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SIR ANDRÁS SCHIFF MAKES ANTICIPATED RETURN TO SYMPHONY CENTER AS CONDUCTOR AND SOLOIST IN NOVEMBER SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS

Schiff Leads the CSO in Works by Haydn and Bartók and Performs As Soloist in Piano Concertos by Bach and Beethoven

November 2, 3, 4 and 5

CHICAGO—Internationally-renowned pianist Sir András Schiff returns to Symphony Center to lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in subscription concerts on Thursday, November 2, at 8:00 p.m, Friday, November 3, at 8:00 p.m, Saturday, November 4, at 8:00 p.m, and Sunday, November 5, at 3:00 p.m. The program includes Haydn’s Symphony No. 88 and Bartók’s Divertimento for String Orchestra, as well as J.S. Bach’s Keyboard Concerto No. 5 and Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 1, with Schiff as soloist.

The program opens with Haydn’s Symphony No. 88. Regarded as one of the composer’s finest works, it features the use of trumpets and timpani to dramatic effect, as well as carefully crafted counterpoint and delightful melodies that conjure up the scene of a rustic peasant celebration. The program continues with a work from the 20th century, Bartók’s Divertimento for String Orchestra. Written while the composer was on retreat in Switzerland in 1939, the divertimento is almost determinedly cheerful, utilizing Hungarian folk melodies and often playing with traditional classical forms. Bach’s Keyboard Concerto No. 5 has not been performed at Orchestra Hall since 1991, when Schiff led the performance with the CSO from the keyboard. The first composer to create several works in the new concerto form, Bach led the way for composers like Mozart, Beethoven and others to write virtuosic keyboard concertos. The program concludes the Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 1 a bold and challenging work, filled with light and rapid passage work.
Hungarian-born, British classical pianist and conductor Sir András Schiff is one of the most revered pianists of his generation. Schiff came to international attention as a soloist in 1974 after winning first prize in the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, and earned top honors at the Leeds and Liszt International piano competitions. In 1990, he began his conducting studies and soon after founded his own chamber orchestra, the Cappella Andrea Barca, with which he performed a seven-year series of the complete Mozart Concertos at Mozartwoche of the International Mozarteum Foundation in Salzburg. Throughout his career, Schiff has worked with nearly all the major international orchestras, performed complete cycles of the 32 Beethoven piano sonatas in 20 cities, and completed the Bach Project in 2014. He has won numerous international awards and honors, such as the 2011 Schumann Prize, 2012 Golden Mozart, the 2013 Royal Philharmonic Society Medal, and 2014 Grammy and Gramophone Awards, a Mozart Medal, and the Royal Academy of Music Bach Prize. He was also bestowed a Knighthood for services to music by Queen Elizabeth II in the 2014 Birthday Honors. As the son of Holocaust survivors, Schiff is politically informed first-hand and strives to use his music to inspire others to speak up against tyranny and improve the well-being of the world.

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.

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO.

These performances are generously sponsored by the Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Fund for the Canon.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, November 2, at 8:00 p.m.
Friday, November 3, at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 4, at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 5, at 3:00 p.m.

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Sir András Schiff, conductor and piano

HAYDN Symphony No. 88 in G Major
BARTÓK Divertimento for String Orchestra
BACH Keyboard Concerto No. 5 in F Minor, BWV 1056
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major, Op. 15
Featured Artists for this Performance:

Sir András Schiff, piano

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.