



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559

News

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Press Contacts:

[Dana Navarro](#), 312-294-3090

Photos Available By Request

PR@csso.org

[Eileen Chambers](#), 312-294-3092

**MusicNOW OPENS ITS 20TH SEASON WITH A PROGRAM FEATURING
WORKS BY FORMER CSO COMPOSERS-IN-RESIDENCE**

**Program Features Works by John Corigliano, Shulamit Ran, Augusta Read Thomas,
Osvaldo Golijov, Mark-Anthony Turnage, Mason Bates and Anna Clyne**

Monday, October 2, at 7 p.m., at the Harris Theater

CHICAGO—The first program of the 2017/18 season of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's acclaimed MusicNOW series takes place on [Monday, October 2, at 7 p.m.](#), at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park (205 E. Randolph, Chicago). The CSO's contemporary music series opens its 20th season with a program of works by former CSO composers-in-residence. Current CSO Mead Composers-in-Residence Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek host the October 2 program, which features musicians of the CSO conducted by Cliff Colnot, principal conductor for MusicNOW.

Titled "MusicNOW @ 20 Years," the October 2 program is curated by Adams and Ogonek to highlight diverse works from different moments in each composer's career.

The program opens with Anna Clyne's *Fits + Starts*, composed for solo cello with electronics. The electronics include acoustic recordings of harpsichord ornaments, viola figures and cello lines that have been layered and manipulated to create a backdrop for the angular and rhythmic pizzicato of the solo cello, performed by CSO cellist Brant Taylor. The work was premiered with Hysterica Dance Company in 2003.

Following is Osvaldo Golijov's *Mariel*, which was composed for cello and marimba in memory of one of the composer's friends who died suddenly. Golijov explained, "I attempted to capture that short instant before grief, in which one learns of the sudden death of a friend who was full of life: a single moment frozen forever in one's memory, and which reverberates through the piece, in the waves and echoes of the Brazilian music that Mariel loved."

RICCARDO MUTI
Zell Music Director

HELEN ZELL
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

The performance continues with a 2015 work for clarinet, violin, cello and piano by Chicago-based composer Shulamit Ran. The melody in Ran's *Birkat Haderekh—Blessing for the Road* is introduced by the clarinet and gradually evolves, demonstrating the emotions felt as one is about to embark on a journey: hope, anticipation, anxiousness, longing.

John Corigliano's music is represented by the quick and rhythmic *A Black November Turkey*, which was originally composed for chorus and piano in 1972 and later arranged for string quartet. Following are *The Red Violin Caprices*, which are derived from the Academy Award-winning score Corigliano composed for Francois Girard's 1998 film *The Red Violin*. Variations on a troubadour-inspired theme evoke Baroque, Gypsy and Romantic idioms. This performance features CSO Associate Concertmaster Stephanie Jeong.

The second half of the concert opens with Mason Bates' *The Life of Birds*, which was given its premiere by the Seattle Chamber Players in 2008. Lighthearted and playful, *The Life of Birds* is a set of six miniatures scored for flute, clarinet, violin and cello.

Augusta Read Thomas' *Carillon Sky* was composed for solo violin and chamber ensemble and received its world premiere in 2006. The premiere performance featured CSO Principal Second Violin Baird Dodge, who returns to the stage for this performance. The violin lines soar like a bird among the sounds of soft tinkling bells, and the asymmetrical length of the phrases adds to the piece's free and spontaneous feel.

The program concludes with *No Let Up* by Mark-Anthony Turnage. Inspired by the composer's jazz roots and love of Stravinsky's music, the sonorities in this energetic, rhythmic piece for 11 instruments are dominated by the wailing of soprano saxophones, bass clarinet and bass guitar.

Additional program information for the three remaining 2017/18 MusicNOW concerts has been announced. On [Monday, November 13, at 7 p.m.](#), composer-pianist and MacArthur Fellow Vijay Iyer makes his MusicNOW debut. The program opens with Iyer's piano quintet *Time, Place, Action*, a work that features Iyer performing alongside members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The second half features Iyer with trumpeter and composer Wadada Leo Smith on selections from their 2016 duo album *A Cosmic Rhythm with Each Stroke*. Smith, who appeared on the cover of the August 2017 issue of *Downbeat* magazine, has been active in creative contemporary music for more than 40 years and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2013.

