CONDUCTOR MATTHIAS PINTSCHER MAKES CSO DEBUT IN PROGRAM OF WORKS BY DEBUSSY AND RAVEL

Jean-Yves Thibaudet is Soloist in Ravel’s Piano Concerto for the Left Hand

Pintscher leads Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Ravel’s Daphnis and Chloe

April 5, 6, 7 and 10

CHICAGO—Acclaimed conductor Matthias Pintscher makes his CSO debut leading the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in subscription concerts on Thursday, April 5, at 8:00 p.m., Friday, April 6, at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, April 7, at 8:00 p.m., and Tuesday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. The program of works by French composers Maurice Ravel and Claude Debussy features French pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet as soloist in Ravel’s Concerto for the Left Hand. The program also includes performances of Ravel’s orchestration of Debussy’s Sarabande and Danse and his iconic masterpiece Daphnis and Chloe featuring the Chicago Symphony Chorus, under the direction of Duain Wolfe.

The program opens with Ravel’s orchestration of Debussy’s Sarabande and Danse, two works originally written for piano. Debussy’s stately Sarabande comes from the composer’s popular suite Pour le Piano, while the Danse comes from Debussy’s Tarantelle styrienne, a lively work inspired by the traditional folk dance of the same name. Ravel’s Concerto for the Left Hand is next on the program. The daring and inventive work was written for talented pianist Paul Wittgenstein who sustained the loss of his right arm while serving in the Austrian army in World War I. Though the solo duties in the piano are reduced to material playable by a single hand, this concerto remains an extraordinary feat of virtuosity with rhapsodic, jazz-inspired gestures backed by rich orchestral accompaniment. Completing the program is one of Ravel’s most celebrated works, Daphnis and Chloe. The composer himself conducted the popular second suite from the ballet, as well as his orchestrations of Debussy’s Sarabande and Danse, with the CSO in 1928. These concerts feature a performance of the ballet score, originally...
commissioned by Sergei Diaghilev for the Ballets Russes, which features participation by a wordless chorus. Taking its inspiration from the pastoral Greek story of the young lovers Daphnis and Chloe, the work is remarkable for its poignant lyricism, brilliant orchestral color, raw power and profound evocations of nature. Daphnis and Chloe was hailed by composer Igor Stravinsky as "not only Ravel's best work, but also one of the most beautiful products of all French music."

Matthias Pintscher is the Music Director of the Ensemble Intercontemporain and became Principal Conductor of the Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra at the start of the 2016/17 season. He is currently in his eighth year as Artist-in-Association with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. After studying conducting in his early twenties with Peter Eötvös, Pintscher began a dual career as a conductor and composer, rapidly gaining critical acclaim in both areas of activity. As a composer, Pintscher's music is championed by some of today's finest performing artists, orchestras, and conductors. His works have been performed by such orchestras as the Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, and the Orchestre de Paris. The CSO gave the world premiere of Pintscher's Osiris on February 21, 22, and 23, 2008, and also at Carnegie Hall on February 25, with Pierre Boulez conducting; it was a co-commission with Carnegie Hall and the London Symphony Orchestra. His works also have been performed on the CSO’s MusicNOW series. As a conductor, Pintscher has appeared with the Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Bayerische Rundfunk, and many others. An enthusiastic supporter of and mentor to students and young musicians, Pintscher serves on the composition faculty at Juilliard.

Jean-Yves Thibaudet has built a reputation as one of today’s finest pianists over his 30-year career. His numerous accolades for his illustrious career include the Victoire d’Honneur from France’s Victoires de la Musique and the title of Officier by the French Ministry of Culture. He has appeared as soloist with orchestras worldwide, including the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, NHK Symphony Orchestra, and Orchestre National de Lyon, and is Artist-in-Residence at the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Thibaudet’s recording catalog of more than 50 albums has been recognized with two Grammy nominations, the Diapason d’Or, and Gramophone and ECHO awards. A dedicated educator, Thibaudet is Artist-in-Residence at the Colborn School, and this season he appears as soloist with the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra. A prominent collaborator in the film world, he has performed on the soundtracks for several feature films, including Dario Marianelli’s Oscar-winning score for the 2007 film Atonement.

The Thursday, April 5 concert is part of the CSO’s Classic Encounter series and includes a lively pre-concert scene complete with food and drinks. The April 5 event features a multimedia presentation and conversation with Chicago Symphony Chorus director Duain Wolfe, 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 April 5 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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CSO Tuesday series concerts are sponsored by United Airlines.

The appearance of Maestro Matthias Pintscher is made possible by the Juli Plant Grainger Fund for Artistic Excellence.

The April 7 performance is sponsored by ITW.

The April 5 performance is endowed in part by the League of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association.

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The appearance of the Chicago Symphony Chorus is made possible by a generous gift from Jim and Kay Mabie.

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**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

**Thursday, April 5, at 8:00 p.m.**
Friday, April 6, at 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 7, at 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m.

**Chicago Symphony Orchestra**

Matthias Pintscher, conductor

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano

**Chicago Symphony Chorus**

Duain Wolfe, chorus director

DEBUSSY, Sarabande and Danse
Orch. RAVEL
RAVEL, Piano Concerto for the Left Hand
RAVEL, Daphnis and Chloe

Tickets: $30-$218

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**Featured Conductor for this Performance:**
Matthias Pintscher, conductor
Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano
Chicago Symphony Chorus
Duain Wolfe, chorus director

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.