GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING PIANIST EMANUEL AX PRESENTS SOLO RECITAL ON SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS PIANO SERIES

Program Includes Works by Bach, Beethoven, Liszt and Mozart

Sunday, April 8, 3 p.m.

CHICAGO—Renowned pianist Emanuel Ax returns to Symphony Center on Sunday, April 8, at 3 p.m., for a recital on the Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano Series. Ax appeared earlier this season at Symphony Center with violinist Leonidas Kavakos and cellist Yo-Yo Ma in a critically acclaimed program of Brahms trios. His upcoming performance features a recital program of works by Mozart, Liszt, Bach and Beethoven.

The program opens with Mozart’s Piano Sonata in F Major, K. 533, followed by Liszt’s Three Petrarch Sonnets. Inspired by the romantic poems of Italian Renaissance poet Francesco Petrarca, this trio of poignant settings capture the layered lyricism of the poems through rich harmonies and soaring melodies. The program continues with Bach’s Partita No. 5 in G Major, a work that features some of the composer’s most pristine counterpoint and joyful melodies. A pair of Beethoven works complete the program. The charming Andante favori was originally the second movement of the program’s final selection, Beethoven’s Sonata No. 21 in C Major, Op. 53, “Waldstein.” Named for the composer’s patron and friend Count Ferdinand von Waldstein, the exuberant sonata is among Beethoven’s most popular keyboard works for its intriguing harmony and passionate themes.

Pianist Emanuel Ax first captured public attention in 1974, when he won the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv. Since then, Ax has led a vast and colorful career, performing as a soloist, chamber musician and a Grammy Award-winning recording artist. His extensive discography notably includes the Mendelssohn trios with Yo-Yo Ma and Itzhak Perlman, Strauss’ Enoch Arden narrated by Patrick Stewart, and two-piano music by Brahms and Rachmaninov with distinguished pianist Yefim Bronfman. He has received Grammy Awards for the second and third
volumes of his cycle of Haydn’s piano sonatas, as well as his recordings with cellist Yo-Yo Ma of the Beethoven and Brahms sonatas.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Piano 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**

**Piano**

Sunday, April 8, at 3 p.m.

Emanuel Ax, piano

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<th>Composer</th>
<th>Piece</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MOZART</strong></td>
<td>Piano Sonata in F Major, K. 533 (with Rondo, K. 494)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LISZT</strong></td>
<td><em>Tre sonetti del Petrarca</em></td>
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<td><strong>BACH</strong></td>
<td>Partita No. 5 in G Major, BWV 829</td>
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<td><strong>BEETHOVEN</strong></td>
<td><em>Andante favori</em> in F Major</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BEETHOVEN</strong></td>
<td>Piano Sonata No. 21 in C Major, Op. 53 (<em>Waldstein</em>)</td>
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Tickets: $29-$97

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**Featured Artist for this Performance:**

Emanuel Ax, piano

**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 preeminent 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.