PIANIST LOUIS LORTIE OPENS THE 2017/18 SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS PIANO SERIES

Program Features the First Two Suites from Franz Liszt’s *Années de pèlerinage*

**Sunday, October 8, 3 p.m.**

CHICAGO—Renowned French-Canadian pianist Louis Lortie returns to the Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano series on **Sunday, October 8, at 3 p.m.**, with a program featuring the first two suites from Franz Liszt’s *Années de pèlerinage*. Lortie’s recording of the complete suites was deemed one of the best recordings of 2012 by *The New Yorker*. Lortie has made regular appearances at Symphony Center since 2004, both as a soloist with the CSO and a featured performer in the Symphony Center Presents Piano series.

*Années de pèlerinage*, which translates to *The Pilgrimage Years*, is considered one of Liszt’s masterworks and was inspired by the composer’s travels through Europe with his companion, Marie d’Agoult. Lortie’s program features two suites from Liszt’s *Années de pèlerinage: First Year, Switzerland* and *Second Year, Italy*. Each suite is composed of several movements, each depicting a scene from Liszt’s travels. The first suite (*Switzerland*) is a musical interpretation of the country’s natural scenery—pastures, bodies of water and the like. In contrast to its predecessor, the second suite (*Italy*) uses artwork and literature as the basis for its musical ideas, including the work of Michelangelo, Raphael and Dante. These tone poems for piano display a range of ideas including delicate melodies depicting a gentle breeze in the *Switzerland* suite to striking, tritone octaves representing Dante’s *Inferno* in the *Italy* suite.

Louis Lortie has made more than 45 recordings for the Chandos label, covering a wide range of works from Beethoven to Stravinsky. His most recent releases include Chopin waltzes and a collection of works by Saint-Saëns, with recordings of Poulenc, Fauré and Scriabin in the works...
for future release. Lortie was named Artist in Residence of the Shanghai Symphony for the 2017/18 season and is also Master in Residence at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel of Brussels. Additionally, Lortie sustains an active career as a soloist, performing with many of the world’s great orchestras including the Chicago Symphony, the Sydney Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic and the Boston Symphony.

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**

**Louis Lortie**, piano

LISZT *Années de pélerinage, First Year, Switzerland*

LISZT *Années de pélerinage, Second Year, Italy*

**Tickets:** $29-$97

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**Featured Artist for this Performance:**
**Louis Lortie**

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