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VALERY GERGIEV AND THE MARIINSKY ORCHESTRA RETURN TO OPEN 2017/18 SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS ORCHESTRA SERIES

Program Features Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 9, Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with Denis Matsuev and Richard Strauss’ Ein Heldenleben

Wednesday, November 8, at 8 p.m.

CHICAGO—The 2017/18 Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Orchestra series opens with the return of the St. Petersburg-based Mariinsky Orchestra led by its Artistic and General Director, Valery Gergiev, on Wednesday, November 8, at 8 p.m. The program features Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 9, Richard Strauss’ Ein Heldenleben and Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with soloist Denis Matsuev.

The program opens with Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 9 in E-flat Major, Op. 70, a lighthearted symphony with 18th-century classical sound and form. Following is Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 16, featuring internationally acclaimed pianist Denis Matsuev. This dramatic concerto contains long and developed cadenzas and was considered avant-garde when it premiered in 1913, a few months following the premiere of Stravinsky’s groundbreaking work The Rite of Spring. The second half of the program features Richard Strauss’ autobiographical tone poem Ein Heldenleben, or “A Hero’s Life.” The work includes more than 30 quotations from Strauss’ earlier compositions and utilizes horns to convey heroism, similar to Beethoven’s Eroica symphony.

Founded in 1753, the Mariinsky Orchestra distinguishes itself as one of the oldest musical ensembles in Russia. Over the course of its lengthy history, the ensemble has been conducted by some of the world’s most celebrated musicians including Hector Berlioz, Richard Wagner, Gustav Mahler and Arnold Schoenberg. Since its U.S. debut in 1992, the Mariinsky Orchestra has made
18 tours of North America, performing cycles of the complete Shostakovich, Mahler and Tchaikovsky symphonies, the stage works of Prokofiev and the major works of Berlioz.

Valery Gergiev is the artistic and general director of the Mariinsky Theatre, St. Petersburg, overseeing the ballet, opera and orchestra ensembles. In addition to conducting, Gergiev's direction has led to the construction of the Mariinsky Concert Hall and the creation of the Mariinsky Label. Gergiev is also the principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, leading performances at renowned venues such as the BBC Proms, Barbican Centre and Edinburgh International Festival. Over the course of his career, Gergiev has received numerous awards including the Dmitri Shostakovich Award and the French Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur.

Since his success at the 11th International Tchaikovsky Competition in 1998, Russian virtuoso Denis Matsuev has established himself as one of the leading pianists of his generation. Matsuev has performed extensively with many of the world's distinguished ensembles including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Apart from his solo performances, Matsuev also leads numerous music festivals and educational projects such as Crescendo and the Annecy Music Festival. Additionally, Matsuev is the president of “New Names,” an organization supporting young musicians and the development of music education across Russia.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Orchestra 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 Orchestras

Wednesday, November 8, 8 p.m.
Mariinsky Orchestra
Valery Gergiev, conductor
Denis Matsuev, piano

SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 9 in E-flat Major, Op. 70
PROKOFIEV Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 16
R. STRAUSS Ein Heldenleben, Op. 40

Tickets: $38-$175

Featured Artist for this Performance:
Mariinsky Orchestra
Valery Gergiev, conductor
Denis Matsuev, 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.