MACARTHUR FELLOW, COMPOSER-PIANIST VIJAY IYER MAKES MusicNOW DEBUT

Vijay Iyer and Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Perform Iyer’s *Time, Place, Action* on Second MusicNOW Concert of the 2017/18 Season

Wadada Leo Smith Joins Iyer for Selections from their Latest Duo Album

Monday, November 13, at 7 p.m., at the Harris Theater

CHICAGO—The 2017/18 season of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s acclaimed MusicNOW series continues with a program on **Monday, November 13, at 7 p.m.,** at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park (205 E. Randolph, Chicago). Composer-pianist and 2013 MacArthur Fellow Vijay Iyer makes his debut appearance on the CSO’s contemporary music series, MusicNOW, with a program entitled **Vijay Iyer: A Portrait.** Current CSO Mead Composers-in-Residence Samuel Adams and Elizabeth Ogonek, who curate the CSO MusicNOW series, host the November 13 program that is part of the 20th season.

The program opens with Iyer’s *Time, Place, Action*, an extended work for piano and string quartet that features Iyer performing alongside musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Blurring the lines between improvised and notated music, the piece is dedicated to the late American poet Amiri Baraka. Iyer is joined on the second half by trumpeter and composer Wadada Leo Smith on selections from their 2016 duo album *A Cosmic Rhythm with Each Stroke.* The eponymous suite, premiered on March 30, 2016, in New York, is dedicated to the Indian visual artist Nasreen Mohamedi, whose evocative imagery served as the inspiration for the largely improvised work. Smith, who appeared on the cover of the August 2017 issue of *Downbeat* magazine as Artist, Album and Trumpeter of the Year, has been active in creative contemporary music for more than 40 years and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2013.

Grammy-nominated composer-pianist Vijay Iyer was described by Pitchfork as “one of the most interesting and vital young pianists in jazz today.” He has been voted *DownBeat* magazine’s...
Artist of the Year three times and was named *DownBeat*'s Pianist of the Year (2014) and a MacArthur Fellow in 2013. A recording artist of prolific output and scope, Iyer has released more than 20 albums as band leader, which have garnered him a five-star rating from *DownBeat* and #1 Jazz Album of the year in three separate critics polls, among countless other awards. In 2014 Iyer was appointed the Franklin D. and Florence Rosenblatt Professor of the Arts in the Department of Music at Harvard University.

Trumpeter, multi-instrumentalist, composer and improviser Wadada Leo Smith is one of the most boldly original and influential artists of his time. A member of the legendary, Chicago-based Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians for more than five decades, he creates tirelessly inventive music that transcends the bounds of genre or idiom. Throughout his career, Smith has been recognized for his groundbreaking work through numerous awards including Jazz Journalists Association 2017 Musician of the Year, 2016 Trumpeter of the Year, and 2015 Composer of the Year, as well as the 2017 Duo of the Year for his work with Vijay Iyer. He was named a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for music for his extensive *Ten Freedom Summers*, released on Cuneiform Records.

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 November 13 MusicNOW program also features a preconcert Q&A with Vijay Iyer at 6 p.m. in Lobby Level 1 at the Harris Theater. This event is free for all ticket holders.

A CD signing with Vijay Iyer and Wadada Leo Smith immediately follows the concert.

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 artists create 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.

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.

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

Tickets for all MusicNOW concerts can be purchased by phone at 800-223-7114 or 312-294-3000, online at [cso.org](http://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
Harris Theater for Music and Dance
205 E. Randolph, Chicago

Monday, November 13, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Samuel Adams, Mead Composer-in-Residence
Elizabeth Ogonek, Mead Composer-in-Residence
Vijay Iyer, composer and piano
Wadada Leo Smith, composer and trumpet

IYER
Time, Place, Action for String Quartet and Piano

IYER & SMITH
A Cosmic Rhythm With Each Stroke

Tickets: $28, General Admission
$15, Students

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

Featured Performers for this Program:
Vijay Iyer
Wadada Leo Smith

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 59 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. Bank of America is the Global Sponsor of the CSO. 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.