CHICAGO—Spanish-born singer Diego El Cigala, hailed as “one of the most beautiful flamenco voices of our time” by Flamenco guitar virtuoso Paco de Lucia, makes his Symphony Center Presents debut on Friday, April 10, at 8 p.m. Celebrated for bringing his flamenco sensibilities to a variety of musical genres, El Cigala’s latest project, *Indestructible*, sees the singer teaming up with an all-star roster of salseros to present classic songs by salsa giants of the ’70s and ’80s including Benny Moré’s “Como Fue” (How Was It) and Héctor Lavoe’s “Hacha y Machete” (Ax and Machete).

El Cigala honed his craft as a singer in the Flamenco clubs of his native Madrid, and by the late 1990s had established himself as a contemporary giant of the genre. After earning his first Latin Grammy in 2004 for *Lágrimas Negras*, a collaboration with Cuban pianist Bebo Valdés, El Cigala’s musical reach expanded into the tango and Argentinian folk music traditions. For his latest foray into the classic *salsa dura* sound of the ’70s, El Cigala drew upon the recordings he listened to during his childhood of artists including Benny Moré, Antonio Machín and Héctor Lavoe. Selecting a handful of gems from the vast repertoire of these and other greats, El Cigala traveled to the far-flung hubs of San Juan, Miami and Havana to record with leading salsa musicians. The result is a spirited presentation of old-school salsa with El Cigala’s vocals in the spotlight.

Often called “the Sinatra of Flamenco,” Diego El Cigala is celebrated as one of the world’s leading flamenco singers. Born in Madrid to musically inclined parents, El Cigala took an early interest in traditional Spanish music, winning the Youth Flamenco Contest of Getafe at age 12. After years recording and performing with flamenco masters, El Cigala released his solo debut album, *Undebel*, in 1997. He has since gone on to collaborate with artists and explore music across genres, recording albums of tango music (*Cigala & Tango*), Argentinian folk music...
(Romance de la Luna Tucumana) and the Latin Grammy-winning album of Cuban music Lágrimas Negras with Cuban piano giant Bébo Valdes.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Special 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
Special Concert

Friday, April 6, 8 p.m.

Diego El Cigala

Diego El Cigala, vocals
Jaime Calabuch, piano
Cristian David Muñoz, trumpet
Edinson Muñoz, trumpet
Richard Stella, trombone
Bernardo Aguirre, trombone
Denilson Ibarguen, percussion
Diego Mayorga, timbale
Julio Valdés, bass
Diego Galindo, vocals
Andrés Gonzales, vocals

Tickets: $25-$70

Featured Artists for this Performance:
Diego El Cigala

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: www.cso.org and 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.