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VIOLINIST NIKOLAJ ZNAIDER LEADS CSO IN DECEMBER SUBSCRIPTION CONCERTS AT SYMPHONY CENTER

Znaider Performs as Soloist and Leads the CSO in Beethoven’s Violin Concerto in a program that also includes Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 5

December 21, 22 and 23

CHICAGO—Nikolaj Znaider, internationally acclaimed Danish-Israeli violin virtuoso and Principal Guest Conductor of the Mariinsky Orchestra, makes his subscription concert conducting debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) in December concerts at Symphony Center on Thursday, December 21 at 8:00 p.m., Friday, December 22 at 1:30 p.m., and Saturday, December 23 at 8:00 p.m. Znaider leads the Orchestra from the violin in a performance of Beethoven’s Violin Concerto on a program that also includes Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 5.

A groundbreaking work at the time of its premiere in 1806, Beethoven’s only concerto for violin is noteworthy for its length, scope and passages of intense virtuosity. Several subtle strokes of the timpani and a lyrical passage for winds open the concerto before the soloist joins and scales the heights of the violin’s range in singing, beautiful lines. The work’s meditative second movement leads directly into the recognizable and exuberant Rondo finale. The program continues with Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 5, which was premiered in 1937 while the composer was under close scrutiny by the Soviet government. Though its memorable melodies and seemingly simple musical language supply the musical hallmarks of Soviet patriotism, the symphony’s subtle irony is cleverly disguised within its spirited scherzos and heroic fanfares.

Throughout his dual-career as an acclaimed conductor and violinist, Znaider has been highly regarded for qualities such as his “fine technical control, deep musical understanding and even feeling” (Chicago Tribune). Znaider first gained wide recognition as a soloist after winning first prize for the Carl Nielsen Violin Competition at just 16, and later the prestigious Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels. In 2010, he began his tenure as Principal Guest Conductor
of the Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra after previously serving as Guest Conductor of the Swedish Chamber Orchestra. He is a frequent guest conductor with many of the most esteemed orchestras around the world, including the Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw, Staatskapelle Dresden, Montreal Symphony Orchestra, and Munich Philharmonic orchestras. He also has an ongoing recording collaboration with the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) focused on works by Mozart, with the composer’s fourth and fifth violin concertos being featured in an upcoming release by Znaider and the LSO in March 2018. Znaider is also a passionate advocate for supporting the next generation of musicians, having founded the Nordic Music Academy, an annual summer school where he continues to serve as Artistic Director. Znaider has performed as a soloist several times with the CSO since his 2000 debut including a 2009 performance of Beethoven’s Violin Concerto with guest conductor Osmo Vänskä.

Tickets for all CSOA-presented concerts can be purchased by phone at **800-223-7114 or 312-294-3000**; online at [cso.org](http://www.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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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.