EMMANUEL KRIVINE RETURNS TO SYMPHONY CENTER TO LEAD CSO IN MARCH SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS

Program includes works by Mussorgsky, Berlioz, Debussy and Shostakovich’s Violin Concerto No. 1 with Leonidas Kavakos as soloist

March 8, 9, 10 and 11

CHICAGO—Renowned French conductor Emmanuel Krivine returns to Symphony Center to lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in subscription concerts on Thursday, March 8, at 8:00 p.m., Friday, March 9, at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 10, at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 11 at 3:00 p.m. Internationally acclaimed violinist Leonidas Kavakos is soloist in Shostakovich’s Violin Concerto No. 1 on a varied program that also includes Mussorgsky’s Prelude to Khovanshchina, Berlioz’s Royal Hunt and Storm from Les Troyens, and Debussy’s La mer.

The program opens with Mussorgsky’s Prelude to Khovanshchina. Mussorgsky composed the vast historical opera to celebrate the bicentennial of the founder of St. Petersburg, but did not live to see the work premiered in 1886. However, its orchestral prelude, “Dawn Over the Moscow River” has become popular for its tranquil musical depiction of pastoral Russian life. The program continues with Shostakovich’s Violin Concerto No. 1. Written between 1947-48 during a period of tenuous relations between the composer and the Soviet state, the first violin concerto offers a reflection of the composer’s inner turmoil. It opens with a haunting and melancholy Nocturne before moving into a dance-inspired, spirited Scherzo. The concerto continues with an intriguing Passacaglia, built on a stately pattern uttered by double basses and low-register wind and brass instruments in contrast to the violin’s sorrowful melody, before giving way to a brilliant and colorful finale, marked Burlesca. Two works of rich orchestral color are featured on the second half of the program including the entr’acte to Act IV of Berlioz’s epic opera Les Troyens. Entitled the Royal Hunt and Storm, it musically depicts Dido and Aeneas fleeing a roiling storm amidst the distant horn calls and pounding hoofbeats of a nearby hunt. The program concludes with Debussy’s La mer, one of the composer’s best-known
impressionistic works and a vivid sonic portrait that was inspired by his lifelong fascination with the sea.

One of the most distinguished conductors of the day, Emmanuel Krivine’s elegant and colorful interpretations have made him a favorite with leading orchestras and soloists around the world. He has conducted the world’s finest orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Symphony, Boston Symphony and National Symphony orchestras. Most recently, Krivine was Music Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg from 2006 to 2014, and since the 2015/16 season has been Principal Guest Conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. He is the founder of La Chambre Philharmonique, a distinguished period-instrument group that has gained recognition with their award-winning recordings on Naïve, including most recently their complete set of Beethoven symphonies (Gramophone Editor’s Choice). His notable discography also includes recordings with the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, Chamber Orchestra of Europe and Maria João Pires, London Symphony Orchestra with Vadim Repin and Orchestre National de Lyon.

Leonidas Kavakos is recognized internationally for his superior virtuosity, superb musicianship and musical integrity. By age 21, Kavakos had won the Sibelius, Paganini and Naumburg competitions, leading to his performing the first-ever recording of the Sibelius Violin Concerto, which won the Gramophone Concerto of the Year Award in 1991. Kavakos has since performed with the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Chicago and Boston Symphony orchestras, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Philadelphia Orchestra. He has also built his career as a conductor, appearing with the Atlanta, Boston, London, Vienna, and Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestras. Kavakos has recorded on the BIS, ECM, and Sony Classical labels, and his 2008 recording of Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto won the ECHO Klassik Best Concerto Recording. Kavakos is currently an exclusive recording artist with Decca Classics and is an Artist-in-Residence at the New York Philharmonic. He also recently appeared on the Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music series in a program of Brahms Piano Trios with pianist Emanuel Ax and cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

The Thursday, March 8 concert is part of the CSO’s Classic Encounter series and includes a lively pre-concert scene complete with food and drinks. The March 8 event features a multimedia presentation and conversation with CSO Principal Bass Alexander Hanna, 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 March 8 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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Tickets: $30-$218

**Featured Conductor for this Performance:**
Emmanuel Krivine, conductor
Leonidas Kavakos, violin

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](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.