PIANIST MARTIN HELMCHEN CAPS THE SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS (SCP) PIANO SERIES

Helmchen Makes SCP Piano Series Debut in Program Featuring Works by Beethoven and Schumann

Sunday, June 10, at 3 p.m.

CHICAGO—After his “outstanding CSO debut” (Chicago Classical Review) in 2016, pianist Martin Helmchen returns to Symphony Center to make his recital debut at the final Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano series concert of the 2017/18 season on Sunday, June 10, at 3 p.m. His program includes celebrated works by Schumann and Beethoven.

The first half of the program features a selection of four pieces from Schumann’s Novelletten. Affectionately referred to by the composer as “tales of adventure,” these varied pieces represent the full range of Schumann’s versatile keyboard writing. The program concludes with Beethoven’s Diabelli Variations, considered one of the composer’s most adventurous keyboard works. Based upon a waltz by composer Anton Diabelli, these 33 variations are rich in humor and parody, demonstrating Beethoven’s remarkable imagination and complete mastery of the compositional art of variation.

Known for his polished yet charismatic style, Helmchen is already considered one of the greatest pianists of his generation. After winning the 2001 Clara Haskil International Piano Competition at age 19, Helmchen’s international musical career took off with a series of sensational orchestral debuts. He has made appearances with more than a dozen ensembles worldwide, notably the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Orchestre de Paris, Vienna Philharmonic, and NHK Symphony in Japan. He has performed at various prestigious concert venues around the world and has recorded two Mozart concerto...
discs with the Netherlands Chamber Philharmonic. Helmchen’s numerous distinctions include a fellowship from the Borletti-Buitoni Trust in 2005 and the Credit Suisse Young Artist Award in 2006, and he was a soloist in the “BBC New Generation Artists” program from 2005 to 2007.

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, June 10, 2018, 3 p.m.**

**Martin Helmchen, piano**

**SCHUMANN**

Novelletten, Op. 21, Nos. 1, 2, 5 and 8

**BEETHOVEN**

Thirty-three Variations on a Waltz by Diabelli

**Tickets:**

$21-$83

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**Featured Artist for This Performance:**

Martin Helmchen

**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](http://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.