ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO AND CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA’s MusicNOW SERIES HOST AN EVENING OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC PERFORMED IN THE MUSEUM GALLERIES

After-Hours Performance at the Art Institute is Part of Celebration to Mark 20 Years of MusicNOW Contemporary Music Series

Monday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m., at the Art Institute of Chicago

Tickets On Sale Monday, April 2, at 10 a.m.

CHICAGO—The Art Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s MusicNOW series host an evening of contemporary music curated for performances in three galleries devoted to American art and design on Monday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m., at the Art Institute of Chicago (159 E. Monroe, Chicago). Presented in part to celebrate the 20th season of the CSO’s MusicNOW contemporary music series, the event features performances of solo and chamber music works by musicians from the CSO and guests. Tickets go on sale Monday, April 2, at 10 a.m.

The event includes the performance of four musical works in three different locations in the museum. Introductions to the works of art and music are shared with the audience by the Art Institute's Ann S. and Samuel M. Mencoff Assistant Curator of American Decorative Arts Elizabeth McGoey, Director of Adult Learning Nenette Luarca-Shoaf, and CSO Mead Composers-in-Residence Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek. In this site-specific setting, seating has been intentionally configured to include views of both the artwork and musicians.

The evening begins with two intimate performances occurring simultaneously, one alongside Marc Chagall’s America Windows and the other in the Sculpture Court, which houses works from the AIC’s American sculpture collection. At the Chagall, a string quartet composed of musicians from the CSO performs Ruth Crawford Seeger’s String Quartet 1931, with its stark rhythms, sharp dissonances and bold palette of musical colors, as well as Caroline Shaw’s Blueprint (2016), which features fervent, lush melodies punctuated with gutsy rhythms. The
performance in the Sculpture Court features Lou Harrison’s Six Sonatas for Cembalo (1943). Composed for solo harpsichord and performed by Mark Shuldiner, each movement infuses Harrison’s signature blend of Eastern and Western music with baroque-inspired trills, wandering musical phrases and intense counterpoint.

After these performances, patrons in each gallery space change places to experience all of the music and artwork before all patrons proceed to the evening’s final performance, which takes place in the historic Stock Exchange Trading Room, designed by Adler and Sullivan. Here, CSO Principal Percussion Cynthia Yeh performs Christopher Cerrone’s Memory Palace (2012), which uses percussive and electronic elements to bring to life snapshots from the composer’s life experiences in this evocative, immersive work. The work includes recordings Cerrone captured in his parents' backyard and on a camping trip, as well as sounds from found percussion instruments crafted by the performer.

The celebration of MusicNOW’s 20th season concludes with a program conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen leading musicians from the CSO in world premiere commissions by Samuel Adams—featuring violinist Karen Gomyo—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 Related Rocks by Finnish composer Mangus Lindberg.

The CSO’s participation in this program is made possible through the generous support of Richard and Mary L. Gray.

Support for Live Arts programming at the Art Institute is provided by the Woman's Board of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Live Arts program on May 7 is a collaboration between the CSO’s MusicNOW contemporary music series and the Art Institute of Chicago.

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.

# # #

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
MusicNOW
Art Institute of Chicago Modern Wing
159 E. Monroe, Chicago

Monday, May 7, 7:30 p.m.
Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Samuel Adams, Mead Composer-in-Residence
Elizabeth Ogonek, Mead Composer-in-Residence
Cynthia Yeh, percussion
Mark Shuldiner, harpsichord
Matous Michel, violin
Hermine Gagné, violin  
Danny Lai, viola  
Callum Cook, cello

CRAWFORD SEEGER  
SHAW  
HARRISON  
CERRONE  
String Quartet 1931  
Blueprint  
Six Sonatas for Cembalo  
Memory Palace

Tickets:  
$40, Art Institute members and CSO MusicNOW subscribers  
$45, General

CSO Mead Composers-in-Residence:  
Samuel Adams  
Elizabeth Ogonek

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.