NEA JAZZ MASTER DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER SHARES DOUBLE BILL WITH THE LEGENDARY COUNT BASIE ORCHESTRA

Tony Award and Grammy Award-Winning Singer Dee Dee Bridgewater Celebrates Hometown with Newest Project, *Memphis*

Legendary Count Basie Orchestra Returns to Symphony Center

**Friday, June 1, at 8 p.m.**

CHICAGO—Acclaimed jazz vocalist and 2017 NEA Jazz Master Dee Dee Bridgewater returns to Symphony Center on **Friday, June 1, at 8:00 p.m.** to present her latest project, *Memphis*. A swinging set from The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra directed by Scotty Barnhart completes the program in a rousing conclusion to the 2017/18 Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Jazz series.

Dee Dee Bridgewater’s set features music from her latest recording, *Memphis … Yes, I’m Ready*, an homage to the musical legacy of Bridgewater’s hometown. In a program that spans selections ranging from jazz and blues to R&B and soul, Bridgewater pays tribute to the greats who defined the “Memphis Sound” with covers of hits by B.B. King, Otis Redding and others infused with her own unique sound and spirit. The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra serves up a set of swinging numbers, the likes of which secured Count Basie and his orchestra a place among the greatest in jazz history. Now led by director and trumpeter Scotty Barnhart, the Legendary Count Basie Orchestra presents a program that features the same heady mixture of blues, swinging rhythms and hot instrumental solos that put them on the map nearly 80 years ago.

Grammy and Tony Award-winning jazz vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater earned her first professional experience as a member of the legendary Thad Jones/Mel Louis Big Band and
rose to fame performing with the likes of Max Roach, Sonny Rollins and Dizzy Gillespie. Her illustrious recording career with Universal Music Group has garnered Grammy nominations for all but one of her critically-acclaimed titles. Bridgewater has also pursued a parallel career in musical theater, winning a Tony Award in 1975 for her role as “Glinda” in The Wiz. In April 2017, Bridgewater was honored as an NEA Jazz Masters Fellow at the Kennedy Center. Her latest album, *Memphis…Yes, I'm Ready*, was released in September 2017 to wide acclaim.

The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra, founded in 1927 in Kansas City by William “Count” Basie, is one of the most influential and iconic big bands in jazz history. Now directed by trumpeter Scotty Barnhart, the Count Basie Orchestra has been recognized by every respected jazz poll in the world at least once, won 18 Grammy Awards, appeared in several movies and television shows, and performed at major jazz festivals and concert halls around the world. Current members of the band, many of whom were hired by Count Basie himself, have previously performed with such luminaries as Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Lionel Hampton and Stan Kenton.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Jazz 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.

###

**Symphony Center Presents Jazz**

**Friday, June 1, 8:00 p.m.**

**Dee Dee Bridgewater’s *Memphis***

**Dee Dee Bridgewater, vocals**

--

**The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra directed by Scotty Barnhart**

**Tickets:** $36-$112

---

**Featured Artist for this Performance:**

[Dee Dee Bridgewater](#)

[Count Basie Orchestra](#)

[Scotty Barnhart](#)

**The Chicago Symphony Orchestra:** [www.cso.org](http://www.cso.org) and [www.csosoundsandstories.org](http://www.csosoundsandstories.org)

Founded by Theodore Thomas 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. 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.