven’s Third Symphony, which is also in E-flat Major. The bold, exuberant first movement, marked Allegro con brio, and subsequent funeral march progressing to brilliant scherzo and finale suggest the themes of triumph and liberation implied by the work’s “heroic” subtitle.

Herbert Blomstedt has established himself as one of the most distinguished conductors of our time over his 60-year career. Blomstedt made his conducting debut in 1954 with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, and for the next 30 years held posts at such distinguished European orchestras as the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Dresden Staatskapelle. His extensive discography includes more than 130 releases with the Dresden Staatskapelle and the complete works of Carl Nielsen with the Danish Radio
Symphony Orchestra, as well as two Grammy Award-winning recordings with the San Francisco Symphony.

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.

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

# # #

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chicago Symphony Orchestra</th>
<th>Thursday, March 1, at 8:00 p.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday, March 2, at 8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday, March 3, at 8:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**
**Herbert Blomstedt**, conductor

MOZART
Symphony No. 39

BEETHOVEN
Symphony No. 3 (*Eroica*)

Tickets: $36-250

---

**Featured Artists for this Program:**

**Herbert Blomstedt, conductor**

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 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. 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.