The MusicNOW concert on [Monday, April 2, 2018, at 7 p.m.](#), features the world premiere of a commission for MusicNOW by Chicago native Amy Beth Kirsten, whose compositions have earned her a 2011 Guggenheim Fellowship, a Rockefeller Foundation Artist Fellowship and recognition for her innovative composition style in a recent article in *The New York Times*. Kirsten's forthcoming piece, *Savior*, is a work of composed theatre scored for three women's voices and three instruments. The new work integrates light, movement, text and sound design to reflect upon the perceptual richness and complexity of Joan of Arc's mystical and divinely inspired life as well as her politically motivated death. The production features musicians from the CSO and guest artists from HOWL

ensemble, an East Coast-based performing arts ensemble that fuses theatrical, operatic and chamber music forms and was co-founded by Kirsten in 2012.

MusicNOW's 20th season concludes with a program conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen leading members of the CSO in world premiere commissions by Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek on [Monday, May 21, 2018, at 7 p.m.](#), at Symphony Center. The program also features Icelandic composer Anna Thorvaldsdóttir's *Ró*, which evokes a rich, atmospheric sonic landscape, and a work by Finnish composer Mangus Lindberg.

MusicNOW's partnership with the Chicago-based collaborative design practice Thirst continues in the 2017/18 season. Inspired by the music on each of the four MusicNOW programs, Thirst artist John Pobjewski creates an original artwork for each program that is available as a complimentary commemorative poster for up to 150 audience members at each performance, while supplies last.

Pobjewski said, "For this first concert poster, two bold Xs come together to honor 20 great years, each containing the names of former CSO composers-in-residence who have contributed to the lexicon of modern art music. It is first and foremost a celebration, commemorating the incredible achievement of two decades of MusicNOW."

Each MusicNOW concert includes an opportunity to meet with the CSO musicians and composers in an informal setting during post-concert receptions with complimentary food and beverages.

The October 2 MusicNOW program also features a preconcert event at 6 p.m. in Lobby Level 1 at the Harris Theater. This event is free for all "MusicNOW @ 20" ticket holders. Former CSO Composers-in-Residence Augusta Read Thomas and Shulamit Ran present their perspectives on the influence of visual design in musical composition. John Pobjewski of Thirst Design shares his insights on the process of collaborating with the CSO to create a series of concert posters for MusicNOW, recognized by the Society for Typographic Arts as one of the best 100 pieces in 2016. Beverages will be available for purchase.

Special thanks to Helen Meyer and Meyer Sound for graciously donating sound equipment support for MusicNOW.

Amy Beth Kirsten's *Savior* is commissioned by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation for MusicNOW.

Major support for MusicNOW is generously provided by the Irving Harris Foundation, the Sally Mead Hands Foundation, the Julian Family Foundation, Cindy Sargent and the Zell Family Foundation. MusicNOW media sponsors are WBEZ 91.5FM and Time Out Chicago.

Subscriptions for the four-concert MusicNOW series are on sale now and are \$80. There is also a \$36, four-concert student subscription available with valid student ID. Single tickets are \$28 for general admission and \$15 for students with a valid student ID.

Tickets for all MusicNOW 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.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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Chicago Symphony Orchestra

MusicNOW

Harris Theater for Music and Dance
205 E. Randolph, Chicago

Monday, October 2, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Samuel Adams, Mead Composer-in-Residence
Elizabeth Ogonek, Mead Composer-in-Residence
Cliff Colnot, principal conductor, MusicNOW
Baird Dodge, violin
Stephanie Jeong, violin
Brant Taylor, cello

CLYNE	<i>Fits + Starts</i>
GOLIJOV	<i>Mariel</i>
RAN	<i>Birkat Haderekh—Blessing for the Road</i>
CORIGLIANO	<i>A Black November Turkey</i>
CORIGLIANO	<i>The Red Violin Caprices</i>
BATES	<i>The Life of Birds</i>
THOMAS	<i>Carillon Sky</i>
TURNAGE	<i>No Let Up</i>

Tickets: \$28, General Admission
\$15, Students

CSO Mead Composers-in-Residence:

[Samuel Adams](#)
[Elizabeth Ogonek](#)

Featured Conductor and Performers for this Program:

Cliff Colnot, principal conductor, MusicNOW
Baird Dodge, violin
Stephanie Jeong, violin
Brant Taylor, cello

Former CSO Composers-in-Residence:

John Corigliano, Composer-in-Residence 1987-1990
Shulamit Ran, Composer-in-Residence 1990-1997
Augusta Read Thomas, Composer-in-Residence 1997-2002 and Mead Composer-in-Residence 2002-2006
Osvaldo Golijov, Mead Composer-in-Residence 2006-2010
Mark-Anthony Turnage, Mead Composer-in-Residence 2006-2010
Mason Bates, Mead Composer-in-Residence 2010-2015
Anna Clyne, Mead Composer-in-Residence 2010-2015

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: www.cso.org and www.csosoundsandstories.org

Founded in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the pre-eminent 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.