LEGENDARY FILM COMPOSER JOHN WILLIAMS RETURNS TO SYMPHONY CENTER TO LEAD THE CSO IN A PROGRAM OF FILM MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

Program to Include Selections from *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Star Wars*, *Jaws*, *The BFG*, *Lincoln* and more

League of the CSOA Hosts Fundraiser “A Toast to John Williams” on April 29

Chicago—Award-winning film and concert composer John Williams returns to Symphony Center for four concerts with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) April 26-29. CSO subscription concerts take place on Thursday, April 26 at 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 28 at 8:00 p.m., with additional performances taking place on the CSO at the Movies series Friday, April 27 at 8:00 p.m., and in a Chicago Symphony Orchestra Special Concert on Sunday, April 29 at 3:00 p.m. Along with guest conductor Richard Kaufman, Williams leads the Orchestra in a program of selections that highlight Williams’s illustrious composing career.

Guest conductor Richard Kaufman, a regular guest conductor for the CSO at the Movies series, leads the first half of the program, which includes selections from *The Cowboys*, *Jane Eyre*, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, *Minority Report* and *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial*. Williams takes the podium for the second half of the program, leading the CSO in selections from *Hook*, *Jaws*, *The BFG*, *Lincoln* and three memorable selections from the *Star Wars* movies to conclude the program.

Williams, who last appeared with the CSO at Symphony Center during the 2013/14 season, has long enjoyed a close relationship with the Orchestra. Williams first led the CSO at the Ravinia Festival in 1994 and made his podium debut at Symphony Center in 2003 leading a program of selections from the film scores for the *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* series, and *Schindler’s List* with Concertmaster Robert Chen as soloist. These performances also featured the world premiere of Williams’s Concerto for Horn and Orchestra, commissioned by the CSO and
premiered by then-Principal Horn Dale Clevenger. Since then, Williams has made regular appearances leading the CSO at Symphony Center in selections from his vast film score catalog and original concert pieces for orchestra, including Elegy for Cello, performed by Yo-Yo Ma. Williams also led 2013 performances of his Violin Concerto with Gil Shaham as soloist. In addition to Williams’s podium appearances, his works are often performed by the CSO at Symphony Center on subscription concerts and, most notably, on the CSO at the Movies series, which has featured Williams’s entire scores performed by the CSO with screenings of films such as *E.T.: The Extraterrestrial* and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

In a career that spans six decades, John Williams has become one of America’s most accomplished and successful composers for film and for the concert stage. Williams is Artist-in-Residence at Tanglewood and holds the title of Boston Pops Laureate conductor, a role he assumed after 14 years as music director of the Boston Pops Orchestra. He has composed the music and served as music director for more than 100 films, including *Schindler’s List*, *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Jaws*, *Jurassic Park*, and the *Star Wars* films. In addition to his film and television work, Williams has composed numerous works for the concert stage, among them two symphonies, and concertos for flute, violin, clarinet, viola, oboe and tuba which have been premiered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and many others. Williams’s storied work in film has been recognized with five Academy Awards and 51 Oscar nominations, 24 Grammy Awards, four Golden Globes, five Emmy Awards, and numerous gold and platinum records. He is also a recipient of the 2009 National Medal of Arts, a 2003 Olympic Order, and the 2004 Kennedy Center Honors.

Richard Kaufman has had an expansive music career as a conductor and violinist. The 2017/18 season marks his 27th year as Principal Pops Conductor of Pacific Symphony and the 12th year as part of the CSO at the Movies series. Kaufman also holds the title of Pops Conductor Laureate with the Dallas Symphony and regularly guest conducts for orchestras in Cleveland, London and Liverpool. For almost two decades Kaufman served as music coordinator for MGM, receiving two Emmy nominations during his time there. In 1993 Kaufman received a Grammy for Best Pop Instrumental Performance for a recording with the Nuremberg Symphony. In addition to conducting, Kaufman has performed on numerous film and television scores including *Jaws* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. In 2012, Kaufman received the Distinguished Alumni Award from California State University, Northridge, where he received his B.A.

In association with these performances, the League of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association will be hosting its spring fundraiser “A Toast to John Williams” on **Sunday, April 29, at 1:30 p.m.** The event features pre-concert cocktails and savories and a Red Carpet Party immediately following the performance. Tickets to this event may be added on to single tickets to the concert for a special price.
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, please call 312-294-3076.

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO.

United Airlines is the Official Airline of the CSO.

BMO Harris Bank is the generous sponsor of the April 29 performance and the League of the CSOA’s “A Toast to John Williams” event.

The Sunday, April 29 performance is generously sponsored in part by Megan and Steve Shebik.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, April 26, 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 28, 8:00 p.m.

CSO at the Movies

Friday, April 27, 8:00 p.m.

CSO Special Concert

Sunday, April 29, 3:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra

John Williams, conductor
Richard Kaufman, conductor

John Williams Returns

WILLIAMS Overture to The Cowboys
WILLIAMS Suite from Jane Eyre
WILLIAMS The Adventures of Mutt from Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull
WILLIAMS A New Beginning from Minority Report
WILLIAMS Adventures on Earth from E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial
WILLIAMS Flight to Neverland from Hook
WILLIAMS A Child’s Tale: Suite from The BFG
WILLIAMS Out to Sea and Shark Cage Fugue from Jaws
WILLIAMS With Malice Toward None from Lincoln
WILLIAMS Three Selections from Star Wars

Tickets: $60-299

Featured Artists for this Performance:

John Williams
Richard Kaufman

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.