JAMES GAFFIGAN RETURNS TO LEAD THE CSO IN OCTOBER CONCERTS AT SYMPHONY CENTER AND IN CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

James Ehnes is Soloist in Barber’s Violin Concerto on Program that also features
Bernstein’s Symphonic Suite from *On the Waterfront* and
Rachmaninov’s Symphonic Dances

Gaffigan Also Participates in *Fall in Love with Music* Benefit Event
hosted by the League of the CSOA

October 26-28

CHICAGO—James Gaffigan, Chief Conductor of Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, returns to lead the CSO in October subscription concerts at Symphony Center on Thursday, October 26, at 8:00 p.m., and Friday, October 27, at 1:30 p.m. The program includes Bernstein’s Symphonic Suite from the Academy Award-winning film *On the Waterfront*, Rachmaninov’s Symphonic Dances, and Barber’s Violin Concerto featuring James Ehnes as soloist. Gaffigan, Ehnes and the CSO repeat the program at the University of Illinois’ Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in Champaign-Urbana on Saturday, October 28 at 7:30 p.m., marking the CSO’s 35th performance at the venue.

The program opens with Bernstein’s Symphonic Suite from *On the Waterfront*, adopted from the composer’s only original film score written for the critically-acclaimed 1954 American film directed by Elia Kazan and starring a young Marlon Brando. Bernstein’s score offers a powerful musical depiction of the grittier side of life of a group of dockworkers in New York City. This is the first of three programs during the CSO’s 2017/18 season that recognize the centenary of the birth of celebrated American composer Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990). The CSO performs Bernstein’s Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story* in January 2018 under conductor Rafael Payare and his Symphony No. 2 (*The Age of Anxiety*) with conductor Kent Nagano in March 2018.
The program continues with American composer Samuel Barber’s Violin Concerto. Written in 1939, the work opens with a gorgeous, lyrical theme that gives way to the andante movement which features an extended oboe solo before reaching a spirited finale. Completing the program is Rachmaninov’s Symphonic Dances, a richly orchestrated work in three movements. The three “dances” in the work shift in character and build to a majestic conclusion that borrows musical material from Russian Orthodox church music and Gregorian chant.

James Gaffigan is regarded as one of the leading American conductors of his generation. Gaffigan is in demand for performances with orchestras in Europe, the United States and Asia, having appeared with the Paris Orchestra, the New York, Los Angeles and Munich philharmonics, and the Cleveland, Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto, Detroit, BBC, Bournemouth and Sydney symphonies. Gaffigan has also led opera productions with companies including the Hamburg State Opera and the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Washington National, Vienna State Opera, Norwegian and Zurich Operas. Gaffigan was the first prize winner at the 2004 Sir Georg Solti International Conducting Competition. In 2009, he completed a three-year tenure as Associate Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and was appointed as the first Principal Guest Conductor of the Gürtzenich Orchestra, Cologne in 2013, both positions created specifically for him. Currently, Gaffigan is the Chief Conductor of the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra through 2022.

Violinist James Ehnes returns to Symphony Center for his first CSO appearance since 2013. Revered for his “rich, bright and muscular sound” (Independent Classical Review) and “honeyed tone and immaculate technique” (The Guardian), Ehnes has performed in over 35 countries and appears regularly in the world’s greatest concert halls. Throughout his career, Ehnes has won numerous awards and prizes for his performances, such as the first-ever Galamian Memorial Award, the Canada Council for the Arts’ Virginia Parker Prize, and the 2005 Avery Fisher Career Grant. He was also the youngest person ever to be elected as a Fellow to the Royal Society of Canada. His recordings, featuring works by Beethoven, Debussy, Respighi, Elgar, Sibelius and Schubert, have also earned him a Grammy, Gramophone and 11 JUNO Awards. During the 2016/17 season, Ehnes gave a recital tour in celebration of his 40th birthday, appearing in Stresa, Montreux, Los Angeles, Liverpool, and Amsterdam. Currently, Ehnes is the Artistic Director of the winter and summer festivals of the Seattle Chamber Music Society and lives in Bradenton, Florida with his family.

The League of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) hosts its eighth annual Fall in Love with Music benefit event on Saturday, October 28, at 10 a.m., at the Union League Club of Chicago (65 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago). This year’s program features a conversation with the CSOA’s Vice President of Artistic Programming, Cristina Rocca, and special guest James Gaffigan. The program also features a performance by members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) cello section. More information about this special benefit for the CSOA is available at cso.org.

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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Tickets: $36 - $261

Featured Artists for this Performance:

James Gaffigan, conductor
James Ehnes, violin

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.