VIOLINIST JOSHUA BELL RETURNS WITH PIANIST ALESSIO BAX TO OPEN 2017/18 SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Program Features Sonatas by Mendelssohn, Grieg and Brahms

Friday, November 10, at 8 p.m.

CHICAGO—Internationally renowned violinist Joshua Bell returns to Symphony Center Friday, November 10, at 8 p.m., to open the 2017/18 Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Chamber Music series. Bell, accompanied by acclaimed pianist Alessio Bax, performs sonatas by Mendelssohn, Grieg and Brahms.

The program opens with Mendelssohn’s Violin Sonata in F Major, the third of Mendelssohn’s violin sonatas. An ambitious and technically demanding work for both players, the sonata remained unpublished for years after its 1938 premiere, until violinist Yehudi Menuhin unearthed and published it in 1953. Bell and Bax continue with Grieg’s dramatic Violin Sonata No. 3. The composer noted that the third sonata represents his attempt at “a wider horizon” in his work, yet it still incorporates the Norwegian folk melodies and the striking balance of rugged vigor and lyrical beauty for which Grieg is best known. The program closes with Brahms’ romantic masterwork, Violin Sonata No. 1. The subtitle Regensonate (“Rain Sonata”) is a reference to Brahms’ earlier Regenlied (“Rain Song”), an evocative, wistful art song that gives its melody and accompaniment verbatim to the final movement of the Violin Sonata.

Joshua Bell is one of the most widely-known and celebrated violinists of his generation. He received his first violin at age four and at 12 began studying with Josef Gingold at Indiana University. At 14 he performed with Riccardo Muti and the Philadelphia Orchestra and at 17 made his Carnegie Hall debut. In 2011, Bell became music director of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields—the first person to hold this post since Sir Neville Marriner formed the orchestra in
1958. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors including induction into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame in 2005, winning the Avery Fisher Prize in 2007 and being named Instrumentalist of the Year by *Musical America* in 2010. An exclusive Sony Classical artist, Bell has recorded more than 40 CDs garnering Grammy, Mercury, Gramophone and Echo Klassik awards.

Combining exceptional lyricism and insight with consummate technique, pianist Alessio Bax rose to prominence with First Prize wins at both the Leeds and Hamamatsu International Piano Competitions. His performances have since taken him to four continents, not only as a recitalist and chamber musician, but as a concerto soloist who has appeared with more than 100 orchestras including the London and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras, Dallas and Cincinnati Symphonies, NHK Symphony in Japan, St. Petersburg Philharmonic with Yuri Temirkanov and the City of Birmingham Symphony with Sir Simon Rattle. Bax has performed at music festivals around the world, including the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Mimir Chamber Music Festival and Italy’s Incontri in Terra di Siena Festival, where he was recently appointed artistic director for a three-year term starting in 2017.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Chamber Music series 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.

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Symphony Center Presents
Chamber Music

**Friday, November 10, 8 p.m.**

Joshua Bell, violin
Alessio Bax, piano

Program to include:

**MENDELSSOHN**

Violin Sonata in F Major (1838)

**GRIEG**

Sonata No. 3 in C Minor for Violin and Piano, Op. 45

**BRAHMS**

Violin Sonata No. 1 in G Major, Op. 78

Tickets: $42-$121

**Featured Artists for this Performance:**

Joshua Bell, violin
Alessio Bax, piano
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.