GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING PIANIST YEFIM BRONFMAN RETURNS TO SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS PIANO SERIES

Program Features Works by Schumann, Widmann, Debussy and Prokofiev

Sunday, May 20, at 3 p.m.

CHICAGO—Renowned pianist Yefim Bronfman returns to the Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Piano series on Sunday, May 20, at 3 p.m., with works by Schumann, Widmann, Debussy and Prokofiev. For more than 30 years Bronfman has been a regular performer at Orchestra Hall, both on the SCP Piano series and as a soloist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Bronfman begins his program with Schumann's *Humoreske* in B-flat Major. Inspired by the humorous writings of 18th-century novelist Jean Paul, *Humoreske* is characterized by its contrasting moods rendered through Schumann's opulent lyricism. Complimentary to Schumann's *Humoreske* are Eleven Humoresques by German-born, contemporary composer Jörg Widmann. Completed in 2007, Eleven Humoresques is Widmann's response to Schumann's *Humoreske*, alternating between a contemporary tonal language and rich Schumann-esque harmonies. The program continues with Debussy's *Suite bergamasque*, a four-movement impressionistic work that includes the composer's beloved *Claire de Lune*. Prokofiev's turbulent Piano Sonata No. 7 completes the program. The second of Prokofiev's three “War Sonatas,” the seventh was premiered in 1943 in Moscow and is an unbridled reflection of the strife and intrigue that afflicted the Soviet composer's homeland under Stalin's reign.

Described by the *Chicago Tribune* as “a marvel of digital dexterity, warmly romantic sentiment and jaw-dropping bravura,” pianist Yefim Bronfman is celebrated worldwide as a soloist.
chamber musician and recording artist. In 1997, Bronfman won a Grammy Award for his recording of Bartok’s complete concerti, and in 2009, he was nominated for another Grammy Award for his recording of Esa-Pekka Salonen’s piano concerto. Bronfman tours extensively across Europe as a soloist. He also frequently collaborates with major orchestras and internationally recognized musicians including Pinchas Zuckerman, Martha Argerich and Anne-Sophie Mutter.

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**

**Yefim Bronfman**, piano

SCHUMANN *Humoreske* in B-flat Major, Op. 20
WIDMANN Eleven Humoresques for Piano
DEBUSSY *Suite bergamasque*
PROKOFIEV Sonata No. 7 in B-flat Major

Tickets: $29-$97

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**Featured Artist for this Performance:**

**Yefim Bronfman**

**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](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.