JAAP VAN ZWEDEN RETURNS TO SYMPHONY CENTER TO LEAD THE CSO IN DECEMBER SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS

Program features works by Wagner, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with Denis Kozhukhin as Soloist

December 14, 15, 16 & 19

CHICAGO—Internationally acclaimed conductor and Music Director Designate of the New York Philharmonic Jaap van Zweden returns to Symphony Center to lead the CSO in subscription concerts on Thursday, December 14 at 8:00 p.m., Friday, December 15 at 1:30 p.m, Saturday, December 16 at 8:00 p.m and Tuesday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m. The program includes works by Wagner, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with pianist Denis Kozhukhin as soloist.

The program opens with the Prelude to Act I of Wagner’s opera Lohengrin. The prelude begins with shimmering strings that give way to a magnificent brass chorale that musically depicts a vision of the fabled Holy Grail descending from heaven. The program continues with Rachmaninov’s Piano Concerto No. 2, an intense, virtuosic work that features the orchestra and soloist in tightly-knit interplay, balancing swaths of lush melody and bold, muscular musical gestures throughout the work. Completing the program is Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5. Composed at a time when the composer was attempting to reconcile his Russian heritage with his western European musical training, the fifth symphony incorporates finely wrought themes inspired by Slavic folk music and rich orchestration.

Internationally recognized conductor Jaap van Zweden is Music Director Designate of the New York Philharmonic. He will begin his five-year term with the New York Philharmonic after completing his decade-long tenure as Music Director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra at the conclusion of the 2017/18 season. Throughout his conducting career, he has led the Philadelphia Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, the Los Angeles, Vienna, Berlin and Munich Philharmonics, and the London and Boston Symphony orchestras. An acclaimed recording artist, he has been featured in recordings of works by Stravinsky, Mahler, Britten and Mozart,
and in 2012 won Best Opera Recording for his recording of Wagner’s masterworks with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra. The same year, he won Musical America’s Conductor of the Year award, in recognition of his work with the Dallas Symphony and other prestigious U.S. orchestras. Maestro van Zweden’s 2017/18 season also includes guest appearances with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic and Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

Renowned for his extraordinary intelligence, maturity and technical mastery, Russian pianist Denis Kozhukhin has established himself as one of the world’s finest and most compelling musicians of his generation. Kozhukhin gained international recognition after winning First Prize in the 2010 Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels at 23, and has since appeared at the world’s most prestigious festivals and concert halls with the finest orchestras. After an acclaimed 2015 CSO debut, Kozhukhin returned for a 2016 performance of Prokofiev’s second piano concerto with the CSO that the Chicago Tribune called “dazzling” and one that could have “lifted Orchestra Hall a few feet off its foundation.” Recently, Kozhukhin has made appearances with the BBC Symphony, Mariinsky Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and has returned to the Concertgebouw’s Master Pianists Series, Cologne Philharmonie, Wigmore Hall, Auditorium du Louvre in Paris, and London’s International Piano Series. Additionally, he has debuted at the Lucerne Festival, Vienna Concerthouse and the Boston Celebrity Series.

The Thursday, December 14 concert is part of the CSO’s Classic Encounter series and includes a lively pre-concert scene complete with food and drinks. The December 14 event features a multimedia presentation and conversation with CSO Principal Second Violin Baird Dodge and Assistant Principal Clarinet John Bruce Yeh, 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 December 14 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.

Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO.

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CSO Tuesday series concerts are sponsored by United Airlines.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Thursday, December 14, at 8:00 p.m.
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Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Jaap van Zweden, conductor
Denis Kozhukhin, piano

WAGNER
Prelude to Act I from Lohengrin

RACHMANINOV
Piano Concerto No. 2

TCHAIKOVSKY
Symphony No. 5

Tickets: $36 - $250

Featured Artists for this Performance:

Jaap van Zweden
Denis Kozhukhin

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.