CONDUCTOR MAREK JANOWSKI MAKES CSO SUBSCRIPTION CONCERT DEBUT IN PROGRAM OF WORKS BY WEBER, BEETHOVEN AND WAGNER

May 31 – June 3

CHICAGO—Conductor Marek Janowski makes his Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) subscription concert debut in concerts on Thursday, May 31, at 8:00 p.m., Friday, June 1, at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, June 2, at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, June 3, at 3:00 p.m. Widely regarded as a distinguished interpreter of the German symphonic repertoire, Janowski leads the CSO in a program of masterworks by Weber, Beethoven and Wagner.

The program opens with Carl Maria von Weber’s Overture to Euryanthe. The rich and evocative score for the composer’s Euryanthe, admired by Weber’s contemporaries including Schumann and Wagner, is an exceptional example of German Romantic opera with its use of continuous music and leitmotifs. The program continues with Beethoven’s Symphony No. 4. Opening with a mysterious and searching adagio, the symphony moves into a largely cheerful character in a work that balances moments of playful wit with broad, soaring lyricism. The second half of the program features music from the operas of Richard Wagner. The composer’s Overture and Venusberg Music from Tannhäuser includes some of the opera’s most poignant music, including the theme from the famed “Pilgrims’ Chorus,” and is set in vivid contrast to the sinuous, colorful music of Venusberg, the opera’s exotic setting. Completing the program is a pair of selections from Wagner’s Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg including the meditative Prelude to Act 3 and the Prelude to Act 1, which features the majestic music of the master singers.

One of the leading conductors of the music of the German tradition, Marek Janowski is internationally recognized for his interpretation of Wagner, Strauss, Bruckner, and Brahms, Hindemith and the Second Viennese School. Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra from 2002 to 2016, Janowski’s landmark recording project of Wagner’s Ring Cycle with the Orchestra and Choir was released on Pentatone in 2016 to great
acclaim. “The real stars of this Ring are the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra and Choir, the conductor and the recording team...this is the sound of a Ring for the 21st Century,” noted BBC Music Magazine. Janowski’s discography also extends to several complete operas and symphonic cycles, many of which have been recognized with international awards. To this day, his recording of Wagner’s Ring Cycle with the Staatskapelle Dresden (1980-83) remains one of the most notable recordings that has been made of this work. As Musical Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France between 1984 and 2000, Janowski and the Orchestra garnered critical acclaim in France and abroad during his tenure. This season, he conducts the Berlin Philharmonic, Orchestre National de France, NHK Symphony Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra, among others. Janowski made his CSO debut at the Ravinia Festival in 1982 and returned to the podium at the Festival in 1991.

The Thursday, May 31 concert is part of the CSO’s Classic Encounter series and includes a lively pre-concert scene complete with food and drinks. The May 31 event features a multimedia presentation and conversation with CSO Viola Max Raimi led by WXRT Radio DJ Terri Hemmert. Single tickets for the Classic Encounter reception, priced at $20, can be added to any concert ticket order for the May 31 event. Four-concert Classic Encounter series ticket packages are also available and include concert tickets and access to preconcert receptions. 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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The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Franke for their generous gift in support of the Thursday evening performance.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Marek Janowski, conductor

WEBER Overture to Euryanthe
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 4
Featured Artists for this Performance:
Marek Janowski, conductor

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. 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.